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# CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## PRESS RELEASE

### USAID HELPS BUSINESSES EXPORT

**ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN** — On March 29, the USAID Regional Economic Integration Project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), will launch an intensive three-month program for representatives of small and medium enterprises and leaders of business associations from throughout Central Asia and Afghanistan. Business practitioners will participate in creative group work to expand their operations and enter new export markets.

Recent developments in the economic and political arena in Central Asia including the establishment of new trade conventions, the creation of free economic zones, and the growth of foreign market influence in the region force local businesses to look for new export opportunities and find more effective trade channels for selling their products. This USAID Project seeks to capitalize on the advantages of greater regional and global economic integration and continues to develop the Export Partnerships Initiative started in 2011 by USAID. The Export Partnerships Initiative is aimed at providing businesses with skills and tools to develop their export operations and do business with neighboring countries.

The USAID Regional Economic Integration Project, together with the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research (KIMEP) and its Central Asian Tax Research Center, developed an intensive series of three training sessions and practicum. The sessions focus on the fundamentals of international and regional best business practices, logistics management and marketing. During the sessions, 60 practitioners from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan will share and learn from each other, build networks and export partnership groups, and collaborate in export promotion efforts. The first session is to take place March 29-31 in “Ala-Tau” sanatorium, Almaty. The second session will be April 26-28 at the same location, and the third will be May 24-26 in Uzbekistan.

The Export Partnerships program will equip participants with the knowledge and skills to identify potential export markets, strengthen export promotion activities and to develop business linkages throughout Central Asia through elaborate training and practical assistance.

The Regional Economic Integration Project is one of the many assistance projects made possible by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

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