



## USAID Newsletter



### **USAID Swears in New Mission Director for Central Asian Republics.**

On February 11, USAID held a swearing in ceremony for Erin Elizabeth McKee as the new Regional Mission Director for the USAID Central Asian Republics. Ambassador John Ordway, currently Chargé d'Affaires for the U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan, presided at the ceremony and administered the oath to Ms. McKee. As Regional Mission Director, Ms. McKee will oversee USAID's programs in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. These programs support economic growth, promote democracy, and address health and other social issues. The USAID mission works to increase regional trade between South and Central Asia, especially in the energy sector. The USAID/Central Asian Republics' budget totals over \$150 million annually. Ms. McKee, who joined the USAID Regional Mission for Central Asia as Deputy Mission Director in August 2009, remarked during the ceremony:

"USAID celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. We have been in the region for almost 20 years, and I look forward to continuing USAID's partnership with the people of Central Asia to create stability, opportunity and growth. Our rapid response to crises, whether to the greatest polio outbreak in decades, or the mobilization of relief efforts due to the violence in southern Kyrgyzstan, is a resounding testament to our team's strength." (Upper photo: U.S. Ambassador J. Ordway administers the oath to E. McKee. Lower photo: from left to right: U.S. Ambassador J. Ordway, USAID Mission Director Erin McKee, U.S. General Consul Michael Snowden)



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## Regional News



### **Helping Businesses Find New Export Opportunities.**

On February 25, USAID's Regional Trade Liberalization and Customs Project launched a rigorous six-month program for selected small and medium enterprises and business associations from Central Asia and Afghanistan. Through this project, participants will receive training to expand their operations and enter new export markets. Together with the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research (KIMEP), the Regional Trade Liberalization and Customs Project has developed an intensive series of training and practical group learning sessions on the fundamentals of international business, regional best business practices, logistics management and marketing. Initially, 60 regional business leaders from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and

Afghanistan will learn from experts, as well as from each other; they will build networks and export partnership groups, and collaborate in export promotion activities. Participants were selected from over 200 applicants.

(Photo: Tapio Naula, Deputy Chief of Party, USAID's Regional Trade Liberalization and Customs Project).

**Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan Collaborate on Parliamentary Strengthening.** Positive feedback on USAID's program with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) to train Uzbek Members of Parliament (MPs) has resulted in a request to provide similar training to Kyrgyz MPs. Through NDI, USAID/Uzbekistan has trained Uzbek MPs and sent them to the U.S. to meet with members of Congress on how to best meet constituent needs. For Kyrgyzstan, the Chief of Party of NDI's program with USAID/Uzbekistan will conduct five separate trainings – one for each political faction represented in the Kyrgyz parliament on how to respond to constituent needs – as well as training of civil society on monitoring and oversight of the work of the new Kyrgyz parliament.

## Kazakhstan



**Results of USAID Technical Assistance Highlighted by Kazakh Prime Minister.** During a major conference held by the Ministry of Education and Science on January 19, Prime Minister Karim Massimov underscored the need to construct more kindergartens and university dormitories. He specifically lauded the success of the public-private partnership (PPP) model for kindergarten construction underway in the Karaganda Oblast. The USAID Economic Reforms to Enhance Competiveness project provides expert support to implement this pilot kindergarten program in Karaganda, where 15 new schools will be built in 2011 using the PPP model – the first social (i.e. non-infrastructure) PPP project of its kind in Kazakhstan. Prime Minister Massimov, in

his remarks, encouraged all oblast leaders to follow the Karaganda PPP model, and added that state universities should look to a PPP model for dormitory construction. *(Photo: Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Karim Massimov)*



**Roundtable on Registration Highlights USAID Efforts in Kazakhstan.** The Ministry of Justice invited an expert from the USAID Business Environment Improvement project to present findings from a study that analyzed the ability of national Public Service Centers to be responsive to changes in business and property registration legislation. The study was presented during a January 28 roundtable discussion on the transition of authority of the Public Service Centers from the Ministry of Justice to regional executive authorities. USAID also presented a manual that was developed to assist Public Service Center employees on how the most efficient manner to register businesses and property in accordance with new legislation. *(Photo: Participants in roundtable on registration)*

**USAID Hosts Project Management Training Course for the Ministry of Transport in Kazakhstan.** At the direct request of the Ministry of Transport and Communication, the Regional Trade Liberalization and Customs project facilitated the delivery of a five-day project management seminar in Borovoye on FIDIC (International Federation of Consulting Engineers) principles for 25 officials on January 31. FIDIC is well known in the consulting engineering industry for its work in defining the conditions of contract for the construction industry worldwide.

**Partnership with UNICEF.** USAID/Central Asian Republics approved a proposal submitted by UNICEF to support a study to assess the depth and scope of internal trafficking of children in Kazakhstan; the study will additionally investigate sexual exploitation, neglect and sexual behavior of at-risk children. The study will present evidence-based information to the Government of Kazakhstan and to civil society organizations to stimulate institutional reforms. USAID/Central Asian Republics will contribute \$40,000 to the proposal.



**USAID Facilitates New Shields for Investment in Kazakhstan.** On February 10, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan signed into law improvements to regulations affecting the liability of and requirements on joint-stock company directors for transactions they make involving legal entities or persons they have an interest in. These changes, developed by the USAID Business Environment Improvement Project, Government of Kazakhstan’s Financial Services Agency (FSA), World Bank and the private sector, will greatly increase transparency for company shareholders, provide increased avenues for lawsuits in case of fraud by directors, and introduce for the first time in Kazakhstan’s law the important concept of “fiduciary duty” for company managers. These legal changes, once implemented by the FSA and Kazakhstan’s Supreme Court to director liability and

transaction reporting requirements hold the potential to improve Kazakhstan’s World Bank “Doing Business” rating for the “Protecting Investors” indicator by up to 20 places in the next survey, from presently 44<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> rank worldwide. *(Photo: USAID Business Environment Improvement Project expert V. Prodedovich expounds on model director liability provisions during a meeting with counterparts)*

## Kyrgyzstan



**USAID Support to the Parliament.** USAID/Office of Transition Initiatives handed over \$54,000 worth of computer and office equipment to the Kyrgyz Parliament in a grant signing ceremony on January 21 between U.S. Ambassador Gfoeller and Vice Speaker Abdullaev that was covered by the local media. This equipment is primarily for the legal and human resources departments of the Parliament. The Ambassador also announced USAID’s support to the Kyrgyz Parliament through its Parliamentary Strengthening Program, a three-year, \$3.25 million effort, which addresses a key strategic objective of USAID here: fostering democratic development. *(Photo: U.S. Ambassador Tatiana C. Gfoeller and Kyrgyz Parliament Speaker Mr. Keldibekov sign a memorandum of understanding at the Parliament event in Bishkek)*



**Renovation of Sports Field and Playground in Bishkek.** The USAID Kyrgyzstan Acting Country Director Carey Gordon made opening remarks to inaugurate a renovated sports field and playground in Bishkek on January 18 that was implemented by a local NGO with a USAID/Office of Transition Initiatives grant to support this local community driven initiative. The assistance was aimed at reducing tensions and instability in the region at a crucial time in Kyrgyzstan’s transition to a stable and peaceful democracy. The field renovation project provided a community the opportunity to enhance their environment rather than participate in destabilizing activities, demonstrating the positive changes that can be accomplished by citizens working with local government and local business. *(Photo: At the renovated sports field inauguration ceremony, Bishkek)*



active USAID assistance to Parliament. (Photo: Carey Gordon, USAID Acting Country Director, making opening remarks for the Kyrgyz Parliament deputies and trainees)

**USAID/Kyrgyzstan's Parliamentary Strengthening Program.** The Program is providing assistance to the newly formed Kyrgyz Parliament through its Kyrgyzstan Parliamentary Strengthening Program. To establish working relations and provide an overview of expected areas of assistance, a meeting was held by USAID Acting Country Director Carey Gordon and Chargé d'Affaires Larry Memmott with the Speaker of the Kyrgyz Parliament on February 2. During the meeting, the Speaker highlighted the importance of ensuring access to information about parliamentary work and activities to the public, the importance of training Members of Parliament as well as newly hired staffers on Parliamentary procedures and rules, and stated his desire for



**Training Sessions for Parliamentary Staff.** Orientation training sessions for over 240 newly hired Parliamentary staff assistants and consultants were jointly held on February 7 in the main chamber of the Kyrgyz Parliament building by the USAID Kyrgyzstan Parliamentary Strengthening Program and the Parliament administration. The day-long training was opened by USAID Acting Country Director Carey Gordon and the Chief of Parliament's Administration, which highlighted the importance of the training on daily procedures especially as relates to the law drafting process. (Photo: Training of the newly hired consultants and assistants of the Kyrgyz Parliament deputies)



to right: Ruslan Umaraliev, Head of MSDSP, Turat Muratov, Head of Kelecheck Youth Center and Chargé d'Affaires Larry Memmott signing an agreement between MSDSP and Kelecheck Youth Center)

**Grant for Rehabilitation of the Kelecheck Youth Center in Osh.** On February 9, USAID provided financial support of \$138,676 to support the Kelecheck Youth Center rehabilitation project designed to increase opportunities for Osh City's youth to interact and participate within a safe and constructive environment. This rehabilitation project is an Osh City government initiative launched by the Mountain Societies Development Support Program (MSDSP) established by the Aga Khan Foundation. In the aftermath of the civil disturbances in June 2010, the lack of resources for improving community mobilization facilities, such as the Kelecheck Center, has jeopardized unity among Osh's multi-ethnic community. This rehabilitation activity will enable the Kelecheck Center to engage youth in activities fostering positive community interaction and dialogue. (Photo: From left



**Grant to Support Community-led Initiative to Repair Belek Village School.** In February, USAID provided financial support of \$168,207 to the Belek community in Sokuluk Rayon, Chui Oblast to support repairs of the village school. The Belek school renovation is a community-led initiative launched by local government officials. USAID and Peace Corps volunteers worked with the local communities and government representatives to engage them in a dialogue to discuss and identify priority projects in the area. As a result of these discussions, the Belek school restoration was recognized as a project of high importance that would encourage community participation and strengthen the

partnership between citizens and the local government. This grant will be administered by USAID's Kyrgyz Republic Transition Initiatives, which will use the funds to hire a local construction company for repair work and local procurement of materials, enhancing the local economy and increasing short-term local employment. *(Photo: From right to left: Beishen Mambetova, Belek School Director, Ashley Moretz, USAID/OTI Country Representative and Edik Sartbaev, Sokuluk Ayil Okmotu Head are signing an agreement between USAID/OTI project and Belek School)*



**Medical Supplies to Conflict Affected Communities in Osh.**

On February 18, USAID Acting Country Director, Carey Gordon, under an agreement with CitiHope International, presented a donation of medical supplies to the Deputy Minister of Health, Mr. Kasymbek Mambetov, to support the Osh City and Osh Oblast healthcare facilities. The medical supplies, valued at \$217,525, include two EKG machines, blood glucose machines, stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs, syringes, IV tubing, gloves and thermometers, were donated by American companies. The supplies were transported to Osh City Family Medicine Center No. 1 and distributed among its branches: the family physicians' groups "Kyzyl Kyshtak" and "Pamirskaya" of the Kara-Suu Rayon Family Medicine Center of Osh Oblast, the Interregional Joint Clinical Hospital, and Osh City Territorial

Hospital. With this final distribution, the USAID Medical Relief Program for Internally Displaced Persons in Osh, including various donations from American companies, has provided a total of \$1,629,577 in medications, medical supplies and equipment to medical facilities in the Kyrgyz Republic. In addition to the provision of medical supplies, USAID's Internally Displaced Persons Program directly assisted over 200 people with access to medical and social services, provided community-based professional mental health counseling services to more than 19,000 adults and children, involved over 18,000 women in reproductive and maternal-child health sessions, distributed 1,340 hygiene kits to families whose homes were destroyed, and provided 1,000 newborn first aid kits to women in their third trimester of pregnancy. *(Photo: Carey Gordon, Acting Country Director of USAID in the Kyrgyz Republic, handing over medical supplies and equipment to Dr. Kasymbek Mambetov, Deputy Minister of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic)*



**USAID Supports the Jalal-Abad Municipal Government's Efforts to Improve Street Light Services.**

On February 22, USAID awarded a \$217,165 grant to the Jalal-Abad municipal authority to help restore citizens' confidence by repairing street lights and thereby restoring citizen trust in public services. Violence from June 2010 damaged and destroyed public street lights and created a sense of insecurity and instability among the multicultural communities of Jalal-Abad City. Non-functioning street lights have impeded the city's recovery efforts by limiting movement, commerce and the delivery of rehabilitation assistance during non-working hours. Additionally, the impact on Jalal-Abad City's street lights has challenged the citizens' confidence in the municipal government's ability to ensure its safety. According to information released by the

Jalal-Abad Municipal Internal Affairs Department, 90% of the 1,828 cases of registered crime from 2010 were committed during the night, which is a 14.2% increase from 2009. The Jalal-Abad City administration and the U.S. government leveraged resources in direct response to this ongoing source of instability to refurbish the street lights and make another step towards the recovery of communities in southern Kyrgyzstan. This activity will rehabilitate 524 street light lamps along 28 km of roads and re-establish street light service for 79,000 residents living in the neighborhoods of Kurmanbek, Sputnik, Dostuk and Amir-Timur. This activity will also encourage employment and stimulate the oblast economy by contracting a local company to manufacture and deliver materials for the rehabilitation of the city's street lights. *(Photo: From right to left: Jalalabad Govenor Bektur Asanov and Jalalabad Acting Mayor Maksatbek Jeenbekov signing a grant agreement with USAID/OTI. First Vice Mayor is standing nearby as witness)*



**USAID Supports 7th International Agricultural Exhibition in Southern Kyrgyzstan.** On February 25-28, the 7<sup>th</sup> International Agricultural Exposition “Agro Expo Silk Way – 2011” took place at the Kyrgyz Drama Theater in Osh. The exposition is funded by USAID Kyrgyz Agro-Input Enterprise Development Project and organized by the Association of Agro businessmen of Kyrgyzstan Jer Azygy. “Agro Expo Silk Way – 2011” focused on the development of the poultry and feed industry in Central Asia, which has great potential for growth in the region. “Agro Expo Silk Way – 2011” is a unique opportunity for the agricultural sector of Central Asia to integrate with regional market dealers and the international agricultural community in order to build and establish trade relations throughout the Ferghana Valley (Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan). A number of

training seminars on poultry, feed, soil fertility management and no-till methods of cultivation were conducted. Companies from the U.S., Europe, and Asia that specialize in all areas of the agricultural industry took part in the trade exhibition including producers and suppliers of agro-inputs, agricultural equipment, machinery, and suppliers of food processing equipment. Local and regional producers were able to obtain information necessary for successful agricultural business management. *(Photo: The 7<sup>th</sup> International Agricultural Exhibition Participants).*

## Tajikistan



**Essential Water Infrastructure for Communities At Risk Restoration.** The USAID-funded Tajikistan Stability Enhancement Program (TSEP), funds for which come from the DOD’s 1207 authority, handed over restored irrigation and drinking water systems for three villages in Tajikistan’s northern region of Sughd. USAID’s Tajikistan Country Office Director, Jeff Lehrer, was on hand to formally present these systems to their communities. The rehabilitated water systems irrigate the land of 120 households and provide clean drinking water to 1,895 people in Asht district. These improvements help prevent water-borne diseases and support stable farm production. TSEP focuses on strengthening stability in rural Tajikistan by promoting improved governance and encouraging the participation of

at-risk or marginalized groups in economic and social revitalization. TSEP uses community members themselves to meet challenges in more than 63 rural communities of Ferghana, Rasht and Tavildara Valleys as well as areas near the Afghanistan border. Over the next two years, TSEP will expand on these initial efforts with additional infrastructure, social mobilization and conflict mitigation. *(Photo: Inauguration of the USAID TSEP water project in Asht)*

**Marking First Year of Safe Drinking Water Project in Tajikistan.** USAID funded a rehabilitated community water system in Chashmasor Village in the Faizobod District through its Tajikistan Safe Drinking Water Project. The new water system will provide a reliable supply of safe, clean drinking water to 590 local inhabitants in the Chashmasor. The project in Chashmasor is one of eight water projects completed by the USAID Safe Drinking Water Project in cooperation with rural communities across Tajikistan in 2010, during which the project gave over 10,000 people access to the safe drinking water. In 2011, 15 additional Safe Water Drinking Projects will bring clean water to about 60,000 other Tajik citizens. In addition to rehabilitating water systems, the USAID Safe Drinking Water Project also teaches student leaders in each partner community to instruct their peers in health and hygiene practices. Health and hygiene education is a critically important element of the project as inadequate sanitation, poor hygiene and unsafe water claim the lives of an estimated 1.6 million children under the age of five worldwide every year.



**USAID Sponsors Agricultural Fair in Khatlon.** The USAID 1207-funded Tajikistan Stabilization Enhancement Project and the USAID Productive Agriculture Project worked together to sponsor an agricultural fair in Qabodiyon, near the border with Afghanistan. The purpose of the fair was to help farmers build better links to the suppliers of agricultural inputs and machinery. Over 30 vendors from throughout Tajikistan took part. USAID also sponsored educational sessions for farmers and agricultural methods and financial management systems for farms. *(Photo: At the agricultural fair in Khatlon)*

**Government of Tajikistan Responds to Development Forum Action Plan.** A joint Government-Donor Development Forum in December 2010 defined an action plan for high priority reforms across such issues as social sector reform, business environment and agriculture, energy and transportation, and governance. On January 31, a draft of proposed steps to achieve the goals of the action plan was proposed by the Government to donors. Donors and government are now engaged in intensive discussions to refine these points. USAID co-coordinates the working groups on agriculture and on health, and will actively participate in other groups, utilizing this unique opportunity for policy dialogue to promote reform.



**Helping Teachers and Schools in Tajikistan.** Ambassador Gross travelled to the Khatlon region's Vakhsh district January 12 to visit a USAID teacher training program. In this program, 500 teachers from 36 schools were trained in the six-day refresher course in new interactive and child-centered teaching methods. This is follow-up to a summer course and was intended to give teachers a chance to share their experiences using the new methods and build on their skills to help them become leaders at their schools. During discussions, both teachers and school administrators shared their experiences with the Ambassador. Several teachers noted improvements for weaker students, who now have more coaching from other students and more choices of how

to learn, such as greater use of drawing and visual aids. The curriculum for teacher training is now adopted by the Ministry of Education and will be their standard going forward. Vakhsh district also just completed its first year using the USAID-supported per capita finance system for education. One school administrator admitted that he had doubts about the system, but that he is now convinced because over the last year his staff have been consistently paid on time and his school has a budget for school repair – both are changes from previous years. *(Photo: U.S Ambassador Ken Gross meeting with teachers)*



**USAID Education and 1207 Programs Welcomed in Tajikistan's Troubled Isfara District.** On January 14, USAID and local officials in the Isfara District in northern Tajikistan inaugurated a district-wide teacher training on modern teaching methods. Local officials accompanied USAID to visit construction sites for USAID-supported small-scale water systems in two villages, funded with DOD 1207 funds and a 30% in-kind contribution from local communities, which will bring clean drinking water to 4,000 people. Isfara borders Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia's Ferghana Valley and is often noted as one of the least stable in Tajikistan, the source of alleged radical activity and the scene for ongoing Government security operations targeting

unregistered religious groups and schools. USAID is committed to increasing stability through economic development and the improvement of basic services for the people of Isfara. The Chairman of the Isfara District

pledged active partnership with USAID in promoting water system expansion and greater opportunities for youth in the region. *(Photo: At the training session for teachers)*



**Job Training for Tajikistan Youth.** The USAID funded Tajikistan Stability Enhancement Program (TSEP) recently trained 17 young Tajik men to become professional barbers. The two-month course brought together youth from 11 villages to learn barbering skills. The course was led by a master with 34 years of experience and conducted in the Jamoats of Kirkkuduk and Oshoba. In addition to the vocational skills, students received training on how to start a business, and a separate training focused on taxes. A total of 44 young people are now in training or have just completed this training in Asht and Isfara. This project is part of TSEP's efforts to provide young people with the skills they need to find jobs and start their own business. In addition to this course, TSEP provides carpentry, sewing and computer repair courses in the Asht and Isfara Districts. Local communities and government have provided essential support to this endeavor. The Kirkkuduk and Oshoba secondary schools provided a classroom and fellow students received free haircuts from the barbers-in-training. In addition, the Jamoat government pledged to help young people find a space to open a barbershop. TSEP focuses on strengthening stability in rural Tajikistan by promoting improved governance and encouraging the participation of at-risk or marginalized groups in economic and social revitalization. TSEP uses community members themselves to meet challenges in more than 63 rural communities of Sughd, Rasht and Tavildara Valleys, and southern Khatlon province. *(Photo: Job training for young barbers)*

## Turkmenistan



**Turkmen Youth Won Junior Achievement Asia Pacific Company of the Year Competition.** Sponsored by USAID and Chevron Nebitgaz, a team from Turkmenistan took first place at the first-ever Junior Achievement Asia Pacific Company of the Year Competition, a three-day competition. The program is designed to nurture an entrepreneurial spirit and business skills in young people. The competition, jointly organized by JA Worldwide and FedEx Express, took place from January 17-20 in Hong Kong, with 65 young people representing 13 best companies from 10 countries of the region including Guam, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Turkmenistan. The Program helps

young people appreciate and better understand the role of business in our society. By organizing and operating a business enterprise, young people learn how businesses function, learn about the structure of free enterprise system and the benefits it provides. *(Photo: First Place Winner in Junior Achievement Asia Pacific Company of the Year Competition)*



**USAID Prepares Government Workers to Benefit from Computerization Programs.** The USAID Promotion of Information Communication Technology in Turkmenistan (PICTT) Program, implemented by IREX in cooperation with the Turkmenistan Academy of Science, provides educational institutions, teachers and students with essential technology tools that enhance classroom learning and develop participatory educational methodology through online resource development, teacher training and the integration of ICT into education. Family doctor Gulnur Yusupova finished a two-month computer and internet skills course. The USAID PICTT program was part of professional retraining courses offered to doctors from Polyclinic No. 7. Recently, the doctors at her clinic were tasked with moving patients' records to an electronic database system and Dr.

Yusupova and her colleagues who completed the PICTT training were able to put their new learning into practice. Yusupova said, "While other doctors rushed to over-priced computer courses...we were ready for the change. I appreciate the timely and high-quality training offered by the PICTT program." The story of Dr. Yusupova reflects the changes in Turkmenistan toward information and communication technology and the impact PICTT programs can have in supporting the country's development priorities. *(Gulnur Yusupova, a family doctor from Polyclinic No. 7, learning computer skills at the PICTT Internet Center for Interactive Multimedia Learning)*

## Uzbekistan



**USAID Leads Embassy Tashkent's Monthly Press Gap.** Over 50 participants from local print, radio and TV media participated in Embassy Tashkent's monthly "Press Gap" in January on USAID's programs in Uzbekistan. John A. Pennell, Uzbekistan Country Office Director, provided opening remarks on USAID's history in Uzbekistan since 1993 as well as an overview of current programs and potential emerging areas for further cooperation. A number of questions were raised by participants regarding USAID activities in the health sector, particularly in regard to combating HIV, agriculture and water resources management and the U.S. Government's interests in Central Asia regarding security cooperation and regional stability. *(Photo: John Pennell, USAID Uzbekistan Country Office Director, at the Press-Gap in Tashkent)*



**USAID and AmCham Sponsor Roundtable on Opportunities and Challenges in Uzbek Agriculture and Food Processing.** Over 30 representatives from the private sector, donor community, USAID implementing partners and other Embassies, including the Ambassador of Pakistan and the former Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Georgia, attended a roundtable discussion on the opportunities and challenges for increased public-private collaboration to promote the fresh and processed fruits and vegetables sector in Uzbekistan. Agriculture, especially fruits and vegetables, is critical to Uzbek livelihoods as nearly two-thirds of the Uzbek population reside in rural areas, 62% of all private firms are engaged in agriculture and agriculture is a major contributor to employment and growth. While significant challenges remain in regard to quality, packaging

and food safety, participants agreed that the exports of processed and fresh fruits and vegetables has tremendous income generation potential for Uzbekistan and a potential source of fruits and vegetables for U.S.

troops in Afghanistan. USAID plans to engage the private sector to the extent possible to leverage resources and expertise in order to develop a new agriculture program that is focused on advancing Uzbekistan's agricultural potential. *(Photo: Tomato harvest in Uzbekistan)*

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**For more information about USAID in Central Asia:**

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