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KAZAKHSTAN

IT Skills Serve Justice

A court specialist combines her legal skills with IT to serve justice



Indira Kussainova at her work place. Photo: Chemonics

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- Indira Kussainova, an IT system administrator at the East-Kazakhstan Oblast Court

“Learning about the videorecording system provided an opportunity to expand my technical skill set,” says Indira Kussainova, IT systems manager at the East-Kazakhstan Oblast Court in Oskemen, northeast Kazakhstan. This IT programs specialist is one of the 12 that have pioneered the maintenance of the videorecording system introduced in Kazakh courts by USAID.

Kussainova has been the chief IT program specialist for the East-Kazakhstan Oblast Court for the past nine years, where her responsibilities were limited to general IT support. A lawyer by training, Kussainova felt the job would one day become a starting point for a judge’s career, but felt otherwise largely removed from the legal side of the business.

When the USAID Judicial Assistance Project approached her to serve as system administrator for court videorecording system – a position entirely new to the courts - Kussainova jumped at the opportunity. The videorecording systems were installed in a number of the country’s key courts by the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan with assistance from USAID to ensure quality court records and increase transparency of the court hearings. While the hardware and software are not complicated, the videorecording system includes specialized functions and components that require tailored maintenance to ensure the quality of recordings. Kussainova took it as a chance to expand her professional skills.

With USAID training and guidance, Kussainova has not only mastered this specialized technology, but became a mentor to similar specialists in other courts. Her legal background, combined with IT skills, makes her uniquely qualified to ensure that the videorecording system compiles accurate court records based on legal requirements for such documentation. Additionally, as a senior court personnel, Kussainova is responsible for mentoring junior personnel. She believes that she “is in a better position to train others on using the court recording system” as a result of her knowledge how to troubleshoot it.