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KAZAKHSTAN

SUCCESS STORY

Strengthening Judges' Capacities

Peer trainings ensure judges share their skills throughout their home regions



Photo: Julia Maltyeva

Judge Aitkamal Kaztayeva has experienced the benefits of interactive learning and is now using such methodology in her own trainings to fellow judges in Karaganda oblast, Kazakhstan.

Judge Aitkamal Kaztayeva was chosen by the specialized economic court of Karaganda oblast to participate in an international intellectual property seminar in Prague. There she gained knowledge in patents, trademarks, and copyright, and has since shared what she learned with over 44 colleagues.

Judge Aitkamal Kaztayeva serves at the specialized economic court of Karaganda oblast and is one of 16 Kazakhstani judges who participated in a five-day intellectual property seminar at the CEELI Institute in Prague, Czech Republic, in April 2010. Supported by the USAID Judicial Education Project and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Prague seminar exposed Judge Kaztayeva to experts from the United States, Russia, and the Czech Republic, and introduced her to international best practice on patents, trademarks, and copyright, as well as adult training methodologies.

Following the seminar, Judge Kaztayeva shared her learning on intellectual property rights and commercial law enforcement with colleagues in Karaganda. She further researched and contributed case material on intellectual property for a regional seminar supported by USAID in Schuchinsk. As a result of her participation in the Prague seminar, Judge Kaztayeva has been able to train an additional 44 judges who have benefited from her experience. This learning will have ongoing impact on the handling of future intellectual property cases.

Through this program, Judge Kaztayeva has gained an appreciation for experiential learning and encourages her peers to take advantage of such opportunities. She believes the training will help to ensure the courts are accessing new ideas and approaches. "Judges need to prepare for intellectual property issues entering the courts and to find the best answers. The Prague program acquainted me with international expertise, as well as with techniques for managing people," she said.

The USAID Judicial Education Project was designed with the support of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan to help ensure effective adjudication in commercial law issues.