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PRESS RELEASE

CROSS-BORDER VOCATIONAL EDUCATION FOR YOUTH

Khorugh, Tajikistan, July 14, 2012 – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the University of Central Asia's (UCA) School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE) honored graduates at the SPCE's graduation ceremony in Khorugh, Tajikistan. His Excellency Mahmamin Mahmaminov, Minister of Labor and Social Protection of Tajikistan His Excellency Qodiri Qosim, Governor of Gorno-Badakhshan; Benjamin Gibson, Political-Economic Officer, U.S. Embassy, Dushanbe; Mr. Abdul Hakim Haidari, Afghan Consul in Khorugh; and Mr. Munir M. Merali, Resident Representative of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), participated in the event.

Graduates included a group of Afghan students whose studies were funded by USAID as part of the Cross-Border Vocational Education program in Baskhon, Afghanistan (CVEB). This is the third group of Afghan students to study at the SPCE. As part of the CVEB, 21 Afghan students received certificates after completing their studies through USAID-funded scholarships. These students studied English, Information Technology, Accounting, and Bookkeeping/Cashier procedures. The newly designed curriculum, learning materials, and courses were prepared in numerous languages including Dari and Tajik.

After the graduation ceremony, government officials, along with members of the international and donor communities, met with the Afghan and Tajik graduates to discuss their experience in Khorugh and how the program will impact their future goals. The NGO leaders, journalists, students, and local community members also attended this session.

The Cross-Border Vocational Education program is one of the many development projects supported by the American people through the USAID. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is proud to celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2011. USAID was created in 1961 by American President John F. Kennedy and is funded by the American people. Since 1992, USAID has supported local efforts to improve economic growth, governance, and the quality of health and education in Kazakhstan. For more information about USAID programs, please visit our website at <http://centralasia.usaid.gov>.

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