In a unanimous vote, the Accreditation Council Members granted accreditation to the University of Central Asia in Naryn, Kyrgyzstan, on 19th November 2020. Accreditation for the School of Arts and Sciences’ undergraduate programme is for a period of five years until 2025, when another cycle of reviews will be conducted to demonstrate that UCA has continued to maintain or surpass national higher education requirements.

The accreditation process began in February 2020, and a UCA Task Force was set up to start compiling and organizing the volumes of material required to demonstrate the University’s compliance with national requirements. After eight months of intensive work the paperwork was completed and presentations prepared for the Agency for continued on page 2.

UCA Achieves Historic Milestone with Accreditation

A joint session of the Accreditation Expert Committee and UCA at the University’s Central Administration Office in Bishkek.

UCA Students Return to a Hybrid Campus Schedule

More than two months have passed since the start of the academic year, during which time UCA students have been learning remotely. However, as the situation in Tajikistan stabilized, half of the students returned to campus in early November, bringing joy and energy to their Alma Mater in Khorog. Another reason was that many students found it difficult to study at home primarily because of lack of or poor internet connection.

“"It was a long but an interesting trip as it was my first experience taking this highway. We explored many places along the way which made the journey more memorable" recalls Farhod Akramov, a preparatory year student at UCA, who traveled 15 hours from Dushanbe to Khorog.

As an international educational institution, UCA has been strictly following Covid precautions to prevent the spread of the pandemic. Strict protocols have been developed for using the dining hall, sports facilities, labs, library, and other premises.

Students maintain physical distancing at the campus cafeteria.

Continued on page 2
Continued from page 1

UCA Accreditation

Accreditation of Educational Programmes and Organizations (AAEPO), an independent service provider appointed by the Government of Kyrgyzstan to assess the undergraduate programme of UCA in Naryn.

Conveying congratulations to the UCA Task Force, the Rector of UCA, Prof. Dr. S. Sohail H. Naqvi, remarked, “This achievement is a testimony to the dedication, professionalism, and hard work demonstrated in preparing the large volume of documents, but also in many cases structuring academic policies, preparing data files, alignment of curriculum, approval of university committees, and so much more. A huge task carried out over a long period of time with great love and patience.”

UCA considers its primary mission to instill strong leadership skills, encourage and foster innovative and creative thinking among its students who mostly come from transition economies of the Central Asian region, through its high quality academic programme and vigorous emphasis on research.

Badakhshan University Launches Solar Powered IT Laboratory

The Aga Khan Development Network’s Mountain Universities Partnership (MUP) Programme, aims to uplift higher education in mountain universities and has helped set up an Information Technology (IT) laboratory for Badakhshan University (BU) in Afghanistan. Students at BU now have their own computer lab, and what is unique is that it is fully powered by solar energy and 100 per cent self-sustaining in its energy use. A persistent shortage of electricity in Badakhshan province further amplifies the importance of this lab. The IT lab is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment with a capacity to accommodate 30 students at a time. A total of 420 students are in Computer Science Programme at BU. The establishment of the lab was funded by the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) within the MUP Programme, of which the University of Central Asia is a partner.

“I am very grateful to the Aga Khan Development Network for its activities across Afghanistan, especially in Badakhshan Province, and hope this cooperation continues for a long time”, said Khair Mohammad Akhterzada, Deputy and Acting of Governor of Badakhshan Province.

In his speech, the Rector of BU, Qasim Aria, highlighted the ongoing valuable support from the University of Central Asia in the development of BU, and added, “By opening this computer lab we are creating new opportunities for our students to conduct research, engage in practical work, do homework, and so much more.”

Continued from page 1

UCA Students Return to Campus

Although UCA’s dormitories are designed to accommodate two students per unit, currently only one student per unit is permitted. That is why only the first year preparatory students and seniors (who will be graduating in 2021) have been invited for the time being. Although on campus, students still attend classes remotely from their rooms. All students and staff on campus go through daily temperature checks and are required to wear masks when they leave their dorms. Health and Safety teams are always available to monitor the situation, and the campus is regularly disinfected.

Different from Farhod’s journey to the campus, Rukhmina Nagzibekova, a senior student majoring in Economics, had to take only a ten-minute drive from her home in Khorog to UCA’s campus. “Although I’m happy to be back, it was difficult to leave our houses as we had become accustomed to a different daily routine.” Both Farhod and Rukhmina are hoping things return to the normality of pre-Covid times so they can enjoy the vibrant campus experience at UCA.
While countries are facing increasing cyber-attacks during the Covid-19 pandemic, access to the Internet and digital resources is a key factor in responding to such disruptions. An online workshop “Virtual Study Visit to Korea’s Internet Security Agency: Learning from the Korean Cyber Experience” was co-hosted in November by the World Bank, the Korean Internet and Security Agency (KISA), and the University of Central Asia.

The number of connected gadgets have grown exponentially and directly impact privacy and security. These interconnections, via the internet, enable embedded devices in everyday objects to send and receive data. The trend in telecommunication companies, such as Vodafone (UK) and SKT (Korea), show that they are transitioning to the Internet of Things (IoT) by using sensors and smart meters, which is also opening up a huge field of opportunities for cybercriminals.

The environment for cybersecurity is also changing. Recent cybercrimes depict a steep increase in cyber threats (a 400% increase in 2018 compared to 2009). “Going Digital is a high priority agenda worldwide. As a result of the pandemic, global mobility is down more than 30%, and cyber breaches have increased dramatically. Building digital resilience is the key to safeguarding a digitally growing world,” said Naveed Hassan Naqvi, the World Bank Country Manager for the Kyrgyz Republic.

Upcoming cyber threats will likely target smart homes, smart factories, autonomous driving, and digital health. Projections indicate that in 2021 cyber-crime costs will surpass $6 trillion worldwide.

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, Chairman of UCA’s Board of Trustees, said that “The University of Central Asia is partnering with government agencies to support educational initiatives in cyber security, and looks forward to developing a digital security based curriculum in collaboration with Korean partners”.

The virtual session explored diverse topics including the organization KISA, concept of CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) and the design of Korean CERT, recent trends in advanced cyber-attacks, KISA’s response to cyber incidents leveraging its Korea Internet Security Center (KISC), digital solutions to help organizations with emerging cyber threats, and recent malware distribution and recommended behaviors to prevent malware.

According to the World Economic Forum’s (WEF) Global Risk Report for 2019, the top five global risks include Data fraud and Cyberattacks. The target is changing from PC and the network to a greater focus on IoT, convergence tech, smart factory, and smart grid. The attack method is shifting from spreading a virus, to a website that can launch persistent attacks. In this regard, cybersecurity specialists from Korea shared their experience introducing three focused pillars (Cyber Incident Response, Personal Data Protection, and Information Security Industry Promotion) and talked about measures that are being taken to counter a possible cyber crisis.

The Korean experience provides examples of the value of public-private partnerships in ensuring a cyber-safe environment, the importance of having a national control tower, and proper national cybersecurity strategies.

Students Fight Covid With Short Videos

Although they continue to study remotely, students from the Aga Khan School (AKS) in Osh (Kyrgyzstan) thought of ways to help mitigate the spread and impact of Covid-19 amongst other students and in the broader community. One way to mitigate the spread was short informational videos. With support from their parents, many of the students produced original, short information videos using various mobile applications.

“I was delighted by the creativity of the students and their performances in the videos. We can see how talented they are and dedicated to making a contribution to help tackle this global issue, which is directly impacting the school and families,” noted Aidana Matkasimova, the AKS Deputy Director.

The videos, such as the one embedded in the text, encourage students to become agents of change by helping alter attitudes and behaviour and putting into practice measures to protect themselves, their friends, and their community.

“I would like to create more awareness among the students, by serving as a role model for others to promote healthy choices and personal hygiene, and encourage the students to practice it as long as required,” emphasised Abdildykebek Alibek, a grade 10 student.
Journalists in Naryn Begin Training in Computer Literacy

When classes began at UCA on September 7, eight journalists who attended a special briefing session at the Naryn campus were presented certificates for free computer literacy courses by the Rector of UCA. The journalists have now started a course of their choice at UCA’s School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE).

“Unfortunately, not enough attention is given to developing the needs of journalists in terms of learning new skills, or encouraging them to participate in international exchange programmes,” noted Mirlan Akmatov, a journalist from Azattyk. “That is why we are particularly appreciate of this opportunity provided by the University of Central Asia. Computer Literacy is fundamental to a successful career as a journalist.”

UCA Joins Global Consortium in Geoscience Research

UCA’s Earth and Environmental Sciences (EES) Programme is now an associate member of the University NAVSTAR Consortium (UNAVCO), a non-profit university-governed consortium, facilitating geoscience research and education using geodesy -- the study of Earth’s shape, gravitation field, and rotation. The membership provides an opportunity to speak for the interests of UCA, have access to UNAVCO’s network, and considerably enhance the development of UCA’s EES Programme.

Any individual affiliated with EES (including students, postdoctoral associates, faculty, researchers, etc.) may connect with the UNAVCO community and leverage its resources. The consortium membership (worldwide) consists of more than 100 Full Members and over 80 Associate Members.

Through the Geodetic Infrastructure and Geodetic Data Services Programmes, UNAVCO operates and supports geodetic networks, geophysical and meteorological instruments, a free and open data archive, software tools for data access and processing, cyberinfrastructure management, technological developments, technical support, and geophysical training.

The Education and Community Engagement Programme provides educational materials, tools and resources for students, teachers, university faculty and the general public. UNAVCO also provides summer internship experiences for undergraduate students interested in careers in geodesy and geosciences through the RESESS Programme.

UNAVCO was created in 1984 in response to the challenge of applying GPS to geosciences. It originated as the University NAVSTAR Consortium in 1984, within the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) at the University of Colorado, at Boulder. In 2001 UNAVCO became an independent organization.
Sky Woman Play Sparks New Interest in Environment

On November 3, the Theater for Young Spectators hosted a premiere of the musical performance "Sky Woman - Jer Ene" based on the Potawatomi legend from the book "Braiding Sweetgrass", written by R. W. Kimmerer. The play is about the birth of Earth, the appearance of the first woman, and the fate of man and his destructive attitude toward Earth.

The premiere of this unique, experimental performance was made possible by partnership from the Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit (CHHU) of the University of Central Asia in collaboration with the Theater of Young Spectators, the Ynty Label, the 7-Nebo Creative Studio, and support from the Soros Foundation in Kyrgyzstan.

According to the authors of the play, “Today, when humanity is going through the Covid pandemic, many things are being perceived differently. The safety and security of human life, maintaining its moral and spiritual state, and integrity of society have become important issues.”

Jamal's Bakery Conquers Hearts of Customers in Naryn

Jamal Maksutova started her small business from scratch twenty years ago. She baked cakes at home, experiencing all sorts of difficulties: from inadequate financial capital to lack of knowledge on how to effectively run a business. The turning point was an entrepreneurship course at UCA’s School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE) in Naryn. Her studies provided her with necessary skills to form a competent understanding of business processes and setting efficient business goals. And the rest is history.

Not long after getting her certificate of successful completion of the SPCE programme, Jamal applied for a soft loan from KICB. In 2018, she finally made her dream come true and opened her own confectionery store under the “Jamal Tort” brand. The product range includes 25 types of sweets, 15 types of cakes, cookies, pastries, muffins. Her customers primarily reside in At-Bashy and Naryn oblast. Jamal's business also stands in stark contrast to other confectionery firms as she is fully committed to supporting local entrepreneurs in Naryn, which is a remote region of Kyrgyzstan with limited business opportunities. She uses only locally sourced products such as flour, eggs, honey, cottage cheese and sour cream.

Jamal smiles as she recalls all the hardship and sacrifices that went into building her business, but believes it was all worth it. She notes that without access to a low interest loan, she would not have been able to operate at her current capacity, or receive enough revenue from sales to cover her production costs. Because of Covid-19 Jamal has no plans for expansion as yet, but she continues to employ all the ten employees she had hired before the pandemic.

The “Jamal Tort” brand is gaining popularity not only in the Naryn area, but also outside. “I am so happy that I was able to build my own business,” says Jamal. "There is nothing like working for yourself and doing what you love.”
New Chief Financial Officer at UCA

Saleem Hirani, arrived in Bishkek in November to take over his new duties as UCA’s Chief Financial Officer. He brings over 25 years of leadership experience in finance, accounting, controls, project management, and financial systems in High-Tech, Financial Services, and Manufacturing Industries across three countries: Pakistan, Canada, and USA. He has acquired transferable skills in entrepreneurship, innovation, strategy planning and execution, change management, and effective cost optimization while working at Ford, Dell, and Al-Faysal Investment Bank.

As a member of UCA’s senior executive team, he will be responsible for overseeing and managing all financial matters of the University and playing a key role in strategic planning, development, and financial operations of UCA’s multi-campus operations.

Saleem Hirani received his undergraduate degree from NED University (Karachi, Pakistan) in Computer Engineering, his MBA in Finance from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, USA), and acquired a CPA license. He also earned MicroMasters credentials in Data, Economics, and Development Policy from MIT and is currently pursuing his Masters in Global Development Practice from Harvard University. He is passionate about poverty alleviation and lifelong learning. Prior to Saleem’s arrival, Rahim Somani served as UCA’s CFO for the past 12 years.

UCA and DAAD Joint Scholarship Programme now Accepting Applications

The University of Central Asia in partnership with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), is pleased to announce that the joint scholarship programme can now be found on the DAAD website.

The scholarships are for students wishing to pursue their Doctoral studies in the following fields: Computer Science, Engineering, Communications and Media, Business Management, Earth and Environmental Sciences, or Economics. The fields reflect the majors and research interests at UCA’s School of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School of Development, and the School of Professional and Continuing Education. Applicants from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan are encouraged to apply. Students from Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and northern Pakistan are also eligible.

While the application and selection process for these scholarship programmes may vary based on discipline and institution of choice, all applicants are required to meet UCA’s eligibility criteria and eventually confirm admission at a German university.

The application will therefore follow a two-step process. Applicants may wish to informally discuss their interest by sending their documents to UCA by 13 December 2020. Selected candidates will then be required to apply and upload their full PhD application and documents on the DAAD portal. Admission to a recognized German university for their doctoral studies starting in 2021 will also be required for the final DAAD submission. The final DAAD submission deadline for applications is February 1, 2021.

PEAK and UCA Jointly Launch Online Business Training Programme

The online business acceleration training for Kyrgyz speaking entrepreneurs started in November. The selection committee, consisting of representatives of PEAK Bishkek and the School of Professional and Continuing Education at UCA, thoroughly screened 108 applications and selected 22 candidates.

Over the next seven weeks, these 22 participants will improve their knowledge on business strategy development, marketing and sales, business idea presentation, digitalization of sales channels, accounting and financial analysis, business plan development, and communication with potential partners and investors.

The programme will be delivered by PEAK Bishkek Business Innovation Centre, funded by UK Aid of the United Kingdom, in partnership with the University of Central Asia’s School of Professional and Continuing Education.

UCA News ▪ December 2020

www.universityofcentralasia.org
The Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) won the World Habitat Awards 2020 Gold Award for its “Integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Technology for Safer Habitat” project. In the winning project, AKAH pioneered the use of Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessments (HVRAs), which integrate science, technology and local knowledge for disaster risk management and sustainable habitat planning and development.

Reflecting on the importance of this work, Prince Rahim Aga Khan, Chair of AKDN’s Environment and Climate Committee, said: “For decades the AKDN has been working with vulnerable communities to improve quality of life and reduce disaster risk. Today in the face of the climate crisis, understanding and mitigating these risks is even more urgent. Only by helping these communities adapt and thrive in harmony with their often-precarious habitat can we hope to mitigate the effects of climate change.”

Maimunah Mohamed Sharif, UN-Habitat Executive Director, said: “UN-Habitat commends ‘Integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Technology for Safer Habitat’ because of its community-based planning and risk management approach, integrating local knowledge. This is very much in line with UN-Habitat’s belief that when developing, formulating and implementing tools, policies and programmes, we should place people at the centre of our thinking and action.” One of the judges of the award, Leilani Farha, Global Director of The Shift, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, said: “This project, led by the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Pakistan, is the embodiment of a human rights approach to climate change adaptation policies. This novel project manages to combine indigenous knowledge, community involvement and technological advancements to ensure resilient, sustainable communities capable of living in dignity, security and peace amidst the rising threat of climate-induced disasters.”

The project combines local and scientific knowledge in order to assess hazards, map risks, determine residential and economic zones, and develop disaster management and habitat plans. AKAH geologists use remote-sensing and geographic information system (GIS) technologies and risk-scoring tools, combined with participatory risk assessment and community knowledge, to develop plans for safer habitats. Nawab Jamal Khan, volunteer caretaker of a Flood Early Warning System in Sherqilla (North Pakistan).

AKAH installs early warning systems and community-managed weather monitoring posts in the most vulnerable areas.

Onno Rühl, General Manager of the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, “Our mission is to empower communities living on the frontlines of climate change to not only survive but thrive despite the growing risks they face. Integrating deep community engagement with scientific data, we help communities understand and manage disaster risk to be able to plan for a better future. We are honoured by the recognition of the World Habitat Awards and proud to promote solutions that help vulnerable communities adapt to climate risk.”

Maimunah Mohamed Sharif, UN-Habitat Executive Director, said: “UN-Habitat commends ‘Integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Technology for Safer Habitat’ because of its community-based planning and risk management approach, integrating local knowledge. This is very much in line with UN-Habitat’s belief that when developing, formulating and implementing tools, policies and programmes, we should place people at the centre of our thinking and action.” One of the judges of the award, Leilani Farha, Global Director of The Shift, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, said: “This project, led by the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Pakistan, is the embodiment of a human rights approach to climate change adaptation policies. This novel project manages to combine indigenous knowledge, community involvement and technological advancements to ensure resilient, sustainable communities capable of living in dignity, security and peace amidst the rising threat of climate-induced disasters.”

The project combines local and scientific knowledge in order to assess hazards, map risks, determine residential and economic zones, and develop disaster management and habitat plans. AKAH geologists use remote-sensing and geographic information system (GIS) technologies and risk-scoring tools, combined with participatory risk assessment and community knowledge, to develop plans for safer habitats. Nawab Jamal Khan, volunteer caretaker of a Flood Early Warning System in Sherqilla (North Pakistan). AKAH installs early warning systems and community-managed weather monitoring posts in the most vulnerable areas.

Onno Rühl, General Manager of the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, “Our mission is to empower communities living on the frontlines of climate change to not only survive but thrive despite the growing risks they face. Integrating deep community engagement with scientific data, we help communities understand and manage disaster risk to be able to plan for a better future. We are honoured by the recognition of the World Habitat Awards and proud to promote solutions that help vulnerable communities adapt to climate risk.”

Maimunah Mohamed Sharif, UN-Habitat Executive Director, said: “UN-Habitat commends ‘Integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Technology for Safer Habitat’ because of its community-based planning and risk management approach, integrating local knowledge. This is very much in line with UN-Habitat’s belief that when developing, formulating and implementing tools, policies and programmes, we should place people at the centre of our thinking and action.” One of the judges of the award, Leilani Farha, Global Director of The Shift, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, said: “This project, led by the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Pakistan, is the embodiment of a human rights approach to climate change adaptation policies. This novel project manages to combine indigenous knowledge, community involvement and technological advancements to ensure resilient, sustainable communities capable of living in dignity, security and peace amidst the rising threat of climate-induced disasters.”

The project combines local and scientific knowledge in order to assess hazards, map risks, determine residential and economic zones, and develop disaster management and habitat plans. AKAH geologists use remote-sensing and geographic information system (GIS) technologies and risk-scoring tools, combined with participatory risk assessment and community knowledge, to develop plans for safer habitats. Nawab Jamal Khan, volunteer caretaker of a Flood Early Warning System in Sherqilla (North Pakistan). AKAH installs early warning systems and community-managed weather monitoring posts in the most vulnerable areas.

Onno Rühl, General Manager of the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, “Our mission is to empower communities living on the frontlines of climate change to not only survive but thrive despite the growing risks they face. Integrating deep community engagement with scientific data, we help communities understand and manage disaster risk to be able to plan for a better future. We are honoured by the recognition of the World Habitat Awards and proud to promote solutions that help vulnerable communities adapt to climate risk.”

Maimunah Mohamed Sharif, UN-Habitat Executive Director, said: “UN-Habitat commends ‘Integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Technology for Safer Habitat’ because of its community-based planning and risk management approach, integrating local knowledge. This is very much in line with UN-Habitat’s belief that when developing, formulating and implementing tools, policies and programmes, we should place people at the centre of our thinking and action.” One of the judges of the award, Leilani Farha, Global Director of The Shift, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, said: “This project, led by the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Pakistan, is the embodiment of a human rights approach to climate change adaptation policies. This novel project manages to combine indigenous knowledge, community involvement and technological advancements to ensure resilient, sustainable communities capable of living in dignity, security and peace amidst the rising threat of climate-induced disasters.”

The project combines local and scientific knowledge in order to assess hazards, map risks, determine residential and economic zones, and develop disaster management and habitat plans. AKAH geologists use remote-sensing and geographic information system (GIS) technologies and risk-scoring tools, combined with participatory risk assessment and community knowledge, to develop plans for safer habitats. Nawab Jamal Khan, volunteer caretaker of a Flood Early Warning System in Sherqilla (North Pakistan). AKAH installs early warning systems and community-managed weather monitoring posts in the most vulnerable areas.

Onno Rühl, General Manager of the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, “Our mission is to empower communities living on the frontlines of climate change to not only survive but thrive despite the growing risks they face. Integrating deep community engagement with scientific data, we help communities understand and manage disaster risk to be able to plan for a better future. We are honoured by the recognition of the World Habitat Awards and proud to promote solutions that help vulnerable communities adapt to climate risk.”

Maimunah Mohamed Sharif, UN-Habitat Executive Director, said: “UN-Habitat commends ‘Integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Technology for Safer Habitat’ because of its community-based planning and risk management approach, integrating local knowledge. This is very much in line with UN-Habitat’s belief that when developing, formulating and implementing tools, policies and programmes, we should place people at the centre of our thinking and action.” One of the judges of the award, Leilani Farha, Global Director of The Shift, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, said: “This project, led by the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Pakistan, is the embodiment of a human rights approach to climate change adaptation policies. This novel project manages to combine indigenous knowledge, community involvement and technological advancements to ensure resilient, sustainable communities capable of living in dignity, security and peace amidst the rising threat of climate-induced disasters.”

The project combines local and scientific knowledge in order to assess hazards, map risks, determine residential and economic zones, and develop disaster management and habitat plans. AKAH geologists use remote-sensing and geographic information system (GIS) technologies and risk-scoring tools, combined with participatory risk assessment and community knowledge, to develop plans for safer habitats. Nawab Jamal Khan, volunteer caretaker of a Flood Early Warning System in Sherqilla (North Pakistan). AKAH installs early warning systems and community-managed weather monitoring posts in the most vulnerable areas.

Onno Rühl, General Manager of the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, “Our mission is to empower communities living on the frontlines of climate change to not only survive but thrive despite the growing risks they face. Integrating deep community engagement with scientific data, we help communities understand and manage disaster risk to be able to plan for a better future. We are honoured by the recognition of the World Habitat Awards and proud to promote solutions that help vulnerable communities adapt to climate risk.”

Maimunah Mohamed Sharif, UN-Habitat Executive Director, said: “UN-Habitat commends ‘Integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Technology for Safer Habitat’ because of its community-based planning and risk management approach, integrating local knowledge. This is very much in line with UN-Habitat’s belief that when developing, formulating and implementing tools, policies and programmes, we should place people at the centre of our thinking and action.” One of the judges of the award, Leilani Farha, Global Director of The Shift, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, said: “This project, led by the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Pakistan, is the embodiment of a human rights approach to climate change adaptation policies. This novel project manages to combine indigenous knowledge, community involvement and technological advancements to ensure resilient, sustainable communities capable of living in dignity, security and peace amidst the rising threat of climate-induced disasters.”

The project combines local and scientific knowledge in order to assess hazards, map risks, determine residential and economic zones, and develop disaster management and habitat plans. AKAH geologists use remote-sensing and geographic information system (GIS) technologies and risk-scoring tools, combined with participatory risk assessment and community knowledge, to develop plans for safer habitats. Nawab
Announcements

The University of Central Asia is pleased to announce that undergraduate applications are now open for the 2021-2022 academic year. The final deadline to submit the application form (PDF version) and relevant documents is March 15th 2021 at 23:59 (GMT+6).

UCA provides high quality education benchmarked at international standards, full scholarships and grants, dedicated and qualified faculty, paid internships to gain work experience, vibrant student life, modern facilities set in a spectacular landscape, and much more.

Apply to UCA's Undergraduate Programme

The University of Central Asia is pleased to announce that undergraduate applications are now open for the 2021-2022 academic year. The final deadline to submit the application form (PDF version) and relevant documents is March 15th 2021 at 23:59 (GMT+6).

UCA provides high quality education benchmarked at international standards, full scholarships and grants, dedicated and qualified faculty, paid internships to gain work experience, vibrant student life, modern facilities set in a spectacular landscape, and much more.

Apply to UCA online

https://www.ucentralasia.org/admissions
or download the application form and send with supplementary documents by email or in person.

Panel Discussion
Blockchain As Good Governance Technology
Thursday, December 17, 2020
4 PM KGT (GMT +6) | 11 AM CET

Shaukat Ali Khan
Chief Information Officer
University of Central Asia

Valery Vavilov
Founder and CEO of the Bitfury Group

Vasyl Zadvornyy
General Director at "Prozorro", Ukraine

Naryn, Kyrgyzstan
Majors offered:
Computer Science
Communications and Media
Khorog, Tajikistan
Earth and Environmental Sciences
Computer Science
Economics

Full scholarships are also awarded to meritorious students from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan on a competitive basis.