Naryn Town Celebrates 150th Anniversary

Naryn Town celebrated its 150th anniversary in the presence of Mukhammedkalyi Abylgaziev, Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, government officials, and local residents on September 21. Following the event, the programme continued with a “Nukura” festival in town where five UCA undergraduate students performed traditional Kyrgyz and Kazakh music, as well as a Pamiri dance.

“Currently, the intellectual potential of the Naryn oblast and the city is being enhanced,” said Mukhammedkalyi Abylgaziev, Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic. “In addition to fostering the development of graduates for common professions, Naryn State University and the University of Central Asia offer modern technology, information technology (IT) and computer programmes, and are focusing on training IT professionals.”

The Role of Universities in Shaping Urban Development

Planning the development of contemporary cities has to take into account a number of factors, which were not considered important a few decades ago. These include principles such as sustainable urban development, introduction of urban regeneration, as well as public participation in the planning process.

“Professionals and authorities responsible for planning have noticed that in the age of globalization, competition between cities is constantly increasing. Therefore, cities are in search for various solutions allowing them to gain better position in this competitive process,” noted Professor Piotr Lorens. “One of the strategies is associated with building strong ties with research and higher education institutions, allowing simultaneous growth of both entities.”

Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of UCA, addressed the gathering during the celebration. “For almost 15 years, the leaders and people of Naryn and the Aga Khan Development Network, including the University of Central Asia, have worked collectively to improve the quality of life of the people. The wisdom and intellectual power of the people of Naryn is what makes this land so great and what will unleash its potential to become a regional centre of excellence in education, culture and tourism.”

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The Role of Universities in Shaping Urban Development

President of the Society of Polish Town Planners, and a member of the International Society of City and Regional Planners. The lectures, organized by UCA’s Institute of Public Policy and Administration, tackled a number of issues associated with cooperation between municipalities and universities. Special attention was paid to the area of city planning and development, alongside with developing and implementing the concepts of “smart” cities.

The lecture at UCA’s Naryn Campus was attended by participants from Naryn State University, Naryn Pedagogical College, UCA, as well as residents from Naryn town. “Today’s public lecture was very useful, and it provided a good motivation for city transformation and infrastructure. UCA’s help to implement Naryn’s master development plan is invaluable. We are looking forward to implementing the new development plan of Naryn town in close cooperation with the University,” said Saltanat Esenamanova, Vice Mayor of Naryn town (speaking in photo).

Promoting Sustainable Infrastructure Partnerships

UCA’s Institute of Public Policy and Administration, the University of Oxford, and the Independent Research Institute of Mongolia, held the inaugural meeting of the ‘Gobi Framework for Sustainable Infrastructure Partnerships’ project at the National University of Mongolia on September 5. This 30-month project aims to develop a framework for sustainable infrastructure development to promote inclusive economic development and social welfare in the context of Chinese mega infrastructure initiatives in Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

The launch event brought together national and international experts from government and the public sector, development agencies, non-governmental organisations, academia, and research institutions to exchange knowledge and experiences on how to enhance the capacity of communities and governments to minimise negative impacts of major infrastructure projects, promote inclusive economic welfare, and strengthen regional sustainable development.

The project will be based on intensive, interdisciplinary research involving environmental and social scientists in the United Kingdom, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. It will explore ways to develop responsive, transparent, and effective governance institutions, whereby different stakeholders can mediate disputes and ensure that development is sustainable and inclusive. The focus is on what can be achieved in local settings by people in regions constrained by difficult geographical settings. The project is funded by the UK’s Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF).

UCA Signs Agreement with Almaty Department of Education

UCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Education in the Almaty Oblast on August 23rd to implement UCA’s Education Improvement Programme (EIP) at 20 secondary schools in the Almaty Region. Through EIP, participants will develop competencies such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication, required for full participation in economic, social, and cultural life in the 21st century. The programme is designed to enhance students’ academic achievements and opportunities for entry to high-quality universities nationally, regionally, and internationally, and to be work ready and equipped for responsible citizenship. The agreement was signed by Mr. Junisov Dauren Khabdoldanovich, Head of the Almaty Oblast Department of Education, and Dr. Bohdan Krawchenko, Dean of the Graduate School of Development at UCA.
Campus News

First Day of Classes

▲ Dr. Diana Pauna, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha (centre), Chairman of the Board of Trustees of UCA, and Prof. Dr. S. Sohail H. Naqvi, Rector of UCA ring the bell to mark the start of undergraduate classes in Naryn, Kyrgyzstan (left, August 31), and Khorog, Tajikistan (September 6).

UCA Curriculum Partners Visit Naryn Campus

Eight representatives, including faculty and the Rector at the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga (SSE Riga), visited UCA’s Naryn Campus from September 18-22. It was their first contextualisation visit for the curriculum development of UCA’s undergraduate programme in Economics.

“Central Asia is an incredibly interesting part of the world. It is a privilege to develop a course for UCA, and contribute towards the development of the University,” noted Agnes Lubloy, Associate Professor of Finance and Accounting at SSE Riga.

During their visit, SSE Riga representatives learnt more about Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia, its current economic situation, and on the programmes and activities of the Aga Khan Development Network and UCA. The delegation also met with faculty, staff and students during their time on campus and at the Central Administration office in Bishkek.

They attended meetings with various state bodies and organisations to get more information from practitioners operating in various sectors of the economy. This included the Ministry of Economics of the Kyrgyz Republic, the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic, Megacom Mobile Operator, Kyrgyz Investment and Credit Bank, Bai-Tushum MicroCredit Company, and Ernst and Young Audit Services.

UCA and SSE Riga signed a memorandum of understanding in February 2018 for partnership in curriculum development, faculty development, student exchanges, and joint research collaboration.

▲ From L to R: Dominik Gerber, SSE Riga Lecturer and Researcher; Anete Pajuste, SSE Riga Associate Professor; Agnes Lybloy, SSE Riga Associate Professor; Zane Varpina, SSE Riga Assistant Professor; Konstantins Benkovskis, SSE Riga Associate Professor; Anders Paalzow, Rector of SSE Riga, Dr. Elmira Köchümkulova, Head of UCA’s Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit; Hamid Ali Khan, UCA Senior Lecturer of English, and Kata Fredheim, SSE Riga Assistant Professor.
Teacher Development Programme in Naryn

UCA’s School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) and School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE) in Naryn have collaboratively launched an English language teacher development programme held at SPCE Naryn. The programme aims to enhance English language teachers teaching effectiveness in their classrooms through a series of 15 workshops. These workshops focus on enhancing both their pedagogical knowledge and practice.

Eighteen teachers from different schools in the city and Naryn State University are participating in the programme, which is facilitated by Hamid Khan, Senior Lecturer at UCA’s SAS. It is organised as part of community service initiatives at UCA.

UCA Students Clean Over 300kg of Trash from Naryn Riverside

Participating in the World Cleanup Day on September 15th, undergraduate students from UCA’s Naryn campus collected over 300 kilograms of trash along the Naryn river. This event was organised and celebrated globally by millions of people cross 150 countries.

The initiative aims to unite volunteers and partners worldwide to rid the planet of trash, picking up litter and mismanaged waste from our beaches, rivers, forests, and streets. The theme of World Cleanup Day is "One day. One planet. One goal." It was celebrated with a powerful ‘green wave’ of cleanups which started in New Zealand and ended 36 hours later in Hawaii.

Horseback Riding in Naryn

Students from UCA’s Naryn Campus went horseback riding at the Eki Naryn Jailoo (summer pasture) in the Naryn region on September 16th. They also shared a Kyrgyz meal, Beshbarmak, in a traditional yurt, and observed national horse games such as ‘Kok Boru’ and wrestling on horses.

Turumtaykul Lake Excursion in Tajikistan

UCA undergraduate students at the Khorog campus in Tajikistan hiked to Turumtaykul Lake (4,202 m above sea level) and visited the ‘Jelondi’ hot springs in the Shugnan district.

Students also slept overnight at the Jelondi resort as part of the weekend trip organised by UCA’s Student Life Team.
46 UCA Students on Dean's Honour List

Forty-six University of Central Asia students received the Dean’s Honour List Awards in recognition of academic excellence during 2017-2018. To qualify for this award, students need to achieve a CGPA higher than 3.5, demonstrate behaviour consistent with UCA’s mission, values and ethics, and not receive an F grade in any of their courses. Well done to all recipients! Click here for a full list.

Did You Know?
Starting this month, Dr Roza Kazakbaeva, Associate Professor of English for Academic Purposes with the UCA’s School of Arts and Sciences will be pursuing a one-year post doctorate training at the University of Cambridge’s Faculty of Education in the United Kingdom. Following her post doctorate, Dr. Kazakbaeva will rejoin UCA.
Continuing Education

Gender Responsive Learning Environments in Afghanistan

UCA’s School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE) is delivering Gender Responsive Learning Environment Seminars at their learning centres in Faizabad, Ishkashim, Shugnan, and Nusai-Darwaz, Teacher Training Colleges, Badakhshan University, and other schools in the remote areas in Afghanistan’s Badakhshan region. The seminars aim to provide awareness and enhance technical and pedagogical skills of current students and prospective teachers, to be able to respond to gender based-needs in the schools, and promote gender responsive educational environments.

From September 12th to 18th, over 150 participants successfully completed the seminar, and over 500 individuals are expected to benefit from it in 2018. It is funded by the International Development Research Center of Canada as part of IDRC’s Pathways to Innovation Project with UCA.

Science Enthusiasts Gather in Naryn

On September 14th, twenty students from Naryn State University, Sapat High School, Secondary School #4 and Min-Bulak Village School, as well as representatives from the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan in Naryn participated in a Science Festival at SPCE Naryn.

Participants received certificates following their participation in the festival. It was organised in partnership with the Naryn Youth Organisation.

Social Entrepreneurship in Kyrgyzstan

About 20 teachers from regional Universities in Issyk-Kul, Osh, Talas, Jalalabad, and Naryn regions of Kyrgyzstan gathered in Bishkek to exchange ideas and experiences on the future development of social entrepreneurship. This seminar was organised as a post-event for teachers who received grants to start their own businesses in December 2017, as part of the UCA and Coca-Cola Social Entrepreneurship contest. The seminar hosted several speakers, including Charles Buxton (INTRAC), Supriya Mukarjee (Ashoka Foundation), Svetlana Druz (“NotOnlyMam” a Kazakh NGO) and Sergey Ponomarev (Expert in Social Entrepreneurship in Russia).

This event was organised as part of the ‘Empowering Youth for Socioeconomic Development’ project in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation.

SPCE Naryn Welcomes Over 400 Visitors

Over 400 residents from the Naryn town and surrounding districts visited UCA’s SPCE during the Open House week from September 10-17. Guests learnt about SPCE’s activities, programmes, courses, achievements, and attended demo-lessions and book exhibitions. SPCE staff also delivered a presentation on the Cambridge test assessments, and shared success stories of UCA’s entrepreneurship programme. SPCE in Bishkek also held Open House events from September 20-22.
The University of Central Asia in partnership with the Cambridge Trust is pleased to announce scholarship opportunities for doctoral study at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. The scholarships are for students wishing to pursue doctoral studies only in the following fields: Computer Science, Engineering, Media and Communications, Business Management or Economics. The fields reflect some of the majors in undergraduate programme offered by UCA's School of Arts and Sciences.

The scholarships are part of UCA’s ongoing Central Asian Faculty Development Programme (CAFDP) designed to ensure that scholars from the region are strongly represented in UCA's faculty. Scholarship recipients will be required to work for four years at UCA after the completion of their studies at the University of Cambridge. Interested students are invited to submit their online application and required documents to UCA by October 31st 2018. For further information please contact: cafdp@ucentralasia.org or visit http://bit.ly/UCAcambridge.

**Job Opportunities at UCA**


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