

F.Samandarov: «It is necessary to work and live worthy»

One of five Regional Offices of the United Nations Development Program in Tajikistan is located in area Shaartuz District. The head of the given Office, Fazliddin Samandarov, tells about specificity of work

- What projects were carried out by your Office during the existence?

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has begun its activity in the Shaartuz region in July 1997 by opening of our Regional Office (RO) which coverage of service is the Qurghontepa part of Khatlon Region. During 12 years of its existence, we disbursed about \$7 million on various humanitarian projects, as well as on sustainable development projects. During this time we have carried out tens of projects which promoted restoration and the further development of the region, and also achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

In the first years of its activity our RO has concentrated on support of the United Nations' efforts in maintenance of peace. UNDP, including Shaartuz RO, played an active role in social and economic restoration of the country, by providing confidence of the population for tomorrow and stabilizing a post-conflict situation after signing of peace agreement in 1997. We still conduct the work in this direction.

For example, during this period we have repaired over 30 rural schools and provided conditions for education of over 22,000 students; restored 7 central regional hospitals and many rural first-aid points, improved the access to medical service at local level; restored

more than 80 systems of water supply and improved living conditions of more than 300,000 residents; cleared and restored over 700 km of irrigational channels and improved the irrigation system of more than 30,000 hectares of lands that promotes agriculture restoration, crop increase, maintenance of food safety and decrease in poverty level in village.

In general, our RO conducts the activity within the limits of thematic directions of UNDP which have been defined by the United Nations in cooperation with the Government of Tajikistan and promote the further achievement of the goals and objectives reflected in National Development Strategy and Poverty Reduction Strategy of T Tajikistan. There are four of such thematic directions, however, at RO level our activity is concentrated on three of them:

The first one is "Transformation of means of subsistence". It sets as a goal increase of agricultural production, maintenance of food safety and economic possibilities, especially for women and socially not protected groups of the population. Within the limits of the given thematic direction our office promotes business development, stimulation of uniform and sustainable growth of the capital, strengthening of the favorable environment for development of business and restoration of infrastructure, and also puts

special emphasis on improvement of access providing to safe drinking water.

Vivid examples of our work in this area are granting of micro loans for poor population's levels, maintenance of rural population with pure drinking water, strengthening and improvement of enterprise potential, assistance for the training of new work skills and creating of new jobs for rural population and many other things, that plays an important role in the further development of communities.

The second thematic direction of our activity is "Redistribution of duties". It is aimed at improvement of reaction and the accountability of the structures which are responsible for decision-making, including judicial system.

In this sector we work in a direction of responsibility's strengthening on fields and increasing the potential of public sector on an effective use of the international help. RO works in the direction of providing cooperation and partnership at local level, in order to provide basic services to rural population. Local communities can solve the problems by uniting local authorities, civil society and a private sector. RO cooperates with the Community Support Centers (CSC) and develops their potential in order to establish partnership of the given organizations with local authorities. Currently 20 CSC



PHOTO: N. GALANDAROV

were established and functioned in areas covered by RO. These organizations are important partners of RO for actions related to poverty reduction in village and construction of effective administration.

RO also cooperates with four Regions' Development Councils (RDC) to define the local development priorities and working out of a strategy on their achievement. Regions can improve the provision of basic services by having their own development plans. Local bodies are key partners of the council and are responsible for implementation of regional development plans while RDC supports them in attraction of

necessary resources. By promoting of cooperation at local level, CSC and RDC promote creation of more open state system and provide more responsible and effective control system for all local communities.

The third thematic direction of our activity is called "Overcoming of Mountains". It is directed on sustainable management of natural resources and decrease in number of victims of natural disasters. Within the framework of given thematic direction RO promotes maintenance of ecological stability and softening of environmental problems' consequences in western

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Sustainable management of land resources

UNDP Regional Office in Shaartuz is implementing a four-year project as of April 2007 "Demonstration of reciprocal actions on struggle against degradation of the lands and improvement of sustainable management of land resources in the southwest of Tajikistan". The manager of project, Firdavs Fayzulloyev, informs on its implementation.

The given project is implemented in 4 target jamoats (settlements) in the southwest of Khatlon Region (districts: Shaartuz, Qabodiyon, Jilikul and Qumsangir). The project basically is financed by Global Ecological Fund (GEF) and the United Nations Development Program in Tajikistan.

The project main task is potential demonstration on distribution of initiatives of sustainable management by land resources of Tajikistan at local level, and also creation of potential of local structures and land users.

Within the framework of the project two Associations of Water Users (AWU) are created and the potential of two existing AWU is strengthened. Also 12 irrigational subprojects directed on decrease of subsoil waters' level and rational use of water resources were implemented. As a result the reclamation condition of about 5 thousand hectares of lands has improved and particular territories' efficiency has increased by 10 %.

In all four jamoats (settlements) Lands Degradation Departments were established

which function to increase of population's awareness on land degradation and a joint management of resources at jamoats level.

Also Farmers' Field Schools are created which carry out trainings for farmers on new methods of conducting agricultural activity. For practical training demonstration sites are developed which breeds 7 kinds of cultures. Also on these sites traditional methods of pest control, manufacturing of composts etc. are shown.

Within the framework of components on forestry planting, 16,000 various wood plantings, including 3,000 saplings of fruit trees has been planted. Through these saplings forest belts have been restored and coast-protection forest of rivers and channels is planted. To provide jamoats with saplings of tree species and to expand the areas of forests, 4 small nursery forests

have been created and in each of them 5-10 thousand saplings are grown up. Together with workers of Shaartuz forest farms 10 hectares of lands were planted with saxaul plants in Jura Nazarov jamoat of Shaartuz District to prevent wind erosion and movement of sand.

There are riparian forests along the Vakhsh River in Nuri Vakhsh jamoat (settlement) of Jilikul District. Throughout several years in the absence of due protection these world famous areas of riparian forest were critically endangered. For the purpose of preservation of this ecologically important territory, with support of the region's municipality and jamoat, a Committee on protection riparian forest from among inhabitants of nearby villages has been created. Throughout eight months of Committee activity cutting down of trees has been brought to

naught and, according to local residents, population of wild animals and birds has increased.

Other important component of the project is support farms by granting of credits. For the purpose of softening of farms' debts and providing conditions for conducting independent agricultural activity, 108 of them have received credits with 1.5 % interest rate. The portfolio total sum makes \$100,000.

In order to decrease the consumption of energy resources and demonstration of renewed energy sources, construction of small power plant with 5 kW capacities, installations on development of biogas and briquettes proceeds. Also at households level prototype models of effective furnaces on Nepalese technology have been constructed which at minimum raw materials consumption have big heat emission.

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Khatlon Region and in the country in general. The given direction is relatively new in our practice. But with the start of implementation of the "Sustainable management of lands" project in 2007, which is directed on resolution of lands degradation problems, it might be noticed that currently RO in Shahritus is a leader among all five UNDP RO in sustainable management of natural resources.

Our RO does not work in areas of the fourth thematic direction - "Overcoming recession" which purpose is increasing potential on prevention and decrease in level of infectious diseases, especially HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, and also on prevention of mine threat. However we plan to mention partially problems of mine threat within the framework of one of the new projects in cooperation with the specialized UNDP divisions which are located in capital, in 2009-2010.

- Can you name volume of your annual expenses and your finance sources?

- The sum which disbursed annually is various. But on the average money which is spent on programs, makes 500,000-600,000 dollars in a year. Our work is transparent, and the detailed information on our expenses, and also finance sources can be seen on a site of our organization - www.undp.tj.

When we speak about our donors, it is necessary to notice, that UNDP is influential and strong enough organization with considerable internal resources and all our projects are partially financed by our own means. At the same time we cooperate with the big spectrum of donors and the regular are embassies of Norway, Japan, the USA, Canada, the World Bank, the European Union,



etc. During the activity we cooperated with all basic donors who have activity in our republic.

- Does your office provide grants to public organizations?

- When it is an issue of cooperation with civil sector, in the past there were many examples when grants were given directly to public organizations. Similar practice exists today. Cooperation with public organizations with us always was and remains close. For example, we have introduced this tool many years ago in CSC. And right at the beginning all these centers received grants from us for establishment of the revolving funds for micro crediting. They worked long enough in the given direction directly with the population. But in 2005 the legislation on micro crediting has been changed which does not enabled such public organizations to be engaged in this kind of activity. And by our support microloan funds have been organized where all funds from various CSC have been collected. Now micro crediting is carried out by the professional

organization while all these centers are founders of the given fund and have the vote in definition of its activity.

- To what extent has your interaction with local authorities adjusted?

- All of our activity is directed not only on support of civil society and local population, but also local authorities in the problems' solving related to sustainable development of communities. We work 12 years, but it does not mean, that we will stay here as much time again. Someday people and authorities should do this work and provide stable development of region. To provide stability of our projects, we always try to consult and coordinate in all actions with representatives of communities and local authorities: heads of jamoats (communities), regions and other partners at regional level. When there is problems' identification at communities' level, we try to attract as many people as possible, starting with representatives of civil society and finishing with authorities. In all projects we lay

down a condition about necessity on population and local authorities' contribution. On the average this contribution is estimated around 20-30 % in the form of financial injection or the technical help that promotes the further stability of implemented projects.

- Do you face problems in your work?

- There is no work without problems, and in case of occurrence they always solved in working order. I can't say that we have any serious problems which would put a barrier to our activity. First of all, we have very good support from local authorities and communities because we work for many years and recommended ourselves from the best side here. Everyone knows about our experience and possibilities in solving problems of development. All our problems which arise during implementation of projects, basically solved in time because we always contact all of our partners, including local authorities. In my opinion, the reason that all our activity is

directed for the sake of local community, and everyone understand this well.

My only wish at present is that our people cared more about the public welfare, developed higher feeling of national consciousness, patriotism, and love to fatherland and has eradicated dependant moods which still are present among some circles. It is already time to take all under control and to show to the international community, that our historically peaceful and hardworking people are capable to work and live worthy.

- Your development plans.

- In the future UNDP, including our RO, will continue cooperation with all local structures in the direction of poverty eradication and Tajikistan's prompt achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. We will try to bring the mite in solving of the problems connected with a sustainable development of the given region and improvement of quality of people's life.

Safo SAFAROV

Drinking water supply of a countryside

On 14-15 July, in a conference hall of the Ministry of Irrigation and water resources of Tajikistan the joint seminar on "Dialogue for coordination of projects of drinking water supply in village" has taken place. Representatives of the various ministries and departments of Tajikistan, local authorities and the international organizations have taken part in it. The given action was lead within the framework of the "Cooperation development between the state institutes, donors and the organizations in area of supplying drinking water in countryside for improvement of responsibility, stability and efficiency" project, implemented by Community Development Program of UNDP with a financial support of the Swiss Agency on Development and Cooperation. The purpose of the seminar was to identify existing problems in system of organizational-technical regulation and search ways of solving them.

During the seminar necessity of qualified personnel's preparation in drinking water supply area has been underlined. Experts also have



noticed that the new approach is necessary to increase the investments' efficiency through the use of modern technologies at all stages of implementation of projects.

The issues of financial and economic regulation of the carried out project have been discussed during another seminar which has taken place on 28 July. The state financial support of drinking water supply of village projects was one of its main themes.

In his speech the deputy director of the Swiss Agency on Development and Cooperation Nikola Gigas has underlined, that for implementation of the Program on improvement of Tajik population's provision with drinking water for 2007-2020 sufficient financial resources are necessary. But, as he said, the state allocated just 15 % of the

money out of earlier planned resources which makes the implementation of the Program impossible.

Making comments on current situation, the Manager of UNDP project on development of local public authorities, Mirzo Olimov, has noted: "Relying on the annual analysis of process of financing of the Program, I can tell, that Tajik Government has carried out all the undertakes for 2007 but due to the crisis, state's investments level in 2008 and 2009 considerably reduced".

During the meeting participants also have discussed the order of working out, the statement and introduction of tariffs for rendered services in drinking water supply and other contemporary questions.

Diana RAKHMANOVA

UNDP will provide electricity to the countryside

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) starts the project implementation on support of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan on providing consultation in the energy sector. It was stated during a seminar on "Energy for development and decrease in level of poverty" which took place on 10 July, in Dushanbe and has been directed on achievement of more effective performance of Poverty Decreasing Strategy (PDS) in Tajikistan through implementation of pilot projects.

During his speech the deputy minister of economic development and trade of Tajikistan Umed Davlatzod has noted: "Pilot projects will be model for us, as well as for the international institutes. After achievement of efficiency and stability in these pilot sites, we are planning to extend the received experience to other cities and regions of the country and for this purpose to create more suitable mechanism of attraction of investors and international financial institutions for cooperation".

In his turn, the manager of given project Zoran Morvaj has

told, that within the framework of the project three small power plants with capacities of 33 kW and 100 kW will be constructed in Gharm, Varzob and Vahdat. As he said, UNDP in these projects will finance one of the basic parts. But for more effective implementation it is necessary to involve co-financing of the ministries, local communities, and also the donor organizations.

Along with it, the chief of department on Governmental institutions building "Control centre of projects in energy sector" Isokhon Isaynov has underlined, that building of small power plants is the effective solution of a problem of water-power engineering in countryside. As he said, from those waters which proceed in each village, it is quite possible to receive the cheap electric power for the population.

It is necessary to notice, that organizers of the event plan to hold another seminar at the governmental level in second half of August where precise steps on achievement PDS through participation in pilot projects will be considered.

Sitora NEGMATOVA

Trip to Shahritus

The area to which we are going is located in southwest Tajikistan and bordering with Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. Shahritus and its districts are hottest areas of the country and we realized it during our trip in the end of July. The purpose of the trip is to get information about implementation of the programs of the regional office of UNDP in Shahritus.

Problems and achievements of the farmers

First of all we visited the farmers Association Subi Sayod in Shahritus and talked to the head of this association, Maghfirat Saidrahmonova, in her renovated and equipped office. She says that the Association's goal is to support the farmers and in assistance with UNDP regional office it solves the problems of farmers:

- We implemented one project, which was financed by the international organization CIDA, through the UNDP assistance. In the framework of this project we provided farms with 60 tones of minerals, 12,000 liters of fuel and 6 tones of potato seeds. Also, we bought 150,000 spare parts and gave them to renovate the old vehicles. As a result, 15 tractors of farmers' households were restored. Moreover our Association was equipped with a tractor (HT3-80) and farms use it.

I should note that during one and half year of our existence UNDP Regional Office helped us a lot. Due to the efficient cooperation our performance is sustainable and till now 45 farmer households became our Association's members.

With regard to the issues that are solved M.Saidrahmonova said that the most important problem of the farmers is debts to investors (finance companies) which are partially solved. Earlier farmers with the investors demand used 90% of their lands for cotton sowing. And thanks to the Association's training sessions on Tajik Government order #111 dated 5 March 2007 entitled "Plans of actions to solve the cotton producing farms debts for 2007-2009". The farmers by their annual plan can allocate 40% of their lands for cotton and the rest they can use for other agricultural products. According to the state's order, local governing bodies cannot intervene to the planning process of the farmers.

"Today, when the cotton profit is not enough for the people, there is no need to sow it. Let the farmer to freely sow a product which is profitable makes his life better," the head of Association said.

In order to get more information about local farmers we talked to the head of Mahmud Yunusov farm, Olimjon Mahmudov. He started with complaint on investor (finance company):

- Last year I took a credit of 3,000 dollars from a finance company. All the vehicles belonged to me, investor just provided me with two liters of diesel, seeds and 300 kilos of pesticides. According to the agreement farmer should pay back its debts in five years, 20% annually, however the investor made me pay back all the debt during at the end of the first year, even if I just created the farm.

"This year I became the member of the Association and the cooperation with it was profitable. I bought potato seeds and pesticides at a low price. Moreover, I used the agricultural vehicles of the Association and got a good production of tomato, cucumber, pea and other agricultural products" says O.Mahmudov.

Exemplary areas

UNDP experts organize training sessions in Shahritus, Qubodiyon, Jilikul and Qumsangir districts in order to increase the harvest through implementation of modern skills and techniques. The head of the farmers' field school, Buron Uroqov, told us about this during our visit to the Havaskor settlement in Qubodiyon District. He said:

We work on the pilot area of about 5,000 square meters for the last two years. Every year the farm plants several kinds of crops that we suggest: tomato, sweet pepper, beans, pumpkin, onion, eggplant, watermelon and etc. In second sowing they also plant cabbage, cucumber, red beet and in August carrot. Thus the farm gets three harvests each year. For example, last year from this area more than 40 tones of onion, 6 tones of tomato, and 4.5 tones of eggplants were collected. Out of the tomato about 2 tones of tomato paste was prepared, both for stock and for sale. The production is sold half priced in the markets.

In this area the nursery is also put into practice through UNDP. According to the national expert on forestry, Najmiddin Abdurahimov, currently a pilot area is established in Sayidnazar Khudoyqulov settlement of Qubodiyon District which lands are secured by forest belt from wind erosion. Through this mean the speed of the wind is weakened by 50%, the land humidity is secured and the productivity is increased by 20%.

He also said in this area more than 25,000 different plants are planted: apricot, almond, peach, persimmon, also local birch which



PHOTO: N. GALANDAROV

is used for constructions. Then these plants are planted in other areas and this enables to the improvement of the living of an area.

It should be noted that these kinds of pilot areas for seeds sowing and nursery are established in other 3 settlements of the area, too.

Community support

UNDP regional office accomplished several tasks for developing of local self-governance. One of the important initiatives in this direction is enabling the establishment of Community Support Centers which contribute to the improvement of the population's living standards, establishing the rights and freedom of citizens, environment security and population's health.

In this framework Komsomol community support center in Nosiri Khisrav District also carries out different activities. The head of the given public organization, Hamza Boboyev, reports on their activities:

-Through the UNDP support we established an informational advisory center which goal is lowering the level of poverty through training. Four experts work in this center: lawyer, economist, veterinarian and agronomist. They give necessary advices to the local population on their work and activities.

Moreover, we surveyed the local young people and find out that they are interested in photography, tailor and barber professions. We arranged short training sessions in these three areas. Thus, masters are provided

with working places and every three months they train 12 young people. Till now 36 people learned the profession. Including, three trained young people who became barbers outside of the country and another two people took loans from the small credits Fund and started their own business. Also 12 girls who attended the tailor and embroidery courses currently produce clothes at home. The girls' products are sold with our assistance.

During our operation we also built greenhouses through the UNDP assistance which are exploited for the production of early vegetables and seeds. We implemented the drop watering and solar heating in them. This is a model activity so that people learn the breeding of early-growing plants.

There was another problem of supply of drinking and irrigation water in Sangoba, Qarakamar and Qizilketman villages which population is about 6,000 people. They were using the water of Chiluchorchashma. With the UNDP assistance we repaired the channel and changed the 3 km path of it. Now 400 hectares of the households' lands and farms are fully supplied with water.

Securing the riparian forests

There are riparian forests in Nuri Vakhsh community of Jilikul District which are the places for a lot of different wild animals and birds.

According to the national expert N.Abdurahimov, the security of ecological conditions of riparian forests is one of the objectives of the implemented "Struggle against lands' degradation and steady management of land resources in southwest of Tajikistan" project. He said:

-We agreed with the department of living environment security of Jilikul District on this issue and through their permission we rented 126 hectares of riparian forests to three people. Also, we established a joint committee on riparian forest use within the Nuri Vakhsh community support Centre and local residents work in it. In the future, we plan to establish a School of Foresters for young

people to increase the ecological knowledge of the young generation.

The results of the performance are such: if in the past the riparian forests' cutting and the illegal hunting was at very high level now the issue is moderate.

Power-saving ovens

For the successful implementation of the project the construction of power-saving ovens is also under way. The goal of this activity is to decrease the level of trees' cutting.

- We implemented the world experience on using the power-saving ovens in Tajikistan. Through the assistance of UN experts we copied the construction of such ovens from Nepal and now use it in 4 communities of the region, - says N.Abdurahimov.

During the conversation, women of Yangibod village who set up these modern ovens in their homes expressed their satisfaction and said that on these ovens two meals can be cooked at a time and the fuel consumption is lower.

Small credits

Three small credit Funds are established with the support of UNDP in southwest region of the country. The biggest among them is Vakhshmikrofin which headquarter is in Qurgontepa town. Representative of the fund said that it has 18 service offices, including in Qubodiyon, Jilikul, Shahritus, Nosiri Khisrav, Bokhtar, Vakhsh, Qumsangir, Panj districts and Sarband town. Currently the number of clients is more than 1,700 people. The average credit of this organization is 1,400 somoni and it is given with 1.5% to 3% interest rates. The total capital turnover is about 2.5 million somoni.

According to the head of the UNDP regional office in Shahritus, Fazliddin Samandarov, within the framework of all projects which are implemented by the regional office the small credits are considered because they have an important role in reduction of the poverty rate and development of entrepreneurship.

Safo SAFAROV



PHOTO: N. GALANDAROV

The land mines problem requires cooperation

"To make the Central Asia the region free of mines" - under this title a regional seminar was organized in Dushanbe on 7-8 July. Related agencies of Central Asian states, representatives of the Ottawa Convention member states and international organizations took part in this seminar.

Necessity of membership

During the meeting Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan were invited to accept the Ottawa Convention's membership and support the activities of cleaning the region from antipersonnel mines.

With regard to this Firuzali Alizoda, representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, said: "Ottawa Convention acts as of 1990 and 156 countries are the members of it. Only 36 countries did not get the membership and we believe that these countries finally will join this international agreement".

With regard to the issue of demining Tajik-Uzbek borders, the representative of the international organization on prevention of antipersonnel mines, Roman Dolgov, during the conversation with Hamkori reporter said: "Till the border lines are not identified the demining is difficult and vice versa till the demining is not complete the drawing of the border lines is impossible. That

is why, if Uzbekistan does not join the Convention, the demining of the borders with Tajikistan will remain a problem to solve in political area."

According to Jonmahmad Rajabov, the head of the Tajik Centre on mines issue (TCMI), as of 1992 due to the mine and other explosives explosions 354 people died and 449 people got different wounds in Tajikistan.

The deadline is extended?

During the meeting, participants discussed Tajikistan's suggestion on extending of demining actions. According to the 5th article of Ottawa Convention, Tajikistan is responsible to demine its territories till 1 April 2010.

J.Rajabov said that due to the reasons like late start of demining process, shortage of financial resources, insufficient number of sappers the completion of this responsibility on time is impossible. He also said that a lot of demining is done till 2009. As of 2004, more

than 900 living areas were observed and more than 500 areas were enlisted as dangerous and 2.7 million square meters of lands in southeast area were demined. However there is an area of 15 million square meters which is still under threat of mines. The head of the Tajik Centre on mines issue said: "We prepared a request to extend the demining actions till 1 January 2020. We hope that our request will be supported during the second main concluding Conference which will be held in the end of this year in Columbia."

The permanent representative of UN in Tajikistan, Michael Jones, during his speech in the seminar expressed his support on positive solution of this issue and said that in order to secure the country's territory from the mine threat there is a need to extend the demining process.

During the meeting participants also discussed the threat of mines on worldwide level. It was mentioned that every year 20,000 cases of mine explosion occurred in the world and currently more than 300,000 people victims of mines are registered.

Special program

In order to support the victims of land mines and antipersonnel mines, Tajik Centre on mines issues carries out a special program. Rayhona Muminova, an expert in assistance provision to mines' victims, says that the help to the victims consists of six main parts: data collection on them, medical and psychological help, legal assistance, economic assistance and sending them to sanatoriums. She says that from the start of the program till 2009 more than 200 mines' victims received economic assistance.



Sadafmoh Rahmatova one of the victims of mine explosion said that with the assistance of Tajik Centre on mine issue she graduated from special lyceum for disabled people and owes a sewing machine.

However according to R.Muminova there is a possibility of lack of register for some of mines' victims by Tajik Centre on mine issue. She says that if the victims will apply to Tajik Centre on mine issue the centre will propose to them assistance.

Visit of the mine fields

Representatives of the Ottawa Convention's member states visit a mine field in Rudaki District on 8 July. Senior expert on demining Mario Boer described to the visitors the ways and methods of sappers' performance.

According to him, the sapper group got the experience in Afghanistan because the demining centers in that country were established earlier and they have bigger experience. However he says identification of mine fields in Tajikistan is easier than in Afghanistan because Tajikistan's territory is mined more. But the Afghan lands are mined several times and their demining relatively difficult.

He continued that landslides in Tajikistan is the serious threat to demining process because the natural disaster dislocates the mine from one place to another and the sappers' efforts become useless.

According to M.Boer after the financing countries will be acknowledge on sappers' efforts may be the financial support of these programs will increase.

Isfandiyor KHALILOV



Border guards transborder cooperation

A five-day training session on border control was organized in the end of July in Qayroqqum. 19 representatives of border guard's bodies, related bodies and customs and veterinarian service of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan attended this training. During the event the performance of controlling of the borders was presented and participants visited Guliston border point to get information on its performance.

The transborder training session is organized by European Union's specialists and local trainers who were earlier trained in the framework of Border Management in Central Asia (BOMCA) program with the assistance of representatives of International Centre of Migration Policy Development.

During the visit of Guliston terminal, international trainers presented the use of special equipment which identifies the authenticity of the passports and documents. Participants also got information on methods of controlling the transportation loads and discussed the necessity of efficient cooperation between the related bodies which work on borders.

It should be noted that BOMCA program is sponsored by European Union and implemented by UNDP and International Centre of Migration Policy Development.

Daler SAIDOV



The problem of street children

Prevention of the spread of HIV among the street children was the main issue of a round table which was organized on 29 July in Dushanbe. Leaders of NGOs, representatives of the capital's markets, representatives of the city centers on prevention and combating AIDS and healthy life-style participated in this event. The meeting was organized by the public organization "Centre Positiv" within the program "Prevention

of HIV/AIDS among the street children in Dushanbe" which is sponsored by the Global Fund.

The goal of the meeting was to present the results of the children survey who work in markets and car washing points. The research revealed that the level of the street children's knowledge on prevention of HIV/AIDS and personal hygiene is very low.

During discussion of this issue participants of the round table from among representatives

of organizations like "Centre Positiv", "Nasli Navras", "Khonai Javonon" RSVS, Association of reproductive health suggested to create a working group to develop the informational and educational activities and coordinate the performance of the organizations. According to the preliminary agreement, this group will advocate the interests of such vulnerable children of the society in different institutes.

Mohpora KIROMOVA