

KYRGYZSTAN

## Dear participants of the symposium, ladies and gentlemen!

To your attention is proposed the report "Education of voters, new ways and associations".

The Central Election and Referendum Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic on December 2, 2008 has approved the "Concept of the organization of a complete system of continuous legal education, enlightenment and training of participants of the electoral process in 2008-2010". This Concept is realized through the Complex of educational measures, which includes a few sections:

1. Enhancing of professional skills of the staff of the election commission system of the Kyrgyz Republic.
2. Legal education of different social categories of citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic.
3. Establishment of a legal, informational-analytical and educational infrastructure of the electoral process in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The Complex of educational measures solves the following tasks:

- Formation of knowledge in the field of the electoral right and law for all participants in the electoral process.
- Provision of system consulting-methodical and practical assistance to organizers of elections, voters, representatives of political parties, public associations and mass media.
- Targeted training of highly qualified specialists in the field of electoral right and procedures (included to the training program of lawyers in the universities of the Kyrgyz Republic).
- Organization of the advisory network on work with the people, political parties, candidates for elective office, their proxies, observers and representatives of mass media.
- Establishment of such regulatory, procedural and organizational conditions for implementation of the electoral rights of citizens who provide the regime of full confidence in the elections and referendums as democratic forms of sovereignty of the people.

In the implementation of the Complex of educational measures are involved:

- Election commissions of all levels;
- Central and regional governments and local authorities;
- Scientific community;
- Political parties and public associations;
- Educational organizations and institutions.

I. In the aspect of enhancing of the staff skills of the electoral system it should be noted that the high intensity of conduction of country's elections at various levels and referendums raises important issues such as staffing of electoral commissions, enhancing their skills taking into account of changes of the election law, the practice of its use, improvement and reforming of the electoral system.

First and foremost goal is to provide legal training in various aspects of the electoral rights of election commissions at all levels, with paying of great attention to the practical implementation of knowledge of the election law.

Legal training of the staff includes compulsory basic training in:

- Constitutional;
- Selective;
- Civil;
- Administrative and financial right, which together form the legal infrastructure of the electoral process.

The program also includes development of skills of organizational and managerial activities of election commissions, modern methods of administration for the election process, especially in critical or unusual situations, the ability to make operational decisions on the implementation of various electoral activities.

The election commissions of following levels are provide education:

- The Central Election Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Regional and city election commissions;
- Regional and district election commissions;
- The precinct election commissions.

The programs and methods of education are developed by the training center of the Central Election Commission, in cooperation with the interested public and international organizations.

Education programs are based on a combination of theory and practice of the electoral process and provide ongoing courses, trainings, briefings, seminars, round tables and analysis of the situation.

As the form of education is selected the conduction of regional, interregional training courses, seminars and conferences, both in the election period and inter-election period, and also ongoing courses in the training center of the Central Election Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic and in the methodical offices of regional and city election commissions, we are talking about the seven regions and two major cities of the republic.

The implementation of this section of the complex of educational measures allows significantly improve the professional level of the staff of the election commission system, which is a prerequisite for high-quality preparation and conduction of elections and referendums in the Kyrgyz republic.

II. An important aspect of this program is to enhance the legal culture of political parties, public associations and candidates for elective office, their representatives, observers and trustees.

The role of observers is important during the counting of votes. From their preparedness, legal literacy, persistence, tact and good cooperation with the precinct committee depends the confidence of citizens to the election results. Unfortunately, as observers appear random people who have little knowledge of law and provoke undesirable relations between the participants of the electoral process.

Therefore, the program assumes rising of the legal culture of political parties, public associations, candidates, their proxies and observers.

The problem associated with the formation of legal culture and professional participation can be solved through the establishment of a system of training based on modern training and information centers on the mastery of knowledge of legislation in the field of electoral right, the practical skills of its use, qualified conduction of election campaign.

The education is conducted by the training center on developed programs containing the political and legal, expert and analytical, and technological aspects.

For this purpose are organized ongoing seminars and training courses, as well as regular legal consultation.

During the education of this citizens are formed the skills of communication with voters, commissions. representatives of mass media, political rivals in elections. For implementation of this complex of educational measures it is provided the publication of relevant tutorials and manuals.

III. Another important direction is the legal education of voters; meet the challenges of inclusion in the electoral process among different groups. Taking into account the fact that the new generation of citizens is included in the election, it is played the leading part on the preparation of youth to participate in the electoral process.

The process of legal education of voters carried out in the following forms:

- General legal education in schools and universities;
- Legal education through the establishment of special educational, publishing, information projects. The most successful in terms of content and technology projects are widely implemented in practice

IV. Another direction in the structure of the complex of educational measures to promote the electoral system is mass media and the legal education.

The influence of mass media on the development of legal education offers great opportunities to conduct through mass media an active state policy in the field of electoral right and processes.

The important point is the establishment and deployment of a series of information-analytical, educational and other programs for social status, age and area groups of population.

Mass media coverage of the objective material about the activities of election commissions, other members of the electoral process raises trust of citizens to the state and the electoral process.

For the representatives of mass media are organized seminars, conferences and other events on different sections of organization and conducting of elections.

V. Management gearing of the complex of educational measures.

Management is conducted by the Central Election Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic by serving the customer's activities under complex of educational measures. Representative of the customer is the training center under the Central Election and Referendum Commission in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Work on the realization of the complex is conducted jointly with the regional, city commissions, state authorities and local governments and other participants of the electoral process.

The Central Election Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic approves the implementation plan of activities of the complex and cost estimates for the appropriate financial year.

The training center prepares and submits an annual report on the implementation of the complex of educational measures for consideration by the Central Election Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The financing of the complex is carried out at the expense of the national budget allocated to the Central Election Commission for preparation and conducting of elections and referendums, for implementation of projects related to training of election officials, raising the legal culture of participants of the electoral process, as well as from special funds of the Central Election Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Perhaps by the time the co-financing of activities will be realized by the interested institutions and maybe in the future will be created a development fund of the electoral system in the Kyrgyz Republic.

We believe that in training, education of members of the electoral process, Kyrgyzstan has achieved some success; the evidence is the conducted elections in local government, parliamentary and presidential elections of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The Central Election Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic cooperates with many international organizations and is always open for cooperation.

On this occasion I want to heartily congratulate the Central Commission of India with 60 years from the date of establishment, to express my highest respect for Indian people, respect and gratitude for the organizers of the symposium for the invitation to participate in such a significant gathering a representative of my republic.

I believe that the participation in the symposium will provide an opportunity for everybody, particularly for me, to hear a lot of interesting and useful in our common cause, as the electoral system - an instrument of democratization of society.

Thank you!

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The member of the Central Election and  
Referendum Commission of the Kyrgyz  
Republic