

Uzbekistan/Ouzbékistan

(735)

UNITWIN/ UNESCO Chairs Programme

Progress Report

Period of activity: September 2006- May 2008

UNESCO Chair in Knowledge Economy

Report established by: Prof. Tursun Shodiev Chairholder, the Westminster International University of Tashkent

I- Activities

1. Academic activities

Education

- Courses
 - Title: *BA in Business Administration*
Target group: undergraduate students
 - Title: *BSc in Economics*
Target group: undergraduate students
 - Title: *BSc in Business Computing*
Target group: undergraduate students
 - Title: *BA in the International Law*
Target group: undergraduate students
 - Titles of the Knowledge Economy courses for Undergraduate Students: Macroeconomics, Macroeconomics Strategies, Managerial Economics, Microeconomics, Econometrics, Economic Analysis of Uzbekistan, Research Methods, Business and its Environment, Commercial Law, Database and so on.
Target groups: Undergraduate students (250-300 each year)
Partnership: University of Westminster, British Council, MHSSE, Local and International Companies
Geographical coverage: Central Asia

Training

- Title: *Knowledge Economy*

Target group: WIUT and local universities staff and school teachers

▪ Title: *Conducting research on Socio-Economic problems in Uzbekistan*

Target group: WIUT and local universities staff and school teachers

▪ Title: *WIUT staff training seminars*

Target groups: academics (15-17 persons at each seminar once a month)

Partnership: University of Westminster, MHSSE, Local and International Companies

Geographical coverage: Uzbekistan

▪ Title: *Training seminars for secondary education teachers at Tashkent State University of Economics*

Target groups: secondary education teachers (35-40 persons each seminar)

Partnership: WIUT, MHSSE and Local Secondary Establishments

Geographical coverage: Uzbekistan

▪ Title: *Training of Young Entrepreneurs*

Target groups: young entrepreneurs (45-50 persons each year)

Partnership: University of Westminster, British Council

Geographical coverage: Uzbekistan

Research

- Research cluster on the knowledge economy at WIUT:

The goal is to become the leading provider of research and high level consultancy in Uzbekistan and the Central Asia region by combining international experience and local expertise.

WIUT research will contribute to fulfill the following objectives:

1. Professional development of staff to enable them to gain recognition as key academics in their respective fields
2. Sustainability of the university – sustaining our excellence in teaching (by introducing cutting edge knowledge) and raising the profile of WIUT as a leading university in the region and known internationally for the quality of its research, staff, students and alumni.
3. Sustainable development of the country/region, providing high quality research that addresses the development needs of the country/region

WIUT has identified the research Clusters. Research clusters *assist in building capacity, facilitating the training process by giving those new to research the opportunity to develop alongside those with experience, creating accountability in terms of managing time and planning, and ensuring peer review and access to external sources of information and expertise.*

Research clusters have their core within WIUT, but should extend to include:

- University of Westminster colleagues
- Other international researchers (particularly those who were previously at WIUT)
- Local researchers from other universities and research bodies

- Our students and alumni – particularly through using student projects, and the links with business that our alumni provide us with

2. Conferences / Meetings:

- Title: *Models for Sustainable development in Transition Economies*
Date and place: May 15, 2007, Tashkent, WIUT
Partnership: the University of Westminster in London, British Council, MHSSE, Nestle, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan, Local Universities from Regions
Participants (number): 123
Geographical coverage for participants and partners: Central Asia, Europe
Funding sources: WIUT, British Council, TEMPUS
- Title: *Economic Development and Knowledge Economy in Uzbekistan: Problems of Resource Utilization (Fergana SU and WIUT)*
Date and place: June 22, 2007, Fergana
Partnership: WIUT, MHSSE, Nestle, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Fergana Viloyat
Participants (number): 78
Geographical coverage for participants and partners: Uzbekistan
Funding sources: Fergana State University
- Title: *Towards a knowledge economy in Central Asia*
Date and place: May 15, 2008, Tashkent
Partnership: WIUT, MHSSE, Nestle, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan, the World Bank
Participants (number): 87
Geographical coverage for participants and partners: Central Asia, Europe
Funding sources: TEMPUS

These annual conferences are an important forum for bringing together the academic and business world to engage with each other. These conferences have received strong support from the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, international educational agencies such as British Council and the EU TEMPUS project which have been key sponsors, as well as international organizations such as UNDP and UNESCO and business sponsorship from Nestlé and Coscom.

The concept of the ‘knowledge economy’ addresses many of the development challenges facing the countries of Central Asia and highlights the importance of investing in human capital, innovation, information technology and creating an economic and regulatory environment that promotes entrepreneurship and creates new knowledge. Guests from higher education, business and industry as well as government and international organizations were invited.

3. Missions / Travels abroad:

- 2 missions abroad through Erasmus Mundus teacher exchange program.

One group of teachers travelled to University in Denmark and Latvia to *explore the existing practices of bridging the university and businesses.*

- Visiting Professors/Fellowship: 4 visiting professors
Muzaffar Ahunov – Vilnius University, Lithuania
Dilshod Ibragimov - Vilnius University, Lithuania
Elena Volkova – Adam Miskeevich University, Poland
Dmitriy Pochitaev- Anadolu University, Turkey
Obid Khakimov – Tashkent State Economic University, Uzbekistan

4. Partnerships/ Interuniversity Exchanges

The University of Westminster (U.K.)
University of Auckland (New Zealand)
State University Higher School of Economics (Moscow, Russian Federation)
Chamber of Commerce of Uzbekistan
Adult Education Centre of the Academy of State and Society Construction
Tashkent State Institute of Telecommunications
University of World Economy and Diplomacy (Tashkent, Uzbekistan)
Uzbekistan National University (Tashkent, Uzbekistan)
Institute of Economics of the Academy of Science of Uzbekistan (Tashkent, Uzbekistan)

5. Publications

- Books
 - Title: *Management of the Higher Education*
Author: Tursun Shodiev, G.Akhunova, S.Saidmuradov
Publisher: Finance Publishers, Tashkent Finance Institute
Number of pages- 245
Language(s) Russian

ABSTRACT: The international experience of higher education management and current problems of transition economies towards solving “quality-efficiency-accessibility» triangle are presented; the ways of management improvement issues in higher education of Uzbekistan are identified.

- Title: how competitive Specialists are trained at UK Universities?
Author: Tursun Shodiev
Publisher: Tashkent State University of Economics
Number of pages: 105
Languages: Russian

ABSTRACT: The distinctive features of the UK higher education System with the comparison of local higher economic institutions are described; the crucial importance of independent learning and interactive teaching outlined, the need for modernization of existing curriculum was stressed.

- Multimedia Projects
 - «Uzbek cuisine», Bases and secrets of Uzbek cuisine
 - “Khorezm Mamun Academy»
 - «Qarshi»
 - Masterpieces of oral intangible cultural heritage of Uzbekistan

II. Impact

To become as a Network and Research Centre in the Knowledge Economy in Central Asia Region is the first impact the UNESCO Chair in the Knowledge Economy seeks to achieve. This Chair in Knowledge Economy serves as interdisciplinary department at WIUT and enhances quality of conducting research activities through that quality of undergraduate and graduate teaching curriculum's and the way of delivery of lectures and tutorials. The broad scope of the chair activities has the impact on individuals, social, economical and cultural development at national and regional (Central Asia) levels.

Firstly, annual WIUT conferences, organized with the active participation of the UNESCO chair became as knowledge sharing forum for local and regional higher educational bodies and research centres in Central Asia. Because published after conferences proceedings are disseminated through out Central Asia and benefited from them students, academics and researchers.

UNESCO Chair in the knowledge economy plays the role of network for local universities which make the possible to have them access to the international organizations, research centres and industry.

Secondly, disseminating the importance of the transformation from information society to the knowledge society, understanding its pillars, foster economic growth, improve quality of education.

Thirdly, existence of the UNESCO chair at WIUT makes possible to gain for companies, industry and entrepreneurs from consultancy services in the field of knowledge economy.

III. Forthcoming activities

On the initiative of the UNESCO Chair at WIUT soon will be launched electronic journal "Knowledge Economy in Central Asia". At the first stage it would be launched on the WIUT Intranet. The aim of launching E-journal is to facilitate research activities on the knowledge economy and through publishing articles to establish a network between universities, communities and industries. We have formed the international Board for the E- journal, consisting of its members from USA, UK, Japan, Germany, and Korea and so on.

The Editorial board of the conference 2007 is finishing with the final revision of the conference proceedings. The working group of the conference 2008 is collecting the final version of proposals and editing the articles.

IV. Development prospects

Currently WIUT is working on the elaborating strategic university development plans up 2020, where the major attention is given for expanding its academic and research activities, business -university collaboration and international networks. In this regard the role of UNESCO chair would be much more important in the future. Moreover, the Chair would like to expand the number of activities and network collaborations internationally.