



ROZA OTUNBAYEVA'S

INITIATIVE

**Annual Report
2012-2013**

“The Roza Otunbayeva Initiative” is an International Public Foundation that was founded in January 2012 with the overarching aim of initiating and carrying out activities that contribute meaningfully to the social, political, economic and environmental development in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The Foundation spearheads initiatives across four core programs:

- 1) Investing in Future Generations:
Education and Health Rights Advocacy and Campaigning for Improved Quality and Access to Services for childhood, parenthood and youth
- 2) Democratic Governance
Improving Democratic Governance through Strengthening of Fair and Democratic Institutions
- 3) Sustainable Social Growth
Supporting Economic Development through Social Innovations and Technology Transfer for Improved Human Development in Kyrgyz Republic, including regional cooperation, human capital development, social innovations and social entrepreneurship
- 4) Diversity and Culture as Access to World Values
Supporting accessibility to arts, music, and literature in Kyrgyzstan to the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of population.

The Foundation currently implements its four core programs for key beneficiary and stakeholder groups through eight instruments and approaches:

Instruments & Approaches	Beneficiaries & target groups	Stakeholders
1) Communication platforms: Forum Mekendeshter (“Diaspora”)	Kyrgyzstanis abroad, young professionals, social entrepreneurs development and prosperity-minded Kyrgyzstanis at home and abroad, diaspora	Ministry of Labor, Employment and Youth, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Diaspora and labor migrants, Ministry of Economic Development
2) Communication platforms: Discover Asia	Youth, entrepreneurs, students, professionals from healthcare, education, business, and public service sectors	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, members of parliament, profile committees of parliament, regional and local administrations, municipal governments
3) Study Tours: South-South Exchange	Healthcare professionals (i.e., doctors, surgeons, nurses,	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economic

	specialists, administrators, etc.); teachers, educators and pedagogues, kindergarten administrators, youth development specialists	Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Education, Parliamentarians, Relevant parliamentary committees, regional and local administrations, municipal governments
4) Skills Transfer: Social Innovations	Youth, women activists and women entrepreneurs, young professionals, social entrepreneurs, talented students and innovators, socially orientated youth and adults, community activists, civil society activists	Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Education, Parliamentarians, Relevant parliamentary committees, regional and local administrations, municipal governments, microfinance organizations, local self-help groups
5) Academy of Education Lecture Series: Cycles of Knowledge	Young parents, educators, pedagogues, preschool, primary and secondary education teachers, trainers and community organizers, NGO and civil society activists	Universities, Ministry of Education, expert community
6) Diversity and Culture: cultural, artistic, musical and literary events to promote world values of peace and unity	School children, students, youth, disadvantaged and vulnerable children and youth from poor districts, general public, artists, musicians, writers, poets, cultural and literary associations	General public, universities and art schools, music conservatory, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture
7) Information and Advocacy Campaigning and Actions	General public, decision-makers, NGO, civil society members	General public, decision-makers, NGO, civil society members
8) Summits: high profile forums and conferences for regional cooperation	International and regional decision-makers, international and regional expert communities, think tanks, professional associations and	Profile ministries, regional partners, regional associations and unions

9) Cooperative movement networking	unions Farmers, cooperative associations and professional organizations, entrepreneurs, villagers, local government activists, expert community in know-how transfer, innovators	Local governments, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Ministry of Economic Development, key decision-makers
10) Micro-financing for social growth	Women entrepreneurs, rural populations, association of micro-financing organizations.	Local governments, banks and micro-credit organizations, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Finance

2012 Initiatives

Investing in Future Generations: Through the Support of Women, Youth, and Childhood

Through its education advocacy and campaigning the Foundation aims to improve the quality of childhood, women's and youth's experiences in the Kyrgyz Republic.

One of the Foundation's most important initiatives in 2012 has been in support of the educational sector in **early childhood education**. The situation that persists in Kyrgyzstan with pre-school education is unacceptable and must be transformed. With only 13% of urban preschool age children and 5% of rural preschool age children enrolled in a kindergarten, Kyrgyzstan's youngest generation is at great risk of falling behind in education, life achievements, and consequently suffering a decline in the quality of life.

Alongside measures taken by the Kyrgyz Government, the Foundation has initiated:

- Advocacy campaigning and presentation of recommendations on the introduction of a compulsory 1-year preschool program guaranteed by the State to all children between the ages of 6-7 during the specially convened Parliamentary Hearings at the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- The adoption of alternative forms and programs of early-childhood education in Kyrgyzstan, such as pilot preschools, half-day kindergartens, community kindergartens, and short-term kindergartens in the pastures of Chui, Talas and Naryn oblasts of the Kyrgyz Republic;

- The dissemination of successful methodologies from UNICEF, the Aga Khan Foundation and the Asian Development Bank for solving the problem of a low rate of attendance among preschool age children in kindergartens. In April 2012 more than 40 decision-makers from northern Kyrgyzstan visited Osh city and Osh region on a study tour during which an exchange of experiences, methodologies and practices in community kindergartens took place;

School of Childhood

School of Childhood Lecture series was begun in October 2012 and meets monthly. This project, in partnership with the Kyrgyz National University named for Arbaev, provides information on innovative new educational methodologies to Kyrgyzstani educators, parents and government officials. Topics covered in 2012 included the Waldorf method, Step-by-step as well as the implementation of Yoga in the classroom. Each lecture is planned and led by experts in the field from Kyrgyzstan and around the world.

Women's Health

In October 2012 Roza Otunbayeva was elected the Goodwill Ambassador of the Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign (Pink Silk Ribbon) in the Central Asia Region.

In June 2012 due to the efforts of Roza Otunbayeva the Government of Japan provided a complete set of mammographic equipment to address the dire situation with the diagnostics of breast cancer in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Democratic Governance: Improving Democratic Governance through Strengthening of Fair and Democratic Institutions

Over 40 Public Oversight Councils (POCs) on the Accountability and Transparency of Government Ministries and Agencies of the Kyrgyz Republic

President Otunbayeva initiated this form of public control in 2011. In October 2012 Roza Isaakovna Otunbayeva was elected the Honorary Chairwoman of the

Coordinating Council of the Network of Public Oversight Councils (POCs) on the Accountability and Transparency of Government Ministries and Agencies of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Foundation supports this activity through experience exchange, conferences, and continuous search for improved methods of public oversight of government's work.

Establishing and Strengthening of the Institute of the Ex-President in a Parliamentary Republic in Central Asia

International and regional series of lectures on sharing accumulated experience in democratic governance in a Central Asian country by a woman leader with international recognition of her contribution to peace and cooperation in the region.

- Public speaker at the European Days Conference, Warsaw, Poland, December 2011;
- Public speaker on Security Issues in Central Asia at the Asian Security Forum at the Institute of Defense, New Delhi, India, February 2012;
- Key-note speaker at the 20th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between China and Central Asia, Tung Xian, China, May 2012;
- Invited speaker on Pressures of Being President: Kyrgyzstan Today and Tomorrow, Chatham House, London, UK, May 2012;
- Invited speaker at the Women in Business and Award Ceremony panel, Annual Meeting of EBRD, London, UK, May 2012;
- Invited speaker on pluralism at the Global Centre on Pluralism, Ottawa, Canada, May 2012;
- Public speaker at the Global Women's Summit, Athens, Greece, June 2012;
- Key note speaker at the Diplomatic Academy, 20th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between India and Kyrgyz Republic, June 2012;
- Invited speaker at the Women's' Conference, Ulan Bator, Mongolia, July 2012;
- Invited speaker at the Community of Democracy Conference, Ulan Bator, Mongolia, July 2012;
- Invited speaker at the 20th Anniversary of the Group Under the leadership of Switzerland, Geneva, Switzerland, September 2012;
- Key note speaker at the Conference on The Women's Entrepreneurship in Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, October 2012;
- Public speaker at the International Humanitarian Forum, Baku, Azerbaijan, October 2012;
- Public speaker at the 870 anniversary of the famous poet NizamiGandjevi, Baku, Azerbaijan, October 2012;
- Speaker at the Congress of the Creative and Scholarly Expert Community of the CIS Countries, as a representative of the Kyrgyz Republic at the International Foundation for the Humanitarian Cooperation of the CIS countries, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, October 2012;

- Key note speaker at the Women of Modern Central Asia, International Conference at the University of Graz, Graz, Austria in November 2012;
- Key note speaker at the conference “Supporting Women Candidates to Local Councils of the Kyrgyz Republic” to support the women’s leadership network of the Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, November 2012.
- Key note speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Madrid Club, Little Rock, Arkansas, USA, December 2012

Sustainable Social Growth: Through Social Innovations and Technology Transfer for Improved Human Development in Kyrgyz Republic

Advice and Expert support for Legislative Amendments

The Foundation worked alongside the Micro-Finance Organizations’ Association of the Kyrgyz Republic to prepare analysis and recommendations for amending a draft legislation package on micro-finance activities.

These amendments were considered over the course of a number of meetings, starting at the National Forum of the Micro-Finance Organizations’ Association in March 2012, and culminated in a high-profile meeting of two Parliamentary Committees in June 2012.

The Foundation supported the National Congress of the Cooperative Movement of the Kyrgyz Republic by providing leadership and inspiration to the members of the cooperative movement.

Communication Platforms: The Mekendeshter (Diaspora) Forum

The Mekendeshter Forum is aimed at addressing the overarching problems of nation building and the management of human capital in the Kyrgyz Republic. This initiative is aimed at dealing with wide-ranging topics concerning the people of Kyrgyzstan in the era of globalization, i.e., the Kyrgyzstani diaspora and its role in solving the issues facing Kyrgyzstanis at home and abroad, how they can maintain a meaningful connection with their homeland, and participate in the national development, growth, and prosperity.

The forum itself is designed as a biannual conference. The first conference of the Mekendeshter Forum was held in Bishkek on 2-3 August 2012 in conjunction with the Kyrgyzstani Government and was attended by Kyrgyzstanis from over 20 countries. Presentations and discussions were divided thematically into several sections that included: economics and business, transportation,

communications, health, education, culture, tourism, and government policy in relation to the Kyrgyzstani diaspora.

Communication Platforms: Discovery Asia and Study Tours (South-South)

One of the initiatives spearheaded by the Foundation is the creation of communicative spaces for discussions, opinion formation and consolidation of efforts conducive to Kyrgyzstani development. “Discovery Asia” is one such initiative designed to raise the awareness of business opportunities, culture, and traditions as well as the economic successes of Asian countries through gatherings and events organized for target audiences in Kyrgyzstan. These regular (monthly and bi-monthly events) are organized in partnership with foreign embassies, business people, experts, and policy makers from the countries discussed in the “Discovery Asia” events.

Throughout 2012 “Discovery Asia” initiative organized six high profile events:

- Presentation on the development of the microfinance sector in Bangladesh;
- Presentation on economic exhibitions in China;
- Presentation on educational innovations in India;
- Presentation on factors of Japan’s economic growth and success;
- Presentation “Globalization: The Way Forward”, by the former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad;
- Presentation on South Korea’s adoption of green growth principles in economic development.

Study Tours (South-South)

In 2012 seven study tours were organized to countries such as China and India for the professional and expert communities of the Kyrgyz Republic on the following themes:

- Microfinance
- Healthcare practitioners and administrators, professionalizing nursing;
- Journalism;
- Trade;
- Management of wholesale markets;
- Refining industries.

Diversity and Culture as Access to World Values

The cultural, art, and literary events that the Foundation aims to provide the public of Bishkek and Kyrgyzstan as a whole with the goal of promoting peace

and unity in the country, as well as an appreciation of creative and artistic expression.

Classical music for all

This initiative was launched in conjunction with the Kyrgyz National Conservatory and focuses on introducing classical music to children and promoting the culture of classical music amongst the population. Monthly classical music concerts for children from 10 low-income Bishkek schools were organized with the help of the Bishkek Municipal Government. A series of classical music concerts for diverse audiences, master classes for young musicians, special concerts for children combined with lectures on the work of the orchestra, composers, and the art of playing an instrument were held to great acclaim by various publics and audiences. These events are aimed at contributing to the equal access the low-income population of Bishkek to services that lay the foundation for mutual understanding and fair development for all groups in society.

Literature for all

On 6th March 2012 the Annual Women's Poetry Evening dedicated to the International Women's Day was held. It is planned to become an annual event sponsored by the Foundation for supporting female poets in the Kyrgyz Republic.

In June 2012 the First Competition of Declamation of Poetry and Prose among Children and Teenagers of all ages was organized in cooperation with Ticket School, an educational center in Bishkek.

Literary evening and reading clubs dedicated to famous poets and writers aim at bringing reading back to people, making reading and literature valuable and valued among new generations of Kyrgyzstanis. An evening of poetry reading and music dedicated to the 870th anniversary of the Azerbaijan poet and philosopher, Nizami Gandjevi, was organized in November 2012. An exhibition of Nizami's life and work and was presented at the National Library of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Additionally in November 2012, the Foundation participated in the First Open Central Asia Book Forum and Literature Festival in Bishkek.

2013 Initiatives and beyond

Continuing the momentum of 2012, the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative has continued and expanded many of the initiatives of 2012 as well as undertaking new initiatives in support of the goals and mission set forth by Ms. Otunbayeva.

Classical music for all

The monthly classical music concerts for low-income children from throughout Bishkek continue apace, with monthly events held at the Kyrgyz National Conservatory with the support of the Bishkek Municipal Government. In January the program centered on the theme of “The World of Vocal Arts – The Colors of Voice” with performances of the vocal compositions of Mozart, Puccini, Dargomyzhsky to name a few. In February, the concert centered on the theme of the seasons of the year, with compositions chosen to correspond to each particular season, drawing on the works of Vivaldi, Anderson, Strauss, Karaev and Naimanbaev. Further concerts are currently in planning up to and including the month of May. At that point, the project will go on a short hiatus and reconvene in September due to popular demand.

Discovery Asia

The Roza Otunbayeva Initiative is continuing this popular series of events going forward. So far this year the Discovery Asia initiative has invited experts from neighbouring Kazakhstan to share their experiences in educational reforms initiated by Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev in the founding of the new Nazarbayev University as well as the growing network of Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools. Each of these projects is aimed at increasing the educational competencies of Kazakhstani youth and building on the human resource potential for national development, both subjects of intense interest to parties both public and private within Kyrgyzstan. Future Discovery Asia events are planned for 2013 with preliminary planning already underway for an evening dedicated to Indonesia.

School of Childhood

This lectures series has continued into 2013 and expanded in scope. While previous events have been one-time lectures, under the rubric of the School of Childhood project, the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative in conjunction with the Moscow-based International Institute of Montessori Pedagogy has organized and implemented a course on Montessori methodologies. The course participants will receive certification as Montessori educators upon completion. The aim of the Montessori course is the introduction and promotion of new educational methods in a more direct manner. Going forward, the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative is planning lectures on the Sonatal method for using music in early childhood

development as well as the Zaitsev method for developing visual memory. Plans are in the works for a lecture series on the Suzuki method of musical education, but currently financial support for the lecture is still being sought.

Meetings at the Museum

Beginning in January 2013, the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative in partnership with the Kyrgyz Museum of Fine Arts has begun to address what our founder feels is a declining public awareness of the joys of fine arts among the population of Kyrgyzstan. With this goal in mind, the Meetings at the Museum project has taken a two pronged approach focusing on children and adults separately. For adults, the Meetings and the Museum project offers a biweekly lecture series on the history of Kyrgyz art focusing on classical and contemporary styles of Kyrgyzstani artists. Concurrently, the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative and the Museum of Fine Arts provide weekly beginning workshops for children focusing on different techniques in fine arts and applied arts. These workshops, unlike the adult lecture series, are more hands on with the aim of drawing children into the world of art and giving rise to the next generation of Kyrgyzstani artists. Both the adult lecture series and children's workshops are planned to conclude in May.

Education Festival

In connection with the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative's ongoing efforts to reform early childhood education in Kyrgyzstan, planning and preparation is currently underway for an event that has never before taken place in Bishkek or Kyrgyzstan as a whole: the Education Festival. With the knowledge that public participation makes pushing any reform in a democratic society that much easier, the Education Festival seeks to popularize the questions and issues facing education. Together with the Ministry of Education, Bishkek Municipal Government, NGO partners and private sector sponsors, the Festival is being actively designed to provide information in a holiday-like atmosphere in the form of a massive street festival spread across many of Bishkek's beautiful central parks. Under the framework of the festival more than 50 events, fairs, demonstrations, games and plays will be held providing parents, educators and children with detailed information about the opportunities for primary education and extracurricular activities, as well as a venue for society and all cultural and athletic institutions to discuss means to cooperate and work with the child population of the country. The goal is not simply to hold a festival promoting educational opportunity and reform within Bishkek once, but rather to become an annual tradition for the citizens, families, children, parents and educators of Bishkek. The Festival's success will hopefully breed imitators throughout the country, spreading the discussion of these issues throughout Kyrgyzstan.

“Roza Otunbayeva Initiative” International Public Foundation Staff

Jibek Koichkulova

Executive Director

Jibek Koichkulova has been with the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative since its founding in December 2011. As Executive Director, Ms. Koichkulova leads the planning and implementation of projects, initiatives and fundraising efforts in keeping with the aims of the Foundation’s founder, Roza Isaakovna Otunbayeva. Prior to joining the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative, Ms. Koichkulova was a project coordinator and later acting director of the Interbilim International Organization, an organization that works towards strengthening Kyrgyzstani NGOs and civil society. Ms. Koichkulova also worked for 9 years in the Jogorku Kenesh, the Kyrgyzstani Parliament, as a consultant in matters ranging from human rights to information policy. Additionally, Ms. Koichkulova has worked as an expert in many UNDP and EU supported projects regarding local governance and parliamentarianism as well as assisted in developing trainings and training manuals in advocacy strategies, coalition formation, social partnerships and civil society participation in local governance. Ms. Koichkulova graduated from Kyrgyz National University in 1994 with a degree in history and again in 1997 with a degree in law.

Altynai Begalieva

Project Manager

Altynai Begalieva began working at the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative in May 2012. Since that time, Ms. Begalieva has taken the lead on many projects including Discover Asia and the South-South Study Tours, both of which are aimed at raising awareness among Kyrgyzstani citizens of the socioeconomic developments of Kyrgyzstan’s neighbors in Asia as well as building working ties between Kyrgyzstani specialists and their counterparts throughout Asia. In addition to her work as Program Manager, Ms. Begalieva also acts as the assistant to the Foundation’s Founder, Ms. Otunbayeva. Ms. Begalieva graduated in 2010 from the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics and is currently working towards her MBA at the American University of Central Asia.

Asel Djakypbekova

Education Projects Coordinator

Asel Djakypbekova has worked with the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative since September 2012 and has since led the charge on range of projects including a series of educational classical music concerts for low-income children, art history workshops for children and “Museum Nights” events, as well as the “School of Childhood” lecture series on various methodologies in the realm of early

childhood development for parents and educators. Before joining the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative, Ms. Djakypbekova worked at the Kyrgyzstani branch of UNESCO from 1999 to 2012, working in a variety of roles such as office manager and educational specialist. Ms. Djakypbekova graduated in 1999 from the Kyrgyz National University with a degree in French.

Aigerim Uzbekova

Financial Manager

Aigerim Uzbekova joined the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative in May 2012 and answers for all financial matters including project budgeting, auditing, financial planning, and the Foundation's in-house accounting. Prior to joining the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative, Ms. Uzbekova worked as the lead accountant for a number of local businesses in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. In 2012 Ms. Uzbekova graduated with honors from the Kyrgyz National University's Economics Department and is currently studying civil rights at the Kyrgyz National Law Academy.

Jamilia Jeenbaeva

External Consultant

Jamilia Jeenbaeva joined the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative in November 2012 to assist in project and program development, proposal writing and fundraising. Ms. Jeenbaeva is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Trento, Italy, and has an MSc degree in Population and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK. Ms. Jeenbaeva has over 10 years of professional experience as a development consultant, organizational management consultant, and over 8 years of teaching experience in Sociology, Social Theory, Analytical and Policy Writing, and International Development as an assistant professor at the American University in Central Asia and at the Academy of State Governance Under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

Ryan Johnson

Volunteer

Ryan Johnson has been volunteering at the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative since October 2012. Since then Mr. Johnson has assisted with grant applications, project implementation, fundraising, research and the translation of press releases, reports, meetings and various other publications. Prior to his work at the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative Mr. Johnson has taught English at a secondary school in a small rural Kyrgyz village and at various Kyrgyzstani government institutions and ministries as well as provided assistance and advice to local NGOs. Mr. Johnson graduated from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana with a degree in Russian Language and Literature and a minor in Political Science.