

**REPORT**  
**on Handicraft activities in Central Asia:**  
**Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan**  
**in 2013**

Kyrgyzstan:

1. During 2013 there were organized 7 short craft fairs. This craft fairs are organized in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan, every month. Usually 23-25 Kyrgyz, Uzbek and Tajik craftsmen take part at fairs.  
Schedule of the craft fairs: Feb 9-10, March 16-17, April 5-6, May 22-25, October 19-20, November 22-23, December 7-8.
2. Since October 2012 to March 2014 CACSARC-kg takes part in implementing of the Project "Advancing women's economic opportunities in Fergana valley handicraft and textile supply chain" in partnership with the RCE KG (Resource Center of the Development for Sustainable Development in Kyrgyzstan). There were several International Experts on Handicraft Development being involved in the Project activities: WCC-APR Board Members Ms. Manjari Nirula (India) and Mr. Edric Ong (Malaysia) have been providing support in creation of the craft production-marketing chain in Fergana Valley and introducing Central Asian handicrafts to the different markets; Ms. Geraldine Hurez (France) – have been completing and adapting handicraft items "Fergana Valley Collection" for the European market, particularly for the Maison et Objet; Ms. Karen Gibbs (USA, "ByHand" Consulting) – have been developing selecting craft production to be introduced for American market (at New York Gift Fair, Feb 2014).
  - 1) Within Project activities there were 23 trainings on different craft technologies and marketing were provided for more than 225 craftsmen all over Fergana Valley in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.
  - 2) Exhibition on the Seal of Excellence for Handicraft Products in Central Asia was opened in the National Art Museum since July 18 to August 31.
  - 3) In October 8-16, 2013 Study-tour to Malaysia and Thailand was organized for the regional group of 13 craftsmen from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The Study Tour was conducted by Mr. Edric Ong, program included visits to different workshops, craft centers and handicraft market places.
  - 4) Since the Project start the Mentorship Program for the craftsmen leaders managed by Professor A. Karasaeva became an innovative tool to develop Handicraft sector in Central Asia. About 30 mentors from three countries got trainings and started working with interns all over three countries.
3. July 6-12, 2013 Visit to London of the Cultural NGOs leaders to prepare organization of the Kyrgyz Culture Week in UK in 2014. There were several meeting with Kyrgyz Embassy and Kyrgyz Diaspora activists in UK, Turkish Culture Center, Asia House and Aga Khan Foundation in London. As a result of the trip, the program of Kyrgyz Culture Week in London was drafted, and was planned to be organized in May 2014.

4. National Contest on the Felt Rugs Shyrdak and Ala-Kiyiz, was organized by felt makers' communities with the support of the local administration in Naryn district of Kyrgyzstan. CACSARC-kg organized the work of Jury. Over 70 felt rugs from all provinces of Kyrgyzstan were presented to be judged. To the 9 best felt rugs were given awards, and some of them were taken by national museums as samples of the ancient art.
5. The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual International OIMO Festival was organized in Kyrgyzstan from July 29 to August 2, 2013. The Festival Program included different events, organized in Bishkek, capital of KR and Cholpon-Ata city in Issyk-Kul Lake shore: Craft Fair, Traditional Customs and Cousin of Central Asian people, Ecological program.
6. Second Session of the WCC-APR was held in Bishkek at Hyatt Regency in July 27, 2013. Deputy Minister of Culture of Kyrgyzstan made a report on the efforts of Kyrgyz Government in Handicraft sector. Roza Otunbaeva, the former President of Kyrgyz Republic, took part at the reception in honor of distinguished guests - the WCC Board members. Board members visited OIMO Festival events in Bishkek and Issyk-Kul and evaluated the process of the handicraft development in the country.
7. Craft Council of Kyrgyzstan was established in July 2013 by the leaders of craft communities, producing handicraft products for the livelihood, decided to unite their efforts to be able to solve together some common issues as achieving markets, revival and pass to the next generation of the handicraft heritage, reaching support from government etc. At the meeting during the OIMO Festival 7 representatives from all regions of Kyrgyzstan were elected as the Board CK.
8. Exhibition of Kyrgyz felt rugs, was organized in Baku, Azerbaijan at the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Inter Governmental Committee on the Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding from December 2 to 7, 2013. The Exhibition included over 15 best samples of the Kyrgyz felt rugs and was dedicated to the inscription of the "Manas, Semetey, Seitik Kyrgyz epic Trilogy" into the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
9. CACSARC-kg started the process of completion of the form for the duo-cultural nomination "The Yurt-nomadic felt house of Kyrgyz and Kazakh people" to be described into the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2015. Kyrgyz and Kazakh yurt producers, scholars and NGOs were involved into the collaborative work, the 8-minutes film about the yurt was created.
10. Craft Fairs in Bishkek were organized monthly within a year, totally 12 times. Over 250 craft producers participated at the fairs. Eight TV and five Radio programs promoting handicrafts were organized on National Television and Radio.
11. Calendar "SHYRDAK-the Kyrgyz Felt Rug" in 3000 copies was published in December 2013 and distributed within the country through the governmental structures. Kamila Talieva, the Vice Prime-minister of Kyrgyzstan provided support in distribution of the calendar's copies all over the provinces of Kyrgyzstan.

1. "Haft Paikar" Handicraft Foundation (CACSA Regional Office since July 2013) in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, published the book "Applied Art of Tajikistan" in Russian, English and Arab languages. Ministry of Culture and "Haft Paikar" Foundation signed an agreement to prepare 6 books for publication within 2014:

1. Ornamental Heritage of Tajik people;
2. Tajik Gold Embroidery
3. Suzanne
4. History of the Tajik Traditional Costume
5. Jewelry Art of Tajikistan
6. Handicrafts in the Independent Tajikistan

2. Within the year ten projects on support of the handicraft activities were designed and proposed to different governmental institutions. As a result, following projects received financial support:

1. Project of the ornamental Heritage (Institute of Central Asian Study, Tashkent)
2. "Dieri Husn" Craft Festival (Ministry of Culture)
3. Project on supporting Suzanne production (Ministry of Trade).
4. Souvenir products Development (National Committee on Family and Women).

3. By the support of the National Committee of Television and Radio there were organized: TV Show "Fashion Designer" to introduce the young talented beginners in Fashion industry (every second month), Radio translation "Chomi Getinamo" on the history of different kinds of traditional crafts (every week).

4. Haft Paikar make the Craft Exhibition and Fashion Show for the wives of directors of Islamic Banks. As a result women craft communities were included into the list of credit receivers with low percentage (since March 2014), supported by the Banks.

5. In March 26-28 Tajik craftsmen participated at the Nawruz Holiday Celebration in Ashgabad, Turkmenistan within the frame of governmental program of cultural exchange.

6. Between August and October Tajik craftsmen received the governmental order to make the official dress for the religious muslim leaders of Tajikistan and decorated the Embassy of Tajikistan in Kabul, Afghanistan for 100 thousand USA Dollars (Suzanne, miniatures, gold embroidery etc.).

7. In October 2-5, "Haft Paikar" Craft Association in partnership with the National Committee of UNESCO in Tajikistan organized the visit of Ms. Irina Bokova, the Director General of UNESCO, to the Tajik craftsmen workshops and exhibition of Tajik crafts, received "UNESCO Award of Excellence".

8. The Project on working out the Product standards and quality was started by Haft Paikar foundation in collaboration with the State Committee on standardization of Tajikistan.

9. At the annual December speech of the President Emomaly Rahmon to the Tajik People (in December 2013) the problems of the craft sector in Tajikistan were mentioned. At the meeting of Public Advisors this topic was discussed by the proposal of the national Craft Association "Haft Paikar". It was decided to provide the governmental support to the craft sector through the Ministry of Trade of Tajikistan. Six craftsmen received the Governmental Awards.

Uzbekistan

Last Sunday of every month during 2013 “Hunarmand” Craftsmen Association organized “Craftsmen’ Planet” Handicraft fair, where products of Uzbek craftsmen from all over the country were presented.

1. March 2013, “Hunarmand” Craftsmen Association in collaboration with Union of Farmers and Chamber of Trade of Uzbekistan organized the contest «Tashabbus». Mahfuza Salimova, the gold embroiderer from Bukhara was nominated as the Best Craftsman of the Year.
2. May 4-5, 2013 – the Festival “Asrlar Sadosi” in Navoi province was organized by Culture Forum in collaboration with UNESCO Office in Tashkent. The Festival Program included the Craft Fair, Fashion Show, Folk Music, Traditional Cousin.
3. June 8-10, International Festival “Silk and Spices” in Bukhara, Program included Conference, Handicraft workshops, trainings, exhibitions and craft fair, Fashion Show. Goal of the Festival – preservation of the cultural heritage, support of the craftsmen as barriers and development of crafts in general.
4. August 15-18, Uzbek craftsmen were invited to participate at the Fair and demonstration of the craft techniques within the framework of the Festival “Melodies of the East” in Samarkand.
5. October 19-25 – Culture Forum organized Art Biennale, which program consisted of the Contemporary Art Exhibitio, Photo-exhibition, BAZAR-ART Craft Fair and the Fashion demonstration of the world known brands.
6. December 22–23, Exhibition “Craftsmen of the Independent Uzbekistan” with craft products from all over the country. Exhibition was located in the Gallery of Traditional Arts under the Ministry of Culture and Sport in Uzbekistan.

*Report was prepared by D.Chochunbaeva,  
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based on the information, provided by:  
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*Photos are attached in separate file.*