



Contact person: Vasilina Brazhko
Regional Communication and Information
Manager
Tel: +996 550 771-770
E-mail: vbrazhko@rtlc.net

PRESS RELEASE

USAID: Regional Trade Liberalization and Customs Project Launches Trade Magazine

February 20, 2009 (Bishkek) - A new economic magazine “**Regional Trade in Central Asia**” is to be launched today in the Bishkek Press Club by the USAID Regional trade Liberalization and Customs Project with the support of the American Chamber of Commerce in Kyrgyzstan.



“Regional Trade in Central Asia” is a quarterly edition issued mainly in Russian. It will serve as a forum for discussion of issues related to regional trade cooperation, including progress towards membership in the World Trade Organization for Kazakhstan and Tajikistan and matters related to Kyrgyzstan’s membership in WTO since 1998.

“We are also concerned with issues related to customs modernization in the region, with ways to make it easier and cheaper for business people and traders to move goods across international borders in the region, with ways to encourage cooperation among the governments and the private sector, and in fact with any issue that promises increased trade and economic activity in the three countries in which we work”, - *said Allen Shinn, the Director of the USAID Regional Trade Liberalization and Customs Project.*

The Magazine’ Editorial Board will try to present fairly the views of government officials, business people, academic and international experts, and anyone else with a stake in regional trade and something worthwhile to say about it.

“Our goal is to encourage discussion and thus the development of cooperative solutions to regional trade problems, and also to inform and educate all the players in this important activity”, - Mr. Shinn stressed. “We will provide analytical articles reflecting experts’ views, interviews with officials and key players, and descriptive articles to increase awareness of current issues”.

On the last page of the “**Regional Trade in Central Asia**” magazine is a questionnaire which will allow hearing reader’s feedback.

To receive a copy of the magazine or subscribe for it, please send a message to Vasilina Brazhko, Regional Information and Communications Manager of the project by vbrazhko@rtlc.net

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The USAID Regional Trade Liberalization and Customs Project is one of the many activities made possible by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Central Asian Republics. Since 1992, USAID has delivered over \$1.5 billion in programs that support the region’s economic growth, healthcare, education, and democratic institutions. For more information on other USAID-funded projects in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia, please visit <http://centralasia.usaid.gov>.