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GOOD GOVERNANCE

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Unison Group Newsletter

Quarter I 2016

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Message from Unison's President

Dear friends, partners and colleagues, Let me share with you some important news and recent developments that have taken place within our organization during the past three months. The year 2016 marks a historic milestone for our organization: we have decided to separate our activities into the Unison Civil Foundation and the Unison Consulting Branch, both of which are aligned within a larger umbrella organization named 'Unison Group'. This decision was preceded by a multi-day strategic planning and development workshop held in December



2015, during which we extended our company's brand and profile.

During the workshop, our team and all staff members developed an entirely new label. This label does not only represent a new visual presentation of our work, but also indicates a new dynamics and a novel development approach to our new company. The Unison Group logo embodies all our activities and reflects our "green" visions for Kyrgyzstan. The company's slogan "Harmonic Development" corresponds to our company's name "in unison" and perfectly epitomizes our corporate policy. We advocate constructive dialogue and facilitate innovative approaches to support environmental balance and harmonious relations among society, business and the government.

Today, Unison Group is a well-known reputable institution that has gained national and international recognition. Our partners include major financial institutions, international organizations, leading research centres as well as consulting and nongovernment organizations from many corners of the world, who have become reliable and strategic partners for us throughout the years. Owing to our many years of experience and expert knowledge, we are able to provide our clients and partners with professional and extensive services.

But perhaps our biggest achievement so far has been that our organization has slowly but continuously earned the trust of the Kyrgyz population. Through our energy consumer protection centres, Kyrgyz people are able to receive free legal assistance and advice on how to resolve controversial issues and ensure uninterrupted and high-quality electricity supply. Within our nationwide awareness campaign "Be warm, Kyrgyzstan!", Unison Group delivered nearly 1000 lectures to more than 500 villages, providing rural inhabitants practical advice and solutions to improve their quality of life (such as legal issues, seismic stability, waterproofing, and energy saving). Unison Group also actively cooperates with government bodies. They support us in arranging and conducting information workshops and seminars with the Kyrgyz population. During the awareness campaign "Be warm, Kyrgyzstan!" we found that this way of cooperating with the government has proven highly effective and beneficial to both sides.

As Unison Group grows and evolves, we plan to extend our range of activities and focal points. We are confident that given our tireless efforts and our professional and dynamic team, our small victories will soon contribute to larger achievements within Kyrgyzstan. We thank our partners and colleagues for their continuous and professional support and hope to cooperate with you in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Nurzat Abdyrasulova,

President of the Unison Group



Information of consumers (awareness campaigns)

New web portal for energy consumers

Unison Group launched a new information and knowledge portal (www.energy.unison.kg) for heat and power consumers.

The portal is the first of its kind and provides Kyrgyz energy consumers access to comprehensive and condensed information on energy consumption, energy saving and fuel supply in Kyrgyzstan.

The portal presents breaking news, valuable advices on the choice of technologies and energy saving techniques and materials, supplier contacts, and service centres. database of experts (assemblers and foremen), coal market prices, supplier maps, and information about alternative energy sources available for implementation in Kyrgyzstan.



Visit and explore opportunities of the web portal – www.energy.unison.kg



The Unison Group summarizes the national awareness campaign «Be Warm, Kyrgyzstan! - II»

On March 15, 2016, Unison Group held the conference "Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency for Consumers" in Bishkek.

The large-scale project was implemented with assistance from the USAID Good Governance & Public Administration Strengthening (GGPAS) program from December 2015 to January 2016 and covered 575 localities in the country. A total of 125,000 information materials consisting of calendars and booklets were handed out.

Owing to the campaign, over 80,000 Kyrgyz people were able to reduce their energy consumption and cut family expenditures on fuel. According to estimates, the impact of the awareness campaign contributed to a total energy reduction of 421,297 kWh each year.

Based on the conference results, a comprehensive **Resolution** was adopted which aims to unite all stakeholders in addressing energy efficiency and energy saving issues.

Presentations from the conference: http://www.slideshare.net/UnisonGroup#sthash.la3hwK11.dpuf

Photo report: https://flic.kr/s/aHskwtvL6q4/

For more details, see http://unison.kg/ru/ee-i-vie/240-ushubo 2 con 20160315

Good Governance program

New publication: Power Sector Management in Kyrgyzstan

The Unison Group presents its new review of the power sector management process in Kyrgyzstan. The report is based on a survey conducted by the Working Team of civil society experts of Kyrgyzstan, using the methodology proposed by the Electricity Governance Initiative program, which was developed jointly by the World Resources Institute (Washington, USA) and the Prayas Energy Group (Pune, India).

Results of the first survey in 2009 emphasized the establishment of the Fuel and Energy Sources Transparency Initiative (FESTI); the development of Electricity Consumer Advocacy (ECA) centres for the population, along with a number of events and developments to facilitate transparency in the power sector.



"The previous analysis of the Kyrgyz Republic power management system was published more than five years ago and a great deal of events from small changes to major political coups occurred during this period in the sector. Discarding unnecessary things, one may notice the crucial change – **fruitfulness and effectiveness of public involvement** – particularly, in performance of procedures complying with existing laws that ensures sustainability of made decisions. Surely, it takes certain time for the changes to become obvious and tangible; however, considering the chronology of multiple events occurred, several thematic "spirals" are clearly notable, which eventually unwind as changes grow in importance and scale. These **changes are gradual and not universal, but their presence is already sensible.** Even now, a series of decisions made in compliance with all decision–making procedures including public involvement is observable."

The report provides overview of major changes in the Kyrgyz power sector management for the period 2009 to 2015, and major achievements from civil society. The report is intended for the broader public, decision-makers, business representatives, government and nongovernment organizations.

The report was prepared with financial support from the Open Society Foundation (USA).

At present, the publication is available only in print and electronically accessible via: http://unison.kg/ru/publikatsii



Climate Change and Natural Resources Management program

CAN International strategy planning

On February 11–12, 2016, a meeting of the Climate Action Network (CAN International) was held in Berlin (Germany). Observer organizations and some 150 representatives of NGOs from various parts of the world attended the event. Nurgul Esenamanova, the Unison Group's Climate Change Program Manager, and Zarina Abumuslimova, the Kyrgyzstan Climate Network Coordinator, represented Kyrgyzstan during the international network event.



CAN International is a global coalition of more than 950

nongovernmental organizations (NGO) all over the world, working to reduce the effects and impacts of human-induced climate change.

The Network takes very active part in negotiation processes under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. They communicate with decision-makers taking active lines and promoting pressing issues during important discussions.

For more details of the meeting, see http://unison.kg/ru/izmenenie-klimata/237-caneeca_20160215
For more details about CAN, see http://www.climatenetwork.org/.

The Unison Group staff participated in the event devoted to the International Day of Forests

On March 26, 2016 the Unison Group staff participated in the Kyrgyzstan Climate Network (KCN) event on the occasion of the International Day of Forests, aligned with the event "One Citizen - One Sapling" of the State Directorate for preparation and holding of the Year of Culture and History.

Nurgul Esenamanova and Aygerim Bektemirova helped to plant trees in the school Byubyusara Beyshenaliyeva in Tash-Tobo village, Kyrgyzstan. KCN experts decided to plant chestnuts, birches, cedars and maples as these are considered the most suitable trees for this area that meet both climatic and sanitary conditions.





For details about the event, please search for Facebook hashtags: #КлиматическаяСетьКыргызстана, #МеждународныйДеньЛесов



Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy program

Completion of energy assessment of 6 municipal buildings within World Bank's Urban Development Project

Unison Group experts served as consultants to the World Bank Kyrgyzstan Urban Development Project (UDP). The UDP project aims to improve urban infrastructure, in particular, in public buildings and water supply sectors. Within the scope of this project, energy efficiency assessment was previously conducted in the cities Sulyukta, Balykchi, Toktogul and Karasuu. During this assessment, energy consumption by municipal



facilities was calculated and recommendations were formulated on how to reduce energy consumption while upholding service qualities provided by the city administration to urban residents.

In November 2015, a team of local consultants alongside Rainer Behnke, an international consultant, performed an energy audit of 4 schools and 2 kindergartens in the towns of Balykchi and Toktogul, and completed the Pre-Feasibility Study in March 2016. The development of energy efficiency program projects for cities continues and will be completed by June 30, 2016.

Energy audit of the PARCP's Day Center

On April 30, Salavat Soronbayev, Unison Group engineer, carried out an energy audit for the Day Center building of PA "Resource Center for the Elderly" (RCP) within the framework of free consulting support on energy saving issues. The Day Center is located in the Balykchy town, Kyrgyz Republic. It is a unique model based on the concept of self-help groups, which provides single elderly people with food, leisure and an active community.

In order to refurbish the building, PA RCP announced fund raising to install energy efficient windows, doors, light bulbs and to install solar collectors for hot water supply to visitors.



Unison Group engineers performed an evaluation of collected data and will soon issue an energy certificate to PA "RCP".

For details about PA "RCP" fund raising, see https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/help-us-repair-the-elderly-center-in-balykchy-city--2#/



Kyrgyz Sustainable Energy Financing Facility

KyrSEFF as a blueprint for CLIMADAPT

On February 3, 2016, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development together with the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) and the Green Climate Fund held an official opening of the new financial program for climate adaptation CLIMADAPT in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The CLIMADAPT program covers a financial portfolio of US\$ 10 million, which is intended for financing climate projects in private and business sectors through local commercial banks. It was noted at the meeting that Tajikistan was among the countries, which were most sensitive to climate change, consequences of which adversely affected water and energy resources.



An advisory workshop for civic sector representatives was held under the CLIMADAPT program, where Nurzat Abdyrasulova, the National Manager of the Kyrgyz Sustainable Energy Financing Facility (KyrSEFF), talked about the achieved results. According to her statement, the first phase of the program, totalling US\$ 20 million, was successfully brought to an end, contributing to more than 30,000 tons of CO2 emission reductions and over 100,000 MWh of electricity savings each year. Soon, the second KyrSEFF phase will be launched, and it is thus expected that these figures will continue to grow.

http://www.kyrseff.kg/ru/novosti-biz/novosti-programmy/item/365-pokazatelnyj-opyt-kyrseff-dlya-klimadapt

KyrSEFF achievements

The consortium of Unison Group with GFA (Germany) and D'Appolonia (Italy) shows high energy efficiency rates in completing the first phase of the Kyrgyz Sustainable Energy Financing Facility (KyrSEFF) started in April, 2013.

Currently, with implementation of energy saving projects under the KyrSEFF program, the energy-efficient development in Kyrgyzstan has gained a new momentum. Industrial enterprises have the opportunity to save energy through modernization of their production equipment.

House owners insulate their dwellings and cut down energy consumption costs, which is very urgent considering growing electricity prices.



Negotiations are under way for launching the second phase of the KyrSEFF program, which this time is to cover the new are – resource saving.

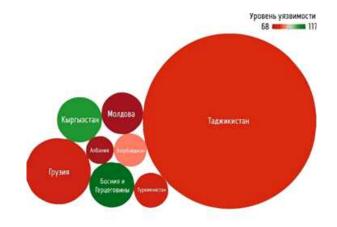
Statistics: http://kyrseff.kg/ru/statistika-home, http://kyrseff.kg/ru/statistika-kyrseff

Unison Group stands and addresses

On implementation of opportunities for involvement of climate funds

On March 18, 2016, the Unison Group sent an official appeal to the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic on climate policy implementation and attraction of funds in this area at the state level.

"Following long-term active international negotiations on climate financing and, in particular, after the Paris agreement was adopted in December, 2015, climate change will turn from an amorphous topical issue into an increasingly concrete investment attraction



Recent decisions on arrangement of the adaptation financing process for all UN member countries open up a new stage of global climatic actions, based on mutually profitable bilateral and multilateral cooperation. However, a big part at the moment is assigned **to proactivity** of countries themselves to make use of all existing

opportunities from multiple climatic funds."

The letter offers implementation opportunities, involvement of climatic funds, and structuring of the Kyrgyz Republic's participation in the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR-2).

On Service Quality Centers (SQC)

Based on the stakeholder resolution developed during the National Conference on "Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency for Consumers" held on March 15, 2016 in Bishkek, Unison Group sent a separate letter to the Kyrgyz Minister of Economy the importance of maintaining a direct dialogue with the population, for instance via the Service Quality Centers (SQC) within the power distribution companies. Unison Group recommends to consider the existing experience of SQC and to review the structure and reporting relationships of the centers in order to improve their performance, and



the functional duties assigned to them in accordance with the main function for control of servicing quality. The letter was also sent to Razhap Bayaliyev, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Severelektro JSC, who took active part in discussion of the subject at the conference (see photo).

For the full text of the address, see:

http://energy.unison.kg/sites/default/files/pdf/obrashchenie_o_cko.pdf



Participation in activities and public keynote events

Kyrgyzstan develops a program for heat supply in small and medium towns of Kyrgyzstan

On February 11, 2016, Unison Group took part in a round table devoted to heat supply issues of small and medium towns, arranged by the Kyrgyz Ministry of Economy.

Currently, public utilities in the majority of towns of the country are in a poor condition. Many apartment houses are disconnected from district heating, which adversely affects structures of residential buildings. Existing boiler rooms and heat pipelines became inoperable and need completerenovation.

In order to gain insight into current conditions of heat supply, it is necessary to scrutinize the issue with



assistance from donor and expert organizations having working experience in the power sector. During the meeting, Nurzat Abdyrasulova, the President of the Unison Group, told about activities performed in the sphere of heat consumer protection.

For more details about the meeting, see http://unison.kg/ru/ee-i-vie/235-minekenom_20160211

Kyrgyzstan met a trade mission of businessmen from the clean technology sector CleanTech in Latvia

On March 30, 2016, a meeting was held at the Ministry of Economy with businesspersons from the Latvian CleanTech company and representatives from the Kyrgyz civil society and business sector. The topic of the meeting was development of clean technologies.

At the meeting, Latvian businesspersons presented their experience in introducing energy-efficient technologies in all sectors and areas from implementation of energy service contracts to conversion of wastewater potential into energy for heating and lighting.

Darika Sulaymanova, Unison Group Program Director, held a presentation on Kyrgyz experience in developing building energy efficiency, and talked about the previous experience of energy-efficient construction, piloting of energy service contracts in the "Altyn-Balalyk" kindergarten of the Naryn region, and projects implemented in the business sector with technical and grant support from the Kyrgyz Sustainable Energy Financing Facility (Kyrseff).

For more details about the CleanTech, Latvia, see http://cleantechlatvia.com/ru/

Participation in activities and public keynote events

ADB's Regional Workshop under the project "Climate change economy in the Central and Western Asia"

On March 2-3, 2016 Nurzat Abdyrasulova, the President of the Unison Group, participated in the ADB's Regional Workshop under the project "Climate change economy in the Central and Western Asia", which was held at the conference hall of the Park Hotel in Bishkek.

The workshop purposes included identification of priority investments in strengthening climate resilience and low-carbon development; support to "preparedness" of countries to attract additional financing from public and private sectors to meet priority adaptation requirements; assessment of national needs for climate change



adaptation programs; search and engagement of financing sources of various investment programs; and assistance in strengthening of institutional capacity of governmental bodies and all stakeholders for development and implementation of investment programs and projects.

For details about the workshop, see:

http://ekois.net/regionalnyj-seminar-abr-po-proektu-ekonomika-izmeneniya-klimata-v-tsentralnoj-i-zapadnoj-azii/?src=letter



Sharing of experience

Unison Group shares experience in developing energy efficiency legislation with Tajik counterparts

From February 15 – 19, 2016, a Tajik delegation took part in an exchange visit to Kyrgyzstan with support from Unison Group. The delegation consisted of representatives from the State Committee for Construction, architects and designers of this country, who were interested to learn more about practical experience of drafting and promoting energy efficiency legislation.

The delegation met representatives from the Kyrgyz



Ministry of Economy and the State Committee for Construction, and visited local companies – leaders in the sphere of energy saving and energy efficiency.

Unison Group performed unique activities and its manager Nurzat Abdyrasulova and Darika Sulaymanova shared their experience in drafting and promoting of energy efficiency legislation with their colleagues from Tajikistan, and discussed about results of their work under the KyrSEFF program.

For details about the Tajik delegation visit, see: http://unison.kg/ru/ee-i-vie/239-news_20160218

Information workshop for Kyrgyzzhilkommunsoyuz

On February 10, 2016, Bakyt Askarbekov and Zhanybek Kulumbetov, representatives from the Unison Group held an information workshop with personnel from the SE "Kyrgyzhilkomunsoyuz".

Following the Energy Efficiency Program, the Kyrgyz Ministry of Economy instructed all fuel and energy complex entities to take measures aimed at the development of energy saving in Kyrgyzstan. Propagation of energy conservation culture among population is one of key points in the Program. With this in



view, SE "Kyrgyzhilkomunsoyuz" requested assistance in capacity building for its employees.

Personnel of heat supply enterprises in the Kara-Balta town and the Belovodskoye village of the Chuy Region participated in the information workshop. The meeting was held as a discussion and participants talked about how to resolve arising controversies between suppliers and consumers within the legal framework.

For more details about the workshop, see http://unison.kg/ru/ee-i-vie/236-jilcomun_20160212

Kyrgyzstan Climate Network

Kyrgyzstan Climate Network members took part in training on climatic financing

On March 4, 2016, Unison Group representatives together with Kyrgyzstan Climate Network members participated in training conducted by a team of international experts under the Asian Development Bank (ADB) project "Climate change economy in the Central and Western Asia". The ADB project covers three countries: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Preliminary survey results prepared under this project were presented at the workshop, which was held on the



2nd of March and attended by representatives of three countries.

Peter Mackay, Alexander Muller and Philip Buckle expounded climatic financing issues. The Paris Conference held in December of last year gave the impetus to activation of processes related to determination of actions required for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and to their financial aspect.

For details about the event, see http://infoik.net.kg/index.php/item/447-ksk-meeting-ngo-tj-cc

Meeting of Kyrgyzstan Climate Network members with a representative from the Tajikistan Climate Change NGO Network

On March 4, 2016, members of the Kyrgyzstan Climate Network met with Yuriy Skochilov, the Director of the Youth Ecological Center and the representative of the Tajikistan Climate Change NGO Network.

Yuriy Skochilov shared his experience and knowledge of implementing the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) in Tajikistan, involvement of civil society in the



monitoring and decision-making process concerning the climatic policy and investments, etc.

The Tajikistan Climate Change NGO Network is an informal network for free information exchange, dialogue and discussions in the civil society, which emphasizes the issues of environmental and climatic policies, climate change adaptation, energy saving and energy efficiency, and development of renewables.

For details about the meeting, see http://infoik.net.kg/index.php/item/447-ksk-meeting-ngo-tj-cc

Network of Civic Centres for Electricity Consumer Advocacy (CC-ECA)

The Electricity Consumer Advocacy service stays always alert!

The Unison Group's network of Civic Centres for Electricity Consumer Advocacy continues rendering advisory services to consumers.

It is worthy of note that in the winter period of 2015-2016 the number of calls and visits to ECA Centers increased dramatically – for the most part owing to wide-scale awareness campaign in 500 localities under the program "Stay in Warmth, Kyrgyzstan - 2".



·Specific examples include:

- Husnidin Nazarmatov received a bill issued on 12/11/2015 and was required to pay it on the same day as instructed in the bill. Farkhod Atabayev, another participant of the meeting, received a similar bill. The bill was issued on 12/16/2015 and had to be paid on the same day. (Kerben, Aksy District). The issue was dealt with by CSC and RES (power distribution company) will soon revise their program
- Zhenish from the Kara Kul town was falsely billed 1000 Som but had to pay only 300 Som after recalculation.
- Nurgul from At Bashi learned from the Calendar 2016 and reported that a meter was installed at her home but not registered. She received an invoice for 5,000 Som two times. After clarification, she had to pay 600 Som and the error of a former inspector was admitted.
- Community of the Avletim village, Zhalal-Abad Region, required their power distribution company to install a new transformer. Now finally, 270 households are provided with -high-quality power supply.

To date, ECA Network experts have reviewed and uncovered over 9,000 violations of energy consumer rights; nearly 10,000 advices have been provided and about 9 millions Som of unreasonably imposed fines were returned to population.

See the energy consumer portal for the list of successful and decided cases: http://energy.unison.kg/ru/content/razreshennye-keysy



The Unison Group is an alliance of organizations, which operate since 2002 in the field of sustainable environment and energy at the levels of legislation, analytic research and practical activity at the nationwide and regional scales.

Unison Group promotes sustainable development of Kyrgyzstan through a transfer of knowledge and innovations in the sphere of nature protection, creation of green economy, improvement of human capital assets as well as enhancement of constructive dialogue among the state, society and business.



Our locations:

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Naryn c., Razzakova str. 21 / 27 Phone: +996 (3522) 50 989 E-mail: naryn@zppe.net.kg

Our websites:



www.unison.kg (Main website of the Unison Group) www.energy.unison.kg (Portal for energy consumers of Kyrgyzstan)

www.kyrseff.kg (Kyrgyz Sustainable Energy Financing Facility)

Our social networks:



https://www.facebook.com/unison145/ (Main page of the Unison Group) https://www.facebook.com/zppe.net.kg/ (Energy consumer protection) https://www.facebook.com/budvteplekyrgyzstan/ (Awareness campaigns "Stay in Warmth, Kyrgyzstan!")

https://www.facebook.com/KyrSEFF/ (KyrSEFF Program)



http://www.slideshare.net/UnisonGroup



in https://www.linkedin.com/company/unison-group?trk=company_logo



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