

Newsletter Uzbekistan

03/2021

23. November 2021



The 9. Central Asia Conference – Premiere in Tashkent

Strengthen further cooperation between the partners in Central Asia

As one of the first huge events after the outbreak of the pandemic, the traditional Central Asia Conference of German Sparkassenstiftung for International Cooperation took place in hybrid form from 31 October to 2 November 2021. For the first time, Uzbekistan was the host country. Together with the regional project “Promoting Rural Development and Strengthening the MSME Sector in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan”, the Uzbekistan project team developed the content and lecture series. The Central Asia Conference 2021 focused on the following **topics**:

- **Financial Inclusion**
- **Promoting MSME**
- **Green Finance**



31. October 2021: Financial Inclusion

This large conference was opened with interesting greetings by high-ranking representatives of various organisations as well as through **Dr. Tilo Klinner**, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Uzbekistan. Among the opening speakers were **Matthias Fohs** (Head of Division Europe/Central Asia of German Sparkassenstiftung for International



Cooperation), **Niclaus Bergmann** (online; Managing Director of German Sparkassenstiftung), **Senator Alisher Sadullaev** (Chairman of the State Agency for Youth Affairs of Uzbekistan), as well as the representatives of the **partners of German Sparkassen**.

Image from left to right: Dr. Michael Beck, Dr. Tilo Klinner, Alisher Sadullaev, Anja Hoyer, Mathias Wangler, Matthias Fohs

The following presentations were held on the topic of **Financial Inclusion:**

- Banking can be so simple - Creating financial inclusion through “intuitive” processes (Speaker: Dr. Jürgen Weimann, online)
- Learning with all senses – Innovative educational offers for people with disabilities (Speakers: Dr. Jan Wulf-Schnabel and Ms Gesa Kobs)



Dr. Jürgen Weimann



Gesa Kobs



Dr. Jan Wulf-Schnabel

To conclude the first day of the programme, the participants and speakers attended the theatre performance “I love you, but...” at the renowned **Ilkhom Theatre of Mark Weil**. This cultural institution has in the past performed inclusive theatre plays. It means that people with disabilities were actively involved as actors. Thus, we had found the ideal location for our presentations on the topic “Inclusion of all social classes”. New impulses arose for further integrating this very important topic into the project work of German Sparkassenstiftung in Central Asia.



Participants and speakers of the conference at the Ilkhom Theatre

01. November 2021: Promoting MSME



The young farmer Rustam Zakiev
(poultry farming)

On the second day of the conference, all participants were invited to visit young farmers and their farms in the rural areas of Nurafshan and Bo’ka. These young people were either farmers who had received a micro-credit for their business through our educational programme or farmers who were supported to continue their business activity through the specially established *COVID-19 Emergency Recovery Fund*.

Image on the left:
Zakhro Omonova
with family – the
owner of a green-
house with lemons

Image on the
right: Tasting
honey at the bee-
keeping of Saidja-
khon Tursunkulov



Before these visits, a tour through the **Educational Centre of the Youth Union in Nurafshan** took place. Here, a **workshop** was held on the projects of German Sparkassenstiftung in Central Asia. The topic of the workshop: “We have already achieved a lot and still have a lot more to do”.

02. November 2021: Green Finance

The third day began by continuing the previous day’s workshop. Our partners from each country were able to exchange ideas with their Long-term Experts individually in groups on challenges in cooperation and their wishes for further cooperation. The numerous suggestions and thoughts from the project partners were noted.

This was followed by two presentations on the last, yet so essential and forward-looking focus topic “**Green Finance**”. In the future, financing investments in ecologically sustainable and environmentally friendly technologies will become increasingly important for German Sparkassenstiftung. It will be integrated into the project work of the individual countries to a greater extent.

The following speeches were held on this topic:

- Green Finance (Speaker: Prof. Dr. Tobias Peylo)
- What kind of world will we live in tomorrow? Impacts of climate change in Central Asia with different scenarios (Speaker: Dr. Bijan Fallah, online)



Prof. Dr. Tobias Peylo



Dr. Bijan Fallah

At the end of the third day of the conference, we could congratulate the Country Representative and Long-term Expert of the projects in Uzbekistan, Mr. Mathias Wangler, on his 64th birthday. We would like to take this opportunity to wish him again all the best for the future!

The Central Asia Conference ended in the evening with a visit to the **Tashkent City Planetarium** and a closing dinner. Here, the participants looked back on the past three days and expressed their gratitude.

The participants said goodbye with many new ideas and full of inspiration, in the spirit of close and successful cooperation of the projects of German Sparkassenstiftung in the countries of Central Asia.

