

KEY ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES

- Build capacity and redouble the effectiveness of local civil society organizations
- Provide tools for the development of viable community-oriented networks

OVERVIEW

- Services in over 40 cities throughout Eurasia, nearly all hosted by local partners
- Host of nearly 8,000 local-language websites
- Nearly 700,000 visits are logged at IATP centers and former centers every year
- Nearly 50,000 users are trained in IT skills every year



IATP in Tajikistan

IATP began operating in Tajikistan in 2000. At present, there are five IATP centers and four Independent Internet Centers (former IATP centers no longer funded by the program) operating throughout the country, which employ professional administrators, trainers, and volunteers to train, assist users to utilize the Internet for development and professional purposes, and organize various Internet-related initiatives. In May 2008, 2,237 residents of Tajikistan visited IATP centers 4,155 times, and 204 people attended training courses. IATP's server in Dushanbe hosts 505 non-commercial websites.

IREX and ICT4D in Eurasia

Initially launched in 1995, IATP now operates in 10 countries in Western Eurasia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. The program strengthens NGOs, media outlets, government institutions, political parties, universities, schools, libraries and other community stakeholders.

IATP is one of several IREX programs that use cutting-edge technologies to provide technical assistance and resources for local citizen and organization-based initiatives.

IREX is an international nonprofit organization which delivers cross-cutting programs to strengthen civil society, education, and media independence in more than 50 countries.

TOOLS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

IATP provides civil society organizations (CSOs) and community leaders with essential tools that are otherwise either largely inaccessible or under-utilized. The resulting assistance and collaboration improves the effectiveness of local civil society initiatives, expanding their reach and allowing them access to the latest international expertise. IATP provides:

- **Internet Access** –Free computer and Internet access available at IATP centers helps bridge the digital divide and provides new sources of information and knowledge.
- **Technical Training** – A catalogue of over a dozen training modules including basic computer literacy, Web design, Internet research, blogging, and wiki creation can be tailored to meet the institutional needs of organizations and professionals attending courses.
- **Web Content Development** – CSOs and individuals create websites and resources after completing IATP courses. New Web resources increase local-language content, making the Internet more accessible and useful to local users.
- **Online Forums** –Stakeholders, experts, and decision-makers join online in virtual exchanges of ideas that bridge the technology gap between regions and capital cities, and give often isolated professionals and leaders first-hand access to expertise located distantly.
- **Community Events** – Citizens utilize the centers as neutral meeting places to organize community initiatives and use IATP-provided technology and expertise to strengthen their projects.

IATP Administration

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IATP Centers in Tajikistan

City: Dushanbe
Partner: Central Scientific Library of the
Academy of Sciences of the Republic
of Tajikistan

Address: 33 Rudaki Ave.
Telephone: (992 37) 227 93 31
Hours: Monday – Friday (9 am – 7 pm),
Saturday (10 am – 3 pm)

Contact person: Jamshed Alexeyev at
jalexeyev@irex.tj

City: Garm
Partner: NGO Rasht
Address: 9 S. Burhon Street
Telephone: (992 3131) 2 14 03
Hours: Monday – Friday (8 am – 5 pm)
Contact person: Ravshan Sirodjev at rsirodjev@irex.tj

City: Khorog
Partner: Aga-Khan Lyceum
Address: 12 Mirzonabotov Street
Telephone: (992 3522) 2 39 88
Hours: Monday – Friday (8 am – 6 pm),
Saturday (10 am – 15 am)
Contact person: Akobir Abdurakhimov at
aabdurakhimov@irex.tj

City: Khujand
Partner: Private School of Pulatov
Address: 54A Lenin Ave, room #1
Telephone: (992 3422) 6 41 08
Hours: Monday – Friday (9 am – 6 pm)
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City: Kulyab
Partner: Kulyab State University
Address: 26 Safarov Street
Telephone: (992 3322) 2 25 85
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MAJOR PROJECTS AND RECENT RESULTS IN TAJIKISTAN

Government officials, labor migrants, medical professionals, journalists, representatives of NGOs and academic institutions, youth and others are improving their professional capacity and development initiatives in cooperation with IATP. In the framework of **Migration Management** sub-project, IATP is partnering with Migration Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Tajikistan and several private job placement companies and has already assisted in creation of several websites and databases. In the framework of **e-Government** sub-project IATP assists the Committee on Youth, Sport and Tourism to implement Youth's Health Development Program and provides ICT trainings for its staff. The following additional results were achieved from March to June 2008:

- More than 35 participants throughout Tajikistan participated in online conference dedicated to World Press Freedom Day that is commemorated every year on May 3 with Ms. Jackie McKennan, the Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Dushanbe.
- Four employees of the local government of Khorog city created the wiki page of the city on the Tajik version of Wikipedia after completion of Wiki trainings in May at the Khorog IATP center.
- Honored Scientist Maqsuda Abdusalyamova of Tajikistan credited IATP for providing her with computer skills and access to ICT resources at the IATP center in Dushanbe. IATP assisted Abdusalyamova and her colleagues in receiving \$633,000 in funding for their work.
- Tajik farmer Nasriddin Rustamov was appointed Project Coordinator at Dehkan Farms Service Center (DFSC) on March 29 after gaining positive attention for the Lola Farming website he created (<http://lola.freenet.tj>) and presented to the National Association of Farmers of Tajikistan (NAFT) in January 2008.
- More than 770 citizens completed computer, Internet, and Web design courses at IATP centers across the country during this period.