



# EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES AND INNOVATIONS IN THE ERA OF DIGITALISATION

II International conference

September 8-10, 2023.  
Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan

#education  
#digitalisation  
#innovation







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## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

### 8 September

<b>08:00 - 10:30</b>	Arrival of the Mongolian delegation to the centre «Raduga». Breakfast
<b>12:00 - 14:30</b>	Arrival of other participants. Lunch for all participants. Accommodation in rooms
<b>15:00 – 16:30</b>	Opening of the conference. Greeting of participants. Video lecture
<b>16:30 - 19:00</b>	Free time
<b>19:00 - 20:30</b>	Dinner buffet

### 9 September

<b>08:00 - 09:00</b>	Breakfast
<b>09:30 - 11:00</b>	Session 1. Digital transformation of education to improve quality and access. Facilitator Jyldyz Doolbekova
<b>11:15 -12:45</b>	Session 2. Digital Educational Resources: Innovative Approaches and Solutions. Facilitator Almagul Osmonova
<b>13:00 -14:00</b>	Lunch
<b>14:15 -15:15</b>	Session 3. Digital Pedagogy for Gender Equality and Inclusion. Facilitator Chinara Omurkulova
<b>16:00 - 17:30</b>	Session 4. Distance learning to improve quality and access to schooling. Results of the research
<b>17:30 - 19:00</b>	Free time
<b>19:00 - 20:00</b>	Dinner

## 10 September

<b>08:00 - 09:30</b>	Breakfast. Check-out
<b>10:00 - 11:00</b>	General session. Facilitator Gulnara Ibrayeva.
<b>11:00 - 11:30</b>	Summarising the results. Closing of the conference
<b>12:30 - 13:30</b>	Lunch in Cholpon-Ata town
<b>14:00 - 16:30</b>	Cultural programme - visit to Aitmatov Rukh-Ordo Centre
<b>16:30</b>	Departure of participants to Bishkek



8 September, 15:00 - 16:30

## DAY ONE

### Opening of the conference

Watching the video about the First International Conference «EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES AND INNOVATION IN THE ERA OF DIGITALIZATION» (Bishkek, 2022).

### Welcoming words

1. Bekzhan Supanaliev, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic;
2. Dr Nyam-Ochir Tomor-Ochir, General director of General authority for education in Mongolia;
3. Dr Kaliman Junushalieva, Republican Institute for Advanced Training and Retraining of Teachers;
4. Almagul Osmonova, Director, Taalim-Forum Public Foundation

### Video lecture

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN EDUCATION: HOW TO SUCCEED IN THE NEW REALITY?



**Dr. Emma Sabzalieva, Assistant Professor at McGill University (Canada), Project Lead, Artificial Intelligence and Higher Education, UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education.**

Artificial intelligence (AI) could find widespread application in education, with schools and higher education institutions around the world already using data-driven tools such as chatbots and virtual reality. The role of AI in education has come under the spotlight in recent months fol-

lowing the rapid spread of the Chat GPT big language model, which uses Internet data to create human-like outcomes. For many faculty and students, this was their first dive into the world of AI, and many were left with questions about the role of AI in education, especially in light of issues around academic integrity, ethics, and bias. In her lecture, Dr Sabzalieva reflects on whether AI can be used in teaching, learning, assessment and research. The competences and skills needed by educators and students to succeed in this new reality will also be discussed.

September 9th, 09:30 - 11:00 am

## DAY TWO

### SESSION 1. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF EDUCATION TO IMPROVE QUALITY AND ACCESS

1. **Digitalisation of the education system to improve the quality and access to education in Kyrgyzstan.** Supanaliev B.T. Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic.
2. **Building ICT Competence of Teachers in Digital Transformation of Education.** Tumur-Ochir Nyam-Ochir, General director of General authority for education in Mongolia, Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia.
3. **Digital Transformation of Education in Mongolia: Achievements and Future Steps.** Munkhsanchir Namsrai, Head of Digital transformation and unified statistics department of General authority for education in Mongolia.

#### Questions and answers

11:15 - 12:45

### SESSION 2. DIGITAL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES: INNOVATIVE APPROACHES AND SOLUTIONS

1. **E-oku: digital tools for teachers from remote regions of Kyrgyzstan.** Almagul Osmonova, Director of «Taalim-Forum» public foundation.
2. **Online training to support teachers' digital skills.** Todgerel Tsermaa, Project Consultant, Executive Director of National Development Team LLC.
3. **The Structure of Digital Literacy in Mongolia.** Erdene Lhagvasuren, Head, Education Policy and Planning Research Branch, Mongolian National Institute for Educational Research.
4. **Digital Pedagogy: Where to Start? Methodological Guide for Teachers in Tajikistan** Abduvohid Safarov, Director, Anahita NGO.

- 5. Digital Pedagogy: Online School Model on the Example of «Mugalim».** Aisuluu Zhamangulova, CEO and co-founder of MUGALIM Online School.

Questions and answers

14:15 - 15:45

### SESSION 3. DIGITAL PEDAGOGY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

- 1. «Bilim Land» for the development of 21st century skills.** Gaukhar Shulenbayeva Head of Product Department, Bilim Media Group, Kazakhstan.
- 2. Introduction of gender-sensitive pedagogy in teaching STEM subjects on the example of the «Girls in Science» project.** Madina Samakbaeva, Chairperson of the Public Foundation «Techaim» and Coordinator of the project «Girls in Science» at the Innovation College of the American University of Central Asia.
- 3. Digital Literacy as a Life Skill.** Azhybek Nurlanov, Partnership Development Manager, Sanarip Insan Project and ilimbox, Kyrgyz Branch of the Internet Society.
- 4. «Coursera» in Kazakh language to improve the quality of education in Kazakhstan.** Alima Ibrasheva, Academic Director, BMG UpSkill.
- 5. Sanarip Mugalim Model: Leadership Development among Teachers.** Asylbek Madaliev, founder of Sanarip Mugalim Academy.



16:00 - 17:30

#### **SESSION 4. RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH «DISTANCE LEARNING TO IMPROVE QUALITY AND ACCESS TO SCHOOL EDUCATION IN KYRGYZSTAN, MONGOLIA, AND TAJIKISTAN».**

Jyldyz Doolbekova, Ph.D., Project Lead  
Gulnara Ibrayeva, Ph.D., Head of the research team of the project  
Mehrigul Ablezova, Lead Researcher  
Chinara Omurkulova, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Consultant  
Tungalaktuya Khuukhenduu, Country Project Coordinator, Mongolia  
Dr Battsetseg Semjaan, Research Team Leader, Mongolia  
Abduvohid Safarov, Country Project Coordinator, Tajikistan  
Dr Jovidsho Juraev, Research Team Leader, Tajikistan

10 September, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

#### **DAY 3**

**General session - discussion. Facilitator Dr. Gulnara Ibraeva, PhD, expert in education.**

**Summing up**

**Closing of the conference**

**12:30-16:30**

#### **Cultural programme**

Lunch in Cholpon-Ata town  
Excursion to the Aitmatov Rukh Ordo Cultural Centre  
<https://rukhordo.kg/ru/node/5>

## ABOUT THE *PROJECT*

«DISTANCE EDUCATION TO IMPROVE QUALITY AND ACCESS TO SCHOOL EDUCATION IN KYRGYZSTAN, MONGOLIA, AND TAJIKISTAN».



The project is being implemented in three countries - Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Tajikistan within the framework of the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) programme initiated by the Global Partnership in Education (GPE). The main goal of the project is to promote innovative approaches in distance learning that provide equal access and improve the quality of education for children from vulnerable groups.

The project conducted a large-scale research to investigate distance learning strategies in response to temporary partial or total school closures in three countries; identifying key challenges and barriers to equal access to learning in the context of geographical location, gender, and ethnic minority status. The study also identified innovative models in organising distance learning in the three countries, explored international experience in effectively

addressing issues of equality and inclusion; developing teachers' professional competencies; and developing effective educational policies and practices. Special attention is paid to the development of teachers' ICT competences in the use of digital technologies and online resources, as well as the creation of platforms for the exchange of ideas, experience, knowledge, skills and methods.

The results of the project will address the knowledge gap in organising effective distance education

in schools, strengthen teachers' competencies and skills, improve and deepen their understanding and vision for future strategies, and support long-term positive change and success in developing innovative models in distance education. The project will mobilise knowledge, identify best practices and innovations, and make recommendations for improving and scaling innovations in distance learning.

More about the project:

<https://kix.taalimforum.kg/>

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The research questions are aimed at identifying the specifics of vulnerability of different groups of students and innovative distance learning practices. Two main groups of research questions are actualised:

(1) How different is the vulnerability of school children, boys and girls, including those from ethnic minorities, living in remote communities? Are there other forms of inequality and specific vulnerabilities emerg-

ing in countries beyond those identified in the project?

(2) Who defines what are innovations? By whom are they created, by whom are they identified? How can such practices be scaled up, including in what formats for different vulnerable groups? Thus the research in the three countries will identify effective regional and global distance learning models and strategies relevant to Central Asian countries.

## METHODOLOGY

The research was based on a combined methodology, mixing qualitative and quantitative strategies and included **desk research** to identify effective regional and global models of distance education (DE) strategies relevant for Central Asian countries; interviews, focus group discussions with education and ICT managers and experts, school teachers, students and parents, and surveys of key stakeholders.



**The qualitative research phase** was conducted from February to July 2022 and the research data became the basis for the development of the methodology and tools for the quantitative research. The qualitative stage of the research made it possible to determine the role and importance of such stakeholder groups as managers, parents, experts, volunteers, etc. in the process of distance education. Based on the results of the qualitative research

analysis, it was decided to focus the quantitative research on two key target groups: teachers and students.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with independent experts, representatives of state institutions, development agencies, local authorities. Focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with parents and students and aimed at assessing distance learning experiences, identification of vulnerable groups, educational innovations, and recommendations for strength-

ening support for vulnerable groups of students, including children from remote communities, ethnic minorities, girls and boys. After obtaining informed consent, the research team explored the main factors that hinder and facilitate access to quality education for children from vulnerable groups including family and community-based distance learning experiences, using a participant

observation method (10 days of residential visits). A total of 62 FGDs, 20 participant observations and 113 interviews were conducted in three countries.

The results of the qualitative research revealed the following starting points for the quantitative research methodology:

- Different stakeholder groups' perceptions of motivation to teach \to learn in DE
- Willingness to adapt to change
- Trust in DE
- Perception of special needs of students
- Perception and willingness for innovations in DE
- Willingness to use the experience of DE in further learning



### The quantitative research phase

was conducted between March and June 2023. The survey was conducted in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Tajikistan among 8th-10th grade students and teachers in Kyrgyz, Mongolian, Tajik, Russian and Uzbek languages and covered 6,475 students and 1,621 teachers, including both remote regions and cities.

- **Kyrgyzstan** - 896 teachers, 3,577 school students, in 7 regions and the cities of Bishkek and Osh, totalling 180 schools
- **Tajikistan** - 500 teachers and 2,000 school students in Khatlon, Sughd regions, districts of republican subordination, Dushanbe and Khujand cities, 162 schools in total.
- **Mongolia** - 225 teachers and 898 school students, in 5 regions of the country, 45 schools in total

In the quantitative phase of the research, the focus was on testing the hypotheses and measuring the importance ratings of different aspects of on-line readiness and teachers' self-assessment of readiness for online/distance learning; assessing satisfaction with the distance learning experience; the degree of understanding of the needs of different vulnerable groups of students and their families and willingness to work to meet them; identifying the level of willingness to innovate, etc.

## Geography of the research



Map <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1kPXROjfyvJFg-wIRFVomcleyBK8uPRG&ll=40.70843423387389%2C84.17442922440625&z=5>



## CONSORTIUM OF THREE ORGANIZATIONS

TAALIM-FORUM, Lead organisation



**Director Almagul Osmonova:** «Our organization has been implementing projects promoting innovative and interdisciplinary approaches in education since 2007. We cooperate with international organisations to develop, translate and publish books for children and young people, develop manuals for teachers. The Foundation has experience in developing multimedia electronic educational resources. This year

our organisation received an award from the Ministry of Education and Science of Kyrgyzstan in the nomination «Digital Educational Resources» and was awarded a letter of appreciation for its contribution to the development of the Kyrgyz language through the promotion of educational resources and digital platforms in the Kyrgyz language».

<http://taalimforum.kg/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TaalimForum>

## NOMADIC NATURE CONSERVATION, NNC



### **Tungalagtuyaa Khuukhenduu:**

«Our activities since 2010 have focused on supporting rural schools and local communities in Mongolia. We promote our educational products such as Mobile Classroom and Nomadic Nature Trunk programmes using interactive learning approaches and innovative learning materials for students in remote rural aimags. Creating an open and

creative learning environment, fosters community engagement. Our experience has been highly appreciated by the Mongolian Ministry of Education. It is extremely interesting for us to be members of the Consortium and to realise the research project together with our Kyrgyz and Tajik colleagues.»

<https://nnc-mongolia.org/>



## ANAHITA ORGANISATION



**Abduvohid Safarov:** «Our organisation has been implementing projects on leadership development, protection of economic rights of rural women in Tajikistan since 2004. We participated in the evaluation of the education system in the pilot districts of the country, in the discussion of the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan «On Education» (2013), in the National Consultation Forum

«Development of a national road-map for digital transformation of the education system in Tajikistan» (2022). In the course of project implementation under the KIX programme, we strengthened cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the Republican Centre for Information and Communication Technologies, as well as with international and local NGOs».

## DONOR ORGANISATIONS



The **Global Partnership for Education (GPE)** is the largest international foundation for education and a unique multi-stakeholder partnership. For 20 years, GPE has been supporting partner governments to provide quality education. Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Tajikistan are member countries of the Global Partnership in Education.

Read more about GPE: <https://www.globalpartnership.org/>



GPE has initiated an ambitious **Knowledge and Innovation in Education (KIX)** programme to strengthen national education systems and accelerate progress in countries of the global South. KIX supports projects to produce, integrate and scale knowledge and innovations to improve education policies and practices. The programme currently operates in 70 countries and implements 36 projects. KIX National Coordinating Committees have been established in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Tajikistan.



The KIX programme is implemented jointly with the **International Development Research Centre (IDRC)**. IDRC supports research in developing countries to promote their development. IDRC's mission is «to initiate, encourage, support and conduct research on problems of regions of the developing world and to apply scientific, technological advances to the economic and social progress of these regions». IDRC is headquartered in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada's capital city. Learn more about the Centre: <https://www.idrc.ca/>

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES



<https://kix.taalimforum.kg/news>

The project started in May 2021 with a comprehensive situation analysis, lessons learned, assessment of the organisation and delivery of distance education in Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia, and strategies for digitalisation of education in Tajikistan. A number of discussions were held with the participation of key stakeholders and education experts. Round tables on «Teacher as a Driver of Innovations» were held in three countries. The round table «Digitalisation in Education: The Changing Role of the Teacher» organised in Kyrgyzstan

was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education, methodologists and teachers from the regions, managers, researchers and experts. Experienced specialists and researchers were involved in the research. Preliminary results of the research were presented at the First and Second KIX EAP Conferences on Education Policy and Innovation (October 2021, June 2023), Comparative & International Education Society (CIES) Conferences in Minneapolis, USA (April 2022) and Washington, USA (February 2023).



YouTube

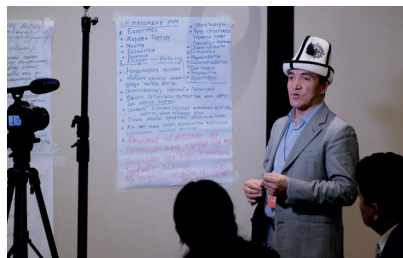


Project website



*Presentation of the project, 14 October 2021.*

In the photo: (1) Participants of the presentation; (2) Olga Bryzgalova, leading specialist of the Department of School Education Policy and Book Publishing of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic



*Round table «Teacher - driver of innovation», 10 December 2021.*

In the photo: (1) project consultant Asylbek Jodanbekov and teachers working in a small group; (2) Head of a school in Naryn Province, Kazybek Asylbekov



*Roundtable «Digitalisation in Education: The Changing Role of the Teacher», 17 March, 2022.*



On the photo: (1) A. Toktomametov, Director of the Republican Institute for Advanced Training and Retraining of Teachers under the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic with the round table participants; (2) Professor T. Sartov, Project Consultant



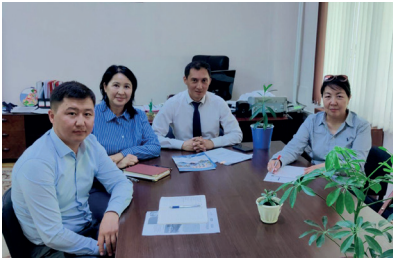
*First International Conference «Educational Strategies and Innovations in the Era of Digitalisation», 5-6 October 2022, Bishkek. (1): representatives of the Mongolian delegation, Sangay Jamtsho from KIX IDRC and others; (2): Todgerel Tsermaa, Director of the Centre for Information Technology in Education, MOES of Mongolia  
Photo: (3) Conference participants*





*Participation in Comparative & International Education Society Conference, 18-22 April 2022 Minneapolis, USA*

On the photo: Deputy Minister N.S. Jusupbekova, A. Osmonova, J. Doolbekova (Taalim-Forum), Dr. Emma Sabzalieva, project consultant and others.



*On the photo: (1) Working meeting with Ulanbek Mambetkunov, Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, 15 May 2022; (2) Medal of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic «For Co-operation», statuette in the nomination «Digital Educational Resources» and a letter of appreciation for the contribution to the development of the Kyrgyz language as recognition of the contribution at the state level to the development, promotion of educational resources and digital platforms in the Kyrgyz language.*



*Joint workshop «Digital Transformation of the Education System» with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyz Academy of Education, experts and consultants, 3-4 December 2022.*

On the photo: (1) small group discussion; (2) Group photo of participants



*Global Partnership for Education Secretariat meeting with Consortium members, 17 February 2023 Washington, D.C., USA*



*Speakers of the session «Education for Inclusion Beyond the Pandemic: Digitalisation, Distance Education and the Teaching Profession in Central Asia» Ulan Mambetkunov, Minister of Education and Science of KR, Emma Sabzalieva, Project Consultant, Janyl Bokonbaeva, National Coordinator of KIX in KR and Consortium members, International Conference CIES-2023, 18-23 February 2023, Washington, DC, USA. Washington DC, USA*





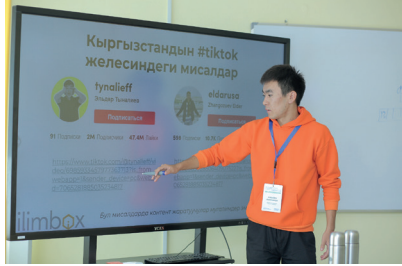
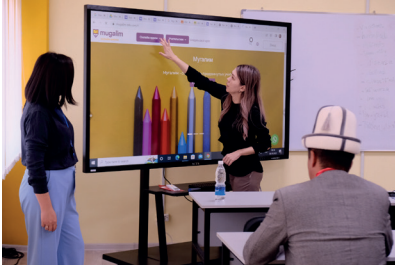
*Participation of Taalim-Forum team members in the Global Forum Schools 2030, Porto (Portugal): (1) Kanybek Imanaliev, Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, Toktobubu Ashimbaeva, Deputy Minister of Education, Almagul Osmonova, Jyldyz Doolbekova (Taalim-Forum) and others; (2) Almagul Osmonova and Jyldyz Doolbekova with representatives of KIX IDRC, GPE, Brookings Institutions and others.*

## Meetings, trainings in the Consortium countries

### Mongolia



## Kyrgyzstan



## Tajikistan



## SPEAKER *INFORMATION* (by session)



**Bekzhan Supanaliev** – Deputy Minister of Education of the Kyrgyz Republic on coordination of the Ministry's activities on digital transformation, investment attraction, implementation of projects of international donor organisations in the field of education. He has solid experience in the Office of the Government and the Office of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic on coordination of analytical and organisational support in the field of education, culture and sports; social development, history and culture. He was Executive Director of the Community Development

and Investment Agency (ARIS) and General Director of Green Finance Centre Bishkek. Higher education in political science, Master's degree in Public Administration from Meiji University.



**Dr. Nyam-Ochir Tomor-Ochir** – General director of General authority for education in Mongolia, has worked at all levels of Mongolia's education sector and was promoted to Director General of the Government Implementation Agency. He was involved in the revision of the General Law on Education and by-laws, as well as the management and organisation of policy, regulation and implementation of the sector. During the pandemic, led the organisation of continuous provision of general education and successfully implemented distance learning in a short period

of time. This included the introduction of digital skills training for teachers, providing access to e-learning aids and materials in a short period of time. Management trainings to improve teacher training and the work of educational institutions were successfully implemented.



**Munkhsanchir Namsrai** – the Head of the Digital Transformation and Unified Statistics Department at the General Directorate of Education of Mongolia. He has experience in designing and implementing various projects on the development of the national education information system, and has developed a number of documents for educational policy and regulation manuals, digital textbooks, other educational resources and research. He has worked as a coordinator of digital transformation projects in education funded by Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Google and Microsoft.



**Almagul Osmonova** – Director of «Taalim-Forum» Public Foundation, expert in the field of education and sustainable development. Teaching experience at the Kyrgyz National University, American University of Central Asia. Head of the gender programme of the Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan, consultant of the World Bank Higher Education Project, expert on early childhood development and consultant on monitoring in the ADB projects, developer and author of publications for teachers and books for children. Master of Science degree in System

Development (UK), higher education in history and sociology at the Kyrgyz National University, internship in sociology and gender studies at Cornell University (USA) and University of Buffalo (USA).



**Todgerel Tsermaa** – an expert in education, the Executive Director of NomadX LLC in Mongolia, which implements projects in the field of Ed-Tech and others. He has more than 10 years of experience in the field of education technologies. He participated in the development of the national EMIS system as a project manager, system architect and analyst, in the establishment of the Centre for Educational Information Technologies under the Ministry of Education and Science and acted as its first director. During his work at the Centre, he initiated and imple-

mented such important projects as: access of all schools in the country to high-speed Internet, national LMS platform /Medle.mn/, online school for children with disabilities, children living abroad, as well as for high school students to study subjects of their choice and many other IT solutions to education issues.



**Erdene Lhagvasuren** – a Head of the Research Department of Education Policy Planning at the National Institute of Education Research under the Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia. He has many years of experience as a maths teacher, training and education manager and school principal. He advises on the implementation of the Cambridge International Programme and related organisations, general education schools, teachers and parents, and is an advisor to the International General Education Programme of the Minister of Education

and Science of Mongolia. Current research activities focus on national values in Mongolian national education.



**Abduvohid Safarov** – Director of Anahita Public Organisation (Tajikistan); has over 20 years of experience in working with international organisations, local NGOs and international donors; has coordinated various projects including research on education in remote rural areas, support for rural women and protection of bio-cultural rights of indigenous local communities in Tajikistan. A graduate of Tajik State University with a degree in linguistics, he is currently pursuing Masters degree in law.



**Aisuluu Zhamangulova** – CEO, ideological inspirer and co-founder of MUGALIM Online School. She is a certified project manager. For the last 10 years she worked as a project manager in the cross-functional department of a financial company. She managed a project to create an online platform for effective employee training, which has trained more than 1000 employees to date.



**Madina Samakbaeva** – Chairman and co-founder of the Techaim Public Foundation, whose activities are related to empowering girls and women in choosing a career in STEM and the official representative of the Khan Academy International Educational Platform in Kyrgyzstan. Coordinates the UNICEF Girls in Science project at the Innovation College of the American University of Central Asia. Actively works to promote STEAM education and environmental education among schoolchildren and students in Kyrgyzstan.



**Azhybek Nurlanov** – the Partnership Development Manager of the *Sanarip Insan* and *ilimbox* project of the Kyrgyz Branch of the Internet Society. He has experience in the development and implementation of educational projects to promote digital education, creation of electronic educational resources, design and development of educational programmes, as well as the integration of technology into the educational process. The *ilimbox* and *Sanarip Insan* projects develop and adapt international educational materials for local learners, and update educational materials on digital platforms.



**Alima Ibrasheva** – Academic Director of BMG UpSkill, has significant experience in higher education, Information and Analytical Centre of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nazarbayev University. She is a recognised expert, participant of projects of the World Bank, USAID, UNESCO, European Education Fund, OECD. During her work at the National Centre for Professional Development «Өрлеу» Ibrasheva ensured as a member of the top management team the radical modernisation of the system of professional development of teachers, contributing to the updating of training content and development of research on the effectiveness of professional development of teachers. She was awarded the badge «Ібраі Айтынсарін» for significant successes in the organisation and improvement of educational and upbringing processes, a member of the Kazakhstan Education Researchers Association (KERA).





**Asylbek Madaliyev** – the founder of the educational center "Sanarip Mugalim", where the teachers are trained in new methodologies and ICT skills. More than 10 years of experience in the field of education. As part of the established center, more than 6,000 teachers underwent online and offline training, more than 700 teachers took part in the exchange of experience with visits to other countries.



**Jyldyz Doolbekova** – Project Lead has extensive experience in grant management, monitoring and evaluation; is an expert in biocultural diversity conservation, community resilience and well-being, women and youth leadership, mobilisation and knowledge sharing and networking in Central Asia. She has worked for the Christensen Foundation's Central Asia Programme (San Francisco, California) as Special Advisor, Programme Manager and Regional Coordinator. Prior to that, she managed the Aga Khan Humanities Project's Faculty Development Programme and University Projects (AKHP, Dushanbe, Tajikistan)

aimed at developing, testing and implementing interdisciplinary courses in Central Asian universities. She holds a PhD in History; a Master's degree in International Relations from the International University of Kyrgyzstan and a degree in History from the Kyrgyz National University.



**Gulnara Ibraeva** – a PhD candidate in sociology, an analyst with experience in socio-economic, political and cultural research, and an expert in strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation. She has considerable experience of working with international organisations, government agencies and civil society organisations not only in the Kyrgyz Republic, but also in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Georgia, and Turkmenistan. Over 20 years of teaching experience at various universities in Kyrgyzstan, including the Nation-

al State University, Bishkek Humanitarian University, Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University, American University of Central Asia (AUCA).



**Mehriqul Ablezova** – Associate Professor of Sociology at the American University of Central Asia (AUCA). He teaches courses in research methods, statistics, economic sociology, globalization, and the sociology of religion. Applied sociologist whose research interests and practice lie in the field of economic sociology and are related to issues of social and economic inequality, market society and moral economics. Her work has been published in *Theory and Society*; "Family, relationships and society"; "Home and Migration"; "Central Asian Study", as well as

in numerous reference scientific reports. She received her BA in Business Administration from AUCA and her MA in Sociology from Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, USA.



**Chinara Omurkulova** – Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Consultant for the Taalim-Forum, has more than ten years of experience in monitoring and evaluation of education projects, experience in conducting sociological research and teaching at Bishkek State University. She has 20 years of experience in managing and implementing international development projects in the field of innovative education in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan as Director of the Representative Office of the Council for International Research and Exchanges, Deputy and Acting Manager of the USAID project. For more than 15 years, she has been engaged in public activities in supervisory boards of a number of local and international non-profit organisations, as well as a member and chairperson of the Public Council of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic. She interned at the Institute of Social and Political Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences and at the Sociology Department of Columbia University. She is a graduate of the Faculty of History of Lomonosov Moscow State University.

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