

*SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN  
DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL  
REFORMS IN CENTRAL ASIA*

Alexey Semyonov,  
President, Andrei Sakharov Foundation, and  
Baktybek Abdrisaev,  
Lecturer,  
Utah Valley University,

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# ASF AND PROMOTION OF REFORMS IN FORMER SOVIET NATIONS

## The Andrei Sakharov Foundation

7112 Wesley Rd, Springfield, VA 22150

[www.SakharovFoundation.org](http://www.SakharovFoundation.org)

- ▣ ASF focuses its activities primarily on Russian Federation where it has expensive network of partnering institutions and NGOs, including
  - ▣ Memorial
  - ▣ Civil Assistance
  - ▣ Common Action
  - ▣ Soldiers' Mothers

# ASF AND CENTRAL ASIA

- ▣ ASF cooperated with Kyrgyzstan since 1992 when nation just gained independence.
- ▣ Reasons for cooperation:
- ▣ Political and economic reforms in the Kyrgyz Republic during 1990s, which distinguished that nation from neighbors.
- ▣ As a result, ASF sponsored the first visit of Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akaev to the United States,

# ASF AND KYRGYZSTAN

- ▣ Assistance in Promotion of Democratic Reforms in 2000s before Tulip revolution;
- ▣ Sponsorship of the Second Sakharov Congress in Kyrgyzstan which was cancelled due to protests from opposition;
- ▣ Assistance in reforms in IT area and dealing with Y2K in 1999;
- ▣ Assistance in solving critical economic infrastructure problems (e.g., national rail road re-organization)

# SMD INVOLVEMENT

- ▣ ASF supported the first International Women of the Mountains Conference in Orem, UT in 2007.
- ▣ Elena Bonner served as the Honorary Chairperson.
- ▣ ASF sponsored all other WOMC as well as initiatives to advocate SMD as tool to get closer North American and Central Asian mountain communities.

# SMD Advocacy



Alexey Semyonov, ( R ) with UVU delegation at the National Endowment for Democracy, Washington, D.C. February 6, 2014

- SMD advocacy through joint efforts of the Rocky Mountain states and mountain nations of Central Asia could help to advance economic and political reforms in Central Asia, which is still an important priority in foreign policy of the USA and of the west;
- Economic development in the mountain states like Utah could serve as a good model to advance transformations in Central Asia and Kyrgyzstan.



# Partnerships



(L to R) Alexey Semyonov, Robert Livingston, former Speaker designate of the U.S. house of representatives and Baktybek Abdrisaev discuss building partnerships between USA and Central Asia and Kyrgyzstan in particular, February 02, 2013

- ❑ ASF supports Parliamentary exchanges between two regions which help for example to strengthen parliamentary model of governance in Kyrgyzstan established there in 2010
- ❑ ASF always supports UVU efforts in building partnership with educational institutions in Central Asia and in Kyrgyzstan in particular.
- ❑ ASF and UVU have established an internship support agreement.

# ASF AND SMD INVOLVEMENT

- ▣ ASF supported international conference “Mountains and Conflict,” organized by UVU jointly with Osh Technological University in Kyrgyzstan in 2012.
  - Conference studied lessons of the Osh conflict in 2010 through the angle of the tensions between poor mountain communities and rich ones living in valleys.
  - Event was part of the International Mountain Day celebration in December 11, 2012.



# Future Opportunities

- ▣ There is a great potential for cooperation between two regions in the areas of IT and good governance:
- ▣ Utah is among top three in the United States on good governance potential in Rocky Mountains region in IT and modern technologies.
- ▣ This is now an important priority for Kyrgyzstan in strengthening of Parliamentary model of governance.
- ▣ Current elections in Kyrgyzstan – an example of successful use of IT for democratic advancement