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**THREE CITIES OF KYRGYZSTAN WILL HOST FORUMS WITH PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

**Regional forums “Local Initiative Today, Tomorrow” will take place on November 27 in Bishkek, November 30 in Naryn, and December 07 in Osh. Representatives of local self-governments (LSGs) and civil society organizations (CSO) from aiyl aimaks and small towns of Chui, Naryn and Osh oblasts will take part in the forums.** Events are organized by the “Voice of Citizens and Accountability of LSG: Budget Process” Project financed by the Government of Switzerland through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and implemented by the Development Policy Institute.

 During these regional events, participants will share their practices of their oblast and views about cooperation between LSG bodies and local communities; discuss ways to improve this cooperation and encourage LSGs to be more transparent and accountable to residents on the one hand, and residents to be more responsible for local decision making process. The key moment will be sharing results of three contests held by the Project among all municipalities of Chui, Naryn and Osh oblasts in 2017, and awarding of diplomas and certificates to the winners.

*"Our Project facilitates and reveals many good practices proving that LSGs in fact can be transparent and responsive, that residents share responsibility for the decisions affecting living conditions in villages and towns. And this forum is meant to disseminate information about such practices, to encourage others to conduct public budget hearings, for example, and to participate in public meetings and suggest to LSGs ways to solving local concerns and help. According to the agenda, the winners of all three competitions (results of which were summed up on October 20, 2017), will present their cases to their colleagues*” says **Bekbolot Bekiev, Project Manager**. *“After presentations and discussions, all the participants, representing three different groups: LSGs, unofficial groups of residents and NGOs, will discuss and elaborate recommendations for each other on how to improve the cooperation among LSGs, CSOs, and residents.”*

**The prize fund of the “Local Initiative 2017” contest among the municipalities of Chui, Osh and Naryn oblasts in 2017 was 765,000 soms.** A total of 64 applications were received from three areas: Chui -36, Osh – 13, and Naryn - 15. The contests’ purpose was to identify, encourage and disseminate successful examples of local initiatives aimed at solving issues of local significance by LSGs and residents jointly. The competition was also to promote utilization of best practices and new ways to address local issues in partnership with local communities in Kyrgyzstan. Local community leaders, initiative groups, NGOs, local self-government bodies, municipal institutions and organizations were eligible to participate in the competition.

The competition commission reviewed and evaluated all 64 applications submitted, and has allocated prize-winning places as follows:

* **1st place** – “Children Are Our Future”, the applicant Bostonbaeva Telegey, head of the kindergarten “Sultanmurat”, Kyzyl-Suu AA, Kara-Suu rayon of Osh oblast with a prize of 150,000 soms.
* **2nd place** – “Construction of Dam for Internal Irrigation Water”, the applicant Karabalaev Mirbek, deputy of AK, Uchkun AA, Naryn rayon of Naryn oblast, with a prize of 100,000 soms.
* **3rd place** – “Youth Cohesion - Development and Future of Aleksandrovka Village”, the applicant Sharipov Abdulla, Alexandrovskiy AA, Moskovskiy rayon of Chui oblast with a prize of 70,000 soms.

Also, the competition commission decided to award incentive prizes of 25,000 soms for the following 15 applications:

* “Sport - Source of Health”, Kyzyl-Tuu AA, Sokuluk rayon of Chui oblast,
* “Improvement of Conditions in Education”, Ak-Chiy AA, Ak-Talaa rayon of Naryn oblast,
* “Kindergarten Zhiyde Burak”, Kok-Zhar AA, Nookat rayon of Osh oblast,
* “Healthy Youth - Healthy Nation!”, Ak-Bashat AA, Zhaiyl rayon of Chui oblast,
* “Family - Bridge Connecting with Society”, Sharksky AA, Kara-Suu rayon of Osh oblast,
* “Help of People in Addressing Local Issues”, Kara-Suu AA, Kochkor rayon of Naryn oblast,
* “Initiative to Create Kindergarten in Bolshevik Village”, Ak-Zhar AA, Uzgen rayon of Osh oblast,
* “Holding A Fair for Children's Day", Ivanov AA, Issyk-Ata rayon of Chui oblast,
* “Our Children – Our Future”, Uzun-Kyr AA, Issyk-Ata rayon of Chui oblast,
* “Everything for Children”, Kochkorbaev AA, Issyk-Ata rayon of Chui oblast,
* “Where Culture Develops, Everything Develops Around”, Ak-Muz AA, At-Bashy rayon of Naryn oblast,
* “Youth Initiative in Semiz-Bel AA”, Semiz-Bel AA, Kochkor rayon of Naryn oblast,
* “Bus Stops in Village Are Population’s Safety”, Kuntuu AA, Sokuluk rayon of Chui oblast,
* “Bridges from Asbestos Pipes”, Frunze AA, Panfilov rayon of Chui oblast,
* “Kindergarten Telegey Plus”, Yuryevka AA, Issyk-Ata rayon of Chui oblast.

Additionally, 7 applications were awarded by the commission with prizes in the amount of 10,000 soms:

* “Experience of Jamaat Abad Dala”, Gulistan AA, Nookat rayon of Osh oblast,
* “Ensuring Children’s Safety Is Our Task”, Burana AA, Chui rayon of Chui oblast,
* “Repair of Ak-Tal Kindergarten Cafeteria in Ak-Tal Village”, Ak-Tal AA, Ak-Tal rayon of Naryn oblast,
* “We Together Are the Future”, Mirmakhmudov AA, Nookat rayon of Osh oblast,
* “Green Village Is Healthy Generation”, Grozdensky AA, Alamudun rayon of Chui oblast,
* “Creating Conditions for Development of Culture”, Kochkor AA, Kochkor rayon of Naryn oblast,
* “Increasing Influence of Aiyl Kenesh in Village Development”, Baizak AA, Zhumgal rayon of Naryn oblast.

**The contest on “Real Citizen Participation in the Budgetary Process: Local budget for 2018”  
with a prize fund of 422,500 soms** was held with the aim of supporting local self-governments in their striving to comply with the Constitutional principle on the citizen participation in the budget process.

*"13 applications from representatives of local self-governments of Chui and Osh oblasts were submitted for the competition” commented* **Azamat Mamytov, specialist on municipal finance of the Project***. According to the terms of the competition, participants had to hold public hearings on formation of the local budget for 2018. Evaluation criteria were quality of information campaign, availability and quality of the disclosed budgetary information, and feedback provided by LSGs to residents in respond to their questions and suggestions raised during hearings.”*

According to the decision of the competition commission, the prize places were distributed as follows*:*

* **1st place - Yurievka aiyl okmotu,** Issyk-Ata rayon of Chui oblast with a prize of 100,000 soms.
* **2nd place - Pervomai aiyl okmotu,** Moskovskiy rayon of Chui oblast with a prize of 80,000 soms.
* **3rd place - Ak-Bashat aiyl okmotu,** Panfilov rayon of Chui oblast with a prize award of 70,000 soms.

Also, the competition commission decided to award **incentive prizes of 30,000 soms** to the following aiyl okmotu:

* **Kyzyl-Tuu AO,** Sokuluk rayon of Chui oblast,
* **Burana AO,** Chui rayon of Chui oblast**,**
* **Tash-Moinok AO,** Alamudun rayon of Chui oblast.

In addition, **incentive prizes of 15,000 soms** were awarded to the following 4 aiyl okmotu:

* **Kochkorbaev AO,** Issyk-Ata rayon of Chui oblast,
* **Kyzyl-Suu AO,** Kara-Suu Rayon of Osh Oblast,
* **Boroldoy AO**, Kemin rayon of Chui oblast,
* **Ylai-Talinskiy AO,**  Kara-Kulzha rayon of Osh oblast**,**

3 applications were noted by the commission and were awarded with **prizes of 7,500 soms** each:

* **Sharkskiy AO,** Kara-Suu rayon of Osh oblast,
* **Zhany-Zher AO,** Sokuluk rayon of Chui oblast,
* **Bulelinsky AO,** Alay rayon of Osh oblast.

**The contest on “Role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Engaging Citizens in Budget Process” with the prize fund of 210,000 soms in 2017.** This contest was held among the civil society organizations registered as CSOs and operating in the municipalities of Chui, Osh and Naryn oblasts. According to the terms of the competition, each organization was to present its experience and achievements in promoting budget transparency, engagement of citizens in the budgetary process on the local level; enhancing the role of civil society and increasing trust between representatives of local authorities and the population. After consideration of 21 applications received, the competition committee shared the results according to which the following winners were determined:

* **1st place – “Lobbying Citizen Interests in The Framework of 8x13 Projects, Research on Assessing Quality of Urban Environment and Social Capital of Local Community in Osh city”, Creating Platform on the City Hall Website and Oshcity mobile application”,** CSO Youth of Osh with a prize of 80,000 soms;
* **2nd place – “Strengthening Leadership and Participation of Rural Activists, Women, Youth in Decision-Making at Local and National Levels”,** ALE Alliance for Transparent Budget" with a prize of 50,000 soms;
* **3rd place – “JM&E Group in Action”, CSO “Shinshchu” with a prize of 30,000 soms.**

The Commission additionally noted and awarded incentive prizes of 10,000 soms to the following 5 applications:

* **“Approval of Strategic Development Plan for Janyzher Aiyl Aimak for 2017-2020”,** CSO “Center for Slavic Culture"
* **“Increasing Trust in Higher Education through Transparency of Higher Education Institutions in Kyrgyzstan”,** CSO “Institute for Youth Development”
* **“Public Budget Hearings Held in Osh City on February 5, 2017, following the results of the hearings, conducting monitoring with the media – time tracking of car parking in Osh city, in order to trace the actual income to the Osh city budget**, Osh branch of NGO" Interbilim MC”
* **“Rights of Citizens with Disabilities to Participate in Budget Process”** Naryn Public Association of Parents to protect the rights of children with special needs,
* **“Achieving Openness and Transparency through Participation of Mady AA Citizens in Budget Process”,** NGO activists "Ak Niet - 2005".

*“The total prize fund of 3 competitions held within the framework of our Project in 2017 amounted to 1 million 397 thousand 500 soms,”* **commented the project manager Bekbolot Bekiev***. According to the winners’ applications, these funds will be spent on purchase of equipment for the purpose of improving the interaction of the local community with local self-government bodies, including for holding public events. Holders of incentive prizes also acquire various inventories and equipment necessary for holding public events on the ground. In addition, toys, books, tables and chairs for kindergartens will go to the winners to improve working conditions of LSGs, NGOs, Institutions and organizations which after all will input into improvement of public service in respond to citizens’ needs. Of course, we will continue to provide all possible assistance and support to rural municipalities in order to encourage their efforts to ensure transparency and openness of local budgets within the framework of our Project. After all, the main goal of the Project is more transparent and effective management of local finances by self-local governments through increased accountability to local communities and more active involvement of citizens in making decisions at the local level. And the Project welcomes cases describing engagement of women in the budgetary process. This is the case of one of the winners of the competition for NGOs. This particular case will be disseminated during all three forums.”*

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