

Aarhus Centre in Osh, Kyrgyz Republic

**Strengthening stakeholder participation
for uranium legacy remediation in
Kyrgyzstan**

**Kanybek Isabaev
Director of the Centre**



Uranium Legacy Remediation in Kyrgyzstan

A significant amount of mining waste was formed in mining areas of the territory of Kyrgyzstan since and collapse of the Soviet Union. The total volume of waste dumps, including coal wastes, amounted to over 700 million m^3 at the beginning of 2010, the area occupied by them reached 1,500 hectares. There are 55 tailings with a total area of 770 ha on the territory of Kyrgyzstan, where over 132 million m^3 are stored. Tailings of radioactive waste are 50.6 million m^3 .

One of the most adverse environmental effects of existing tailings is the pollution of groundwater, atmospheric air (dust, aerosols, vapors), biosphere and negative impact on health of the people. Below are the localities with the most uranium tailings sites:

- Mailuusuu, Minkush, Kadjisai, Aktuz, Orlovka, Kyzyljar, Toomoyun, Shekaftar.



Partnership in solving uranium waste problems in Kyrgyzstan

The following international organizations participate in solving uranium problems in Central Asia:

- UNEP
- UNDP
- OSCE
- European Union
- World Bank



Conducted activities



5 September, 2014:

- With the support of OSCE Centre in Bishkek, the regional meeting of Aarhus Centers of Osh and Khujand in Sugd province, Tajikistan took place.

19 November, 2015:

- Consultative meeting in Bishkek to discuss the preliminary results of field studies of the company WISUTEC in Minkush and Shekaftar (EU-funded project “Comprehensive environmental impact assessment and feasibility study on the control and remediation of former uranium mines Min-Kush and Shekaftar in the Kyrgyz Republic”).

January-February, 2016:

- With the support of UNDP Kyrgyzstan, the Aarhus Center participated in social studies of local communities needs in settlements Mailuusuu, Minkush, Kadjisai, Aktuz, with Public Association «AMIR».

17-18 March, 2016:

- Regional meeting on discussing preliminary results of field studies and training on radiation security with participation of Aarhus Centres, international and local experts from Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan and representatives of ecological public foundation of Republic of Uzbekistan.

Conducted activities

May-September 2016:

- Signing memorandum of cooperation with Mayor's office in Mailuu-Suu, local administrations in Minkush and Sumsar.
- Purchase and installation of office equipment and arrangement of Public Ecological Information Centers.

20-23, October, 2016:

- Within the OSCE project “Stakeholder Engagement for Uranium Tailings Remediation in Central Asia” 5 trainings have been held on radiation security in Mailuu-Suu for schoolchildren, students and people. Trainers and scientists were from American University of Central Asia. More than 380 people participated in the trainings.
- Water and soil sampling by ecological laboratory of American University of Central Asia
- Measurement of radiation background in settlement and tailings with participation of local population.



1-3 November, 2016:

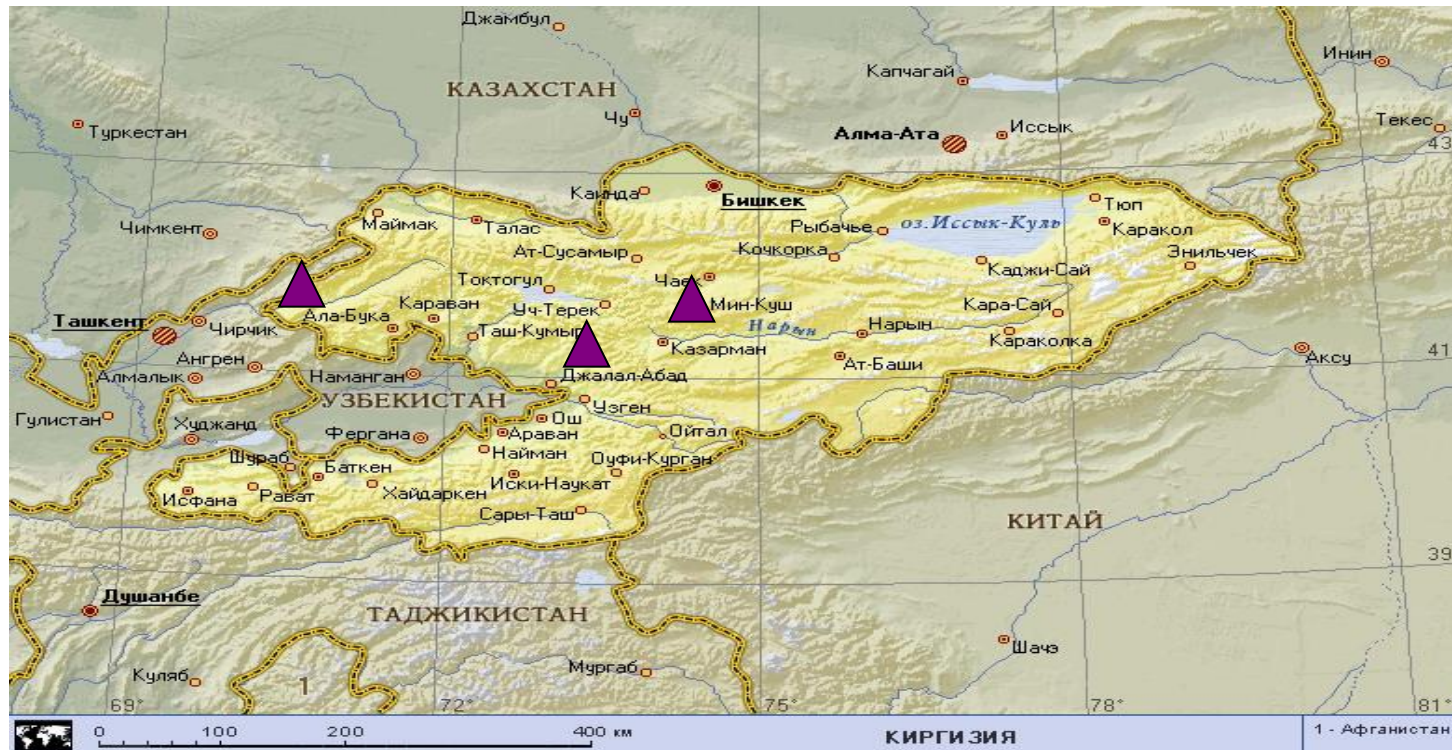
- Public hearings on the topic “Conduction of complex environmental impact assessment and feasibility study, recultivation of former uranium mines in Minkush and Shekaftar of Kyrgyz Republic” together with the Emergency Ministry of Kyrgyzstan. About 150 people attended the meeting.



Opening of Information Centres

In May-September within the project “Stakeholder Engagement for Uranium Tailings Remediation in Central Asia” 3 Public Environmental Information Centers 3 centers have been opened and equipped with office equipment and furniture in the following localities:

- Mailuu-Suu town of Jalalabat oblast
- Minkush village of Naryn oblast
- Shekaftar village of Chatkal region of Jalalabat oblast



Opening of Information Centres



Plans for the future

- 5 trainings on radiation security in Minkush and Shekaftar localities within the OSCE project “Stakeholder Engagement for Uranium Tailings Remediation in Central Asia”;
- Video film preparation on radiation security;
- Preparation of 10 radio programs with participation of experts and government bodies;
- Installation of 3 information boards;
- Conduction of 3 public hearings.
- Dissemination of information materials to stakeholders



Contact details:

e-mail: [aarhus.osh.kg@rambler.ru](mailto: aarhus.osh.kg@rambler.ru)

Web-site: www.aarhus.kg

Tel.: +996 3222 24112