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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Supports Business and Education Partnership through Internship Program

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan – On November 25, 2011 the United States Government, through the Agency for International Development (USAID) conducted a roundtable on “Partnership of Business and Education through an Internship Program” at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Bishkek. The roundtable was a part of the USAID Education Loan Program aimed at analyzing the factors affecting availability of internship opportunities and to introduce the concept of internship programs in the private sector in Kyrgyzstan.

The roundtable brought together leaders of educational institutions, career centers, and HR managers from leading business ventures in Kyrgyzstan, who were sharing their perspectives on the skills and expertise needed in the current labor market. Discussion topics also included the experience of local businesses with the implementation of internship programs at their institutions. The roundtable participants reviewed expert opinions on the use of internships to increase youth employment in Kyrgyzstan.

As a result of the roundtable, participants have signed a memorandum of understanding to launch a joint internship program. The collaboration of the business community with educational institutions and career centers was designed to provide professional continuity for the private sector, to improve the employment potential of Kyrgyz youth and to reduce unemployment rate in Kyrgyzstan.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is proud to celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2011. USAID was established in 1961 at the initiative of President John F. Kennedy and is funded by the American nation. Since 1992, USAID supports local efforts to promote economic growth, improve governance and quality services in health and education sectors in the Kyrgyz Republic.