



Dear Colleagues,

For your information, we are sending you an information letter about the first international scientific practical conference on preservation and development issues of Yagnob valley: “Ancient Sogdiana: Past, Present and Future” that will be held on **18 - 19 October 2007** in Dushanbe. (Venue for conduction of conference will be informed, separately in due course).

Under the direct support of Department for International Development (DFID), the conference is initiated and organized by District Development Committee of Ayni District, UNDP Ayni, UNDP CP, patronage of Embassy of Russian Federation in RT and Tajik Socio-Ecological Union (TSEU).

For participation at the conference are invited government figures, leading scientists of Republic of Tajikistan and Russian Federation, Central Asia, Sweden and Germany.

Thus, we kindly ask you to disseminate the information to concerned parties, namely scientific and public agencies, partnership organizations or those who are dealing with sustainable development of mountainous regions and modernization of public facilities.

Upon request, we are ready to send personal invitations to mentioned organizations or individuals on behalf of Ayni District Development Committee, Tajik socio-ecological council or UNDP CP.

Contact person: - Responsible Secretary for organization and conduction of the conference – Mezentseva Alla Ivanovna, phone: **(992) 918-439432**, e-mail: **tajikseu@yahoo.com**

More information concerning conference will be placed nearer the day on official web-site: www.yagnob.org

- Annex: 1. Information letter in two pages
2. Registration form in one page.

INFORMATION LETTER

About the conduction of a practical conference on the preservation and development issues of Yagnob valley: “Ancient Sogdiana: Past, Present and Future” which will be held on 18 – 19 October 2007 in Dushanbe (venue to be informed in due course). Under the direct support of the Department for International Development (DFID), the conference is initiated and organized by the District Development Council of Ayni District, UNDP Ayni, UNDP CP, patronage of Embassy of Russian Federation in RT and TSEU.

This conference will serve as the first impulse for promotion of the socio-economic development of Yagnob valley as unique nationality of Yagnob people (fewer than 5000 people) and bearers of the ancient language of Sogdiana. The valley suffering evacuation at the end of 70-years of the last century has stopped developing, thereby the attraction of government and donors will serve as an initiative to accelerate overcoming backwardness, and the improvement of social-economic situation by the return of the mountain people and their families in the last 15-20 years.

Yet in 1991, the Ministry of Nature Protection of Tajikistan and Tajik Socio-Ecological Union intended to establish Yagnob nature-ethnographical park in addition to the newly established National Park of Pamir and historical-natural parks. Unfortunately, fratricidal conflict of 1992-1997 congealed and cancelled all projects on preservation of this unique edge and creation of normal conditions for returning mountain people.

The main aims of the conference are a) to discuss the results of a previous study of Yagnob field expedition of experts and Jamoat Development in August 2007, b) to identify directions of further research, c) to offer practical assistance on infrastructure, medical aids and education, as well as the possibility to establish a nature-ethnographical park in Yagnob.

A few sessions and round tables will be conducted within the framework of the conference, which are:

- 1) **history-linguistic session** (Yagnob people: Language and History, moderator – Dr. Mirzozoda S.M., Candidate of philological science, Head of department of Yagnob language of Academy of Science of RT);
- 2) **geo-ecological session** (natural and anthropogenic factors of sustainable development of Yagnob valley, moderators- Mr. Muhabattov Kh. M., Doctor of geographical science, head of department on Regional Economy, Institute of economical research of the Ministry of Economic Development of RT and Mr. Muratov R.Sh., Candidate of Biological science, director of Institute for Forestry Management within the Ministry of agriculture and nature protection of RT.
- 3) **strategy mechanisms of preservation of ethno-cultural and natural heritage of Yagnob** (poverty elimination, community based tourism, etc., administrative and legal, scientific, economical, international issues, including the establishment of natural-ethnographical park of Yagnob, moderators- Mr. Buzurukov A. D., Vice-president of Tajik Socio-Ecological Council, Regional Manager of UNDP Gharm and Mr. Kosirov K.K., Director-General of Tajik National Park and Environmental Territories.

During the conference, the following representatives will be participating:

- Legislative and executive bodies of RT, RF and other countries;
- Various embassies and international organizations;

- Academic science of RT and foreign countries;
- National and international businesses interested in entering into international tourist sector;
- Tajik, foreign expert and financial organizations.

A set of information materials and photo-exhibition will be provided to participants.

Registration of participants of the conference

For participation at the conference, it is necessary to fill in registration form (attached) and send by e-mail: tajikseu@yahoo.com till **21 September** 2007 года.

Fees

Based on the decision of the Organising Committee, transport expenditures and accommodation will be paid to some foreign participants including to those who will make a speech. Due to a limited budget, these issues will be considered after completion of registration.

Accommodation

Accommodation will be made independently or provided assistance for accommodation in private sector or hotels of Dushanbe. Arrival of participants is planned on 17 October 2007. After lunch, on 19 October 2007, an excursion and reception of participants will be organized in Varzob ravine. Those who wish to make a field excursion to Nurek storage pool or Yagnob on 20-21 October 2007, are kindly requested to indicate it in registration form.

Contact person: - Ms. Mezentseva Alla Ivanovna, responsible secretary on organization issues for conduction of conference, phone: **(992) 918-439432**, e-mail: tajikseu@yahoo.com; **Ms. Adola Ismoilova from UNDP**, e-mail: ai2002@rambler.ru, phone/fax (9992372) 4410646.

More information concerning conference will be placed on nearest day on official web-site: www.yagnob.org

Organizers of the conference would like to draw your attention to limited number of participants.

Registration form of participant for the conference “Ancient Sogdiana: Last, Present and Future”

Last, first and middle name _____

Place of employment _____

Position _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Do you propose to make a presentation at the plenary session in 18 October 2007, if yes , please send us the title and thesis of your presentation. If you propose to participate in section sessions and discussions, please indicate the number of section

Is it necessary for you to book a place in hotels of Dushanbe or would you wish to stay at private sector (USD from 15 to 25).

<i>From 17 October to 22 October 2007.</i>	
• Single room	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Double-room	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other period indicate) _____

Participation in conference without accommodation (18-19 October)

Participation in excursions

Kindly submit the completed registration form clearly marked with “Yagnob-CP UNDP” not later than 25 September 2007 via fax: (992-372) 441-0646 or e-mail: tajikseu@yahoo.com; ai2002@rambler.ru

Organizers of the conference would like to draw your attention to limited number of participants.

Contact person: - Responsible Secretary for organization and conduction of the conference – Mezentseva Alla Ivanovna, phone: (992) 918-439432, e-mail: tajikseu@yahoo.com

More information concerning conference will be placed on nearest day on official web-site:

www.yagnob.org

Signature _____

Date _____