SNAPSHOT OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN KYRGYZSTAN

QUESTIONNAIRE TO MEMBERS OF THE AFFINITY GROUP OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (AGNA)

June 2015
Who We Are
The Affinity Group of National Associations (AGNA) brings together national associations from around the world. Created in 2004, it aims at strengthening national umbrella organisations, fostering greater co-operation across national and regional boundaries to pursue mutual interests.

www.kohoky.or.jp/english/eng_index.html
THE CONDITIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN KYRGYZSTAN

WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGE FACED BY CIVIL SOCIETY IN YOUR COUNTRY IN 2014/2015?

The most important challenge faced by civil society in Kyrgyzstan for 2014 would probably be the decision to join the Eurasian Customs Union with the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, and Belarus.

WHAT WAS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ACHIEVED BY CIVIL SOCIETY IN YOUR COUNTRY IN 2014/2015?

Our civil society in 2014 conducted self-financing receptions in support of both parliamentarism and the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, which was attended by prominent public figures such as businessmen, journalists, politics, as well as citizens supporting the parliamentary system (even though we have no platform to express their positions).

In addition, a civic group was formed last year against the Customs Union, which influenced the emergence of the debate in the KR on the pros and cons of joining the Customs Union for the country.

WHAT IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITY OR CHALLENGE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN YOUR COUNTRY THAT YOU FORSEE IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

Strengthening parliamentary democracy in Kyrgyzstan is both a significant opportunity and a major challenge for the country. By strengthening, we mean improving in basic objectives and values in order to obtain a Parliament that is: a) representative; b) transparent; c) accessible; d) accountable; and e) effective. In our view, these objectives also need to be focused on three levels: the national level, the international level, and in relation to the local level.

THE SITUATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY’S RESOURCING

ARE RESOURCING CONDITIONS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY GETTING BETTER OR WORSE?

Currently neither worse nor better, but future difficulties may be expected.
IS CIVIL SOCIETY EXPLORING NEW STRATEGIES TO DIVERSIFY RESOURCING AND ARE ANY OF THESE PROVING SUCCESSFUL?

Our organization is trying to implement direct funding in addition to the traditional procurement of grants.

ARE YOU SEEING A MOVE AWAY FROM GRANT FUNDING (AS PROVIDED BY DONORS AND GOVERNMENTS) TO OTHER METHODS OF SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY?

Direct funding from some organizations. Other than that, classic grant funding by donors remain the primary source of funding for most civil society organizations.
Snapshot of civil society in Kyrgyzstan: Questionnaire to AGNA members