
THE MONTH IN REVIEW – JANUARY 2001

KYRGYZSTAN

EVERY TENTH BISHKEK RESIDENT IS AN INTERNET USER

BISHKEK. There are some 49,000 active Internet users in Kyrgyzstan's capital city, that is 10 per cent of its population. This fact has become known due to the research aimed at revealing the Internet popularity, implemented by local companies Information Support non-governmental foundation and SGI CMA. According to the foundation director, Vitaly Indin, Kyrgyzstan is a CIS leader in terms of users and guests number. Kyrgyzstan's Internet is 7 years old. According to the research results mainly people between 15 and 35 use the Internet, as a rule at their offices or educational institutions. It has been revealed that women make up 26 per cent of the users while they make up just 19 per cent in Russia. Only five per cent of entrepreneurs and businessmen use or are willing to use the Internet and computer technology capacities, the fact that Indin believes to be a paradox. Also Kyrgyzstan's southern capital city of Osh is intensively mastering the Internet. However one tenth of Kyrgyzstanis have no idea of what is the Internet. //Based on Kabar news agency, 21.1.2001

SECURITY SERVICE VS. INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

BISHKEK. January 23 a joint session of the parliamentary information policy committee and security committee was held in Bishkek. The committees have refused to consider the National Security Committee (NSC) Deputy Director Gen. Boris Poluektov' claim to interpret the law in such a way that it could allow to accuse Delo No. newspaper journalists of divulging state secrets. Kabai Karabekov, the chairman of the information policy committee told RFE/RL after the session that neither newspapers nor journalists must not be accused of divulging state secrets because they are carriers of these. The national security service has officially accused the newspaper of divulging the state secrets in the article published July 26, 2000. The article covered the court process against Felix Kulov, former vice president and parliamentary candidate.

//RFE/RL 23.1.2001

NEW INFORMATION CENTER IN NARYN

NARYN. The new information agency Naryntur opened on January 24 in the mountain town of Naryn will service tourists. The agency has been opened with the aid from Switzerland's Helvetas association. Last year about tourists from Europe visited the Naryn Province.

//RFE/RL, 24.1.2001

NEW GOVERNMENTAL BODY

BISHKEK. On January 23 President Askar Akayev signed a decree to establish a new governmental body, the State Communication Agency attached to the Government. Last December Akayev decided to abolish the National Communication Agency engaged mainly in distributing tele- and radio frequencies and to hand its functions over to the Ministry of Transports and Communication. The new presidential decree has re-established the Communication Agency.

// Based on RFE/RL reports, 24.1.2001

TAJIKISTAN

SEMINAR OF NGOS AND JOURNALISTS OF TAJIKISTAN

On January 18-20, 2001, Dushanbe hosted the republican seminar on Ways of Improving Relations between NGOs and Governmental Structures. The seminar was organized by the Tajik Center for Information and Human Rights Analysis and Mass Information Department of the Tajikistan President's Apparatus. Over 70 NGO, media and governmental bodies representatives took part in the seminar. Discussed were the formation issues and prospects of developing relations between the state structures and NGOs; legal framework and practical issues in NGO activities; the role of the mass media in providing interaction between the governmental structures and NGOs. The seminar participants have worked out recommendations to improve relations between NGOs and governmental structures. A seminar proceedings collection will be published.// Inter-press-service.

NEW NEWSPAPER IN GORNO-BADAKHSHAN AUTONOMOUS REGION

A new non-governmental newspaper named *Madina* has been established in Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAR). It was founded by the same-name NGO in the Khorog, the region's capital city. The founders' idea is to make the newspaper, together with *Chatri Simin* news and analysis courier, a source of alternative information for the Gorno-Badakhshan dwellers.// Inter-press-service.

UZBEKISTAN

VIRTUAL SPACE'S BEST

TASHKENT. Uzbekistan's Internet-Uz first international Internet festival will be held in Tashkent on March 15. The competition will comprise 17 nominations including the best information and analytical site, the best scientific site, the best patriotic site, the year's best provider, the best young programmer, the best contribution in Uzbekistan's Internet development and others. "Information technologies and the Internet are a means to accumulate knowledge and use it for increasing Uzbekistan's people welfare," said Bahrom Ismailov, the chief of the informatization department of Uzbekistan's State Committee on Science and Technology, which is one of the festival organizers. The festival's TV version will be shown by the Uzbek Broadcasting Company on March 21.

//International In-service Training Center for Journalists