UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office At a Glance

- Opened in 1994
- Covers Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (in cooperation with Uzbekistan Country Office, Tashkent)
- Works in all sectors within UNESCO’s mandate:
  - Education
  - Natural Sciences
  - Social and Human Sciences
  - Culture
  - Communication and Information
- Bi-annual budget (2010-2011)
  * USD 782,000 - Regular Programme
  * USD 792,000 - Extrabudgetary Sources
- 14 Full-time staff
- Partners include National Commissions for UNESCO, government and civil society
- Participates in UN Country Teams towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals.
About UNESCO

Building peace in the minds of men and women...

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was created in 1945, as one of the UN specialized agencies.

UNESCO at present has 193 Member States and seven Associate Member States. Its headquarters are located in Paris, France, with field offices and institutes in 65 countries.

UNESCO’s mission worldwide is to contribute to peace and human development through Education, the Sciences, Culture and Communication.

How UNESCO Works

UNESCO’s work is governed by a General Conference of member states and an Executive Board. The Secretariat, headed by the Director General, currently Ms. Irina Bokova, implements the decisions made by these two bodies.
The UNESCO Almaty Office was established in 1994 and works in four countries, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

UNESCO works in cooperation with National Commissions for UNESCO in each country as well as UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and partner networks in its fields of competence.

In all its activities, UNESCO cooperates with national governments drawing on local resources while making use of UNESCO’s global networks.
Mission
In Central Asia and worldwide, UNESCO’s mission defines five key objectives for the Organization:

- Attaining a quality Education for All;
- Mobilizing scientific knowledge and science policy for sustainable development;
- Addressing emerging social and ethical challenges;
- Promoting cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue;
- Building inclusive knowledge societies through information and communication.

Crosscutting Activities
In addition to its work in the sectors of Education, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Culture and Communication and Information, UNESCO Almaty engages in cross-cutting activities to respond to contemporary global challenges such as:

- Social Adaptation to Global Environmental Change
- Gender Equality
- Rebuilding Post-Conflict Societies
- HIV Prevention Education
- Communication for Development

Cooperation with UN Country Teams
The UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office actively participates in the work of the UN Country Teams. UNESCO contributes to national development strategies through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) documents, as well as through joint projects and activities in the cluster countries.
Education

Attaining Inclusive Quality Education for All

Attaining Education For All (EFA) goals remain a top priority of the UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office. UNESCO promotes education as a fundamental human right, working to improve education quality, facilitate policy dialogue, knowledge sharing and capacity building. The Almaty Cluster Office coordinates a range of activities to improve management, planning, monitoring and evaluation of educational systems to align national strategies with current educational reforms.

Promoting Lifelong Learning

UNESCO’s educational programmes are based on five fundamental pillars of learning to provide quality education and foster sustainable human development: learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together, learning to be, learning to transform oneself and society.

UNESCO Almaty provides technical assistance and policy advice to Ministries of Education on non-formal and adult education issues. UNESCO supports youth and adults in adapting to labour market needs, focusing on vulnerable groups. UNESCO is focusing the world’s attention to educational challenges in post-conflict Kyrgyzstan with the international conference “Learning to Live Together,” scheduled for 2012.
Education

The networks of ASP schools and Community Learning Centres (CLCs) are platforms for life skills development and learning to live together.

Educating for a New Millennium

Education is a catalyst for human development, providing skills and knowledge to improve health, livelihoods and promote sound environmental practices. As such, Education for All contributes directly to the eight global Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UNESCO Almaty advances the MDGs in Central Asia through support for results-oriented training to improve the knowledge and skills of policy makers and education professionals, preparing them for the challenges of a new millennium.

Teaching Sustainable Development

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) promotes the notion that human development should be environmentally sound while being sensitive to specific social, cultural and economic contexts. UNESCO Almaty equips policy-makers and educators with the knowledge, skills and training resources they need to effectively handle the challenges of ESD in an era of increasing globalization.

Preventing HIV through Education

UNESCO Almaty works with Ministries of Education to enhance their involvement in national responses to the HIV epidemic. UNESCO promotes effective teaching and learning approaches to combat HIV, develops training manuals in local languages, including multimedia materials.
Protecting Water Resources for All

UNESCO Almaty conducts trainings, seminars and research to promote dialogue and cooperation between decision makers, water resource managers, experts and universities in the area of integrated water resource management.

Nurturing Young Scientists

UNESCO brings together young scientists and researchers from the region to study glacier mass balance and their reaction to climate change. The course trains young specialists in glacier monitoring methods to determine glacier mass balance.

Support for Nomination of Biosphere Reserves

Kazakhstan’s Man and the Biosphere National Committee is supporting the nomination of the Korgaldzhinskiy Biosphere Reserve to the UNESCO global network of biosphere reserves - a first for Kazakhstan.

The Korgalzhino project exemplifies innovative approaches to sustainable development, highlighting the positive economic and social impact that can happen when people partner with nature.
Social and Human Sciences

Promoting Tolerance and Peace

Using social media, workshops, video and photograph, UNESCO Almaty’s campaign “For Tolerance” showcases youth and women of the region in particular, as drivers for peace and more tolerant communities.

Fostering Social Inclusion of Labour Migrants

UNESCO promotes social inclusion of migrants as a vulnerable group though activities to raise awareness on migrants’ rights, health and safety issues. UNESCO Almaty cooperates with research institutions, government agencies, universities and civil society organizations to reduce discrimination against migrants, improve the quality of information and research on migration in the region.

Networking for Ethical Scientific Dialogue

UNESCO brings together professionals from the sciences, health and other relevant disciplines to improve the ethical basis for scientific development in the sub-region. UNESCO Almaty has played an integral role in the creation of the Central Asian Bioethics Association (CABA).
 Contributing to the Dialogue and Diversity of Cultures

UNESCO Almaty implements activities to protect cultural diversity and assist cultures to flourish in the contemporary world. UNESCO does this through support to UNESCO Chairs, Clubs and Federations, capacity-building in the field of applied arts and arts education, celebration of 2010 as the Year of the Rapprochement of Cultures, as well as promotional partnerships with local and international NGOs.

Protecting and Safeguarding Tangible and Intangible Heritage

UNESCO Almaty assists Central Asian countries in the protection and revitalization of their rich and diversified cultural heritage. New properties for World Heritage nominations, such as the Silk Roads and Ancient Rock Art, have been identified.

Otrar site, Kazakhstan. Photo: Renato Sala
UNESCO Almaty also has launched a programme to strengthen the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Central Asia. The programme includes specialized training courses for government authorities, culture specialists and local community representatives.

**Strengthening Museum Collection Protection and Management**

UNESCO Almaty works to increase the capacities of museum professionals in key areas such as collections management, documentation, preventive conservation, security, exhibition design and museum legislation. Trainings are conducted at the national level in cluster countries, based on the UNESCO/ICOM Museum Training Package “Running a Museum.”

**Culture and Development**

Promoting cultural diversity while supporting traditional crafts industries is an integral part of the UNDAF joint work in Central Asia countries for 2010-2015. UNESCO’s activities set quality standards, raise international awareness, strengthen the promotion potential for handicraft products. Most important, they create jobs for vulnerable groups, especially women and youth.

**International Donor Engagement**

Many of UNESCO Almaty’s cultural preservation projects are made possible through the generous support from the governments of Japan, Korea and Norway.
Securing the Universal Right to Information

Access to public information is essential to ensuring democratic participation, accountability and good governance. UNESCO Almaty provides expert advice on development of access to information laws as well as training for information professionals. In addition, UNESCO Almaty has actively promoted the decriminalization of defamation laws in the region, to help protect those who defend the right to information.

Improving Journalism Curricula

UNESCO Model Curricula have been developed to help revitalize journalism education worldwide. The Russian version has been reviewed by leading journalism educators and experts and is available for download at:

www.modelcurricula.org

Supporting Independent Media

In cooperation with the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), UNESCO Almaty contributes to improved reporting on development issues in Central Asia. This includes creation of the first community radio station in the region (Talas, Kyrgyz Republic), which is now being expanded to other cities in the region.
UNESCO Almaty produces a wide range of publications in Russian, with some materials also available in English Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Tajik languages.

UNESCO Publications may be accessed at the following link:

website: http://www.unesco.org/almaty
Contacts

UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office
for Kazakhstan,
Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and
Uzbekistan
67 Tole Bi, 4th Floor
050000
Almaty, Kazakhstan

Telephone: +7 (727) 258 2643
Fax: +7 (727) 279 4853
Email: almaty@unesco.org

UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office Website:
www.unesco.org/almaty

UNESCO Worldwide
website: www.unesco.org

Sulaiman-Too Sacred Mountain, Osh, Kyrgyzstan. UNESCO World Heritage Site