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KAZAKHSTAN

SUCCESS STORY

Skills For The Country's Future

Internationally recognized accounting qualifications gain standing in Kazakhstan



Photo: Pragma

Azhar Karamendinova, member of the Chamber of Auditors of the Republic of Kazakhstan, took USAID-funded training to become certified.

USAID-supported international accounting certification program helps Kazakhstan introduce international financial reporting standards.

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When Kazakhstan adopted international financial reporting standards, the country faced a personnel problem. The quality of services offered by audit companies was not always up to par because the country had few professionals familiar with the international financial reporting standards.

To improve the qualifications of local auditors, USAID developed a Russian-language training program for the professional certification of accountants. The program teaches a range of accounting and auditing skills and offers two levels of certification – Certified Accounting Professional and Certified International Professional Accountant – based on the international standards of financial reporting. Over the years, the program has taught and certified more than 5,000 Kazakh professionals in the two qualifications.

Azhar Karamendinova, the Chief Accountant of the Affiliate Office of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Kazakhstan and a member of the country's Chamber of Auditors, is one of the many who have benefited from the program. A graduate from the Kazakh State Academy of Management with a degree in Accounting and Operating Analysis, Karamendinova already had auditor's qualifications but wanted to continue advancing her skills. Karamendinova enrolled in the USAID program and eventually received both certifications. The program was taught by USAID-trained specialists who had passed the exams themselves and knew the best way to convey their knowledge to students.

"Excellent text books, training materials, and a large number of practical examples, which undoubtedly will be useful in real life, make this program very valuable," said Karamendinova.

Even though she struggled to find time in her busy schedule to prepare for exams, Karamendinova believes that CIPA qualification is extremely valuable, since it provides not only knowledge and rapid career growth but also provides the country with highly-qualified specialists.

"In a time of tight competition on the employment market, I believe that the training on these programs and passing of the qualification examination are great assets," Karamendinova said.