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EWB NEWSLETTER

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EWB NATIONAL CONFERENCE & EL EXPO 2023

October 27-28, 2023, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
More pictures at <https://ewbn.org/ewb-conference/>

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EWB National Conference & English Language Expo 2023

The third **EWB National Conference and EL Expo** was a two-day intensive, dynamic, engaging, and remarkable event that showcased the achievements, challenges, trends, and opportunities in EL teaching both domestically and globally. The conference, held in Dushanbe on October 27-28, 2023, attracted over 100 participants from different regions of the country, as well as speakers and guests from neighboring and distant countries.

The conference's theme was "**Transformative Pedagogies and Skills**" which covered interesting topics such as AI and Technology in Education, Trends and Leadership in EL teaching, as well as Emotional Intelligence. The conference aimed to inspire and empower EL teachers to embrace change, innovation, and leadership in their profession and foster collaboration and exchange among teachers and scholars in the country and beyond.

Carrie Lee, Chargé d'Affaires (CDA) from the U.S. Embassy, Farrukh Khudoidodzoda, from the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan, Kevin McCaughey, Regional English Program Officer in Central Asia, and Nasiba Mirpochoeva, EWB Director, welcomed the conference participants at the Opening Ceremony.

The conference featured a rich and diverse program that included a **panel discussion**, four **workshops**, a **master class**, nine **presentations**, and three **online presentations**. The panelists featured Marwa Mansour from Egypt, CEO of Oxford International School in Tajikistan, Anisa Hojjeva, from American Councils, Kevin McCaughey, RELO, Yayra Abduraimova, from Uzbek World Languages University, and Nasiba Mirpochoeva, EWB Director, who discussed Transformative Pedagogies and Skills and their impact as well as how their organizations can collaborate in this field in the future. The speakers of the workshops, a master class, and presentations shared their insights and expertise on topics such as AI and technology in education, trends and leadership in ELT, emotional intelligence, and others. The participants also had the opportunity to present their work and experiences at the poster sessions, where 32 presenters displayed their best teaching practices and U.S. exchange program outcomes.



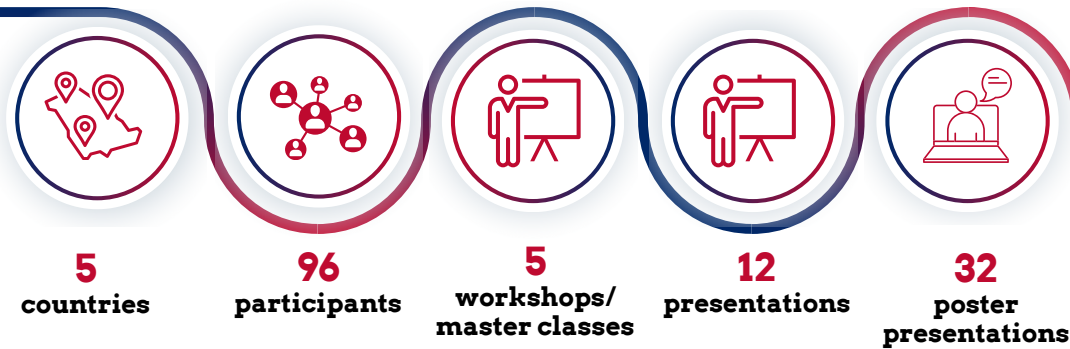
One of the highlights at the beginning and end of the conference was the **award ceremonies**, where EWB Honorary Members, the most active participants of the Thursday webinars, the Innovative English Teacher of the Year, and Inspirational Teachers were honored and celebrated for their contributions and achievements.

The conference also provided a platform for building **connections and collaborations** between teachers in the country and beyond, as well as with other stakeholders and partners in the field of EL teaching and learning.

The participants also learned about new trends and technologies during the **EL Expo** which featured 8 innovative organizations in the field of ELT.

The EWB National Conference and Expo was a successful and memorable event that demonstrated the potential and progress of EL teachers in Tajikistan. The conference inspired and motivated the participants to be more active, innovative, and transformative in their teaching practice, and to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in teaching EL.

For more information about the EWB National conferences, photos and presentations, visit ewb.tj.



EWB National Conference & English Language Expo 2023: **Feedback from Participants**



Abeer Okaz, Director of Studies (DoS) and Educational Consultant at Pharos University in Alexandria (PUA), Egypt: "I did not hesitate to participate in the EWB National Conference because I know from previous experience how motivated the EWB teacher community is. My role as a presenter was to share my ideas and reflections on how English teachers can develop professionally without having to spend a lot of money and without having to take courses that might not match their needs and interests. Even though I presented my work online, I realized how well-organized the event was. Teachers were all keen on following what I was presenting via a large screen. Teachers participated effectively in one of the presentation's tasks (professional development as easy as ABC). They asked some valid questions at the end. Thanks to the EWB team for such an opportunity."



Bakhtovar Mansurov, Director of Language Center Arkon in Konibodom, Tajikistan: "I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the entire English Without Borders team for organizing such an exceptional and memorable event. The two-day conference provided an invaluable platform for us to share our experiences, exchange knowledge, and cultivate a vibrant community of educators committed to advancing the quality of English language instruction in Tajikistan. Thank you once again to the English Without Borders team for their unwavering commitment to professional development and their vision for a brighter future for English language education in Tajikistan."



Dastagul Makhmadaliev, English Instructor, Khatlon region, Tajikistan: "I am incredibly grateful to have been a part of the English Without Borders Conference. It was an impressive learning experience that has filled me with fresh ideas, plans, and more specific goals for my future. The teaching communities I spent my two days with will not only help young English teachers like me but also the society I work with. I am currently brimming with emotions and energy, and I want to express my sincere gratitude to the English Without Borders team for supporting me in my professional development."



Anna Lurie, English Language Fellow, USA: "I had the honor of being a workshop presenter at the 2023 EWB National Conference. The conference was an amazing experience to connect with educators from around Tajikistan and beyond. We all greatly benefited from the chance to learn from each other, network, and share our love of teaching English. I encourage all English educators to make a plan to attend next year's conference - it's an amazing opportunity to get excited about teaching through high-quality professional development."



Dilfuza Latipova, EL Instructor, Sughd, Tajikistan: "I am grateful for the opportunity to have learned from and networked with such talented and experienced EL professionals. I am excited to see how the new knowledge and skills I have gained will help me better serve my students and colleagues. I am confident that the English Without Borders network will continue to play a vital role in promoting excellence in EL teaching and learning in Tajikistan and beyond."

EWB National Conference & English Language Expo 2023: Feedback from Participants



Gulnoz Mamadzairova, GBAO, English Instructor, Tajikistan: "I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the U.S. Embassy and the English Without Borders Network for participating and contributing to the conference during these days. I appreciate the time and effort each of you put into the conference and the valuable insights you shared with us. I am sure you are all making significant progress towards the goal of EWB, and I was happy to be among you as well. I am sure and confident that we can succeed even more with the support of each other. I admired being among such dedicated teachers from all parts of Tajikistan and enjoyed all of your activities as well. Also, my special thanks to the Regional Representative of EWB in the GBAO, Mavluda Zulfova, who always inspires us, helps, and conducts sessions for us."

Thank you very much for your help and support."



Yana Kuchkarova, English Instructor, Kimyo International University of Tashkent (KIUT), Uzbekistan: *"It was such a pleasure to participate in the conference, where hardworking, enthusiastic, and like-minded people, striving to improve the young generation of learners, were gathered. As a presenter, I shared my experience on how teachers can utilize free G-suite tools to prepare their students for life in the XXI century, encouraging them to learn English and develop their digital skills. During the session, participants eagerly practiced G-suite tools and experienced being both a student and a teacher while using Google Classroom, Forms, Earth, and Jamboard. I enjoyed working with teachers whose eyes were sparkling with enthusiasm as they tried something new and applicable to them. Thank you to the organizers, EWB team, as well as all the volunteer teachers without whom this event would not have been possible."*

A Journey of **Learning and Connection** at the EWB National Conference and Expo

The English Without Borders National Conference and English Language Expo, held on October 27-28, 2023, was a truly remarkable event organized by EWB. Attendees included English teachers, instructors, and leaders from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and the USA as well as online presenters from Egypt and Vietnam. I am incredibly grateful to EWB for inviting me to this exceptional conference, where I had the opportunity to reconnect with English Teaching Mentoring Program (ETM) friends and establish new connections with fellow educators.

Over the course of the two-day conference, I actively participated in nine sessions, all of which were incredible and provided me with valuable insights and information. Each session was led by experienced teachers and trainers who shared innovative ideas, leaving me feeling inspired and energized after each session.

The conference kicked off with an engaging session by Kevin McCaughey from the United States, who introduced the concept of "On-the-spot activity AI." I was particularly enthralled by his lessons, as they captivated the audience's attention. Kevin also introduced us to a new website called "CHAT GPT," which serves as a teacher's assistant, facilitating lesson creation and making our work more convenient. I gained invaluable knowledge from him on how to create dynamic and engaging lessons.

Marwa Mansour's presentation on "The Importance of Emotional Intelligence in a Teacher's Professional Development" was the second session of the conference. She highlighted the emotional situations we often encounter as teachers, emphasizing the need for continuous personal growth and development.

In the third session, Mamura Alimova from Uzbekistan demonstrated the use of the "Padlet" web program for creating and managing portfolios. Having utilized this tool for over two years, Mamura explained how it enhances language learning and equips students with 21st-century skills. She emphasized that students, regardless of their engagement levels, enjoy utilizing mobile devices during the learning process.

The final session of the opening day, delivered online by Abeer Okaz from Egypt, delved into the topic of "Roadmap to Your Professional Development." Abeer shared valuable insights and strategies for educators to advance their professional growth.

During the post presentations, teachers and trainers from across Tajikistan exhibited digital posters showcasing teaching methodologies and activities that fostered students' knowledge acquisition. The professionalism and expertise demonstrated by all presenters were truly commendable. Some notable activities included drawing pictures after the teacher read a text or story and retelling the story using those images. Another engaging activity involved creating a book using pictures provided by the teacher.



The second day commenced with a stimulating session on the use of "Kahoot," an online educational platform. This session not only captivated the conference audience but also emphasized its benefits for teachers.

The first session of the day focused on "motivating students through empowering learning objectives," led by trainers Sharon Lyman and Abdukholik Saburov. They shared insights on utilizing the SMART approach in our classes.

Sarvinoz Komilova, who became the 'Innovative Teacher of the Year 2023,' conducted an inspiring session. She discussed the importance of setting goals and overcoming obstacles for success. Her journey, from a village to a respected English educator, demonstrated her strength of determination.

Mehrangez Abdulloeva,
English Instructor, Tajik National University, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

The third session explored the application of social-emotional learning competencies to English as a Foreign Language (EFL) classes. This presentation introduced me to new concepts that I had not previously considered, sparking a desire to further explore this vital aspect of teaching.

The fourth session explored "Integrating 4C skills into the 21st-century classroom through AI and technology." The last session of the day, presented online by a trainer from Vietnam, provided practical guidance on utilizing technology in the classroom and highlighted the outcomes it can produce.

During coffee breaks and lunch, we were engaged in fruitful discussions, exchanged ideas, and networked with colleagues who attended different sessions which resulted in my participation in 18 sessions rather than the intended nine. Nonetheless, the sessions I attended were exceptional, providing valuable insights into innovative teaching methodologies and activities. As the world changes quickly, English teachers need to adjust and welcome new technologies. Since students naturally enjoy using technology, it becomes a valuable tool in today's classrooms.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the organizers of this conference for providing me with the opportunity to participate and enhance my knowledge. Thank you, English Without Borders Team.

EWB Innovative Teacher of the Year 2023

by Sarvinoz Komilova,
English Instructor, SPCE UCA, Bokhtar, Tajikistan

I am still reeling from the news of winning the EWB Innovative Teacher of the Year Award 2023. It is a tremendous honor and privilege to be recognized for my hard work and dedication to teaching. This award validates my passion for helping students learn and my commitment to finding new and innovative ways to do so.

I believe that every student has the potential to succeed, and I am constantly striving to create a learning environment that is both challenging and supportive. One of the ways that I promote innovation in my classroom is through the use of technology. I use online learning platforms to provide students with access to personalized learning resources, and I use social media to connect with students outside of the classroom and build relationships with them.

However, I believe that innovation in teaching extends beyond the use of technology. It also involves being mindful of students' needs, building rapport, creating a welcoming classroom environment, and fostering trust. Ultimately, it is my love for my students and my desire to make their learning experience enjoyable and meaningful that drives me to be innovative.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the EWB Network and to use my platform as an Innovative Teacher Award winner to make a difference in the lives of students. I believe that education is the key to a better future, and I am committed to doing my part to make sure that all students have access to a quality education.

I believe that innovation is essential for professional growth and development. Educators should always be seeking new and innovative ways to hone their craft. I am motivated to continue learning and developing as a teacher, and I am determined to use my expertise to support every student in achieving their goals.

I am excited to share my experiences and insights with other educators and to collaborate on developing new and innovative teaching practices. I believe that by working together, we can create a better future for all students.

Thank you again to the US Embassy in Tajikistan and the English Without Borders Network for their support of teachers and their commitment to making positive changes in education.



EWB National Conference 2023: Awards

EWB Inspirational Teachers of the Year 2023



Gulnora Dorobshoeva,
GBAO, Tajikistan



Khairiniso Gulomaidarova,
GBAO, Tajikistan



Salmonsho Orzuev,
DRS, Tajikistan



Samira Boymatova,
Sughd, Tajikistan

The Most Active Participants of EWB Thursday Webinars



Abdulkholiq Saburov,
Khatlon, Tajikistan



Dilfuza Goibova,
Sughd, Tajikistan



Rayhona Ruslanova,
Dushanbe, Tajikistan



Sadbarg Boqieva,
GBAO, Tajikistan

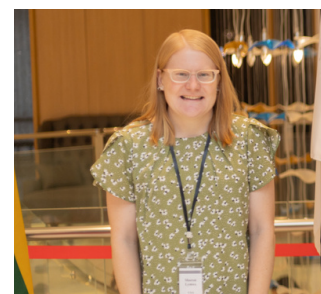
The Winners of the EWB Social Media Contest



Alla McCaughey,
USA



Zinatmo Navruzshoeva,
Tajikistan



Sharon Lyman,
USA



Dilnoza Kholmirezoeva,
Tajikistan

EWB Updates: August- November 2023

August 7th, Exchange Day 2023 Celebration

The Alumni Exchange Networking Night was a joint event by EWB, American Space Dushanbe, and the U.S. Alumni Network of Tajikistan (USANT). It gathered over 40 participants who networked, learned, and connected with U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs alumni. The event included a panel discussion, networking session, and snacks, where the participants could ask more questions and get advice from the panelists.



Regular 30+ Nights: September and October 2023

EWB and ASD continue to host regular "30+ Nights" events for mid-career professionals from Dushanbe. In September, together with Julia Kempton, a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, we talked about **How to Hone Networking Skills in American Business Culture**, and in October, together with Kiana Khoshnoud, another Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, we talked about **Living the American Dream: Insights for Mature Audiences**.



EWB TOEFL Preparation Course 2023

The EWB TOEFL Preparatory Course is a free in-person course designed to help English teachers prepare for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).



The course consists of three phases. The first phase focuses on improving your academic grammar and vocabulary, which are essential for the TOEFL. The second phase teaches you the strategies and techniques to ace the TOEFL sections: reading, listening, speaking, and writing. You will also get to practice these skills with other participants and receive feedback from experienced instructors.

The final phase of the course helps participants apply their skills to all four sections of the TOEFL. They will work with longer texts and different types of materials that mimic the real TOEFL test. They will also take some short tests to practice the strategies from the previous phase and the language skills from the first phase.



EWB Leadership Camp for English teachers

The English Without Borders Leadership Camp for English Teachers held on August 15-19, 2023 in Guliston, Sughd region, Tajikistan, was more than just a training program. It was a transformative experience that inspired participants to become better teachers, leaders, and changemakers.

The camp brought together 17 English teachers from different regions of Tajikistan who share a common passion for teaching and learning. For five days, they were immersed in a rich and diverse curriculum that covered topics such as leadership, communication, critical thinking, creativity, and innovation.

The participants learned from each other and the facilitators. They exchanged best practices, challenges, and solutions. They formed friendships and networks that will support the EWB Network in growing the ELT community, capacity, and connectivity across the country.



But the camp was not only about learning. It was also about planning. The participants worked in teams to design and develop strategic plans that would address the needs and opportunities in their communities. The projects range from creating mentorship programs for English teachers and the U.S. Embassy-sponsored exchange programs' alumni to organizing workshops for teachers.

By November 2023, the participants of the Camp already put their plans into action and made a positive impact in their schools and regions by providing training and mentorship sessions for EL teachers.



October 5: Happy World Teachers' Day



World Teachers' Day is an international day held annually on 5 October to celebrate the work of teachers and their contribution to education and society.

According to UNESCO, the world faces an unprecedented global teacher shortage exacerbated by a decline in their working conditions and status. With the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting education systems and affecting millions of learners and educators, the need for qualified, motivated, and supported teachers is more urgent than ever.

In Tajikistan, various initiatives and events were organized to mark World Teachers' Day and to show appreciation and support for the teachers who are transforming education and shaping sustainable futures. One of the most notable events was the joint celebration of World Teachers' Day by the English Without Borders Network (EWB) and the American Space Dushanbe, which took place on 5 October in Dushanbe.

The participants of the event expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the opportunity to celebrate World Teachers' Day with EWB and ASD. They also received gifts from the organizers.

In addition to the event in Dushanbe, EWB Regional representatives, in collaboration with local American Spaces and English Resource Centers, organized celebrations in other regions of Tajikistan, such as Khujand, Khorugh, and Bokhtar. These celebrations also involved speeches and cultural activities for English language teachers and learners.

"Everyone who remembers his own education remembers teachers, not methods and techniques. The teacher is the heart of the educational system." –Sidney Hook, an American philosopher

Digital Posters Contest Dedicated to World Teachers' Day



EWB organized various events to celebrate World Teachers' Day on October 5, 2023. One of the events was a **digital poster contest** where schoolchildren and students had to create a poster about their favorite English teacher using online tools.

The contest received many entries from different regions of Tajikistan showcasing the creativity and appreciation of the participants for their English teachers. The posters featured photos, quotes, and messages of gratitude for the teachers who inspired and motivated them to learn English.

The winners of the EWB Digital Poster Contest were announced on EWB's social media channels. The winners were **Abubakr Faizulloev**, **Abdukarim Tursunov**, and **Muhriddin Murodov**, all from Bokhtar, Khatlon Region.

They created posters about **Zeboniso Murodova**, **Zubaida Safarova**, and **Zafar Alisherov**, respectively.

The winners received special prizes from EWB, such as wireless earbuds, a power bank, and TOEFL Prep. Books. Their posters were also published on EWB's Facebook and Instagram pages, where they received many likes and comments from other English learners and teachers.

EWB congratulated the winners and thanked all the participants for their efforts and enthusiasm. EWB also expressed its gratitude to all the English teachers in Tajikistan for their dedication and contribution to the development of English language education in the country.

Flipped Learning: Redefining Education



*By Shohansho Rahmatulloev,
English Language Instructor, American School in Dushanbe*

In the continuously evolving landscape of education, a new method of teaching and learning called flipped learning has gained significant attention. Flipped learning turns the traditional classroom model upside down by shifting the lecture-based instruction outside the classroom allowing for more engaging and interactive in-class activities.

Flipped learning is a pedagogical approach that reverses the traditional structure of teaching. Instead of teachers delivering lectures during class time, students watch pre-recorded video lectures or study materials at home, independently. The classroom then becomes a space for collaborative learning where students engage in discussions, problem-solving, and hands-on activities. Flipped learning brings numerous advantages to both teachers and students. Firstly, it allows students to learn at their own pace, replaying videos if needed, and seeking clarification before attending class. This personalized approach promotes a deeper understanding of the subject matter. Secondly, in-class activities foster student engagement, critical thinking, and collaboration as students actively participate in discussions and apply their knowledge. Lastly, teachers can provide individualized attention offering targeted support to students who may be struggling while challenging those who are ready for advanced material. Research has shown that flipped learning leads to improved student achievement.

By using class time for deeper learning experiences, students develop higher-order thinking skills and retain knowledge more effectively. The collaborative nature of flipped learning promotes peer-to-peer learning enhancing student motivation and interaction. Additionally, flipped learning encourages students to take ownership of their learning as they are actively involved in the learning process.

Flipped learning represents a transformative shift in education offering a student-centered approach that maximizes engagement and deepens understanding. By leveraging technology and reimagining the classroom experience, flipped learning empowers students to become active learners, fostering critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity. As we embrace the future of education, flipped learning is poised to play a vital role in preparing students for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.



*Articles | Teaching English

How to Use AI in a TEFL Setting?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is having an influence on every facet of our lives, including TEFL. AI is a powerful tool that can be used to transform English language teaching. By automating tasks, providing personalized feedback, and creating engaging learning experiences, AI can help teachers free up their time, improve student outcomes, and make learning more fun.

Here are some free and easy-to-use AI tools:

- **Bard AI** can help with creating lesson plans, grammar, and vocabulary tasks and activities. All you have to do is to write a clear and concise prompt and Bard AI will generate ideas for whatever you ask for.
- **QuickDraw** engages students in a fun activity that stimulates creativity. Students draw objects within a limited time while AI guesses their drawings and boosts imagination, ideation, and fine motor skills. This tool will help teachers to diagnose the vocabulary knowledge of their students.
- **Twee AI** is just a lifesaver for busy teachers who need to create engaging tasks based on their students' needs. It has various types of tools to help you make beneficial activities for all four skills.
- **MagicSchool AI** is another "magical" AI tool that has several types of tools to assist teachers in creating interesting materials for their lessons.
- **Curipod AI** is an excellent tool that can help you engage your students with full lessons and different activities.
- **Eleven Labs Io**, an AI voice generator that can convert texts into speech, design voices, and edit audio. Teachers can use these audios to create listening tasks for their students.
- **QuillBot** checks grammar mistakes and summarizes, translates, and co-writes texts with this AI tool.



By Sarvinoz Komilova,
English Language
Instructor, SPCE
UCA, Bokhtar,
Tajikistan

- **Hi-Link** is an excellent virtual classroom where you can generate lesson plans and teach online. It has all the necessary tools, such as board, video call, screen share, etc.
- **Gamma App** tool can help you create beautiful presentations very fast.
- **AI Trends** is a place where you can find all the latest AI tools categorized and rated.

As you can see, there are many AI technologies available to assist teachers in developing the activities their students require. Keep in mind, though, that artificial intelligence (AI) cannot totally replace human intellect, thus you should use caution and double-check everything before sharing it with your pupils.





EWB Success Stories

*We are delighted to present to you the most inspiring stories from the participants of the **Online Intensive Course for English Teachers** organized this summer by EWB Network and Uzbek State World Languages University, as well as from those who have graciously shared their journey with us.*

Munavvar Zaripova: My Achievements as an English Teacher

By Munavar Zaripova, English Language Instructor, Sughd, Tajikistan

My name is Munavar Zaripova and I have been teaching English for 45 years but never tired of teaching. I chose this profession thanks to my sister who inspired me to learn English at school. While teaching English I always thought about making my lessons interesting and engaging for my students. I tried to improve my knowledge and used every chance to participate in training workshops and educational programs. However, my dream to visit the country in the language I was teaching led me to work hard on my English. This opportunity was given to me in 2006 by the TEA program. I didn't want to miss this opportunity, so I worked hard on the application and sent it."

Fortunately, I was selected as a semi-finalist in this program and passed the interview and TOEFL test. But I was not sure about the best result of my test because I never passed such kind of test before. My expectation came true and I was not selected for this program because of my low test score.

I was so upset but got a good lesson. I decided to polish my English and worked harder than before. I started to practice my English. But it was difficult to find proper materials for the TOEFL test in the book stores and I spent most of my time sitting in the library listening to native speakers, watching films to adapt my understanding, and reading original books to enrich my vocabulary. I followed the advice of those who had passed the TOEFL test to assess my knowledge.

Next year I applied again because I had a goal to learn more about the US lifestyle and educational system which differs from Tajikistan. My dream became true in 2007 when I was the finalist in the TEA program and spent two months in an Intensive Course at George University in Virginia USA.

It was a wonderful experience in my teaching career. There I had a chance to be part of university students and get acquainted with the American lifestyle, traditions, and customs, and of course I shared some beautiful Tajik traditions at the cultural festival at my host university. My presentation about one of the ancient national holidays "Navruz" with its beautiful national customs and delicious meal "Sumalak" attracted the attention of festival participants. My American friends liked Tajik bread and plov.

Today I can proudly say that, thanks to educational programs, I have changed my life as a teacher and I have become a professional in my subject. As a Teacher -Mentor and EWB Regional Representative, I am sharing my knowledge with young teachers in my country who need to understand the value of being a teacher. Besides, I traveled a lot and have many friends around the world who can always help and support me.



Munavar Zaripova, EWB Regional Representative, EL Specialist, Khujand, Sughd region, Tajikistan

From Overcoming Obstacles to Empowering Minds

By **Elena Mustaeva**, English Language Instructor, Namangan, Uzbekistan



Alisher Aliqulov, EWB Regional Representative, EL Instructor, Kubodiyon, Khatlon region, Tajikistan

Alisher Aliqulov, a passionate and dedicated young teacher, defied all odds to make a lasting impact on his students' lives. Inspired by Audrey Hepburn's words, "Nothing is impossible, the word itself says I'm possible," Alisher embarked on a remarkable journey filled with challenges and triumphs.

After graduating from University, Alisher faced his first hurdle when he realized that his secondary school students lacked proficiency in English for language competitions. Determined to ignite their potential, he tirelessly worked with them to improve their skills and prepare them for English language Olympiads. To improve his students' level of English, Alisher implemented several strategies and approaches. Firstly, he focused on creating a supportive and engaging learning environment. He encouraged active participation, fostered a sense of community among the students, and provided individualized attention to address their specific needs. Alisher also incorporated various interactive and communicative activities into his lessons. He believed in the importance of real-life language practice, so he organized role-plays, debates, and group discussions to enhance his students' speaking and listening skills. Through these activities, the students were able to apply their knowledge in practical contexts and gain confidence in using English.

Furthermore, Alisher emphasized the importance of extensive reading and writing practice. He introduced his students to a wide range of English texts, including novels, short stories, and articles. He encouraged them to read regularly and guided effective reading strategies. Additionally, he assigned writing tasks that allowed the students to express their thoughts and ideas in English, helping them improve their grammar, vocabulary, and overall writing proficiency. Alisher also utilized technology as a tool for learning. He incorporated multimedia resources, such as videos, online quizzes, and educational websites, to make the learning process more interactive and engaging. He encouraged his students to use online platforms for language practice and provided them with guidance on how to effectively utilize these resources.

Through his dedication and innovative teaching methods, he was able to significantly improve his students' English proficiency and prepare them for language competitions like the English Language Olympiads. Alisher's unwavering dedication and belief in the power of perseverance paid off as ten of his students actively participated in the regional stage of the Olympiad. Year after year, their exceptional performances showcased the incredible progress they had made under Alisher's guidance.

Another significant milestone in Alisher's career was his acceptance into the prestigious English Teaching Mentor Program (ETM) 2022. This program, sponsored by the US Embassy in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, enables participants to become Mentors and Teacher Trainers. However, there was a major obstacle in Alisher's path: his limited teaching experience. To participate in this program, he needed to have at least three years of teaching experience, which made it challenging for him to apply. Undeterred by the setback, Alisher continued teaching at his school, determined to gain invaluable knowledge and experience. He sought out professional development opportunities, attended workshops and conferences, and actively engaged in online communities for English teachers. He also sought feedback from his colleagues and supervisors, constantly striving to improve his teaching skills.

After three years of relentless dedication, Alisher decided to take a leap of faith and apply for the ETM Program. He carefully prepared his application, highlighting his achievements, strategies, and the positive impact he had on his students' English proficiency. Much to his delight, his application was accepted, opening doors to endless opportunities for his professional growth. As a participant in the ETM Program, Alisher had the chance to work closely with experienced mentors and teacher trainers. He attended intensive training sessions and workshops that focused on advanced teaching techniques, curriculum design, assessment strategies, and classroom management. He also had the opportunity to observe and collaborate with experienced teachers in real classroom settings.

Through this program, Alisher gained a deeper understanding of effective teaching methodologies and was able to further enhance his students' English language skills. He learned how to design engaging lesson plans, incorporate authentic materials into his teaching, and effectively use technology to support language learning. In addition to his professional growth, Alisher also became a mentor for other English teachers in his community. He shared his knowledge, experiences, and strategies with his colleagues, helping them improve their teaching practices and enhance their students' English proficiency.

Alisher's acceptance into the ETM Program was a turning point in his career. It provided him with the necessary training, guidance, and support to become an effective mentor and teacher trainer. With his newfound knowledge and skills, Alisher continued to make a significant impact on his students' English language development and became a respected leader in the field of English language education in his community.

Alisher's story beautifully echoes Denzel Washington's words: "It's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished. It's about what you've done with those accomplishments. It's about who you've lifted, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back." Alisher's commitment to his students, his eagerness to share knowledge with fellow teachers, and his dedication to his community truly embody this sentiment. Join Alisher in his mission to inspire and transform lives through education.



Transforming English Learning: The Power of 15 Minutes a Day

By Lazokat Dadabayeva, English Language Instructor, Namangan, Uzbekistan

In September 2022, I, Lazokat Dadabayeva, embarked on a mission as a teacher in the Foreign Language Department at Kimyo International University's Namangan branch. My task was not an easy one – my students faced the challenge of low English proficiency and lacked motivation to learn. Determined to make a difference, I introduced a 15-minute daily practice plan, focusing on specific actions to foster growth and transform their attitude toward learning.

Initially met with skepticism, the idea of short, regular practice sessions seemed strange to my students. However, I firmly believed that this approach would yield better results than lengthy, infrequent study sessions. During the dedicated 15-minute periods, they were given the freedom to complete homework, learn new vocabulary, or work on language exercises.

The impact of this deliberate practice was nothing short of remarkable. On the first day, the students managed to learn only around 5 or 6 words, signifying the immense challenges they faced in English learning. However, after just one week of consistent 15-minute sessions, their progress was evident as they successfully acquired 10 new words. With each passing day, their fear of learning diminished, and a genuine passion for studying English began to emerge. Encouraged by their blossoming enthusiasm, I gradually increased the practice time, adding 5 more minutes after two weeks to make it 20 minutes. Witnessing their dedication, I extended it to 25 minutes after two more weeks – a testament to their growth and progress.

Over the course of two months, the 15-minute daily practice had become an ingrained habit for my students. They willingly dedicated 30 minutes to their English homework every day, a feat that was deemed impossible at the beginning of our journey. Their astounding progress and unwavering dedication highlighted the transformative power of focused, consistent practice.

Reflecting on this journey, I am reminded of the wise words from Patrick Rothfuss in "The Name of the Wind": "If you are an English teacher reading my success story, I urge you to consider the power of short, daily practice in your own teaching. By gradually increasing the difficulty of the practice over time, you can help your students achieve remarkable results." As educators, we hold the key to unlocking our students' potential. Let us join forces, share our teaching practices, and support each other in providing our students with the tools they need to succeed.

Together, let's create a vibrant community where teaching methodologies are shared, and our students are empowered to reach extraordinary heights.



Lazokat Dadabayeva, English Language Instructor, Namangan, Uzbekistan

Barnokhon Negmatova's Story of Resilience and Growth

By **Barnokhon Negmatova**, English Instructor, Namangan, Uzbekistan

During her teaching career, Barno faced some challenges and conflicts in her professional development as she sought to improve her time management in lesson planning. She had been teaching at school for four years, and her school director had encouraged her to look for opportunities for professional development to qualify for a salary raise. Barno was accepted to the "ESN: STT" program as a peer mentor.

The challenges she faced were both physical and mental as she recovered from COVID-19. She had not gotten vaccinated, so she had difficulties during her studies in the Teaching Critical Content and Practices (TCCP) Course. As Albert Einstein said: "In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity." Barno tried to survive the problem by positively using the condition. While she was in bed, she tried to find ways to create a helpful atmosphere for herself and use the condition for development. She searched the internet for information about how to recover from the illness and did all she could to get healthy.

The mental challenge was caused by the "brain fog" caused by COVID-19 and learning so many new pedagogical concepts in the TESOL and TCCP classes. While Barno was ill, she couldn't get enough information about how to organize lessons and write lesson plans for the practice. As she slowly recovered from the "brain fog," she had to read the TESOL instructions over and over again to understand what the instructors wanted her to do. At the end of the course, mentees were asked to make demo lessons for coaches to observe. It was important to Barno to complete the course successfully. For this reason, she had to contact the instructor all the time to get clear instructions on how to make good lesson plans. Once she invited the instructor, Wendy, to observe how she was doing and managing the class, and to observe if she was managing time correctly. Wendy observed the first time and showed Barno some mistakes in her lesson planning and time management during the lesson. Wendy gave Barno advice on how to plan time management during the lesson and shared some effective ideas in this area.



Barnokhon Negmatova, English Instructor, Namangan, Uzbekistan

Despite these circumstances, Barno followed all instructions and completed all the assignments, but many times she was exhausted by the after-effects of COVID-19. So, she searched the internet for information about lesson planning, contacted coaches for clear instructions for practice, organized a demo lesson, and invited American coaches to observe. After a week, she got positive feedback for her lesson from the coaches.

Barno's success story is that she finished the TESOL course while recovering from COVID-19 and returned to teaching at the Ibrat creative school. Her director was very happy that she had recovered from the illness and completed the course successfully. After all, Barno feels that she has overcome many challenges during the past three years, and the pedagogical skills she learned in the TESOL course have made her a better teacher.

A Teacher Who Ignited a **Passion for Learning** in Her Students

By **Gulchehra Saidalieva**, English Language Instructor, Namangan, Uzbekistan

Once upon a time, in a large city called Dushanbe, there lived a teacher named Layli Tolibsho. She was a very devoted teacher with ten years of work experience. She used to teach online classes. On one beautiful day, she decided to continue her career in the Global School in Dushanbe. From the moment Layli stepped into her classroom, she knew that teaching was her calling. She had a burning passion for education, a deep love for her students, and an unwavering commitment to making a difference in their lives.



"Teachers have the incredible power to open doors, unlock potential, and ignite a lifelong love for learning."

This meaningful quote written by an unknown writer is the best description for Layli. Because Layli believed that every child had the potential to excel and thrive, regardless of their background or circumstances. She wanted to create a nurturing and inclusive environment where her students could flourish academically, emotionally, and socially.

With an infectious enthusiasm and boundless energy, Layli crafted her lessons to be engaging, relevant, and interactive. She seamlessly incorporated technology, real-life examples, and hands-on activities to bring the subject to life. Her goal was to ignite a love for learning within her students, and she succeeded brilliantly.

One particular student, Humayro, entered Layli's class with low self-esteem and a deep sense of insecurity. She was a shy and introverted girl who struggled academically. Layli recognized Humayro's potential and made it her mission to help her discover her strengths. She offered gentle encouragement, provided personalized support, and patiently guided Humayro through her academic journey.

With Layli's guidance and belief in her abilities, Humayro began to thrive. Her once-fearful voice transformed into a confident one, and her academic performance soared. Layli's devotion to Humayro's growth enabled her to develop a lifelong love of language learning. She learned the English language with great passion and interest. Humayro discovered her passion for learning languages and participated in language contests where she beat other students. Furthermore, she learned two more foreign languages and nowadays studies and lives in the USA.



Layli continually sought professional development opportunities to refine her teaching skills and stay updated with the latest educational techniques.

She inspired countless young minds to dream big, reach for the stars, and never give up on their aspirations.

A Journey of Dedication and Growth

By Lazokat Dadabayeva, English Language Instructor, Namangan, Uzbekistan

Farida Sadonshoeva, a passionate and determined teacher, embarked on a remarkable journey in the field of education. Born and raised in the beautiful city of Khorog, she grew up under the loving care of her grandparents. After completing her secondary education, Farida pursued her love for the English language by enrolling in university with hopes of becoming an interpreter in the future.

However, fate had different plans for Farida. Upon graduating from university, she found herself stepping into the classrooms of a secondary school. The lack of teaching experience made her anxious, and she couldn't help but feel overwhelmed as she gazed into the expectant eyes of her students. "Oh my God, where am I?" she muttered under her breath.

Despite facing immense difficulties, Farida had an unwavering spirit that refused to succumb to self-doubt. Instead, she embraced the challenges and saw them as opportunities for growth. Her determination led her to discover the IPD organization, which offered seminars and courses for teachers. Eager to enhance her teaching skills, Farida eagerly enrolled in one of their programs opening the doors to her teaching career.

Through the IPD seminars, Farida immersed herself in a myriad of teaching methods exploring ways to motivate her students and develop effective instructional strategies. She learned about differentiated instruction, cooperative learning, and project-based learning, and she began to implement these methods in her classroom. The knowledge she gained from these sessions was invaluable shedding light on the previously uncharted territories of teaching. Emboldened by her newfound insights, Farida made considerable progress. However, always eager to expand her horizons further, she ventured into the ETM program.

The ETM program was a turning point in Farida's career. It instilled within her the belief that learning is a lifelong process proving that it is never too late to acquire new skills. The program revealed to her the impact of continuous professional development and pushed her to reach new heights in her teaching practice.



Farida Sadonshoeva,
English
Instructor,
GBAO,
Tajikistan

As Farida returned to her classroom armed with a wealth of knowledge and motivation, she found that teaching became significantly easier. The methods of teaching and strategies she had acquired through IPD and ETM created a solid foundation for effective instruction. She was now able to create engaging lesson plans that met the needs of all of her students, and she was able to manage her classroom more effectively. The experiences shared by her fellow teachers during the sessions also played a significant role, as the diverse range of teaching techniques inspired her to overcome her challenges.

Today, Farida confidently and passionately guides her students through the intricacies of tests, reading exercises, and speaking activities. What was once daunting has now become an opportunity for growth and exploration. Her dedication to her craft has not only transformed her teaching but also empowered her students to thrive in their educational journey.

Farida's message to fellow educators is one of inspiration and perseverance. She urges them to never give up, to embrace difficulties as stepping stones to success, and to find their path amidst the challenges they face. With steadfast determination and a firm belief in oneself, every teacher has the power to become the architect of their accomplishments.

As Farida reflects on her teaching achievements, she is filled with pride for choosing a profession that allows her to make a meaningful impact on the lives of her students. She understands that the journey is ongoing and vows to continue pushing herself to new heights. She firmly believes that by nurturing a spirit of self-belief, both teachers and students can unlock their true potential.

Farida's story serves as a testament to the transformative power of embracing opportunities for growth and stepping beyond one's comfort zone. Her unwavering dedication and commitment to continuous learning represent the embodiment of a true educator.

From Dream to Reality

By Munavar Zaripova, English Language Instructor, Sughd, Tajikistan

Teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the character of a person in the future, and being a good teacher is the hardest job.

Firstly, society would be educated. With the help of teachers, children would be hard workers that understand the value of education and do not waste their time. Young teachers are great advisors, and some of the students' teachers can even be their ideal. They are like a light for children and a great example for the community.

Khursheda Berdieva is an English teacher who graduated from the Faculty of Foreign Languages of Khujand State University. She always admired how her English teacher conducted the lessons with love and respect toward her students, which awoke her love for this language. Her dream to be an English teacher brought her to the Faculty of Foreign Languages.

After finishing it, she started her pedagogical activity at her home university, teaching students English. Being young and full of hope and dreams, Khursheda always remembers her teacher's words, "A teacher is like a candle—it consumes itself to light the way of others!"

Khursheda was sure that her knowledge at university was quite enough to be a good teacher, but in reality she felt that her students' vocabulary and listening skills needed improvement, and they didn't have the desire to study. As she said, "Sometimes, I was in a difficult situation when my students misunderstood simple words while listening."



Khursheda Berdieva, English Instructor, Sughd region, Tajikistan

She realized that she had to find a better way to motivate students to be interested in learning English. She started nontraditional lessons by inviting her students to visit museums and public places, listening to native speakers on TikTok, and watching films. Most of all, she talked with experienced colleagues at the university and got some useful pieces of advice.

Soon she made great progress in teaching and her students became interested in her lessons, became active, and worked hard on improving their English. To motivate her students, Khursheda created a speaking club where the students could discuss different problems facing the young generation. This club helped her students be confident in speaking as a favorable environment was created by the teacher.

Recently, Khursheda has been teaching English at Lyceum 1, where gifted students study, and her 10 years of experience at the university are supporting her to be the best teacher. She has become an example teacher and mentor to her students and colleagues. But she never stops learning because she knows that being a professional demands great effort, love for her subject, patience, and creativity.

Khursheda is thankful for the EWB Project, which allowed her to participate in an online course conducted by Lisa Mann. She learned a lot of teaching activities from this course and was awarded a certificate of completion.

The Inspiring Journey of Gulchehra Ochilova

By Zinatmo Navruzshoeva, English Language Instructor, GBAO, Tajikistan

Gulchehra Ochilova is a successful English teacher with over seven years of experience. She worked with the Access program from 2013 to 2022 in Dushanbe, where she taught underprivileged children. For the first two years the program was free and funded by the U.S. Department of State. In 2022, she became a coordinator for English Resources. Currently, she is working on a new project with the American Council for International Education.

Gulchehra's success is a result of her hard work and dedication. She is a creative teacher who has always sought out new and innovative resources to help her students learn. She believes that her greatest success as a teacher is her personal growth as an instructor. She strives to stay involved with her students and continually gives them feedback. She asks a lot of questions to make sure her students understand what they are doing and keeps the interactions flowing. The most rewarding feeling for her is the gratitude expressed by her students. She believes that if students love their teacher, they will also love the subject and learn it with a desire to succeed.

Gulchehra is also an expert motivator. Many of her students were from villages and struggled with fear of failure. She used student-centered classes to help them overcome their fears and succeed. She conducted her lessons with a variety of activities and warm-up games to keep her students engaged and interested.

Classroom challenges are common problems faced by teachers and Gulchehra has faced her fair share. As her students were from villages, some of them had to stop studying for various reasons. She effectively handled these challenges by making replacements from alternative students.



Gulchehra Ochilova is an active member of the EWB network. She is a regular participant in seminars, sessions, and courses.

To sum up, Gulchehra Ochilova is a dedicated and successful English teacher who is committed to helping her students succeed. Her hard work and dedication have made her a role model for other teachers. I wish her all the best in her future career.

On the left: **Gulchehra Ochilova**, Lead Teacher in the C5+ONE program, American Councils for International Education
In the center: **Nasiba Mirpoohoeva**, EWB Director
On the right: **Zeboniso Murodova**, Coordinator of ERC at Bokhtar State University

Dilnoza Kholmirezoeva: Never Give Up

When I was 16, I had my best friend, Mavzuna, who loved the English language. Mavzuna was from my neighborhood. Every time we met, she talked in English and taught me some English words. I had English lessons at school, but I wasn't interested in this subject. But my friend inspired me to learn English. As a result, I talked with my parents, and they agreed, and I joined the same language center, Dusti, where she studied English. While we were studying with my friend, we had a dream to work in kindergarten as an English teacher. Why kindergarten? We both loved children, and we thought it would be more fun to teach children English. But I did not realize that the English language would be so difficult for me. Those days, I had been crying about why I was not able to learn English. I couldn't talk about anything because of my shyness. I wanted to cease learning English and turn to volunteering. I wanted very much to volunteer at any NGO, meet with experienced women leaders, and learn from their success stories. I needed a place to volunteer.

There was an office of an NGO called Tomiris on our street. The NGO, Cultural and Educational Center Tomiris, is situated not far from my house. From my neighbor Muhabbat, I learned more in detail about this NGO and its leader, Rano Jumaeva, one of the female leaders in the Khatlon region. This NGO ran different projects for adolescents and youth. Moreover, I learned about one of our neighbors, Bilol, who was volunteering there. He was a very smart boy. And I wanted to join as well. I helped Muhabbat with her housework, cleaning, and making a meal to persuade her. Then, we went to Tomiris together. I got frightened. I had an interview, and I couldn't respond to questions very well. One question I remember was, "Who is a volunteer?" I told about my dream to be a kindergarten teacher and help kids learn English. I was volunteering in the English ACCESS Microscholarship Program from 2017 to 2018. I was helping the Access teachers print handouts and check attendance. It was a good chance for me to listen to English and improve my English as well. I learned American culture, language, and holidays and met with different diplomats.

After this program, I was assigned to volunteer for another project, Peshsaf, at NGO Tomiris. The New Year was coming, and we planned to make a New Year's party for 25 children with disabilities in the Khatlon region.



Dilnoza Kholmirezoeva, English Instructor, Bokhtar, Khatlon region, Tajikistan

My role in this New Year's program was to be an ice princess. I had a beautiful costume. It was a very fond memory of that year. I had a wonderful New Year's party. All of us did our best. We made children happy. It was the children's first time to dance. I learned a lot from spending time with these kids. Volunteering with disabled children was a challenging but rewarding experience for me. I learned a great deal about myself and the world around me. I learned about the power of positivity and gratitude. I was grateful for everything I had in my life. They motivated me to start paying attention to my learning English.

I went to the Language Center, Dusti, again. I resumed my English lessons. My English teacher, Shabnam, accepted me with great pleasure into her class. I became a teacher's assistant. After my English lesson was over, I asked my teacher to observe her classes and help her as well. She provided me with an opportunity to sit in her classes and practice my teaching skills. While helping the teacher, I realized that I had some experience and a picture of how to teach a lesson. I thought I was closer to my dream.

In 2020, when my English level became pre-intermediate, I wanted to apply for the FLEX (Future Leaders and Exchange) program. Unfortunately, COVID came, and the program was canceled. Honestly, I was upset and depressed.

I learned that everything happens for a reason. Maybe I was not ready to travel abroad, but I encouraged myself to pull myself together and go forward with my goal and dream.

I entered Bokhtar State University in the English Department. I became a student. I met new students, and I made new, smart, and intelligent friends. As my mom says, "If you want to be successful, you need to surround yourself with those who are willing to be so." Then, one of my friends told me to become a volunteer at American Space Bokhtar. I already had some experience volunteering. I got courage and talked with the manager of Space, Mr. Khaitov. He is a very respectable and famous English teacher in the Khatlon region. I would be happy if he accepted me into his space. So, he agreed and gave me a chance to volunteer at ASB. I saw some children who came to ASB, and I organized an English Club for them. Later, I volunteered at the girl's club, the cooking club, reading, and discussion. At the Girl's English Club, I taught 15 English university girl students from two faculties: Russian and Chemistry. They had a lesson twice a week for two months. I was a little nervous at the beginning. I remembered the way my teacher Shabnam, at LC Dusti, taught me, and I copied her style of teaching. Then, after the lesson, I became very confident and relaxed. I also created a very friendly atmosphere. It is easy to teach homogeneous groups. And the girls were very relaxed and asked me questions. After this club, I felt I could lead another club. It was the Reading Club, which was once a week. There were twelve students of 19–21 years old. We read the book for a week, and then we discussed the book. The interesting part was when students suggested the book themselves. I learned different ideas from the students' feedback, and I added my own opinion and learned from their lessons. I discovered event organizer skills working as a volunteer at ASB.



I arranged different national Tajik holidays and American holidays at ASB. For example, I planned the scenario of a Navruz and New Year's party, Halloween, and National Army Day for ASB users. I performed different tasks, such as searching for different ideas, starting with how to decorate the room, coordinating and supervising different activities with volunteers, and handling any issues during and after the events. At the Halloween party, I decorated the room with cobwebs. I got this idea from the Internet. I was the only female volunteer among the male volunteers. It was not easy.

Sometimes boys did not agree with my ideas. ASB opened a new door of opportunity for me to practice my English. I have been volunteering at ASB for 3 years now. I learned about different exchange programs. I got interested in the Study for the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) Young Women Leaders program. I was in my first year, and I applied, and I was not lucky. I was determined to work harder and attend different trainings on leadership and technology. Being a very active volunteer at the ASB, Mr. Haitov pushed me to participate in the Digital Media Lab project of the American Space Center.

I have learned how to take photos and how to edit our photos. A competition was held for the best photos. My pictures were not selected, but I was not upset. In the end, we presented our pictures. However, I got some constructive feedback from a professional photographer where I made mistakes. It was useful for me. After this training, I took photos of the ASB events and posted them on social media. I had good comments about my photos. At the university and home, I teach my friends and relatives how to take good pictures.

Volunteers in Tajikistan: Where to Sign Up

➔ Y-PEER



Photo source:
<https://www.instagram.com/ypeer.tj/>

Y-PEER (Youth peer educational network) is an international youth educational network in Tajikistan that works on the principle of "peer to peer".

Its main goal is to promote healthy lifestyles and strengthen the health of young people, as well as to prevent HIV/AIDS, advance reproductive health and gender equality.

➔ Office of Civil Liberties



Photo source:
<https://www.facebook.com/officeofcivil>

In its activities, OCL has 3 directions: youth and civic activism, strengthening human rights organizations, strengthening the rights of human beings - conscripts and servicemen.

Also, one of the priority directions of OCL is charity. In OCL, there are such youth clubs as the human rights club, English discussion club, IT club, eco-club, art club, debate club, and others.

➔ Peshraft



Photo source:
<https://www.facebook.com/Peshraft>

The projects of Peshraft are aimed at increasing the level of education of the youth of Tajikistan by providing support to talented children from low-income families.

In addition, Peshraft organizes charitable campaigns to raise funds for assistance.

➔ Go Viral



Photo source:
<https://www.facebook.com/goviraltj>

Go Viral is the very platform where people can share ideas, work together to overcome challenges, and be inspired to work together.

Go Viral is both a festival and a number of events, including lectures, workshops, panel discussions, films, musical performances, and other events in the fields of Media, Business, Culture, and Technology from leading trend-setters from the USA, Central Asia, and Eastern Europe.

At ASB, I had a chance to study at Global Virtual School in 2021–2022. There, I learned how to send messages with Gmail, short talk, how to divide a story into paragraphs, etc. Here, I became active and motivated. I transformed from a shy girl into a leader.

After three years of getting experience in ASB, I was ready to work, earn money, and help my parents. My teacher, Saidova, found me a job as a kindergarten teacher. Remember? It was my and my friend's dream. I taught English to kids for 8 months. I achieved my goal.

After this course, I decided to leave kindergarten. I had greater plans. I took an intermediate English course and basic computer and Microsoft skills at the University of Central Asia in Bokhtar.

At the university, I met Zeboniso Murodova, the best English teacher and the coordinator of the English Resource Center in our English faculty. She told me to join the English Without Borders Network in 2021. I took my first Professional Development Online Intensive course with English Specialist Lisa Mann. I was very excited. I have participated in all sessions and got tons of ideas from working with other English teachers in Zoom breakout sessions. At the end of the course, I became one of the contributors to the IDEA book. I was on cloud nine.

Then Zeboniso Murodova allowed me to improve my professional development by participating in three EWB Master Workshops in the summer of 2022 and 2023. In Levakant, I was in Zuhro Murodova's and Dastagul Mahmatalieva's EWB Master workshop. It was on "How to Teach English with Limited Resources." I learned how to teach 10 games in a low-resource classroom. EWB Master Workshop on "How to Prioritize Self-Care" on August 24–26, 2022. In April, she encouraged me to register for the EWB Regional Conference in Bokhtar. It was my first conference. I enjoyed it. On August 10th, I attended the EWB Master Workshop with my English teacher, Mavjuda Saidova. I helped them with taking photos and making videos.

Now I work at LC Trade 41. I teach English in two groups. I earn my own money. With this money, I cover all my university books, supplies, and transportation expenses. I solved my financial problems. This is my small help to parents.

Zeboniso Murodova is pushing me to be the best teacher in the Khatlon region and become a USG alumna as well. I am very grateful for her. She said to me, you had your first professional development trainings, courses, and conferences; now your next level is writing your success story for the EWB newsletter.

My next goal is to keep improving my professional development and find a job at the University of Central Asia.

How Access Program Changed My Life

By Munisa Ismailova, ACCESS Student from Khujand, Sughd region, Tajikistan

I remember a year ago I was just a girl who did not understand that the English language can be the best tool to open the magic world of knowledge and show us, girls, that we can lead and be a leader. But now when I think about it, I smile.

When I heard about the Access Program, I was so excited, because it was a big chance to learn something new, it was not only improving language skills but also finding new friends and enhancing communication skills. It was the first time when this program was in Khujand. I was motivated by my mom to apply to this program. When I started the Access Program my soft and hard skills were really poor, my communication with other people was challenging, and my English grammar and vocabulary were not very good, but now I can see that I have grown and become more self-confident and speak English fluently. This program helped us to be a part of our community, to volunteer, and through charity to bring smiles to sad faces.

During our summer camp, we did drama rehearsals, improved our listening and writing skills, volunteered, and had an ecological program that consisted of picking up plastic and sorting it for recycling and reuse. I love knowing that I am doing great and I try to do my best in overcoming problems and facing challenges on my way. After that, I made friends with other students of the Access Program, and I became friendlier and more open-minded with my surroundings. My teacher, Mrs. Rizoeva showed me that I can open and share my interests and learn something new. I made close friends with some of the girls and I learned, improved, gained, shared, and grew with them.

This year with the Access Program, my friends, teacher, and people I met, I was shown that when I learn I also can gain and learn something new from all subjects like more information about poets, writers, culture, traditions, and customs of different countries and peoples.

Many people think of success as wealth, fame, or power. I would define success as who I am. For me, the word «SUCCESS» means when you achieve something desired, planned, and attempted.



The meaning of success is different for different people. You can feel or be successful if you achieve and reach your goals and dreams. With the guidelines of Ms. Judith Elliott, the English fellow, teacher who started to teach English to our peers in the community. It was amazing to share gained knowledge and feel that we helped them a new chapter of their lives. Success is being healthy, happy, and doing something good that you enjoy.

Thanks to the U.S. Embassy, Access Program, Ms. Rizoeva Parvina, and Ms. Judith Elliott; all of you made my summer happy and unforgettable.



Teaching Tips: Live Polling and Q&A With **Slido.com** for Google Slides

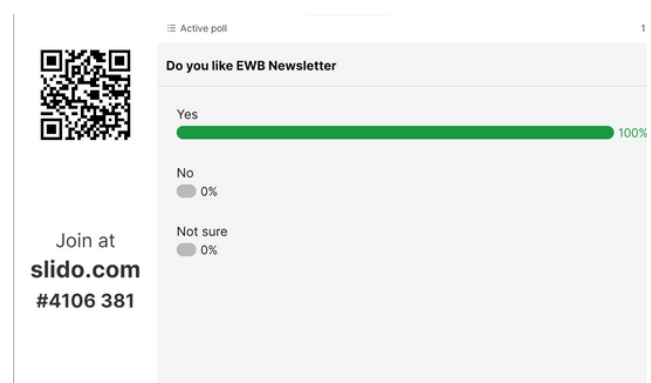
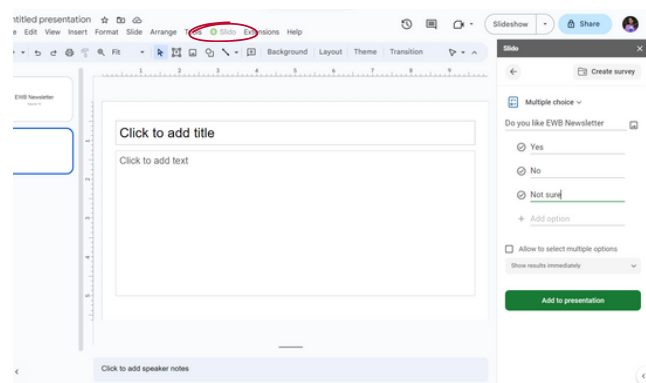
By **Zuhro Saidova**, EWB PR Specialist/Monitoring Officer

Slido.com is a tool that allows you to insert live polls, quizzes, and Q&A into your Google Slides presentations. By using Slido.com, you can

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- Open your **Google Slides** presentation and click on the **Slido icon** in the toolbar. If you don't see it, refresh the page or restart your browser.
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- Customize your poll or Q&A by adding a title, options, correct answers, timer, etc. You can also edit or delete your polls or Q&A at any time.
- When you are ready to present, click on the **"Present"** button in the top right corner of your Google Slides.
- As you go through your slides, Slido will automatically show up when you reach a poll or Q&A slide. Your audience can join by scanning the **QR code** or entering the event **code at slido.com**. They can vote or ask questions from any device without downloading or logging in to anything.



- You can see **the results update live on your slides** as your audience participates. You can also moderate the questions, show or hide the results, or end the poll or Q&A at any time.
- After your presentation, you can access the **analytics** and export the data from your Slido dashboard.

News & Opportunities



From the Editor:

Dear readers, we hope that you enjoyed reading this newsletter and that the materials collected here will be useful for you.

**Note, all the articles in this newsletter were provided by the authors themselves.*



EWB Master Workshop Grant Winter 2023-2024

EWB Master Workshops Grant is an opportunity to receive an up to 500\$ grant to conduct professional development workshops for diverse groups of English language teaching professionals in all regions of Tajikistan. For many young English teachers participating in EWB Master Workshops it is the first-time experience engaging with peers and collaborating through the EWB network to support English teaching in their communities.

- The application deadline for applicants is **December 3rd, 23:59**.
- For more information, please visit our website: <https://ewbn.org/call-for-proposals-ewb-master-workshops/>.



Global Undergraduate Exchange Program

Global UGRAD is a fully funded scholarship for one semester of non-degree academic study at an assigned U.S. college or university. Participants are emerging leaders committed to their home communities. During the Program, Global UGRAD participants challenge themselves to explore U.S. society, culture, and academic learning. They also participate in community service and enhance their professional skills.

- The application deadline for applicants is **December 15, 2023**.
- For more information, please contact Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan; Tel: **2292322**; email: GlobalUgradTajikistan@state.gov.



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