

Kyrgyzstan

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Kamila Duishebaevna Sharshekeeva was born in 1957, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. She successfully graduated from Moscow State Pedagogical Institute for Foreign Languages named after Mauriz Thorez in 1979. Then she worked as an Instructor and Assistant Professor for the Lexicology Department, Kyrgyz State University. In 1993, she took part in foundation of Kyrgyz-American School of Business, Law and Humanities and became its first Dean. In 1997, she founded the American University in Kyrgyzstan and

served as a Provost for the University until January 2001. Since January 2001, she serves as a Minister in Ministry of Education and Culture for the Kyrgyz Republic.

Education today: reforming the system

All educational institutions in our country, as well as in former Soviet Union countries are undergoing dramatic reorganization. In my opinion, the reforms should be based on such fundamental principles of educational institutions' activity as academic freedom, academic honesty, and critical, analytical thinking. In this sense, corruption, plagiarism and others negative things are need to be overcome.

In contrast with former Soviet tradition, education should be individualized and has to shift from teaching to learning, as well as to lifelong learning, and finally have to create a real basis for student's self-realization and decision-making process. The most serious hamper for reforms are the lack of creativity, dualistic methods of teaching, and the weak management of schools. Therefore, one of the main goals of the reforms is the creation of new, democratic forms of management (Boards of trustees and Committees).

Shared education experience will provide us with new ideas and conceptions, so in order to create our own educational patterns, models, and approaches we need to learn more from other cultures - Western and Eastern, which have rich traditions in realm of education and culture, democratic traditions, in particular. From this point if view, it will be useful to pay more attention to such approach as research on students' ethical and intellectual development, which is in active use in Harvard and New York Universities. It will help also to internationalize an environment of learning institutions in our countries. ☺