



## Kyrgyzstan

Dr. Ishenkul Boldzhurova  
Minister of Education and Science



*Ishenkul Boldzhurova has been the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan since 2007. She was born on December 22, 1951 in Issykkul region. In 1973 she graduated from the Faculty of History of Kyrgyzstan State University and then completed a post-graduate study at Moscow State University. She received her Ph.D. degree in 2006. From 1973 to 2002 she was a lecturer at the universities in Bishkek and worked at the History Institute of the Academy of Sciences. In 1994 she became the Rector of Bishkek Humanitarian University and in 2005 – the Rector of Kyrgyz National University. In 2002-2004 she was the Minister of Education. Twice (in 2005 and in 2006) she was the Acting Vice-Prime Minister of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan in charge of social affairs. She was the plenipotentiary of the President of Kyrgyzstan for the CIS and Eurasian Economic Community.*

### **A Challenge to Share: Preparation for the 48th Session of the International Conference on Education**

The democratic transformations going in Kyrgyzstan, its openness to the world and readiness for dialogue with the international community, including the dialogue on challenges faced in education, have demonstrated the importance and significance of the concept of Education for All, within the framework of which inclusive education is currently understood.

In the Kyrgyz Republic concrete steps are undertaken to ensure development of potential of each child, including children with special needs. The development of the law «On Preschool Education» demonstrates special attention paid to early development of children that is necessary for their successful socialization. Adoption of the Framework National Curriculum and development of subjects' curricula within the Strategy of Educational Sector Development till 2011 will lead to transformation of the overall system to the one based on principles of education focused on result, presented as a set students competences, ensuring readiness for successful activity in social and professional spheres.

In 2008 the Concept of Multilingual and Multicultural Education is adopted. Its realization is directed to a possibility of preservation and deepening of national and cultural identity of the child, so that language, cultural, religious diversity is understood as a resource for development of each person and the country as a whole.

Already now education in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan is provided in 4 languages: Kyrgyz, Russian, Uzbek and Tadjik, there are classes and schools in which children can receive education in 12 native languages. A number of status schools - lycées and grammar schools - ensure various directions of training and profile preparation which allow children to exercise their rights to chose education corresponding to their needs and abilities. 55 comprehensive schools have the status of inclusive education establishments in which alternative forms of training are introduced.

Kyrgyzstan for a long and successful history of cooperation in the development of inclusive education with international organizations (UNESCO, UNICEF, «Save the Children», the Asian Development Bank, etc.); the concept of inclusive education is also supported by activities of a number of nongovernmental organizations in Kyrgyzstan.

We are sure that participation in the 48th Session of the International Conference on Education provides an opportunity to make an important step forward in the development of the concept of inclusive education in our country and will strengthen already existing practices.