**Information on Tajikistan for the participants of the international workshop on "Practical application of risk assessment and management"**

The Agency on standardization, metrology, certification and trade inspection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (Tajikstandard) is the central body of executive power and handles state policy in the spheres of standardization, metrology, certification, accreditation, ensuring state monitoring and control of introduction and compliance with mandatory requirements of normative and technical documents, guaranteeing the unified character of measurement at the organization and enterprises of the country. In its activity, the Agency is guided by the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan, enactments of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and Laws of the Republic of Tajikistan, for example, *On Standardization*, *On guaranteeing the unified character of measurement*, *On food quality and safety* and *On consumer rights protection*.

Technical rationing and standardization

As already known, the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan *On technical rationing* has been passed and will enter into force on January 1, 2010. This is why the Government has charged us with realizing two points of this Law: *The program of technical regulation development* and *The specification of temporary technical regulations*. The project of *Technical regulation development program*, assigned to 2010-2011, includes so far 7 topics dealing mostly with food and feed. The project of *Specification of temporary technical regulations* must include mandatory documents of ministries and agencies and lists around 1200 items. Documents included into this specification will be mandatory during the transitional period on the expiry of which relevant technical regulations must be accepted in the country. In pursuance of Enactment of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan *Improvement of enterprising environment: 200 days of reforms* (issued on July 2, 2009), a working party (this working party was established according to the decree of the Agency with the direct participation of representatives of associations, agencies, with the assistance of German Technical Collaboration program and USAID's *Liberalization of trade and customs reform* project, and with the involvement of an expert from National Metrology of Institute of Germany) has developed the *Project of development strategy of National quality infrastructure for 2010-2012* and *Plan of measures of reform of technical regulation system*. The *Project of development strategy of National quality infrastructure* stipulates a 3-stage reform of technical regulation system in the Republic of Tajikistan, with each stage lasting for 3 years. The *Plan of measures of reform of technical regulation system*, stipulates, along with other measures, the amendment drafting of new laws of the Republic of Tajikistan in the sphere of standardization and conformity assessment, the creation of information center on implementation of points of TBT Agreement of the WTO. The Agency forms and runs the state fund of standards, makes the examination and confirms national standards, disseminates international and state standards, standardization rules and recommendations on standardization, metrology and conformity assessment.

Metrology

In the sphere of metrology, the Agency coordinates activity on guaranteeing the unified character of measurement, setting the rules of creation, approval, storage and application of etalons of measurement units, takes decisions on approval of types of measurement means and adds them to the state roll, registers metrological services. In order to guarantee the

unified character of measurement in the country the Agency re-attests its model etalons at specialized research institutions of Russia, Kazakhstan and other CIS countries. For carrying out metrological works on checking-up and calibration of measurement means the testing labs of the Agency are regularly provided with modern high-precision equipment. As of today, in Tajikistan there are 10 accredited electrotechnical measurement labs and 40 agency metrological services who have the right of repair and checking-up of International System of Units. The state roll of measurement means contains 250 measurement units, including the ones of Armenia (1), Austria (1), Belarus (11), China (27), France (2), Germany (8), Iran (1), Italy (1), Japan (7), Kazakhstan (11), Russian Federation (136), South Korea (1), Switzerland (7), Turkey (3), United Kingdom (5), Ukraine (11), USA (9).

Conformity assessment

For decentralize the market of certification of products and services, in Tajikistan there are 153 organizations accredited by the Agency. These organizations include 12 product certification bodies, 33 testing labs accredited for technical competence and independence and 108 testing labs accredited for technical competence. The structure of Agency's Testing Center includes various testing labs testing product quality and safety. Polymeric Production Testing Sector, which was organized in the Testing Center, tests also toys for children. Currently all the toys imported into the country are tested. As of today, we have tested more than 100 kinds of toys. The tests show that almost all the toys, except for rattles, contain toxic elements but their content in the form of solvable salts is within acceptable norms. For determining the content of biological and synthetic raw materials used for production of spirits and alcoholic production, we have acquired a modified spectrometric installation SKS-99 "Sputnik". This year we have also upgraded our microbiological lab for food and feed testing. When carrying out analyses the lab used RIDACOUNT test systems produced by Biofarm. This gave a significant incentive for efficient and productive work and allowed to considerably decrease expenses of and to improve the credibility level of results of tests on discovering the bacteria of colon bacillus, general microbal number, pathogen flora (such as salmonella, mold, mushrooms and yeast). In order to mitigate the risk of products not meeting mandatory requirements appear on the market, we have set the objective of organizing a modern lab able to complete various tasks and meeting the needs of people in getting trustworthy and timely results of analyses carried out. For this purpose, we have provided the center with modern specialized equipment, such as "Kvant-2" spectrometer, "InfraLyum FT-10", "Laktan", "Flyuorat 02-2M), nitrate analyzer, and use in microbiological activities test systems produced by "Biofarm". Thus we have managed to expand the list of indicators regarding the safety of food and feed. These indicators are determined at the test center of Tajikstandard. We test food and feed for the following indicators:

- toxic elements, such as lead, arsenic, cadmium, mercury,
- radionuclide substances, such as cesium-137 and stroncium-90,
- nitrates,
- microbiological indicators, such as coliforms, salmonellas, yeast, mol,
- microtoxines.

For controlling the indicators of quality of grain, flour, cereals and mixed fodder we have acquired Bik-analyzer "InfraLyum FT-10", that allows to discover the quality properties of grain production within 5 minutes. For the lab to operate successfully the personnel gets

educated and participates in workshops on international conformity assessment systems, HACCP, ISO/IEC 17043 and ISO 13528 in other countries (Turkey, Iran, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and China). Currently, the specialists of the testing center go on with their preparation to international accreditation with the assistance of International Trade Center (ITC). The employees of the Center have participated in international matching competitions, along with the representatives of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Costa Rica.

Risk assessment and management

As assigned by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan our Agency has prepared a project of enactment of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan *On the confirmation of food and feed control procedures*. This project stipulates the introduction of international ISO 22000 standard at enterprises producing food and feed. With the assistance of ITC, two Tajikistani-based fruit and vegetable manufacturers were given ISO 22000 standard by DNV Safety System. These are Ilmiyu Istehsoli Ltd and Elita Istaravshan, whose production is basically exported to neighboring countries, Kazakhstan and Russia. At Ilmiyu Istehsoli, according to the requirements of ISO 22000, HACCP plans are developed for every single production denomination. The assortment of good produced includes around 30 denominations, and the enterprise plans to extend this indicator. Special attention is paid to preparing new personnel. All the newly recruited employees spend a month in order to study every stage of the technological process. A *Quality day* is organized twice a month at the enterprise. The introduction of ISO 22000:2005 has had a positive impact on both the quality of the goods produced and its quantity. Analyzing and actualizing the policy of the organization with respect to all the aspects (in particular, risk assessment), Obi Zulol enterprise determines ways of mitigating these risks. Risk assessment is carried out in different spheres of activity, such as product safety risks, health, labor and environment protection related risks, etc. This process contains several stages: the identification of risks and their sources, the determination of the probability of their occurrence, the analysis of possible consequences of hazard (including economic consequences). For decreasing risks, the enterprise takes actions related both to the organization of production process and the personnel. In particular, mandatory instructions and procedures have been worked out. For instance, for excluding a microbiological contagion, the following actions are taken:

- the enterprise provides areas with what is necessary in an emergency case: electricity breakdown, fire, etc.,
- the personnel is taught risk assessment and safety techniques,
- the personnel undergoes periodical medical checks.