*Fieldwork Report*

**Field Activities Report for the Local Economic and Administrative Performance (LEAP Research Project) during the December visit, 2022**

* Dates: **17 – 23 December 2022**
* Venues: **Tashkent and three provinces, Uzbekistan**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **17 December, Saturday**  Dr. Cheol Liu arrived past 15:00 on Uzbekistan Airways flight from Seoul. He was picked up from the airport to the Prague Hotel | |
|  |  |
| 10:10 – 12:00 | Met with Mr. Farrukh Khudoykulov, Acting Director of the International Ratings and Indices Department; Mr. Temur Malik Narzikulov, Director of the Project Office Department; and their team members all of the Ministry of Finance at the Ministry of Finance headquarters in Tashkent. |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | Had business lunch at the Efendi Restaurant with Ministry of Finance partners. |
| 14:30 – 17:00 | Visited the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction – Agency for the Development of Entrepreneurship and Mahallabay. Met with the Deputy Director of the Agency, Mr. Ilkhom Halpaev, his staff, and discussed field activities in general terms and research cooperation, reaffirmed cooperative working relations, and negotiated fielding workforce survey in March or April 2023. Mr. Halpaev suggested involving all 10,000 micro-district administrators instead of sampling 4,000-5,000. Mr. Halpaev and the LEAP researchers agreed on the terms of independent research and confirmed visits to three provinces to interview 60 micro-district administrators in Tashkent city, Tashkent province, and Sirdaryo province.  **18 December, Sunday**  Core preparatory meeting was held, with two Research Assistants and core LEAP project researchers. |
| 16:00 – 18:00 | Met at the Chaykof Café at Shota Rustaveli. Discussed interview questions, considered important logistical and organizational research questions raised at the previous two meetings with the Ministries of Finance and Economic Development & Poverty Reduction authorities. Agreed to split into two teams to expedite the interview sessions. Research Assistants asked their questions and informed us of their availability. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **19 December, Monday**  **Ministry of Finance key local partner meetings**  **and interviews (12 interviews in total)** | |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | Meeting with the Agency for Strategic Reforms (ASR)   * LEAP team, Rustamkhon Azizov & 2 others from ASR * Discussed collaboration possibilities between KDIS, LEAP, & ASR * Agreed to sign an MOU |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | Minister of Finance meeting with the International Ratings and Indices Department, their key staff, and our local partners. Presented our research progress and the purpose of our fieldwork visit, discussed their interests and needs and reaffirmed our commitment to independent research. |
| 13:15 – 15:00 | **Lunch meeting at Plov Lounge with** Mr.Jahongir Negmatov, the Dirctor at the Institute on Fiscal and Budget Studies, Ministry of Finance’s think tank and policy planning unit. We discussed the Institute’s research and capacity-building needs, the LEAP research project’s academic interests, capacity-building and training, and developmental assistance for the Institute. |
| 15:00 – 18:00 | Go back to the Ministry of Finance headquarters.  Team 1, 6 interviews, 30 minutes each – Budget Policy Design and Management track   * 15:00 – 15:30 Interview 1 * 15:30 – 16:00 Interview 2 * 16:00 – 16:30 Interview 3 * 16:30 – 17:00 Interview 4 * 17:00 – 17:30 Interview 5 * 17:30 – 18.00 Interview 6   Team 2, 6 interviews, 30 minutes each – Budget Policy Evaluation, Audit, Internal Control, and Anti-Corruption track   * 15:00 – 15:30 Interview 1 * 15:30 – 16:00 Interview 2 * 16:00 – 16:30 Interview 3 * 16:30 – 17:00 Interview 4 * 17:00 – 17:30 Interview 5 * 17:30 – 18.00 Interview 6 |
| **20 December, Tuesday**  **Ministry of Finance interviews (26 interviews in total)** | |
| 09:30 – 13:00 | **Ministry of Finance headquarters**  Team 1, 7 interviews, 30 minutes each – Compliance and Internal Audit staff and SOE and State Asset Transformation   * 09:30 – 10:00 Internal Audit * 10:00 – 10:30 Transformation Dept – SOE privatization 1 * 10:30 – 11:00 Transformation Dept – SOE privatization 2 * 11:00 – 11:30 Transformation Dept – SOE privatization 3 * 11:30 – 12:00 Transformation Dept – SOE privatization 4 * 12:00 – 12:30 Transformation Dept – SOE privatization 5 * 12:30 – 13:00 Transformation Dept – SOE privatization 6   Team 2, 7 interviews, 30 minutes each – Extrabudgetary Pensions Fund staff and Social Protection and Public Social Services Budget Policy staff   * 09:30 – 10:00 Pensions Fund 1 * 10:00 – 10:30 Pensions Fund 2 * 10:30 – 11:00 Social Protection and Public Social Services 1 * 11:00 – 11:30 Social Protection and Public Social Services 2 * 11:30 – 12:00 Social Protection and Public Social Services 3 * 12:00 – 12:30 Social Protection and Public Social Services 4 * 12:30 – 13:00 Social Protection and Public Social Services 5 |
| 13:15 – 14:30 | **Business lunch at Plov Lounge meeting discussing past two days and preliminary progress with the Ministry of Finance coordinators.** |
| 14:45 – 17:45 | Meeting with the Korean Embassy and KOICA in Uzbekistan   * Cheol Liu, 1st Secretary of the Korean Embassy, and Head of KOICA * Discussed collaboration possibilities and agreed to collaborate on ODA projects   Go back to the Ministry of Finance headquarters.  Team 1, 6 interviews, 30 minutes each – Financing State Investments Program   * 14:45 – 15:15 Financing State Investments Program 1 * 15:15 – 15:45 Financing State Investments Program 2 * 15:45 – 16:15 Financing State Investments Program 3 * 16:15 – 16:45 Financing State Investments Program 4 * 16:45 – 17:15 State Investments Program 1 * 17:15 – 17:45 State Investments Program 2   Team 2, 6 interviews, 30 minutes each – State Debt and Regional Financing   * 14:45 – 15:15 State Debt Department 1 * 15:15 – 15:45 State Debt Department 2 * 15:45 – 16:15 Territorial and Regional Financing 1 * 16:15 – 16:45 Territorial and Regional Financing 2 * 16:45 – 17:15 Territorial and Regional Financing 3 * 17:15 – 17:45 Territorial and Regional Financing 4 |
|  |  |
| **21 December, Wednesday**  **Sirdaryo province micro-district administrator interviews**  **(20 interviews in total)** | |
| 12:00 – 14:30 | Team 1 conducted 5 interviews (30 minutes each) with micro-district administrators:   * 12:00 – 12:30 * 12:30 – 13:00 * 13:00 – 13:30 * 13:30 – 14:00 * 14:00 – 14:30   Team 2 conducted 5 interviews (30 minutes each) with micro-district administrators:   * 12:00 – 12:30 * 12:30 – 13:00 * 13:00 – 13:30 * 13:30 – 14:00 * 14:00 – 14:30 |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | **Operational break.** |
| 15:00 – 17:30 | Team 1 conducted 5 interviews (30 minutes each) with micro-district administrators:   * 15:00 – 15:30 * 15:30 – 16:00 * 16:00 – 16:30 * 16:30 – 17:00 * 17:00 – 17:30   Team 2 conducted 5 interviews (30 minutes each) with micro-district administrators:   * 15:00 – 15:30 * 15:30 – 16:00 * 16:00 – 16:30 * 16:30 – 17:00 * 17:00 – 17:30 |
| 19:00 – 21:00 | **Business dinner at Plov Lounge with Temur Malik Narzikulov, Director at the Project Management Office, Ministry of Finance.** |
| **22 December, Thursday**  **Tashkent city micro-district administrator interviews and high-level meetings with the government** | |
| 11:00 – 13:30  14:00 – 15:30 | High-level meetings  Dr. Cheol Liu and Dr. Temirlan T. Moldogaziev met with the Pro-Rector of the Academy of State Governance under the President of Uzbekistan at their campus headquarters in Tashkent city. Discussed cooperation with KDIS, possible curricula development for newly created Master in Public Policy and Master of Public Administration degrees, capacity building and training for the Academy’s researchers and teaching faculty, professional exchanges, and research cooperation.    Dr. Cheol Liu and Dr. Temirlan T. Moldogaziev met with Minister for Finance Тimur Ishmetov, and his deputies at the Ministry of Finance: Аhadbek Khaydarov and Odilbek Isakov.Discussed research cooperation, participatory budgeting, and Korean experiences in improving this policy, capacity building, and training for the Ministry of Finance staff in Uzbekistan. Minister Ishmetov was very interested in staff exchanges and dedicated graduate program slots at the KDI School for young talent at Uzbekistan’s Ministry of Finance.  Then, Dr. Liu and Dr. Moldogaziev met with the State Budget Department Director at the Ministry of Finance Shuhrant Mukhamedov*(discussed Open Budget and policy research)* and Social Protections and State Public Services Budge Department Director Gulnoza Murodova*(discussed policy digitization and sustainable public finances).* |
| 16:00 – 17:00 | Arrived at the Agency for Entrepreneurship Development and Mahallabay and held talks with the Deputy Director of the Agency and operational head of the Mahallabay system, Mr. Ilkhom Halpaev. |
| 10:00 – 12:30 | **Field Interviews (20 in total)**  Team 1 conducted 5 interviews (30 minutes each) with micro-district administrators:   * 10:00 – 10:30 * 10:30 – 11:00 * 11:00 – 11:30 * 11:30 – 12:00 * 12:00 – 12:30   Team 2 conducted 5 interviews (30 minutes each) with micro-district administrators:   * 10:00 – 10:30 * 10:30 – 11:00 * 11:00 – 11:30 * 11:30 – 12:00 * 12:00 – 12:30 |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | **Operational break.** |
| 14:00 – 16:30 | Team 1 conducted 5 interviews (30 minutes each) with micro-district administrators:   * 14:00 – 14:30 * 14:30 – 15:00 * 15:00 – 15:30 * 15:30 – 16:00 * 16:00 – 16:30   Team 2 conducted 5 interviews (30 minutes each) with micro-district administrators:   * 14:00 – 14:30 * 14:30 – 15:00 * 15:00 – 15:30 * 15:30 – 16:00 * 16:00 – 16:30 |
| 18:15 – 21:30 | **Business dinner at Quadro Labzak restaurant with Deputy Minister for Finance Odilbek Isakov and the International Ratings and Indices Department.** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **23 December, Friday**  **Tashkent province micro-district administrator interviews**  **(20 interviews in total)** | |
| 11:00 – 13:30 | Team 1 conducted 5 interviews (30 minutes each) with micro-district administrators:   * 11:00 – 11:30 * 11:30 – 12:00 * 12:00 – 12:30 * 12:30 – 13:00 * 13:00 – 13:30   Team 2 conducted 5 interviews (30 minutes each) with micro-district administrators:   * 11:00 – 11:30 * 11:30 – 12:00 * 12:00 – 12:30 * 12:30 – 13:00 * 13:00 – 13:30 |
| 13:30 – 14:30 | **Operational break.** |
| 14:30 – 17:00 | Team 1 conducted 5 interviews (30 minutes each) with micro-district administrators:   * 14:30 – 15:00 * 15:00 – 15:30 * 15:30 – 16:00 * 16:00 – 16:30 * 16:30 – 17:00   Team 2 conducted 5 interviews (30 minutes each) with micro-district administrators:   * 14:30 – 15:00 * 15:00 – 15:30 * 15:30 – 16:00 * 16:00 – 16:30 * 16:30 – 17:00 |
| 18:30 – 20:30 | **LEAP December Fieldwork appreciation dinner to thank Research Assistants at Ho Ri restaurant, Hotel Uzbekistan, Tashkent city.** |
|  | Cheol Liu left Tashkent on December 23 arrived in Incheon Korea on December 24 early morning |