

ADVANCING CLIMATE ACTION,  
RENEWABLE ENERGY, AND  
INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT



**BULAN INSTITUTE**  
for PEACE INNOVATIONS



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR AND THE COMMITTEE MEMBER

2025 marked a decisive year of growth and consolidation for the Bulan Institute. It was a year in which long-term vision began to translate into durable structures, strategic partnerships, and tangible impact—particularly in the field of climate change and renewable energy in Kyrgyzstan. At the heart of our work in 2025 was the launch of the solar energy skills development project in Kyrgyzstan and the expansion of the Climate Change and Renewable Energy Programme. What began as a commitment to support skills development evolved into a broader institutional effort to contribute to the sustainable energy transition in Kyrgyzstan. Together with our partners, we moved beyond short-term activities and invested in building foundations that will endure.

One of the most significant milestones of the year was the establishment of the Renewable Energy Research and Training Centre at the Kyrgyz State Technical University in Bishkek. Starting with a pilot solar classroom, we worked step by step to transform this initiative into a permanent centre dedicated to professional training, applied research, and institutional cooperation. This achievement reflects our belief that sustainable change is best achieved by strengthening local institutions and embedding capacity where it can grow organically.

We developed the first structured solar energy training syllabus in Kyrgyzstan, setting a national precedent for renewable energy education within a public technical university. Through hands-on training programmes, engineers and energy specialists strengthened their technical skills in solar photovoltaic systems—contributing to safer, more reliable, and more trusted renewable energy solutions.

We are particularly proud that gender inclusion was meaningfully reflected in our work. In a sector that remains largely male-dominated, women represented approximately 30% of participants in our solar energy trainings. This is an important step toward more inclusive energy transitions and a reminder that climate solutions must be shaped by diverse expertise and perspectives.

None of this would have been possible without the trust and support of our partners and donors. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Kyrgyz State Technical University in Bishkek, the Ministry of Energy of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the National Electric Grid of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as to our donors—the Ville de Genève, the Commune of Onex, the OSCE, the Nordic Centre for Conflict Transformation, and SolarSpar—whose support enabled us to move from pilot initiatives to institutional impact.

As we look ahead to 2026, our focus will be on deepening and expanding this work, scaling up renewable energy training and research, building dialogue in Central Asia, and broadening partnerships at national, regional and international levels.



*Cholpon Orozobekova*



*MARC FINAUD*

## OUR MISSION

The Bulan Institute is a non-profit peacebuilding organisation that promotes inclusive and sustainable development to achieve lasting peace.

We believe that peace is not just the absence of conflict, but the presence of dignity, justice, and equitable development.

We believe that inclusive and sustainable development is fundamental for building just, peaceful and resilient societies. Thus, we align our work with the Sustainable Development Goals—focusing on climate action, clean energy, human security, ending poverty, reducing inequalities, and building peaceful and just societies.

We design and implement development projects, foster dialogue, promote policy change, conduct research, and provide capacity-building to address critical challenges, ensuring context-specific solutions.

## OUR VISION

A world where development and security reinforce each other, ensuring no one is left behind, and peace takes firm root.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## YEAR OVERVIEW

2025 was a transformative year for the Bulan Institute, marked by the consolidation of its strategic focus and the translation of long-term vision into durable institutional outcomes. The year was defined by the expansion of the Climate Change and Renewable Energy Programme, which emerged as the Institute's flagship area of work and a central pillar of its mission to support inclusive, sustainable development and peace.

## KEY MILESTONE

A major milestone in 2025 was the launch of the solar energy skills development project in Kyrgyzstan jointly with the Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I. Razzakov (KSTU). The next major step was conceptualization and the establishment of the Renewable Energy Research and Training Centre at KSTU. Beginning with the creation of a solar classroom, the initiative was gradually expanded and institutionalized into a centre dedicated to renewable energy training, research, and dialogue building for policy advancement in green transition. This milestone reflects the Institute's commitment to achieving long-term, locally anchored impact rather than delivering short-term projects.

## FIRST SOLAR ENERGY SYLLABUS

In parallel, the Bulan Institute jointly developed the first structured solar energy training syllabus in Kyrgyzstan, setting a national precedent for renewable energy education for energy specialists in Kyrgyzstan. The professional training program combined theoretical foundations with hands-on practice and laboratory work and was delivered to engineers and energy specialists working in public and regional energy institutions.

Knowledge generation and regional dialogue were also central to the Institute's work in 2025. The Bulan Institute published the assessment report *Assessing Renewable Energy Potential and Needs in Kyrgyzstan*, strengthening the evidence base for renewable energy development and informing training design, institutional planning, and policy dialogue with national stakeholders.

## SOLAR ENERGY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

In 2025, the Bulan Institute launched its solar energy skills development project and partnered with the Ministry of Energy of Kyrgyz Republic and the Kyrgyz State Technical University in Bishkek. We organized hands-on training programs and trained engineers and energy specialists to install, maintain, and troubleshoot solar panels. They strengthened their technical skills in solar photovoltaic systems—contributing to safer, more reliable, and more trusted renewable energy solutions.



## PARTNERSHIP

The Institute’s projects in Kyrgyzstan were made possible through strong partnerships and donor support. Collaboration with KSTU, the Ministry of Energy of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the National Electric Grid of Kyrgyzstan ensured alignment with national priorities, while financial and strategic support from the Ville de Genève, SolarSpar, the Commune of Onex, the OSCE, the Nordic Centre for Conflict Transformation, and Kyrgyz State Technical University enabled the scale-up and institutionalization of activities. An OSCE contribution channelled directly to KSTU further supported project implementation and reflects the Institute’s role in mobilizing and coordinating resources for shared objectives. In its turn, the KSTU contributed to our joint projects by providing us with office spaces and conference rooms.



VILLE DE  
GENÈVE



**RAZZAKOV KYRGYZ STATE  
TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY**



## DIALOGUE AND KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

Knowledge generation and regional dialogue were also central to the Institute’s work in 2025. The Bulan Institute published the assessment report *Assessing Renewable Energy Potential and Needs in Kyrgyzstan*, strengthening the evidence base for renewable energy development and informing training design, institutional planning, and policy dialogue with national stakeholders.

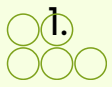
At the international and regional levels, the Institute strengthened partnerships with international organisations, including the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). These partnerships enabled the Bulan Institute to contribute to regional dialogue on energy transition and energy security in Central Asia. The Bulan Institute organized panel discussions and stakeholder discussions jointly with the OSCE and the GIZ.

## GENDER INCLUSION

Gender equality and inclusion were integrated as cross-cutting priorities. Women accounted for approximately 30% of participants in solar energy trainings—an important achievement in a traditionally male-dominated sector and a foundation for more inclusive energy transitions in the future.



# Impact and Achievements—2025



## 1. CCRE Programme Expansion and Institutionalisation

- The Climate Change and Renewable Energy Programme was significantly expanded and consolidated as a flagship area of the Bulan Institute's work, moving from pilot initiatives toward long-term, institution-based engagement.
- A Renewable Energy Research and Training Centre was established at the Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I. Razzakov.
- The initiative successfully transitioned from an initial solar classroom into a permanent institutional training and research hub, embedding renewable energy education within a public technical university.
- The Programme strengthened its strategic positioning at the intersection of climate action, energy security, and sustainable development in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia.



## 2. Skills Development and Professional Training

- The first structured solar energy training syllabus in Kyrgyzstan was developed and finalised jointly with KSTU's Renewable Energy Department.
- A 64-hour professional curriculum was introduced, combining theoretical instruction with intensive hands-on practice.
- Practical solar energy trainings were delivered for engineers, electricians, and technical staff from national and regional energy institutions.
- In total, we trained 36 energy specialists to install and maintain solar panels.

## 3. Institutionalising Renewable Energy Education

A central impact of 2025 was the institutionalization of renewable energy training within a national public university. By transforming a pilot solar classroom into the Renewable Energy Research and Training Centre, the Bulan Institute anchored renewable energy education within Kyrgyzstan's higher education and professional training system. This shift ensures continuity, local ownership, and long-term sustainability beyond individual projects.

## 4. Setting a National Precedent for Solar Energy Training

For the first time in Kyrgyzstan, a structured solar energy training syllabus was developed and implemented by the Bulan Institute jointly with a public technical university. This milestone goes beyond training delivery: it establishes a national reference point for professional solar energy education and contributes to the green skills development in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia.



### 5. Knowledge Generation and Evidence

- **Report on** Assessing Renewable Energy Potential and Needs in Kyrgyzstan.
- The report strengthened the evidence base to support:
  - Programme and project design
  - Training curriculum development
  - Policy dialogue with national stakeholders

### 6. Strengthening Professional Capacity and Trust

Through hands-on, practice-oriented training, the Institute strengthened the technical competencies of engineers and electricians working in public and regional energy institutions. Improved skills and safety standards contribute not only to better-quality installations but also to greater institutional confidence and trust in renewable energy solutions.

### 7. International Support and Regional Outlook

- In 2025, the Bulan Institute was successful in mobilizing international donor and partner support that enabled the institute to scale up projects and expand programs.
- Key supporters included the OSCE, SolarSpar, Ville de Genève, Nordic Centre for Conflict Transformation. Commune of Onex.
- Foundations were laid for continued regional cooperation, positioning the Renewable Energy Research and Training Centre as a future Central Asian platform for renewable energy skills development and applied research.



## HIGHLIGHT OF 2025

### **Project: Advancing Solar Energy Skills in Kyrgyzstan**

Launched in 2025, the project Advancing Solar Energy Skills in Kyrgyzstan aimed to respond to the country's growing demand for qualified renewable energy specialists and to support national energy transition objectives.

#### **Key activities in 2025 included:**

- **Establishment of a Solar Classroom**

In partnership with Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I. Razzakov (KSTU), the Bulan Institute established a dedicated solar classroom equipped with training infrastructure and educational materials. The classroom served as the initial platform for hands-on learning and pilot training activities.

- **Transformation into a Renewable Energy Research and Training Centre**

By the end of 2025, the solar classroom was expanded and institutionalised into a Renewable Energy Research and Training Centre. This transformation included space renovation, equipment installation, curriculum development, and the definition of the Centre's training and research mandate.

- **Training and Capacity Building**

The project delivered practical hands-on training activities for engineers, technicians, and students, focusing on solar photovoltaic systems, basic system design, installation principles, and operational safety.

- **Institutional and Policy Engagement**

The project was implemented in close coordination with the Ministry of Energy of the Kyrgyz Republic and the National Electric Grid of Kyrgyzstan (NESK), ensuring alignment with national energy strategies and labour market needs.

- **Regional and International Partnerships**

The project benefited from the support of international partners and donors, including the OSCE, SolarSpar, the Ville de Genève, and the Commune of Onex, whose contributions enabled the transition from a pilot classroom to a permanent training centre.

## Highlight of 2025

### **Establishment of the Renewable Energy Research and Training Centre**

A central activity in 2025 was the establishment of the Renewable Energy Research and Training Centre at the Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I. Razzakov.

- The Centre was developed through a phased process, beginning with the creation of a solar classroom and expanding into a permanent training and research facility.
- Activities included space renovation and adaptation, installation of training and demonstration equipment, development of training infrastructure, and coordination with trainers and academic staff.
- The Centre was designed as a long-term institutional platform for renewable energy training, research, and dialogue building.





## Highlight of 2025

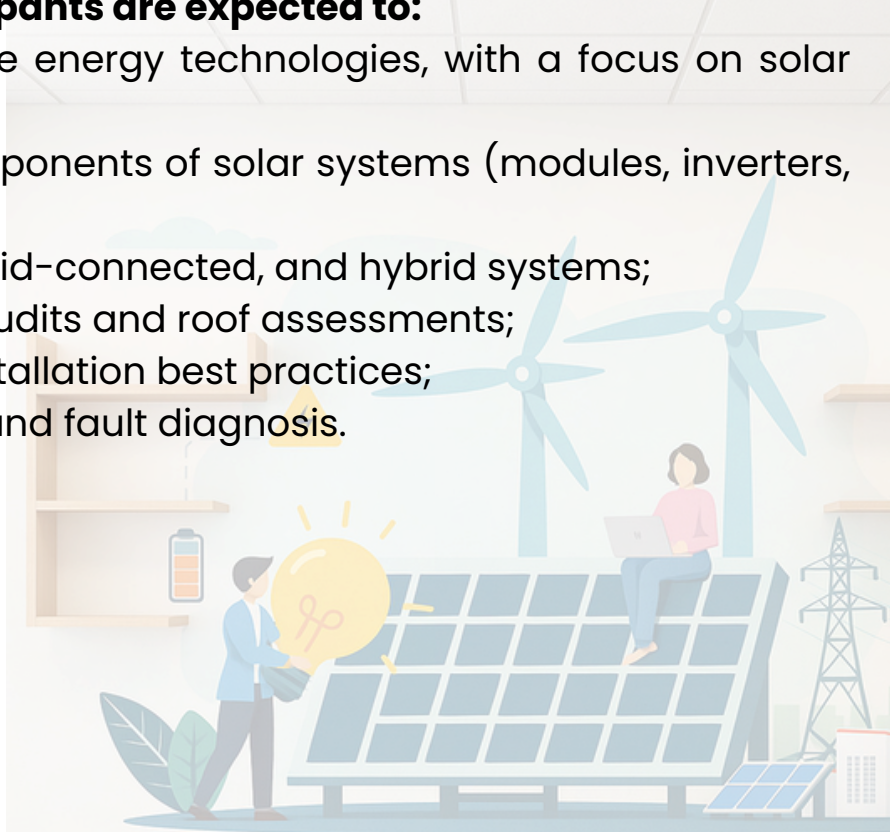
### Development of a Solar Energy Training Programme (Kyrgyzstan)

In 2025, the Bulan Institute jointly developed a comprehensive solar energy training program together with the Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I. Razzakov (KSTU), in close cooperation with its Renewable Energy Department. The program was designed as a professional, practice-oriented curriculum targeting highly qualified electricians and engineers working in national and regional electricity networks and other public energy institutions. The training program represents a core academic and technical component of the Advancing Solar Energy Skills in Kyrgyzstan project and forms the pedagogical backbone of the Renewable Energy Research and Training Centre established at KSTU.

#### Programme Design and Objectives

The training program was structured as an 8-day intensive course (64 hours) for a cohort of 12 participants, combining theoretical foundations with extensive hands-on practice. Its primary objective is to equip energy professionals with the technical competencies required for the installation, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.

#### By the end of the program, participants are expected to:

- Understand different renewable energy technologies, with a focus on solar PV;
  - Identify and configure key components of solar systems (modules, inverters, charge controllers, batteries);
  - Distinguish between off-grid, grid-connected, and hybrid systems;
  - Conduct professional energy audits and roof assessments;
  - Apply safety standards and installation best practices;
  - Perform system maintenance and fault diagnosis.
- 



## Highlight of 2025

# Development of a Solar Energy Training Programme (Kyrgyzstan)

### Training Structure and Methodology

The programme follows a progressive learning structure, moving from fundamentals to advanced practical application:

- Foundations of Renewable Energy and Solar PV
- Introduction to renewable energy in Kyrgyzstan, climate change drivers, national policy frameworks, and the role of solar energy.
- Solar Modules and System Components
- Technical characteristics of PV modules, inverters, charge controllers, batteries, cabling, and system design principles.
- System Design, Installation, and Safety
- Practical training on system sizing, wiring, installation techniques, safety procedures, and quality control.
- Field Practice and Troubleshooting
- Hands-on installation on model and real systems, followed by maintenance procedures and fault-finding exercises under expert supervision.

**The programme places a strong emphasis on learning-by-doing, supported by demonstration equipment, roof models, installation tools, and diagnostic instruments. Participants' knowledge is assessed through a final evaluation, and certificates are issued upon successful completion.**

### Strategic Significance

The development of this training programme marked an important step toward:

- Institutionalising renewable energy education within a national technical university;
- Aligning training content with the needs of public energy operators and national energy transition goals;
- Creating a replicable model for future renewable energy training programmes in Central Asia.

By embedding this curriculum within the Renewable Energy Research and Training Centre and training dozens of local specialists, the Bulan Institute and KSTU laid the foundation for long-term skills development, applied research, and regional knowledge transfer beyond the project.



## FEEDBACK FROM THE BENEFICIARIES

"I participated in the solar training among other five women energy specialists. We learned about renewable energy resources, how they are important to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. We also learned about the installation and maintenance of solar panels. Our country needs such training and skills as it has started solar energy adoption. The training was very efficient, I enjoyed every session".

**Zharkynai Kazybekova, Lead Specialist, ORE of the Bishkek PES**



"We studied intensively for 8 days how to install and maintain solar panels. I am happy that I have obtained these skills as our country has started solar energy adoption. The training was very efficient, consisting of theory, laboratory classes, and practical sessions. We had hands-on training that gave us real life experience"

**Azamat Damirbekov, Talas Energy Enterprise, Energy Specialist**



"This training was extremely useful and meaningful for me. My theoretical knowledge of solar photovoltaic systems deepened significantly, and my practical skills improved considerably. I gained a solid understanding of how inverters operate, the DC-AC conversion process, and the correct connection of equipment. I also developed a clear understanding of how to design and install standalone and hybrid solar systems. This training increased my professional confidence and enabled me to propose practical, solution-oriented approaches. Gender equality was particularly well observed during the training: out of 12 participants, 5 were women, demonstrating the active involvement of women in this field".

**Aisuluu Stambekova, Lead Engineer of the Strategic Development Group at "National Electric Networks" OJSC**





## FEEDBACK FROM THE BENEFICIARIES



"The solar training was very useful and delivered by great trainers. That was a very intensive training, by the end I was able to install and maintain solar panels. I received much-needed knowledge and skills.

**Azamat Zhumabekov**, Head of the TRW Department, Chuy Electric Networks Enterprise

"The solar energy training was well structured and organized. We gained theoretical, practical knowledge on how to install and maintain solar panels. It was very intensive training, by the end of which we passed theory and practical tests. I passed successfully both of them, and received a certificate"

**Aidos Shakirov**, Karakol RES,  
Electrical Maintenance  
Technician





# IN FOCUS: KEY MOMENTS FROM OUR WORK

SELECTED MOMENTS FROM TRAININGS, PANELS, AND INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS IN 2025.



# PRIORITIES FOR 2026

**Together for  
Change**



Building on the institutional foundations established in 2025, the Bulan Institute will focus in 2026 on deepening impact, scaling skills development, strengthening regional cooperation, and broadening public engagement under its Climate Change and Renewable Energy Programme. The year ahead will prioritise the consolidation and expansion of the Renewable Energy Research and Training Centre in Bishkek, while advancing knowledge, dialogue, and awareness on green transition across Central Asia.

# Priorities for 2026

## **1. Accelerating Activities of the Renewable Energy Research and Training Centre**

In 2026, the Bulan Institute will accelerate and expand the activities of the Renewable Energy Research and Training Centre in Bishkek. The Centre will operate as a permanent national platform for training and applied research, with increased utilisation of facilities, expanded training schedules, and strengthened coordination with academic and public-sector partners.

## **2. Scaling up the Solar Energy Trainings and Skills Development**

A core priority for 2026 is the scale-up of solar energy skills development in Kyrgyzstan. Building on the structured solar energy syllabus developed in 2025, the Bulan Institute plans to train at least 120 energy specialists to install, operate, and maintain solar photovoltaic systems and maintain a strong emphasis on hands-on, practice-oriented learning and safety standards.

## **3. Developing a Wind Energy Training Programme**

In parallel, the Institute will work toward the development of a new professional training programme focused on wind energy. This programme will be designed as a complementary skills track to solar energy training, contributing to diversification of renewable energy expertise and a more resilient national energy transition.

## **4. Raising Public Awareness on Green Energy**

The Bulan Institute will expand efforts to raise awareness among the general population about green energy, with a particular focus on solar energy and solar panel adoption. Awareness activities will aim to improve public understanding of benefits, feasibility, and practical applications of renewable energy, supporting greater social acceptance and demand.

## 5. Advancing Research on Green Transition in Central Asia

The Bulan Institute will strengthen its focus on research and analysis related to green transition in Central Asia, with particular attention to renewable energy adoption, policy and regulatory frameworks, institutional capacity, and skills gaps. Research outputs will inform training programs, policy dialogue, and regional cooperation initiatives.

## 6. Strengthening Regional Dialogue and Knowledge Exchange

In 2026, the Institute will continue to facilitate dialogue and knowledge exchange among Central Asian countries through regional panels, expert discussions, and stakeholder forums. These activities will promote cross-country learning and more coordinated approaches to renewable energy development and energy security.

## 7. Engaging Local Municipalities on Green Energy Promotion

The Institute will intensify engagement with local municipalities, supporting them in promoting green energy solutions and facilitating access to renewable energy projects. Activities will include dialogue with municipal authorities, knowledge-sharing on good practices, and support for integrating renewable energy considerations into local development planning.

## 8. Strengthening Regional Dialogue and Knowledge Exchange

In 2026, the Institute will continue to facilitate dialogue and knowledge exchange among Central Asian countries through regional panels, expert discussions, and stakeholder forums. These activities will promote cross-country learning and more coordinated approaches to renewable energy development and energy security.

## Partnership Expansion and Regional Cooperation

The Bulan Institute will continue to expand and deepen partnerships in 2026, working closely with academic institutions, public authorities, energy operators, and international organizations. Strengthening cooperation at national and regional levels will be essential to scaling impact, promoting knowledge exchange, and positioning the Renewable Energy Research and Training Centre as a regional hub for Central Asia.

# Governance & Institutional Development (2025)

## Governance & Accountability

The Bulan Institute operates under a governance framework designed to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective separation of roles. Strategic guidance is provided by an independent Advisory Board, whose members offer non-executive expertise and thematic insight without involvement in day-to-day management. Organisational oversight and fiduciary responsibility rest with the Committee, which oversees strategic decisions, financial integrity, and compliance with statutory and donor requirements.

### Advisory Board

The Advisory Board provides high-level guidance, strategic perspective, and expert advice across the Institute's programme areas. Its members bring extensive experience in international affairs, peacebuilding, security policy, and human rights—enabling the Institute to navigate complex global challenges with informed insight and credibility.

#### **The Advisory Board members for the 2023–2026 term include:**

- Mr. Noufal Abboud – Executive Director of the Nordic Center for Conflict Transformation, expert in conflict transformation, transitional justice, and community resilience.
- Dr. Fabienne Bossuyt – Assistant Professor of Political Science and specialist in EU foreign policy and relations with the post-Soviet space.
- Ms. Elisabeth Decrey Warner – Former Geneva parliamentarian, founder of Geneva Call, and renowned humanitarian negotiator.
- Dr. Diana Digol – International policy expert with senior experience in the UN and OSCE.
- Dr. Pál Dunay – Associate Professor and seasoned security policy leader.
- Mr. Paul Działkowiec – Conflict mediator and former diplomat with broad peace support experience.
- Mr. Marc Finaud – Former French diplomat and senior trainer in international and human security.
- Dr. Edward Lemon – Academic expert on security and Central Asian affairs.
- Dr. Christina Liang – Head of Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism Department at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy.
- Mr. Clément Voule – Human rights defender and former UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
- Mr. Thomas Wuchte – Founder of the Center for Multilateral Collaboration and former OSCE counterterrorism leader.
- Ms. Elena Zhirukhina – Research fellow with expertise in intelligence, transnational organised crime, and security in Eurasia.

# MEET OUR COMMITTEE



Marc Finaud,  
Member



Samira Benz,  
Member



Barno Anvar,  
Member



Rashid Gabdulhakov,  
Member



Koshii Kyrgyzbek  
uulu, Treasurer



Sairabubu Isaeva,  
Member



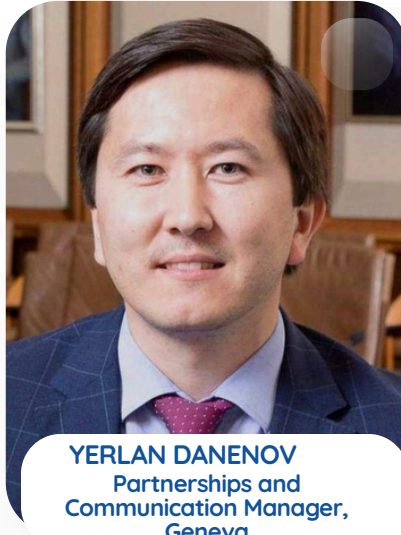
Cholpon Orozobekova,  
President

# Meet Our Team

Geneva-Bishkek



**CHOLPON OROZOBKOVA**  
Director, Geneva



**YERLAN DANENOV**  
Partnerships and  
Communication Manager,  
Geneva



**Dr Turukmen Zhabudaev,**  
Advisor, Bishkek



**Dr Ruslan Akparaliev,**  
Solar Energy Project  
Coordinator, Bishkek



**Dr Taalaibek Mederov**  
RERT Centre Director in  
Bishkek



**Almaz Tolomushev**  
Capacity Building Lead in  
Bishkek



**Hans Hagemann**  
Project Assistant,  
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**Sezim Askarbekova**  
Project Assistant,  
Geneva



**Nazgul Ularbekova**  
Communications Lead,  
Bishkek



**Nazmi Bekturganova**  
Project Assistant, Bishkek



# THANK YOU

from the Bulan Institute



TO OUR AMAZING PARTNERS, OUR BOARD,  
THE COMMITTEE AND TEAM MEMBERS!

*Thank you for your dedication,  
collaboration, and continued support.  
Together, we grow stronger every day.*



## Our Partners GlobalGiving



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**onex**  
Ville de progrès  
RÉPUBLIQUE ET CANTON DE GENÈVE 



**RAZZAKOV KYRGYZ STATE  
TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY**



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