

When we look at the medical services, everyone has social security and we benefit fully from doctor and hospital services. Furthermore, we are free to use our own language and practice our own religion. Over the last thirty years, we have been able to set up Kyrgyz festivals in May and June in order to make our culture and manners widely known. Hand-made products are exhibited on these occasions, Kyrgyz food is offered, and cultural entertainment such as Kyrgyz dances and music have been presented. These events strengthen the connection between Turkish, Kurdish, and Kyrgyz people.

When I evaluate the current position of our people in comparison to those in the Afghan Pamirs, we are in a far better condition in terms of health, education, and quality of life. This quality of life is at a high level, and it remains promising for the coming generations.



*Altindere or Ulupamir Köyü*  
*Photograph © Hermann Kreutzmann 22 August 2005*

*Gönül Açıksari*

#### **Addition to Muhammet Ekber Kutlu's speech**

I am the first Kyrgyz child that was born in Turkey, in 1982. I am the first doctor of our village. Now, I work for Istanbul Medeniyet University Göztepe Research and Training Hospital as a senior Cardiologist. I understand the importance of the migration from Afghanistan to Turkey via Pakistan, and I believe that our leader Rahmankul Khan was a forward looking leader and he did his best for us.

I thank our families who completed this hard migration, leaving their own lands and finding a new homeland for us. We also have seen what can be done if the opportunity is given to the Kyrgyz people from the Pamirs of Afghanistan.