

In memory of Chingiz Aitmatov

Thursday, 12 June 2008

It is with deep regret that Green Cross learns of the loss of Chingiz Aitmatov, a visionary thinker admired by generations of people all over the world and a committed Honorary Board Member of Green Cross International. Chingiz Aitmatov was an active and committed supporter of Green Cross philosophy for many years.

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Chingiz Aitmatov was born in 1928 in the village of Sheker, Kirgizia. Between 1943 and 1952, Aitmatov worked for the Secretary of the Sheker Village Soviet during which he translated both Kataev and Babayevsky in Kirghiz. At University he studied literature at the Gorky Literature Institute in Moscow and began his literary career for which he has won numerous literary awards including the Gold Olive Branch of the Mediterranean Culture Research Center (1988), the Academy Award of the Japanese Institute of Oriental Philosophy (1988) and the Austrian State Prize for European Literature (1994). Chingiz Aitmatov was a member of Kyrgyzstan's parliament and served as his nation's ambassador to the European Union, NATO, UNESCO, Belgium, Luxemburg and the Netherlands.

Chingiz Aitmatov was an inspiration to us all. Green Cross will remember him as an important intellectual and as an individual engaged in modern and transparent political thinking. He sadly passed away, but his admirable work and memory will remain forever.