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**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

October 20th, 2009

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PRESS RELEASE

“21st Century Technology Lab” Opens in a Kocani Primary School

The American people, through USAID's Primary Education Project (PEP), are investing in modernization of curricula for technology education with the aim of increasing the interest of students in technical studies and professions. As part of this investment, PEP is renovating and equipping technology classrooms to initiate “21st Century Technology Labs.”

Kiril i Metodij Primary School in Kocani is one of nine schools that will receive such assistance. Mayor Ratko Dimitrovski of Kocani Municipality joined representatives of USAID and PEP, along with the director, teachers and students of the school, to celebrate the renovation and modernization of its technology laboratory. PEP will pilot similar laboratories in nine schools in Macedonia.

“While we're only in the initial stages of piloting 21st Century Technology Labs, it's already obvious how excited students are to be part of this effort. This new curriculum is clearly inspiring their creativity as shown by their remarkable energy and early achievements in the labs,” said Alexander Woods, USAID Education Office Director.

The USAID Primary Education Project (PEP), implemented by the Academy for Educational Development (AED), works with all public primary schools in Macedonia. The project seeks to improve the quality of instruction and increase employment skills of students. The overall goal of the USAID Education Program is to strengthen education in Macedonia and to support decentralization efforts, as Macedonia seeks entrance to the European Union.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.

