



NEWSLETTER

U.S. MISSION IN TURKMENISTAN

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

SEPTEMBER 2010

IN THIS ISSUE

USA and Turkmenistan Extend Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Cooperation ②

Visit by Nevada Tourism Expert ②

Visit by Professor of U.S. National Defense University ②

Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) ③

FLEX Exchange Program ③

TOEFL Teacher Training ③

United States Supports Polio Immunization Campaign ④

Remarks by Lynne Tracy, Charge d’Affaires at Mashad Ata Mosque Opening ④

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U.S. Embassy and Turkmen Government Celebrated the Reopening of the newly Renovated Shir-Kebir (Mashad Ata) Mosque



Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Lynne M. Tracy Tours inside the Mashad Ata Mosque

On September 11, 2010, the U.S. Embassy and the Government of Turkmenistan marked the official opening of the newly renovated Shir-Kebir (Mashad Ata) Mosque.

Located in the Dekhistan archaeological park, the Shir-Kebir Mosque is the oldest standing mosque in Turkmenistan. The renovations and conservation efforts at the 9th century mosque were sponsored by a grant from U.S. State Department’s Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP). The conservation work was carried out by a group of professionals from the Ministry of Culture’s National Administration on Preservation and Restoration of Cultural and Historical Sites.

The grantee briefly described the process of project implementation and thanked the Embassy for financial aid. Representatives from Turkmenistan’s Government, involved in administering programs related to the cultural and historical heritage of Turk-

Continued on page 3

Brazzaville Presented Rock Concerts in Turkmenistan



Brazzaville Public Performance in Ashgabat

Brazzaville, a U.S. rock and roll band, was in Turkmenistan August 19-23. While in Turkmenistan, the band performed a series of public concerts with the support of the U.S. Embassy and Turkmenistan’s Ministry of Culture and TV and Radio Broadcasting. The band participated in the Ministry of Culture’s International Festival of Pop Music, Song and Dance “Avaza-2010.”

The group also held public performances in Ashgabat and Mary.

The band was founded in late 1997 by David Arthur Brown. The band is global: in addition to the original American talent, it has members in Spain, Russia, and Turkey.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLEX testing - The U.S. Government-funded Program for High School Students.

Finalists in the competition will have the opportunity to live with an American family and study in an American high school during 2011-2012 school year.

The program pays for all travel, housing and living

expenses for program participants.

Read more on page 3

SUSI - Study of the United States Institutes.

Read more on page 3

United States and Turkmenistan Extend Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Cooperation

On August 11, 2010, the U.S. and Turkmenistan formalized an extension of their ongoing cooperation in the fields of narcotics control and law enforcement assistance in a signing ceremony held at Turkmenistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The parties signed a fourth Amendment to the existing Letter of Agreement of September 2001 on Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Assistance between the Government of the United States and the Government of Turkmenistan. Deputy Chairman of Turkmenistan's Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs Rashid Meredov signed the Amendment on behalf of the Turkmenistan Government and Charge d' Affaires, a.i. Lynne M. Tracy signed the Amendment on behalf of the United States Government.

The Amendment extends support for the "English Language Training for Law Enforcement Officers (ELT)" and "Counter narcotics Capacity Building for State Counter



Charge d'Affaires a.i. Lynne M. Tracy and Turkmenistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Rashid Meredov sign the Amendment

Narcotics Service (SCNS)" projects. The goal of the ELT project is to improve the English language proficiency of Turkmenistan's law enforcement officers and to expand the current security relationships with the international community. The Counter narcotics Capacity Building project for SCNS is designed to increase the interdiction and investigative skills of counter narcotics police.

U.S. State Department Sponsors Visit by Nevada Tourism Expert Tom Tait



Thomas Tait Gives Presentation on Tourism for Students and Professors of Turkmenistan's Institute for Sports and Tourism

The U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat, together with the Government of Turkmenistan, hosted Mr. Thomas Tait for a series of lectures and meetings from September 5th - 11th. At the invitation of the State Committee of Turkmenistan for Sport and Tourism, Mr. Tait conducted a series of meetings and presentations for students and practitioners in Turkmenistan's tourism industry. He visited Ancient Merv, tourist sites in and around Ashgabat, and held lectures at the major hotels in the new National Tourism Zone "Awaza."

Over the past twenty years, Mr. Tait has applied his knowledge of tourism development in over 40 countries across the globe. In cooperation with various departments of the U.S. Government, Mr. Tait has visited Ukraine, Montenegro, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Poland. Prior to beginning his career as an international advisor, Mr. Tait spent 11 years as the Chief Executive of the Nevada Commission on Tourism, directing efforts to expand tourism through improving customer service and tourism infrastructure.

Professor Roger Kangas of U.S. National Defense University Visits Turkmenistan



Dr. Roger Kangas, a professor of the U.S. National Defense University

Dr. Roger Kangas, a professor at the U.S. National Defense University's Near East and South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, visited Turkmenistan from August 31 - September 10, 2010. During his visit, Dr. Kangas conducted a series of lectures and meetings on U.S. foreign policy.

Professor Kangas was hosted by Turkmenistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, the MFA's Institute of International Relations, Turkmenistan's Academy of Sciences, and Turkmenistan's Institute of Defense.

Dr. Kangas is a globally-recognized expert on Central Asian affairs. Over the past fifteen years he has been an advisor to NATO, the U.S. Air Force Special Operations School, National Democratic Institute, International Research and Exchanges Board, American Councils, Academy for Educational Development, USIA, USAID, and other U.S. government agencies on issues relating to Central and South Asia, Russia and the South Caucasus. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University.

Reopening of newly Renovated Shir-Kebir (Mashad Ata) Mosque

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

menistan and National Commission on UNESCO participated in the ceremony.

Established by Congress in 2001, the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation aims to assist countries in preserving their cultural heritage. Over the past eight years the U.S. Government has supported 11 projects worth more than \$230,000 to preserve historically important cultural sites and objects in Turkmenistan.

"I believe that our cooperation in rebuilding this historic mosque is a just and honorable dedication to the spirit of service and unity that we hope to emulate on September 11th."

Lynne M. Tracy
The U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI)

The United States Embassy is accepting applications for the Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) program. This is a 6-week, non-degree, post-graduate program, to take place in various higher education institutions of the United States during Summer 2011, embodying studies of the United States Institutes in the following fields:

1. U.S. Culture and Society
2. American Politics and Political Thought
3. Contemporary American Literature
4. US Foreign policy
5. Journalism and media
6. Religious Pluralism in the United States
7. Program for secondary school educators

The following criteria apply:

1. Candidates should be mid-career, motivated and experienced professionals from institutions of higher education.
2. Candidates should have little or no prior experience in the United States, whose home institution is seeking to introduce aspects of US studies into its curricula, develop new courses in the subject of the visited institute, enhance and update existing courses on the United States, or offer specialized seminars for professionals in US studies areas related to the program theme.
3. Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour.
4. Each candidate should provide a short personal statement (one page) indicating why he or she is interested in participating in the program and what he or she expects to get out of the program.
5. All candidates should demonstrate English language fluency.
6. Priority will be given to candidates who have special interest in the program subject areas as demonstrated through past scholarship, accomplishments and professional duties.

The program covers all costs – travel, living expenses, books, incidentals and medical insurance. Applications can be picked up from the Public Affairs Section, 4th floor, Ak Altyn Hotel, starting Monday, September 13, 2010.

Deadline for applications is November 1, 2010

For additional information please email

AshgabatEducation@state.gov

FLEX EXCHANGE PROGRAM



Eligible students:

- (i) were born in the period between January 1, 1994 to July 15, 1996;
- (ii) have not lived in the United States for more than three months in the last five years;
- (iii) speak English well.

In order to participate in competition please bring:

- a proof of eligibility (original birth certificate or passport),
- one recent photograph (3x4 cm) and
- a pen.

TESTING SCHEDULE:



Turkmenbashi, Balkan region		
September 26	10:00 a.m.	School 13, Turkmenbashi
Balkanabat, Balkan region		
October 3	10:00 a.m.	School 3, Balkanabat
Mary, Mary region		
October 10	10:00 a.m.	School 19, Mary city
Dashoguz, Dashoguz region		
October 17	10:00 a.m.	School 2, Dashoguz city
Ahal region, Abadan		
October 23	14:00	School 2, Abadan
Ahal region, Tejen		
October 24	09:00 a.m.	School 32, Tejen
Turkmenabat, Lebap region		
November 14	10:00 a.m.	School 2, Turkmenabat
Ashgabat		
November 21	10:00 a.m.	School 15, Ashgabat

TOEFL TEACHER TRAINING

TOEFL Teacher Training workshop in Ashgabat on November 6, 7, 13, 14 and December 4, 5, 11, 12, 2010 for experienced English language teachers in the regions of Turkmenistan (Mary, Dashoguz, Lebap, and Balkan).

The course will take four weekends and American Councils will pay for transportation, accommodation and food.

For more information please contact:

American Councils (ACCELS)
Tel.: (993-12) 33-10-16/33-10-21,
48a Gorogly Street- Ashgabat, 744000

AMERICAN COUNCILS
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United States Supports Polio Immunization Campaign for Children in Turkmenistan

In an effort to prevent an outbreak of polio, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is assisting the Government of Turkmenistan in launching a national polio vaccination campaign. USAID is supporting the efforts of Turkmenistan's Ministry of Health, in

collaboration with UNICEF, by providing a \$50,000 grant for community mobilization efforts. The grant is part of a larger Ministry of Health, World Health Organization (WHO), and UNICEF program to immunize all children under the age of five from polio.

The U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. Lynne Tracy, outlining the importance of USAID's support of Turkmenistan's national campaign, noted that ***“working together we can make sure that each child is immunized and thus protected from polio.”***

Remarks by Ms. Lynne Tracy, Charge d'Affaires at Mashad Ata Opening Ceremony

*Ancient Dehistan Archeological Park
September 11, 2010*

Esteemed representatives of the Government of Turkmenistan, members of the Council on Religious Affairs, colleagues of the diplomatic corps, ladies and gentlemen:

Good Morning. I am honored to be here today and to see so many close friends and long-time partners. It is truly a symbol of our ever-strengthening bilateral relationships to see so many of you here today.

I feel deeply humbled by and grateful to all of the people that participated in this important project. Your hard labor, sleepless nights, and toil under a relentlessly hot sun have further deepened the meaning of this already holy site. Your sacrifice and dedication are what brought us here today and will preserve this site as a heritage to future generations. Thank You!

In particular I would like to thank Dr. Mamedov, Head of the project and Mr. Ruslan Muradov, project manager, as well as all of the staff of the Dekhistan Archeological Park, and the hard working professionals that brought this mosque back from the edge of collapse.

Today we mark three important and inter-connected occasions. First and most obviously, we are marking the successful completion of the renovation and conservation work here at the Mashad Ata Mesjid.

This project began in 2008 with the award of a grant from the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation. The State Department's Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation is a symbol of the United States' deep respect for the historical and contemporary achievements of the people of Turkmenistan.

As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently said, “our respect for Turkmenistan's cultural heritage is an expression of our commitment to work together for a peaceful and prosperous future.”

Over the past nine years the United States and Turkmenistan have jointly carried out many successful projects through the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation.

These projects preserve historically important cultural sites and objects in Turkmenistan, and we are pleased that the Ambassador's Fund has played a role in helping

to preserve part of Turkmenistan's spiritual heritage.

Today we are also celebrating the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan. I cannot imagine a more fitting site to commemorate the renewed spiritual devotion and faith that Ramadan brings to believers.

This revered and deeply holy mosque is a fitting symbol of the legacy and impact of Islam in Turkmenistan. Even today, situated far from population centers, Mashad Ata attracts pilgrims from all over the country and the region. They come to renew their vows of faith and to seek inspiration.

Throughout history and down to today, Islam has inspired and educated the people of Turkmenistan, serving as a catalyst for development and integration with other nations.



Charge d'Affaires Lynne Tracy delivers remarks at Mashad Ata Opening Ceremony

The great Turkmen centers of learning in Merv, Ismamut Ata, and here in Mashad Ata inspired generations of thinkers that formed the basis of Turkmen literature and history. Such great poets and thinkers as Dovletmamet Azadi, Makhtumkuli, and Mollanepes used the teachings of Islam to become voices for a unified nation. Islam though is not merely a collection of buildings with a venerable history. It is also a living religion with communities of believers across the globe, including within the United States, and of course Turkmenistan - Believers that es-

pose our shared ideals of peaceful coexistence and mutual respect.

I believe that it is our shared devotion to mutual respect that makes today's ceremony a fitting way to mark the ninth anniversary of the events of September 11th 2001. Nine years ago today 19 men hijacked four planes over the United States in an attempt to ignite hatred between America and the Muslim world. Fortunately, they failed in their quest. The events of 9/11 did not lead to divisions, but rather united the world against extremism and terror.

Exactly one year ago, President Obama officially designated September 11th as the National Day of Service and Remembrance. He urged people across the globe to “renew the true spirit of that day. Not the human capacity for evil, but the human capacity for good. Not the desire to destroy, but the impulse to save, and to serve, and to build.”

I believe that our cooperation in rebuilding of this historic mosque is a just and honorable dedication to the spirit of service and unity that we hope to emulate on September 11th. Thank you