



NEWSLETTER

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Deputy Assistant Secretary Susan M. Elliott Heads U.S. Delegation at Turkmenistan Oil and Gas Conference



Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Susan M. Elliott speaks at OGT 2010

Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Susan M. Elliott visited Turkmenistan November 15-19 to head a delegation from the United States to

the Turkmenistan Oil and Gas Conference 2010. During the visit, Deputy Assistant Secretary Elliott met with Government officials in Turkmenistan and visited Mary city.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Susan M. Elliott was appointed to the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs in September 2010. Prior to her appointment, she served overseas in Moscow as Minister Counselor for Political Affairs. From 2007 to 2009 she served as Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Belfast. Prior to that, she worked as a Deputy Executive Secretary on the staff of former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. During her tenure on Secretary Rice's staff, Ms. Elliott's regional responsibilities included Europe, and South and Central Asia.

U.S. Embassy Participates in Annual Education Fair



Visitors at the U.S. Embassy booth pick up information materials

Large crowds gathered at the U.S. Embassy's booth at a recent fair titled "Education, Science, Sports and Tourism in the Epoch of New Revival." The exhibition took place at the Exhibition Palace in Ashgabat from Nov. 24-26.

The embassy's Public Affairs Section hosted the booth together with partner organizations such as USAID, IREX, American Councils, and the Peace Corps.

Participants presented information on various educational opportunities in the U.S., including programs aimed at school students, undergraduate students, graduate students, PhD candidates, professionals and teachers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Film Showing in Ashgabat:

January 7-8, 2011 - "Turkmenistan" Theater

January 7, 2011 at 11:00 - *Madagascar 2*.

January 7, 2011 at 15:00 - *Night at the Museum 2*

Saturday January 8, 2011 at 11:00 - *Hotel for Dogs*

Saturday January 8, 2011 at 15:00 - *Twilight*

Learn more at: (99312) 36 33 31/36 13 65

Statement by U.S. President Barack Obama on Hajj and Eid-ul-Adha

Michelle and I extend our greetings for a happy Eid-ul-Adha to Muslims worldwide and wish safe travels to those performing Hajj.

This year, nearly three million pilgrims from more than 160 countries - including the United States - have gathered in Mecca and neighboring sites to perform the Hajj rituals and stand together in prayer.

On Eid, Muslims around the world will commemorate Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son, and distribute food to those less fortunate - a reminder of the shared values and the common roots of three of the world's major religions. On behalf of the American people, we extend our best wishes during this Hajj season - Eid Mubarak and Hajj Mabrour.



President Barack Obama

Statement by Secretary Clinton on Turkmenistan's Independence Day

On behalf of President Obama and the people of the United States, I congratulate the people of Turkmenistan as you celebrate nineteen years of independence this October 27.

The United States and Turkmenistan have worked hard to improve our relationship over the past year. The first annual bilateral consultations between our nations in Ashgabat this June underlined our mutual desire to develop a long-term partnership. We are working together on issues of common concern as we seek to promote peace and regional security, expand our economic relations, and strengthen democratic institutions and respect for human rights.

On this anniversary, I reaffirm the commitment of the United States to continue strengthening our relationship. I wish all the people of Turkmenistan a happy Independence Day and a prosperous year to come.



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton

American Academic and Regional Expert Dr. Rusty Butler Visits Ashgabat



Dr. Butler speaks at the Education Conference

Noted American author, academic and regional specialist Ross "Rusty" Butler, Ph.D. participated in a series of events coinciding with the Government of Turkmenistan's Education, Science, Sports and Tourism Exhibition and Conference in late November in Ashgabat. In addition to presenting as a plenary speaker at the conference, Butler hosted a public presentation at the U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center.

Dr. Butler is the Associate Vice President for International Affairs & Diplomacy at Utah Valley University and Executive Director of the Utah-Russian Institute. A former Boeing Company executive and Reagan administration official, he is also the honorary Consul General of the Russian Federation in the state of Utah. Butler has been awarded both the "Medal of Honor" and the "Medal of Merit" by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Visit by Director of the Center for Development Economics at Williams College



Mr. Powers conducts a presentation at the Information Resource Center (IRC)

Thomas Powers, the Director of the Center for Development Economics at Williams College, visited Turkmenistan from November 29–December 1. During his stay, Mr. Powers conducted a series of presentations on different topics within the field of economics. He spoke at the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Finance, the Academy of Sciences, the Institute of International Relations and the Central Bank of Turkmenistan.

For Mr. Powers, it was a relationship-building visit which would further develop ties between his university and relevant Turkmen government ministries. Additionally, his visit was an opportunity to encourage future cooperation with professionals and academics working in the field of economics in Turkmenistan.

U.S. Embassy Marks International Education Week

During the week of November 15, the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of State marked the 11th annual International Education Week. International Education Week celebrates the benefits and importance of international education in the United States and around the world. This year's theme was "International Education: Striving for a Sustainable Future."

The U.S. Embassy in Turkmenistan, American Councils, IREX, and the American Corners throughout Turkmenistan conducted a series of presentations and events as part of International Education Week to honor the importance and value of international exchanges. The opening of International Education Week in Turkmenistan took place on November 15th, 2010 at American Councils for International Education at 15:00 and activities continued through November 23rd, 2010.

In conjunction with International Education Week, the State Department sponsored the publication of the annual "Open Doors" report. According to the 2010 Open Doors report, the number of students from Turkmenistan enrolled in U.S. institutions of higher education in 2009/10 increased from 180 to 195, an 8% increase compared to the previous year. This represents the 3rd consecutive year of increases in the number of students from Turkmenistan in the U.S. and an all-time high. Students enrolled in U.S. graduate programs increased by 23% and there was also a notable increase in the number of students enrolled in non-degree programs.



Deputy Director of American Councils Tatyana Minayeva speaks about educational opportunities in the United States

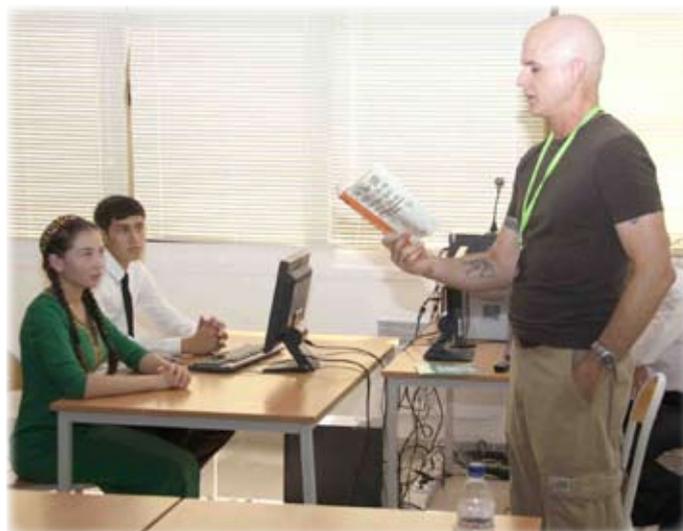
"All of us share this world for but a brief moment in time. The question is whether we spend that time focused on what pushes us apart, or whether we commit ourselves to an effort - a sustained effort - to find common ground, to focus on the future we seek for our children, and to respect the dignity of all human beings."

Barack Obama
President of the United States of America

U.S. Writer Kenneth Derby Visits Turkmenistan to Share His Expertise

The U.S. children's author Kenneth Derby visited Turkmenistan from September 23-29, 2010 to participate in Turkmenistan's International Book Fair and conduct a series of workshops on writing for children. He shared his expertise in writing children's books at Turkmenistan's National Library, Magtymguly Turkmen State University and the Mary Pedagogical School named after H. Deryayev. He also read a few chapters from his famous novels for children at the National Library, Specialized school #7 in Ashgabat and the Mary Children's Library.

Kenneth Derby is an educator and author of several children's books. His popular children's novels include *The Top 10 Ways to Ruin the First Day of School* (2005, Scholastic, New York, NY), *The Top 10 Ways to Ruin the First Day of 5th Grade* (2004, Holiday House, New York, NY) and *The Ghost Memoirs of Robert Falcon Scott* (1999, Royal Fireworks Press, Unionville, NY). In 2005 Derby's children's novel *The Top 10 Ways to Ruin the First Day of 5th Grade* received the honor as "Children's Choices Novel for 2005" by the Children's Book Council and the International Reading Association. He regularly publishes children's stories and methodology articles in such magazines and newspapers as *International Schools Services Newlinks*, *The International Educator* and *Instructor*.



U.S. children's author Kenneth Derby reads a chapter from his book for students at A. Niyazov School in Ashgabat

Mr. Derby's teaching career started in 1978 and since then he has worked as a teacher in the United States as well in as in Saudi Arabia and Hungary. He currently teaches fifth-graders at the American International School of Budapest, Hungary.

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Turkmen State Customs and Border Services Officers Undergo Weapons of Mass Destruction Commodity Identification Training (WMD CIT)

On September 22, 2010, the National Nuclear Security Administration of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) conducted a three-day training workshop on nonproliferation awareness and Weapons of Mass Destruction Commodity Identification Training (WMD CIT) for front-line officers of the State Customs Service and State Border Service in Ashgabat.

The workshop was presented by technical experts from DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and technical experts from Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic. The workshop had a two-fold purpose.

First, the attendees received a training in visual identification of materials and commodities that can be used in the production of Weapons of Mass Destruction. Secondly, the workshop helped strengthen the role of export control enforcement in preventing the spread of WMD by encouraging a stronger relationship between enforcement, licensing, and technical organization.

During the training, instructors and participants had a chance to share the experience, techniques as well as equipment of cargo inspection, identification and interdiction of contraband. Participants also had practical exercises and hands-on work with CT 30 kits (Contraband Team Detection kits) and X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometers (XRF).

The Export Control and Related Border Security Program in Turkmenistan, a program of the United States Department of State, focuses on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, strategic trade controls, and border security.

USAID and Chevron Focus on Trainers to Support Accounting Reforms

On December 1, 2010, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in partnership with Chevron Nebitgaz B.V. Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Finance of Turkmenistan, have commenced a series of Training-of-Trainers accounting courses for 30 accounting trainers. These trainers will update their knowledge of international accounting and financial reporting standards through an introductory accounting course as part of the CIPA (Certified International Professional Accountant) international certification program before they commence teaching activities at their training centers and educational institutions.

USAID's Interim Country Representative in Turkmenistan, Mr Ken McNamara, speaking at the opening ceremony noted that: "These trainers and their training institutions are a core part of the country's plan has for significantly increasing the number of Turkmen accountants and economists competent in international standards, which is a key objective of the National Program for Accounting and Auditing Reforms in Turkmenistan."

President of Chevron Nebitgaz B.V. Turkmenistan, Douglas Uchikura, noted that his company is "glad to make a contribution to this unprecedented initiative in the economic history of Turkmenistan. The transition of the country to new accounting and auditing standards in compliance with international standards is of critical im-



The president of Chevron Nebitgaz B.V. Turkmenistan, Douglas Uchikura (second from left) makes opening remarks

portance to the nation's long-term, sustainable economic growth and development."

This initiative, implemented by the Economic Reforms to Enhance Competitiveness Project, is one of the many activities made possible by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Since 1992, the American people through USAID have provided over \$90 million in programs that support Turkmenistan's economic growth, social sector, and community initiatives.

Turkmen Law Enforcement Officers Visit U.S. as Part of English Training Program

Four graduates of the U.S. Embassy's English Language Training Program for Law Enforcement Officers traveled on a familiarization tour to the United States during the week of October 11th. The participants represented the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Interpol, the State Counter-Narcotics Service and the State Customs Service. They met with State Department officials, representatives from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Marshalls, and the Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigations Training Assistance Program. They also visited

the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The English Language Training program is funded by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

The trip included a working visit to Lynchburg, Virginia, where the Turkmen officials were welcomed by the Lynchburg Police Department. They met with the Lynchburg Police Chief Parks Snead and had a tour of Police Department's facility and training academy. They learned about computer-based police training simulators, met with the officers of the Task Force for Internet crimes against children, and participated in street patrols with local officers.

During televised interviews with the Lynchburg TV news, the Turkmen officials discussed the importance of expanding cooperation between Turkmen and U.S. law enforcement officials.