



NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS ISSUE

Dr. Helen Desfos-
ses Visits Turk-
menistan ②

Dr. Thomas
Graham Visits ②
Turkmenistan

USAID Trains
Specialists on ②
Tourism Industry

Air Cargo
Interdiction ③
Training

Drug Enforce-
ment Training ③
Seminar

Course on
Critical Incident ③
Management

Vessel Boarding ③
Training

Message on
International ④
Women's Day

Modern Teaching ④
Approaches

Visit to Annau ④
Mosque

CONTACT US

Ak Altyn Hotel, 4th Floor,
Magtymguly 141/1,
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
744000

Phone: 36 33 31
36 13 65
Fax: 36 46 93

Email:
irc-ashgabat@state.gov

U.S. DOE Held Symposium on Natural Gas System Management

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Embassy coordinated a Symposium on Natural Gas System Management in Turkmenistan on April 26-29 in Ashgabat. The Symposium convened industry veterans, technical experts, and Turkmenistan government officials to discuss a wide range of topics relating to natural gas system management and operations.

The four-day Symposium addressed techniques and processes used by western natural gas transmission operators to cost-effectively manage and operate natural gas systems.

The Symposium expanded participants' knowledge through interactive case studies and instruction and discussed economic considerations in the production and transport of natural gas. It also provided tools for Turkmenistan officials and managers to improve the life-cycle management of gas pipelines and gas compressor stations.



U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Sylvia R. Curran Gives Remarks at the Symposium

With the participation of world-renowned experts from Energy Experts International, ICF Consulting, and Heath Consulting, presenters showcased how countries around the world are improving energy ef-

Continued on page 3

U.S. Embassy Participates in International Folk Arts Festival



Visitors Try on the Baseball Gloves as Public Affairs Officer William Stevens Explains the Game

On April 21-23 2010, the US Embassy participated in the International Folk Arts Exhibition, hosted by the Government of Turkmenistan. The Embassy exhibited a number of American cultural icons including Hollywood paraphernalia, American paintings, hand-made quilts, classic American sports gear, teddy bears, and cowboy attire including boots, hat and saddle.

The booth included American patriotic symbols such as the Bill of Rights, the Statue of Liberty, five historic American flags, and photos. American diplomats talked

Continued on page 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Photo Exhibition - to mark the Turkmen-American Cooperation. "Along the Path of Friendship and Cooperation" - **June 14-21, 2010** at Exhibition Hall of Union of Arts of Turkmenistan.

For more details contact Public Affairs Section of U.S. Embassy at Ak Altyn Hotel.

Public Jazz Concert - Ari Roland's Jazz Quartet:

Dashoguz - June 12, 2010
Ashgabat - June 13, 2010
Turkmenabat - June 14, 2010

For more details contact Public Affairs Section of U.S. Embassy at Ak Altyn Hotel.

U.S. Embassy Participates in International Folk Arts Festival

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with visitors and explained the significance of these cultural objects and gave interviews to Turkmen TV and Radio channels. The Embassy gave away hundreds of materials including copies of the latest eJournal, "Snapshot USA" in Turkmen, which explores the culture and society of the USA today. The exhibition was part of a larger festival that included concerts throughout the city. Dave Landes and Maysa Niyazova from the US Embassy participated in one of the concerts, performing several folk and country songs on the banjo and guitar.



Dave Landes and Maysa Niyazova Perform in a Public Concert in Ashgabat on April 22

Dr. Helen Desfosses Visits Turkmenistan



Dr. Helen Desfosses Giving a Presentation

Dr. Helen Desfosses visited Turkmenistan March 28-30, 2010 as part of the State Department's Strategic Speaker Initiative. Dr Desfosses, a well-known academic and expert on women's issues, met with the Speaker of the Turkmen Parliament, Akja Nurberdieva. They discussed a wide-range of topics and issues affecting Turkmenistan's women, including pending legislation, past legislative accomplishments, and other topics. Dr. Desfosses also gave a presentation to over 30 Turkmen parliamentarians on the U.S. perspective on the development and promotion of equal rights and equal opportunities for women.

Professor Desfosses led a half-day seminar on March 30 for representatives of non-government organizations that promote equal rights and equal opportunity for women in education, healthcare, employment, and political participation. Chargé d'Affairs Sylvia Curran opened the seminar and highlighted the US government commitment to promoting equal opportunities for women. Dr. Desfosses spoke about advocacy and leadership skills for women, while a local expert on women's issues spoke on the legislative background of women's issues in Turkmenistan.

USAID Train Specialists on the Development of Tourism Industry

On April 21, Junior Achievement Worldwide opened a four-day workshop entitled "The Application of International Experience to the Development of Turkmenistan's Tourism Industry," funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Chevron Nebitgaz B.V. Turkmenistan.

USAID Representative for Turkmenistan Ashley Moretz noted that the U.S. Embassy is "proud to contribute to the

Former White House Adviser Dr. Thomas Graham Visited Turkmenistan



Mr. Graham Speaks at Turkmen Military Academy

On April 8, 2010 Former White House Advisor Dr. Thomas Graham visited Turkmenistan for an intensive day of meetings and lectures with officials and students.

Dr. Graham, an expert on US Foreign Policy, discussed the decision making process behind US defense and foreign policy with officials at Turkmen Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defense. He also briefed students at the Ministries' respective academic institutes. Dr. Graham also participated in the roundtable discussion hosted by the UN Center for Preventive Diplomacy (UNCPD) in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan attended by Chiefs of Central Asian and Western diplomatic missions. He spoke about the key factors in promoting and maintaining stability and security in Central Asian and Afghanistan such as complications from the competition of foreign powers, border agreements, energy and water security, narcotics and terrorist organization both internal and outside. In terms of Afghanistan, he particularly noted that neighboring countries should gradually develop growing economic interest and establish cultural exchanges.

development of the tourism industry of Turkmenistan." Douglas Uchikura, President of Chevron Nebitgaz B.V. Turkmenistan, added that "today, tourism is one of the primary areas for development in Turkmenistan's economy. We believe that Turkmenistan will benefit from applying international experience to its rapidly developing tourism sector."

The workshop was designed to familiarize Turkmen specialists with international tourism development best practices and was based on an international educational program for teachers and young specialists who work in the tourism industry called "Travel and Tourism".

Symposium on Natural Gas System Management in Turkmenistan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

efficiency and reducing methane emissions in natural gas pipelines and compressor stations. Chevron, ExxonMobil, and Honeywell co-sponsored the event and sent company experts to give presentations on project management, systems security, and pipeline integrity and design.

This technical training followed up on a DOE Workshop on Pipeline Integrity and Management that took place in June 2009. Officials from a variety of Turkmenistan government ministries and companies attended the Symposium.

Export Control and Related Border Security Program hosts Air Cargo Interdiction Training

The United States Customs and Border Protection Service conducted International Air Cargo Interdiction Training (IACIT) under the framework of the State Department-funded Export Control and Related Border Security Program from March 29 to April 2, 2010 in Ashgabat.

The participants included officers of the State Customs and Border Services of Turkmenistan, Transport Police and Ministry of Foreign Affairs who are involved in inspection of cargo at international airports of Ashgabat and Turkmenbashi.

U.S. Embassy Opens Drug Enforcement Training Seminar



Speakers Give Remarks at the Opening Ceremony

On March 24, the Embassy, along with experts from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, opened the first of two week-long Basic Drug Enforcement seminars for officers from the State Counter Narcotics Service of Turkmenistan.

The seminar was held in Ashgabat for 25 officers representing Ashgabat, Ahal and Balkan provinces from March 24-27.

Charge d' Affaires Sylvia R. Curran officiated at the opening ceremony. In her speech to the participants, she said **"Recently, we have seen the mutual benefits of our cooperation in combating narcotic trafficking. ... We hope to continue our cooperation in the fields of counter-narcotics, export control and related border security programs. A true friendship, based on mutual respect and shared experiences, is one of many positive by-products of this long-term cooperation."**

The training was organized and funded through the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

The training introduced proven U.S. methods of fighting illegal drugs. The goal of the seminar was to provide the SCNS officers with a basic knowledge of counter-narcotics investigations and operations. This training will help instill solid narcotics enforcement fundamentals that the officers can draw upon throughout their careers.

Turkmen Officials Complete Course on Critical Incident Management

On February 12, the U.S. Embassy marked the completion of a two week training course on "Critical Incident Management." Over 20 officials from Turkmenistan's Ministry of Interior and Turkmenistan's Ministry of Defense completed the course, organized within the framework of the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security cooperation and training programs.

In her comments to mark the completion of the training, the U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Sylvia R. Curran said: **"Today's graduation marks the completion of the first training session ever offered by our Diplomatic Security personnel here in Turkmenistan. And although we are celebrating the successful completion of this course, we are hopeful that today's course is only the beginning of a partnership that will see additional training and exchanges."**

Since 1983 the State Department's Diplomatic Security Bureau has provided training and equipment to foreign law enforcement and security organizations to enhance their capabilities and capacity to detect, deter, counter, and investigate illicit activities. Through these and similar programs, over 61,000 foreign law enforcement and security personnel from 154 countries have been trained and assisted.



Participants Receive a Certificate of Completion

Turkmen Customs Officials Go to Vessel Boarding Training in South Carolina

Three officers from Turkmenistan's State Customs Service participated in a Commercial Vessel Boarding course at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Charleston, South Carolina the week of April 26, 2010. The training seminar was funded by the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) and organized under the framework of the Maritime Security Project between the U.S. and

Turkmen governments. The Turkmen customs officers studied together with American and other international colleagues, and shared their professional experiences, job knowledge and cultural backgrounds. The program covered areas such as an overview of illicit/dangerous cargo, operational hazards and safety awareness, commercial vessel familiarization, maritime document identification, pre-boarding procedures, vessel search techniques, officer survival afloat and others.

INL plans to arrange more training opportunities in the future for English-speaking law enforcement officers from Turkmenistan at U.S. training centers.

Congratulations on the International Women's Day

Hello, my name is Sylvia Reed Curran and I am the Charge d' Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat. As the head of the U.S. Embassy in Turkmenistan, I have the unique pleasure of representing the people and government of the United States here in Turkmenistan.

Today, on behalf of the people of the United States, I would like to offer warm wishes to the women of Turkmenistan on International Women's Day.

Every March in the United States we celebrate Women's History Month. It is a time for us to recognize the contributions woman have made to our nation and to the world. In March, we also honor those women who have opened the doors for women's empowerment and equality. As we focus on women's history, we must also ensure that the next generation of women leaders has every opportunity to

succeed. As President Obama recently said, "only if we teach our daughters that no obstacle is too great for them and that no ceiling can block their ascent, will we inspire them to reach for their highest aspirations."

It is a pleasure and an honor for me to be with you in Turkmenistan at this time and to celebrate International Women's Day with you. As the leaders of Turkmenistan and my country recognize, when women are afforded equal rights and opportunities, they flourish. And so do their children, families, communities, and nations.

Happy holiday.



Sylvia Reed Curran
Charge d' Affaires
of the U.S. Embassy

USAID Facilitates a Seminar on Modern Teaching Approaches

On April 5, the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Quality Learning Project launched a seminar entitled "Learning to Teach" for school teachers and administrators and specialists from the National Institute of Education of Turkmenistan.

"USAID supports the introduction of the latest multimedia technologies in the pedagogical process as well as modern teaching approaches. These new methodologies promote quality learning outcomes for all students and facilitate implementation of President Berdimuhamedov's education reforms"

Ashley Moretz
USAID Representative for Turkmenistan

The seminar took place at Yzgant School #27, named after Berdimuhamet Annayev, in Gokdepe District of Ahal Province. It continued till April 10 and focused on modern teaching approaches, including the usage of interactive whiteboards and computer classes. The seminars goals included helping teachers to identify learning objectives, apply different teaching approaches, and develop specific lesson plans and classroom activities.

It was the first seminar under USAID's Quality Learning Project, which promotes the application of modern teaching



Trainer Terry Giles Exchanges Ideas with Participants

approaches in secondary schools throughout Turkmenistan. This project is one of 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 about \$90 million in programs that support Turkmenistan's economic growth, social sector, and community initiatives.

Group of Americans Visit Anau Mosque

On April 9, a group of eight Americans, which included local diplomats and members of the American Community in Turkmenistan visited Anau, a small town 20 minutes outside of Ashgabat. They had a tour of a bronze age settlement and the famous 15th century shrine of Seyit Jamal ad-Din Mosque. The U.S. Embassy sponsored a restoration project at the Mosque in 2001, under the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation.

The group also had a chance to join pilgrims at the site for a lunch and try a variety of local meals. Following the tour at the mosque, the group visited the Wheat Museum to explore archeological findings from the Anau settlement.



Turkmen Pilgrims Invite Americans to Try Local Meals