



NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS ISSUE

USA and Turkmenistan Extend Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Cooperation ②

Public Photo Exhibition ②

Ari Roland Jazz Quartet Performs in Turkmenistan ②

USAID Teaches Principles of Private Sector Development ③

Turkmen Law Enforcement Officers Learn English ③

USAID and Chevron Support Financial Reforms ③

International Border Security Training ④

E-Teacher Scholarship Program ④

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U.S. Delegation Visits First Annual Bilateral Consultations



Assistant Secretary Robert Blake Gives Remarks at the Opening of the Annual Bilateral Consultations

A delegation of U.S. government officials, headed by Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asia Rob-

ert Blake visited Turkmenistan June 13-16 and participated in the inaugural session of the Annual Bilateral Consultations with the Government of Turkmenistan. The consultations focused on all aspects of the U.S.-Turkmenistan relationship, including priorities in Afghanistan, security cooperation, human rights, energy, and economic cooperation. The U.S. delegation included Assistant Secretary of State Michael Posner from the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, along with representatives from several U.S. Government agencies and offices. The establishment of Annual Bilateral Consultations between Turkmenistan and the United States is another step forward in strengthening important ties and collaboration between the two nations.

U.S. Embassy Welcomes Lynne Tracy

Lynne Tracy assumed her duties as Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. at the U.S. Embassy on July 9, 2010. Since joining the State Department in 1994, Ms. Tracy's overseas assignments have been concentrated in Central and South Asia with postings in Peshawar as Principal Officer (2006-2009), Astana as Principal Officer (2004-2006), Kabul (2002-2003), Bishkek (1997-2000), and Peshawar (1995-1997). Her Washington assignments include Kazakhstan Desk Officer (2003-2004), Georgia Desk Officer (2001-2002), and the Office of the Special Ambassador to the Newly Independent States (2000-2001).

She is the recipient of the Secretary's Award for Heroism (2009) for her service in Peshawar and of several Superior Honor Awards. Ms. Tracy was born in Barberton, Ohio. She received a B.A. in Soviet Studies from the University of Georgia in 1986 and a law degree in 1994 from the University of Akron.



Lynne Tracy
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nonimmigrant Visa Application Fees Increased on June 4, 2010 - The U.S. State Department increased fees to ensure sufficient resources to cover the rising cost of processing nonimmigrant visas. This increase applies both to nonimmigrant visas placed in passports and to border crossing cards. For a number of reasons,

including new security enhancements, the \$131 fee set on January 1, 2008 no longer covers the current, actual cost of processing nonimmigrant visas.

For more details, visit our web page at:

<http://turkmenistan.usembassy.gov/visas.html>

United States and Turkmenistan Extend Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Cooperation

On June 7, the United States 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 third 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. Sylvia Reed Curran signed the Amendment on behalf of the United States Government.

The Amendment extends current activities and adds a new dimension by allowing for additional funding to establish and support a forensic scientists and investigators' project. The new project is designed to increase cooperation between forensic scientists of the State Counter-Narcotics Service of Turkmenistan and criminal case investigators. The forensic scientists and investigators'



Charge d' Affaires a.i. Sylvia Curran and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Rashid Meredov Sign the Amendment

project is a continuation of earlier assistance efforts that included a forensic laboratory development project and a counternarcotics project.

Under the new forensic scientists and investigators' project, U.S. law enforcement experts, primarily forensic scientists from the Drug Enforcement Administration, will provide training assistance on evidence collection, crime scene investigation, and forensic examination. The project will also provide basic supplies and equipment to the counternarcotics units and forensic scientists for field-based evidence collection.

Public Photo Exhibition Highlights US-Turkmenistan Relations



Visitors View the Photo Exhibition

In honor of the Annual Bilateral Consultations, which took place in Ashgabat from June 14-15, 2010, the U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat and Turkmenistan's Ministry of Culture hosted a photo exhibition to highlight the cooperation and friendship between the two countries.

The exhibition of over 50 photographs was held at the main Exhibition Hall of the Union of Artists of Turkmenistan and was open to the public from Monday, June 14th through Monday, June 21st from 09:00 to 18:00.

The exhibition showcased the various areas of cooperation in the U.S-Turkmenistan bilateral relationship that underscore the common interests the two countries share, including photographs of high-level meetings, student exchanges, cultural exchanges, projects by the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the activities of Peace Corps volunteers in Turkmenistan.

Ari Roland Jazz Quartet Performs in Ashgabat, Turkmenabat, and Dashoguz



Following the Quartet's Performance, Ari Roland Poses for Pictures and Signs Autographs for the Fans

The Ari Roland Quartet, a group of four New York-based jazz musicians, with the support of the U.S. Embassy and Turkmenistan's Ministry of Culture and TV and Radio Broadcasting, carried out a series of public performances and workshops in Turkmenistan from June 12-14, 2010. The group held performances in Dashoguz, Ashgabat, and Turkmenabat. Entrance was free and open to the public. In addition to these performances, the group conducted workshops for students and musicians in each of those cities on the history of jazz and its development.

The quartet visited Turkmenistan as part of a Central Asian tour. The group included talented musicians Ari Roland on bass, John Mosca on trombone, Zaid Nasser on alto saxophone, and Keith Balla on drums. They had toured internationally and have recorded extensively. Their program, made possible by a U.S. Department of State's Performing Arts Initiatives grant, was designed to foster cultural understanding between the United States and other countries of the world through American music.

Turkmen State Managers Learn the Principles of Private Sector Development with the USAID Support

On June 10, a group of managers from the Government of Turkmenistan completed a US government sponsored training course on international best practices for supporting small business development. The course helped managers from state industries, local government and the banking sector learn how to best establish and develop industrial parks and special economic zones and promote trade, entrepreneurship and investment. The training was offered by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Civil Service Academy under the President of Turkmenistan.

USAID Representative for Turkmenistan Ashley Moretz, at the certification ceremony for the training noted “The Turkmen government has made private sector development and entrepreneurship a high priority.” He also added that “working with the Civil Service Academy offers state managers access to business training that will help support an active private sector, including small- and medium-size enterprises (SMEs). By giving SMEs the tools to grow, Turkmenistan will see increased economic growth and new job opportunities.”



USAID Representative Ashley Moretz Gives out Certificates of Completion

This training course is the second successful initiative of the USAID project for Economic Reforms to Enhance Competitiveness and the Civil Service Academy. In March 2010, the project delivered a course on Econometrics and Applied Economic Analysis

U.S. Embassy Helps Turkmen Law Enforcement Officers Learn English



The U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. Lynne Tracy Presents a Certificate to a Graduate

On August 6, the most recent group of Turkmen law enforcement officers graduated from the U.S. State Department’s “English Language Training for Turkmen Law Enforcement Officials” program. This year’s graduates include participants from Turkmenistan’s State Customs Service, State Border Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of National Security, State Migration Service, State Counter Narcotics Service, Prosecutor General’s Office and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In her congratulatory remarks to graduates, the U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. Lynne Tracy underlined the importance of English in improved law enforcement operations, noting that “knowledge of English opens the door to critical information that will help them effectively perform their duties as law enforcement officials.”

With funding from the U.S. State Department’s International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau, the project has trained more than 70 Turkmen law enforcement officers since its launch in 2006.

USAID and Chevron Support Financial Reforms in Turkmenistan



USAID Acting Country Representative Erin M. Cole Congratulates a Group of the Course Participants

On June 30, 28 specialists from Turkmenistan’s key economic agencies completed a month-long training program on managerial accounting, tax, and law organized by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Project for Economic Reforms to Enhance Competitiveness (EREC) with support from Chevron Nebitgaz B.V. Turkmenistan.

At the closing ceremony, USAID acting country representative Erin M. Cole noted that “an increased number of internationally-certified accounting specialists will support the Government’s efforts to introduce international accounting standards. This in turn may result in expanded foreign investment in Turkmenistan and facilitate the country’s integration into the global economic community.”

Earlier this year the same group of participants completed the first course on financial accounting. The training participants included specialists from ten key economic agencies, such as the Finance and Economics Ministries, the Tax and Statistics Authorities, and the Central Bank.

U.S. State Department Sponsored International Border Security Training for Turkmenistan's Front-line Officers

The U.S. State Department's Export Control and Related Border Security Program sponsored a five-day training course entitled "Interdict/RADACAD (Radiation Academy) International Border Security Training" for five officers from Turkmenistan, two from the State Customs Service and three from the State Border Service. The training course was conducted by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response (HAMMER) Training Center in Richland, Washington State, USA from June 28 – July 2, 2010.

The purpose of the training was to strengthen the border-enforcement officials' abilities in detecting, identifying, interdicting, and investigating all aspects of smuggling related to the proliferation and diversion of materials associated with nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their related missile delivery systems. The course also covered many subjects such as the threat of weapons of mass destruction, missile systems, types of radioactive materials, their use and transport, radiological weapons and others. Participants received hands-on training on the use of personal radiation dosimeters, specialized in-



A Turkmen Officer Receives Hands-on Training on the Use of Vehicle Inspection Equipment

spection equipment, survey meters, and Radiation Isotope Identification Devices.

International Border Security Training provided an opportunity both for participants and instructors to share experiences and gain from each other's knowledge.

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.

E-Teacher Scholarship Program

The Embassy of the USA in Turkmenistan introduces E-Teacher Online Courses that train foreign English language professionals in the latest U.S. methods of English language teaching via distance education.

The 10-week courses will be offered in the fall of 2010, and the winter, spring and summer of 2011. Twenty-six (26) course participants will also be selected, upon completion of the course, to attend a three-week professional development workshop in the U.S. in the summer of 2011.

This cycle will offer the following courses:

1. Critical Thinking in the EFL (English as a Foreign Language) Curriculum
2. Teaching English to Young Learners (TEYL)
3. Building Teaching Skills through the Interactive Web
4. English for Specific Purposes (ESP) Best Practices
5. Assessment of English as a Foreign Language
6. Methods Course I: Survey of Best Practices in TESOL (Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages)
7. Methods Course II: Developing EFL Literacy through Project-Based Learning

Individual descriptions of courses can be found at:

<http://exchanges.state.gov/englishteaching/eteacher.html>

or by request from the Education Program Assistant at the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat.

It is recommended that candidates read and understand the description of the program they are planning to apply for.

How to apply?

To apply for the program it is required to submit a resume with complete contact details and a 1-page statement detailing the SPECIFIC program (1 of the 7 above) and a reason for choosing this program. These can be submitted by email to AshgabatEducation@state.gov with "E-teacher application" as the subject line, or in person at the Public Affairs Section.

Selection criteria

- Candidates must be teacher trainers or teachers who are working, or plan to work, with one of the seven subjects stated above; they should be committed to fulfilling the program requirements (8-10 hours of work per week), and should complete the course in time.

- Candidates should possess English language skills roughly equivalent to a minimum TOEFL score of 550), have a general understanding of computer use and Internet use, and have regular access to the Internet.

For additional information please email:

AshgabatEducation@state.gov

or visit us at:

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Hotel "Ak Altyn" 4th floor,

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 744000;

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