



USAID Assistant Administrator Reviews Cyprus Programs

USAID Assistant Administrator (AA) for Europe and Eurasia Douglas Menarchik visited Cyprus during a recent tour of the region. Menarchik came to Cyprus to review the latest political and economic situation with Embassy and United Nations officials and to view firsthand the results of USAID's longstanding program on the divided island. AA Menarchik visited several project sites, including Larnaca's Hala Sultan Tekke, Nicosia's Venetian Walls, Nicosia's Arabahmet neighborhood, and the Cathedral of St. Mamas in Morphou. He also toured the UN-patrolled Buffer Zone and the historic walled city of Famagusta and met with businesspeople, opinion shapers, civil society organizations and youth leaders from both sides of the dividing Green Line. At an event to honor the participants of a program for budding journalists, Menarchik congratulated the young print and TV

journalists for their determination to share their "life-changing" experience at a bicomunal train-the-trainers program that focused on the important role journalists can play in areas of conflict.

AA Menarchik visits USAID project sites (below); awards participants from the Young Journalist Project (right).



Young Journalists Explore their Role in Conflict Resolution

Six Cypriot journalists recently returned from the renowned international journalist training organization, the Thomson Foundation in Northern Ireland, where they learned "investigative reporting in conflict settings." There, the young journalists met with senior editorial figures and discussed their roles in conflict resolution. They also met with prominent politicians and visited important sites connected with Northern Ireland's recent history. Most importantly the young journalists were trained to be trainers for other journalists, and, now, in Cyprus, after completing a series of training modules supervised by specialists from the Thomson Foundation, they have developed and implemented an on-island professional development program for their peers. Approximately 20 young journalists have already taken part in the on-island training program. The study trip to Ireland was

part of an ongoing ACT program which trains young journalists from across Cyprus to develop and share professional journalism skills through bicomunal peer-learning and interaction. Two Cypriot journalists from the program won scholarships to the Thomson Foundation Journalist Summer Course next year in Wales.

The mission of USAID/Cyprus is to encourage cooperation between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot individuals and organizations to reduce tensions and promote a climate that will foster reconciliation and a durable peace settlement.

*Economic Development and
Growth for Enterprises*

EDGE's Consultant Kevin Murphy was the keynote speaker at an event organized with the TC Chamber of Commerce on competitiveness and how to build a constructive dialogue between all relevant economic actors. This structured discussion—the first of its kind—attracted over fifty influential business and economic leaders. EDGE's Trade and Business Association Development and Banking Teams are working together to convince business chambers to encourage banks to require business plans as part of credit applications. EDGE continues to promote the new Cyprus Producers Network (CPN) web portal, including through articles to be published in relevant publications and a training session for the project staff that interact with businesses directly. In tourism, EDGE is collaborating with the Buyukkonuk/Komi Kebir Village Eco-tourism Association to develop an appropriate policy for their new logo and the standardization of packaging of products. EDGE is also working with the Famagusta Walled City Destination Development Project Steering Committee to develop a logo and slogan as first steps in product development. The AgriBusiness Team facilitated a successful training on Animal Feeding and Rationing through the Madison Dairy Advisory Group (MADAG).

Resource Efficiency Achievement Project

REAP is working closely with a research company to design a questionnaire that will measure the rate of increase in 1) awareness of energy efficiency and 2) the use of energy efficient appliances. REAP, together with the Energy Professionals Association and the local electricity utility, visited a Nicosia high school during the Earth Day week (17-21 November) and gave presentations to the students about using energy efficiently.

Action for Cooperation and Trust

ACT's "Performing the Experience" project continues with weekly performances of "Voicing and Staging the Experience," a production which tells the story of youth who participated in ACT's bicomunal summer camps. The Armenian Church and Monastery restoration project is making progress. The design team will make presentations to USAID, UNDP, Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot stakeholders, and the Armenian community in early December. ACT is preparing for a briefing for the US Ambassador. The briefing will include presentations from leaders of non-governmental organizations from both sides of the island.

*Supporting Activities that
Value the Environment*

SAVE's "How Does Your Garden Grow in Cyprus" manual continues to receive attention from the media and interested groups. SAVE is also preparing a training event for the agriculture extension service interns working with EDGE and the TC Chamber of Agricultural Engineers; the focus of the event will be the findings of SAVE's different water management projects including those related to the use of soil moisture probes; iron bacteria; composting; and mulching. Restoration and repair work on the bell tower of St. Mamas Cathedral continues; this week the experts completed much of the re-pointing and replaced several of the loose stones on the tower's mid- and lower-sections. Plans are underway for a 2009 SAVE "Water Summit", which is meant to increase awareness of the best ways to tackle the major water issues facing the island and to encourage change in behavior at all levels.



Unexpected but welcome, the first "Wonderful" pomegranate harvest is in and has sold out! While commercially significant results were not expected until 2009, EDGE's technical assistance and agricultural extension support resulted in more than 10 tons of high quality pomegranates being produced and marketed. The "Wonderful" variety of pomegranate is uniquely suited to Cyprus' environment and offers a lucrative, water-saving alternative to traditional citrus crops.

News from Nicosia

November 8-11

United States Agency for International Development Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia Douglas Menarchik visited Cyprus to review USAID's programs.

November 14

President Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat met under the framework of the negotiations aimed at reaching a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus.

OUR PROJECTS

- The **Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT)** program mainstreams the concepts of conflict resolution in over 120 projects that encourage Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work on issues of common concern and solve problems together. Projects are currently underway in the areas of youth, education and tolerance, civil society strengthening, sustainable development and cultural heritage preservation. ACT is funded through a cooperative agreement between USAID and the UN Development Program (UNDP).
- The **Cyprus Partnership for Economic Growth (CyPEG)** includes activities that support economic growth in the Turkish Cypriot community to decrease the disparities between the communities and promote reconciliation. CyPEG is implemented by U.S. contractors under different USAID contract mechanisms.
 - The objective of the **Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises (EDGE)** project is to strengthen the domestic and international competitiveness of Turkish-Cypriot small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and help restructure the financial sector so that SMEs can thrive.
 - The **Resource Efficiency Achievement Program (REAP)** promotes more efficient use of water and energy by conducting audits and upgrades of representative business establishments and households. REAP also provides technical assistance to Turkish Cypriot energy experts.
 - The **Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE)** project focuses on improving (1) the competitiveness, financial status, and quality of basic services and infrastructure to more easily meet international and EU standards and (2) Turkish Cypriot capacity to manage natural and cultural resources for economic growth.