



United States Mission in Turkmenistan

Pushkin Str. 9, Ashgabat
744000 Turkmenistan

Phone: (993-12) 35 00 45 Fax: (993-12)39 26 14
Website: www.usemb-ashgabat.rpo.at

Issue 3

Monthly Newsletter

July 2001

In This Issue:

- 2 U.S. Government Aid to Turkmenistan Tops \$700,000 in Last Three Months
- 2 Winners of Several Academic Programs Will Study in the United States
- 2 American Professor Teaches Journalism Skills in Ashgabat
- 3 International Visitors Discuss Health Care With Colleagues
- 3 American Organization Consults and Certifies Turkmen Business Trainers
- 3 Turkmen and American Health Professionals Share Their Practices in Health Education
- 4 Charge d'Affaires's July Fourth Television Address
- 5 American Consultant Conducts a Workshop on Effective Communication Skills
- 5 Announcements

America Celebrates its Independence Day



On the 4th of July, the U.S. Mission celebrated the 225th anniversary of America's Independence Day. The Embassy sponsored a number of activities in honor of its national day, including a concert of American music, a conference at the university, an informal American style BBQ and a formal reception.

In his speech at the reception, Chargé d'Affaires of the United States in Turkmenistan Eric T. Schultz spoke of the great potential that Turkmenistan and the United States have in their bilateral relations. The-then Chairman of Turkmenistan's Mejlis Rashid Meredov stressed the importance Turkmenistan attaches to the cultural and educational exchange programs that exist between our nations.



Conference on Turkmen-American Relations

The Center for American Studies at Turkmen State University held a conference on Turkmen-American relations on June 29. Chargé d'Affaires Eric T. Schultz and Rector of Turkmen State University Chary Yazliyev gave opening remarks. About 50 teachers of Turkmen State University and other higher educational institutions participated in the conference. They discussed Turkmen-American cooperation, American life and American society, and methodologies of teaching English.

Concert of American Music



A concert of American music entitled "Jazz, Blues and More..." was held in the Mollanepes Drama Theater in Ashgabat on Friday, June 29. Turkmen musicians and students of the Turkmen Conservatory performed such well-known pieces as Louie Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World" and George Benson's "Blues". Over 600 people packed into the theater for the free event.

(For text of Mr. Schultz's Fourth of July televised address, please see page 4.)

U.S. Government Aid to Turkmenistan Tops \$700,000 in Last Three Months

The U.S. Government delivered its third shipment in the last three months of humanitarian aid to Turkmenistan. The latest shipment, which arrived on June 25, was valued at \$220,000, bringing the total aid to almost \$730,000. This humanitarian assistance was delivered from the U.S. by Counterpart International Humanitarian Assistance Program (CHAP) as part of a U.S.-Turkmen Cooperation Program in the humanitarian field.

Two Turkmen organizations, the Center of Industrial Unions and Organizations of the Disabled of Turkmenistan in Ashgabat and "Umyt" Social Adaptation Center in Turkmenbashi, will distribute this aid to the elderly, orphans, disabled, and large families in Turkmenistan.

Since 1999, these two groups have distributed over two million dollars worth of U.S. Government assistance in Turkmenistan.

Winners of Several Academic Programs Will Study in the United States

Last month, the American Embassy announced the winners of several academic exchange programs sponsored by the American Government for Turkmen citizens, including the Muskie program for graduate study, the undergraduate program, and the Regional Scholars and the Contemporary Issues programs for scholars in various fields. The winners will be departing to the United States in August to pursue studies in business administration, American studies, international relations, law, education, public health and a number of other fields. In remarks at a reception in honor of the winners, Chargé d'Affaires of the United States in Turkmenistan Eric T. Schultz emphasized the central role that these programs play in Turkmen-American relations. After completing their studies in America, these students and scholars will return and contribute their new skills to the country's future.

American Professor Teaches Journalism Skills in Ashgabat

American professor of journalism Richard Shafer taught Western journalism skills in Ashgabat to senior and beginning journalists, students, local groups and educational organizations June 9-16, 2001.

Professor Shafer is a Fulbright scholar who taught journalism for one academic year in Tashkent and previously in several colleges and universities in the United States.



Shafer familiarized high school and university students, many of whom issue their own newsletters, with basic newsletter writing techniques. With professional journalists he held two seminars speaking about advanced journalism in the West and modern trends in journalism education. He invited a Turkmen specialist in archeology, Ruslan Muradov, to the seminar and spoke with journalists about how to effectively write archeological articles.



He also taught basic newsletter/journalism to local groups, alumni of U.S. Government-sponsored educational programs and students of the ARCA educational center.

International Visitors Discuss Health Care With Colleagues

Two former participants of the International Visitors Program on private healthcare in the United States talked about their American experience with doctors from various parts of Turkmenistan, representatives of Turkmen medical groups and mass media affiliated with health issues. Yelena Babayeva, director of the private diagnostic center "Diamed", and Karihan Gajarova, a private dentist, shared with the participants of this round table ideas to strengthen networks of Turkmen physicians using the example of those in the United States. Such professional groups would focus on developing medical services in Turkmenistan, continuing doctors' medical education and exchanging information about current advances in medicine.



Representatives of various initiative groups, Counterpart Consortium, journalists from "Neytralniy Turkmenistan" and "Watan" shared information about their activities in the field of health care and gave their ideas on how such organizations can work together to protect the health of people. In particular, journalists proposed that health organizations keep them appraised of their important events, so they may effectively publicize them.

Yelena Babayeva and Karihan Gajarova spent two weeks in the United States this March under the USG-sponsored International Visitors Program to study the American experience in developing private health care. During their travel, they were familiarized with all levels of the American healthcare system and visited various health clinics in Oklahoma City, the Roswell Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York, and professional medical associations.

American Organization Consults and Certifies Turkmen Business Trainers

Fifteen business trainers from Ashgabat, Dashoguz, Turkmenabat, Balkanabat and Tagta participated in a conference on Human Resource Management held by the Pragma Corporation, a USAID contractor, on June 12-15.

During the four-day training conference, the group adapted a regional business course curriculum to the needs of Turkmenistan, learned new adult-training methodology and established a network of partners around the country. At the end of the conference, several trainers were certified by Pragma to teach the Human Resource Management course in Turkmenistan.

The Pragma Corporation implements USAID's project on small and medium business development in Turkmenistan. It has conducted four Trainers' conferences in Turkmenistan and certified business trainers to teach the following short business courses: Preparing a Business Plan, Developing a Marketing Plan, Analysis of Financial Statements for Non-financial Managers, and Human Resource Management. Local training partners in cooperation with the Pragma Corporation have trained over four hundred businessmen, students and prospective entrepreneurs at these courses in the last nine months.



Organizations or individuals interested in participating in any of the four courses are encouraged to contact Pragma at: repsinach@online.tm or mkulmanov@online.tm.

Turkmen and American Health Professionals Share Their Practices in Health Education

USAID/ZdravPlus, Academy for Educational Development and health volunteers from Peace Corps organized and conducted a one-day seminar entitled "Sharing the Best Practices of Turkmenistan's Community Health Educators". Participants explored ways to integrate and improve maternal and child health and preventive medicine in primary health care. This training brought together 15 local health professionals and 15 Peace Corps volunteers who gave presentations of their "Best Practices" projects that they have worked on together over the last two years.

In addition to the participants, representatives from the Ministry of Health and international donor agencies were present. During the day there were opportunities for Peace Corps Volunteers, their local partners, Peace Corps staff, ZdravPlus and the Ministry of Health and others to engage in discussions about ways the groups can work together to achieve common goals.



A health manual that will contain all the presentations of the health teams and a seminar video will be produced and disseminated. For information on obtaining the manual, please contact Sachly Nazarova at: phone - 35-59-14 or e-mail - snazarova@tm.peacecorps.gov

Fourth of July Coverage Continued:

Chargé d'Affaires Addresses the Turkmen People On Television

Chargé d'Affaires of the United States Eric T. Schultz delivered the annual Fourth of July television address, which was broadcast on the "Jahan Yany" international news program that evening. The text of this address follows:

On behalf of the American Embassy, allow me to extend to President Niyazov and the Turkmen people greetings on this, America's Independence Day. I would also like to thank the President and the people of Turkmenistan for the warm hospitality our Embassy has received in Turkmenistan.

Today the U.S. celebrates its 225th anniversary as an independent and democratic nation. On July 4, 1776, our Declaration of Independence was signed.

While it took many more years for us to win our freedom and still more to emerge as a stable democracy, this is the date we consider that it all started.

The United States has come along way in 225 years. Americans are proud of our history and we like to think we've made some important contributions to man's welfare, especially with respect to advancing democracy, which we believe in very strongly as the best form of government.

It is true that Turkmenistan is by contrast a young country, with only ten years of independence. But the Turkmen are an ancient people, who have also made great contributions to mankind.

Given our own revolutionary past, the United States has always felt a special kinship with newly independent nations. We were, for instance, one of the first countries to establish a diplomatic mission in Turkmenistan and we remain strong supporters of Turkmenistan's sovereignty and independence. We are also strongly committed to helping Turkmenistan achieve a prosperous, peaceful, and democratic future.

We have always considered Turkmenistan, with its great natural and human resources, to be one of the former Soviet republics best positioned to be successful. However, to achieve its great potential, we believe Turkmenistan must overcome the legacy of its Soviet past, especially with respect to rule of law.

By contrast, the United States, though it had to fight for its independence, was fortunate to inherit a well-developed legal system that has been the foundation of our successful democracy. Our experience has taught us that a legal system that can protect the individual from the state is a necessary condition for democracy and for market economics to succeed. We believe that Turkmenistan will find its own path to democracy and to prosperity. And we look forward to ever-closer relations with Turkmenistan in the years ahead, both government-to-government and, more importantly, people-to-people.

For the American men and women who serve in our Embassy here, Turkmenistan has become our home. Speaking on their behalf once more, we will do everything in our power to bring about closer and ever more productive relations between our two great nations.

American Consultant Conducts a Workshop on Effective Health Communication Skills

Donald Ruschmann, an American consultant specializing in communication strategies, conducted a 4-day workshop on "social marketing" on July 9-12 for local groups who received grants this year under Counterpart Consortium's Maternal and Child Health Project (MCH). The goal of the workshop was to teach skills that will enable groups to more effectively run health campaigns. Participants learned written communication, oral presentation skills, how to use videos for communication, and other techniques aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles.

It's Charity Ball Time!

A Charity Ball will be held to raise funds for construction of a playground/sport complex for the School for Visually Impaired Children. The Ball will be held on August 10, 2001 and will feature dinner and dancing. For information on tickets please contact ACCELS at: 39 53 28, 39 53 32

Now Accepting Applications for Professional Exchange Program

The U.S. Embassy announces the second year of the Humphrey Fellowship in Turkmenistan! The program brings mid-level Turkmen professionals to the United States for one year of academic and professional work. Fellowships are granted competitively to public and private sector candidates with a commitment to public service in the fields of communications/journalism, natural resources and environmental management, public policy analysis and public administration, agricultural development, finance and banking, human resource management, law, urban and regional planning, technology policy and management, educational planning and public health policy and management.

For application information and materials, please contact Anjela Begjanova at the Embassy: phone - 35-00-45; e-mail - begjanovaak@state.gov **Application deadline: August 25, 2001**