



IN THIS ISSUE

First Words From Project Harmony	2
Real Issues: Environmental Protection	3
Making a Difference: Forming Environmentally Responsible Businesses	4
Postcard From Minnesota	5
Alumna Profile: Irina Pisareva	6
From the Regions	7
Announcements and Opportunities	8
Calendar of Events	8

In the next issue:

Alumni discuss the rule of law. Send your articles to Oksana Silantyeva

osilantyeva@projectharmony.ru

Message From Open World Program Manager Britta Bjornlund

As the staff person responsible for Open World visits focused on the environment, I am especially pleased to present the Spring 2004 *Open World Alumni Bulletin*, which is dedicated to this topic.

Since 1999, a total of 282 Russians have traveled to the United States under Open World's "environment" theme. Our delegates include environmental activists, government officials, NGO directors, and academics. I have had the opportunity to meet most of these impressive and committed environmental leaders during their Open World orientation here in Washington, D.C., and was privileged to accompany one of the delegations on a working visit to Syracuse, N.Y., in 2002.

Each of our local environmental programs focuses on a specific subtheme: environmental education, energy, biodiversity protection, nuclear safety and cleanup, pollution, or park and wildlife reserve administration — all issues extremely important to the future of Russia. Part of my job as program manager is to ensure that every environmental delegation's schedule covers the assigned subtheme in depth and responds to the delegates' individual professional interests.

The Open World Leadership Center staff understands that Russia, like the United States, will continue to face many difficult environmental problems in the coming years. "Environment" remains an Open World theme in 2004, and I hope that our program will assist our environmental delegates as they tackle the challenges ahead.



Britta Bjornlund

Information sharing helps specialists in any sphere to work more effectively. I hope that this issue of the *Open World Alumni Bulletin* will begin a useful dialogue on environmental questions among our alumni, their American colleagues, and other interested groups. The pages of our website forums (at www.openworld.gov) are an ideal place for continuing such a dialogue. All of us at Open World look forward to hearing from you!

Britta Bjornlund
Program Manager
Open World Leadership Center

Dear Alumni,

We invite you to sign up for a listserv that will send you information on competitions, grants, foundations, and other financing sources. The announcements you receive are gathered from various sources and will be sent in real time. In

subscribing to this listserv you will also receive the latest announcements from the Open World Program.

Open World regional coordinator Svetlana Shlykova administers the listserv. You can reach her at svesh@psu.karelia.ru.

You can also subscribe to the listserv on Open World's website in the Alumni section: www.openworld.gov/alumni/?lang=2.

Dear Open World Alumni and Friends!

It is a great honor for us to present to you the *Open World Alumni Bulletin* devoted to the environment — a topic that serves to unite people all over the world for the sake of preserving all of Earth's life forms. The articles published in this issue prove what a wide range of interests you alumni have; your ready response to problems; your desire to apply the knowledge you gained and the techniques you learned about during your visits to the United States under the Open World Program. Out of the four conferences held by the Open World Alumni Outreach Program during 2003/4, the two days' conference in Khabarovsk for 23 environmentalists from the Russian Far East and Siberia stood out because of the participants' enthusiasm and optimism, and their interest and sense of responsibility for a healthy and environmentally safe Russia.

In order to share information on the latest technology and successful solutions to environmental problems, the conference participants decided to create a database that will include information on projects and programs that our alumni take part in, and a separate database of material resources that can be used in their work.

Another database will list contact information for experts who can be used as resources on new projects. We invite you to join the environmental alumni network and add your input to the Open World website (www.openworld.gov) or send your information to the site administrator, Nadya Fomina, at nadya@projectharmony.ru.

The Alumni Outreach Program is your information and organizational resource. It offers an opportunity for professional networking and personal growth, as well as for expanded contacts with your American colleagues and fellow alumni within your region and across the country.

On March 15, 2004, two new coordinators started with the program. They are Anna Polscha and Aaron Wredberg. Anna oversees the 35-city regional alumni coordinators network. She has been working in international programs since 1998. Her experience includes employment in the Moscow office of the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) and on USAID regional projects in Central Asia. Aaron also worked at IREX. He has been living in Russia for three years, and is well known in Kemerovo, Ulyanovsk and Ufa. Aaron will apply all his



Elena Boukovskaya

experience and knowledge of American and Russian culture to develop and strengthen ties between alumni and their host organizations and host families.

We hope that our program will remain interesting and useful for all of you! We wish you success in your endeavors, dear friends!

Sincerely,
Elena Boukovskaya
Open World Alumni Outreach Program Manager

OPEN WORLD ALUMNI BULLETIN

Executive Editor: Dr. Geraldine M. Otremba
Editors: Elena Boukovskaya
Vera DeBuchananne
Oksana Silantyeva
Consulting Editor: Britta Bjornlund
Designer: Igor Inozemtsev
Copy Editor: Stacy Hoffhaus

Send submissions and letters to the editor to:
Open World Alumni Outreach Program
Project Harmony, Inc.
Nikitskiy Bulv., 12/51
119019 Moscow, Russia
(095) 290-0265 tel/fax
E-mail: OMBulletin@projectharmony.ru

Open World Alumni Outreach Program:
Elena Boukovskaya, *Program Manager*

Open World Leadership Center
Washington, DC 20540-9980
USA
Tel. (202) 707-8943
Fax (202) 252-3464
E-mail: openworld@loc.gov
Website: www.openworld.gov

Open World Leadership Center

Dr. Geraldine M. Otremba
Executive Director

Vera DeBuchananne
*Open World Manager
for Alumni Coordination*

Board of Trustees

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, *Chair*
Senator Ted Stevens, *Honorary Chair*
Senator Bill Frist
Senator Carl Levin
Representative Amo Houghton
Representative Robert E. Cramer, Jr.
Ambassador James F. Collins
Mr. George Soros
Mr. Walter Scott, Jr.
The Honorable James W. Symington

The *Open World Alumni Bulletin* is published quarterly by Project Harmony, Inc., as part of the Open World Alumni Outreach Program it conducts for the Open World Leadership Center. The Center requests that reprints of material in the *Bulletin* bear the following: "Reprinted courtesy of the Open World Leadership Center." Submission of articles, letters, photographs or other materials to the *Bulletin* will be considered permission to publish the materials — in whole or in part — in the *Bulletin* and on the Center's website. The Center reserves the right to decide which materials to publish. The Center assumes no responsibility for views expressed in the submitted materials published in the *Bulletin*. All photographs are provided by the authors or subjects of each article unless otherwise indicated.

Founded by the U.S. Congress in 1999, the Open World Program has enabled nearly 7,800 citizens from all of Russia's 89 regions to see the U.S. democratic process and market economy in action and to exchange ideas with their American counterparts, thereby helping build mutual cooperation between the Russian Federation and the United States. The Open World Program is conducted by the Open World Leadership Center, an independent legislative branch agency, which works cooperatively with the U.S. Department of State and other U.S. executive and judicial branch agencies.

To sign up for free electronic program updates or to be removed from mailout lists, visit www.openworld.gov. In Russia, the *Bulletin* is mailed to alumni without access to e-mail.

Environmental Protection: Dialogue Between Citizens and Government

Alexey Kudryavtsev
Tomsk
 Lecturer, International School for
 Agriculture,
 Natural Resources, and the Environment
 Tomsk State University
 Member, Tomsk Ecological Student
 Inspection
 Open World 2003 (Environment)
 Host Community: Burlington, Vt.
 Host Organizations: USDA Graduate
 School International Institute/Vermont
 Council on World Affairs

In a mature society, any institution is characterized by openness and transparency. An effective policy of environmental protection is based on constructive dialogue between state agencies and the public. My counterparts from different cities of Russia and I were convinced of this in September 2003 in the state of Vermont.

The first sentence in the mission statement of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources says: "We are public servants, whose every power is derived from law and whose authority is that given us by the people of Vermont." Indeed, any activities of the agency that are of interest to local citizens are discussed with the public. The information on environmental examination of construction projects, results of the enterprises audit, and development of protected zones is open and available to the public. It was interesting for us to

In all, the opportunity to compare the systems of environmental protection of the two countries enabled us to better understand democratic principles in developing civil society, share ideas, and become closer to American colleagues.

learn that state environmental agencies publish special brochures with the activities planned for the next year. People can bring in any suggestions and thus influence the work of the agency. Moreover, detailed information is posted on the Internet [at www.anr.state.vt.us].

Nongovernmental environmental organizations are held in high esteem by the citizens. For example, in Vermont, NGOs play a key role in environmental education, ecotourism development and sustainable development. We were pleasantly surprised to learn that many people volunteer their time to work on environmental activities that benefit the community.

The cooperation of governmental and nongovernmental organizations is one of the effective ways of solving environmental problems. In Russia, progress has only been made within the



Alexey Kudryavtsev

last decade. In Tomsk Region alone, several citizen environmental councils have been established. Their formation was initiated by the government. This shows that public opinion is beginning to influence governmental policy. In our region, most people know of the work of the Environmental Department and environmental NGOs.

However, we are facing a lot of problems we need to solve. One of them is the inactivity of the people. Many people doubt that any one person can make a contribution to environmental protection and other spheres of community life. Even legislation does not necessarily foster civic activism. For example, the last version of the federal law On Protection of the Environment allows citizens to carry out environmental audits. At the same

time, environmental problems are not always a priority in Russia because of a range of social challenges.

During our trip to Vermont it was important for us to experience the mutual understanding between our countries. American organizations are truly interested in Russian environmental problems. Two of the organizations we visited — the Institute for Sustainable Communities and Ecologia — are known to Russian environmentalists because they implement projects that support civic initiatives in Russia and neighboring countries. In all, the opportunity to compare the systems of environmental protection of the two countries enabled us to better understand democratic principles in developing civil society, share ideas, and become closer to American colleagues. If you would like to learn more about our trip to Vermont, visit <http://green.tsu.ru/avk>.

Here you will find well-known environmental conservation websites where you can begin your search for vital environmental information. Browsing through the sites will give you a general idea of environmental protection in Russia and the United States.

Russia:

- RF Ministry of Natural Resources www.mnr.gov.ru (Russian)
- Nature national portal www.priroda.ru (Russian)
- Social Ecological Union (SEU) www.seu.ru (Russian and some English)
- Ecoline Information Service www.ecoline.ru (Russian and some English)
- Endangered Animals of Russia www.nature.ok.ru (Russian and some English)
- Russian Ecological Federal Information Agency www.refia.ru (Russian and some English)
- Overview of Internet resources on the environment www.green.tsu.ru/links.htm (Russian)
- BioDat (portal for information on wildlife conservation) www.biodat.ru (Russian and some English)
- World Wildlife Federation (WWF) www.wwf.ru (Russian and some English)
- Greenpeace Russia www.greenpeace.org/russia_ru (Russian and English)
- Biodiversity Conservation Center (BCC) <http://biodiversity.ru> (Russian and some English)
- Association for Environmental Education www.aseko.org (Russian and some English)
- Samara Bend public nonprofit regional foundation <http://luka.samara.ru> (Russian)
- Catalog of links for websites on the environment www.md.mos.ru/umep/ecorus_r.htm (Russian)
- Environmental organizations <http://ecolife.org.ua/links/links1-1.php> (Russian)

United States:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency www.epa.gov
- National Park Service www.nps.gov
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service www.fs.fed.us
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service www.fws.gov
- Environmental Information Resources www.gwu.edu/~greenu/index2.html
- EnviroLink (online environmental community) www.envirolink.org

Forming Environmentally Responsible Businesses

Sergey Nikitenko
Kemerovo
General Director
Innovations Support Center
Kuzbass Regional Agency for the Support
of Small Business*
Open World 2002 (Economic
Development)
Host Community: Little Rock, Ark.
Host Organizations: USDA Graduate
School International Institute/Arkansas
Council for International Visitors

During my trip to the United States under the Open World Program, I was pleasantly surprised by Americans' responsible management of oil products. They recycle from 70 to 90 percent of used oil. This process is regulated by law. Oil users can be fined for violating these laws.

It is high time for Kemerovo Region [in western Siberia] to start cleaning up its territory. Upon my return, I decided to implement advanced technologies of recycling waste oil through the Kuzbass Regional Agency for the Support of Small Business, of which I am the director.

I would like to mention that this is not our first step toward solving urgent environmental problems. In 2001, in our region's capital [Kemerovo city], we started a pilot project on collecting and recycling waste oil.

Within two years we managed to create a system of waste oil collection and to set up a special plant for reclamation that also produces secondary products. However, the volume of recycled oil — 250 tons a year — was too small, considering that used oil appeared 140 times faster. For this reason we started to distribute recycling tech-

nology around the region. Implementation of this project will allow us to have recovered oils that can be reused as lubricant grease and oil byproducts.

The Committee on Natural Resources of Kemerovo Region has examined the results of the used oil collection, reprocessing and recycling and stated that the operation is environmentally safe. The municipal transportation enterprises of three cities (Kemerovo, Novokuznetsk, and Mezhdurechensk) will save about 7 million rubles within 11 months as a result of the reuse of recovered oil. The amount of waste oil in these three cities will decrease by a third.

The Association of Environmentally Responsible Enterprises was established through the initiative of the Kuzbass Regional Agency for the Support of Small Business. The association collaborates with the local executive and legislative authorities at the regional and city level, the Department of Rational Management of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and the Committee on Agrarian Policy, Land Use and Ecology of Kemerovo Region.

Participating in the Open World Program contributed to my personal and creative development and growth.

In conclusion, I would like to say that participating in the Open World Program contributed to my personal and creative development and growth. After a detailed survey of the American experience in implementing a leading-edge technology that can help solve local environmental



Sergey Nikitenko

problems, I defended a scientific thesis titled "Forming a Regional System of Innovative Entrepreneurship Support." I am teaching the course "Innovative Business Organization and Management: International and Regional Aspects" for students of the Russian State University of Trade and Economics.

My partners and I are ready to share our experience with Open World alumni for dissemination and implementation in their regions [innotech@kemnet.ru].

***Editor's footnote: The Kuzbass agency and its sister agencies in more than 50 Russian regions provide training, consulting and information services to small businesses. The agencies, which are supported by the federal and regional authorities, operate as joint stock companies.**

GRANTS, GRANTS, GRANTS...

"Basic Research and Higher Education (BRHE) 2004 Fellowship Competition"

The U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) and the Russian Federation Ministry of Education and Science will support, on a competitive basis, fellowships for young Russian scientists and engineers who received their Kandidat degree no more than six years prior to September 1, 2004. At projected levels of program funding, the 2004 competition will support up to 100 fellowships of \$12,000 each for a three-year period. Information on the competition can be found at www.crdp.org/ApplicationForms/apps.html.

Development of the Scientific-Technical Potential of the Regions 2004 Competition

The Russian Federation Ministry of Industry, Science, and Technology (Minpromnauki Rossii, 1259993, Moscow, Miuskaya pl., d. 3) has announced an open competition to procure a government contract ordered by the ministry for a 2004 project. Winners of the competition in each theme will be awarded a contract to complete the project order. Any legal entity with the necessary permits for executing research, construction, and technological work is eligible to apply. A separate standard application is

required for each competition theme. The application is not to exceed 10 typed pages in A4 format. The text of the application and all attachments are to be submitted in both paper (original and copy) and electronic formats. The electronic version is to be submitted in rtf. The application text and each attachment are to be formatted as separate files. Detailed information on the competition can be found on the website of the Republican Research Scientific-Consulting Center for Expertise, a federal research institute: www.extech.ru.

Continued on page 6

A Paper Mill and Clean Lakes Can Be Good Neighbors

Anna Belosokhova

Novokuznetsk

Senior Staff, Resource Center

Information Ecological Agency

Open World 2003 (Environment)

Host Community: International Falls, Minn.

Host Organizations: Academy for Educational Development/Rainy River Community College

Minnesota's name comes from the Dakota (Sioux) word for the Minnesota River's "sky-tinted waters." Here are concentrated the greatest reserves of freshwater in the world. The citizens of Minnesota are proud to call the state the "Land of 10,000 Lakes." They even put this nickname on license plates. The city of International Falls is situated on the Rainy River, which is the border with the Canadian province of Ontario. Here the wildlife of a national park* coexists well with a lumber company and a paper company.

The national park covers 882 square kilometers [341 square miles], a third of which is occupied by rivers and lakes, and the rest by coniferous forest (taiga) and swamps. Besides four large lakes (Sand Point, Namakan, Kabetogama, and Rainy), there are 20 more small lakes with rocky isles. With its ancient rocks and network of waterways that were once the routes of travelers, trappers and fur traders, the park is a wonderful place for recreation.

Campers can pitch a tent in the park, stay in a cabin on the lakeside, rent a small houseboat with a cabin or explore the park in a motorboat,

canoe, or hydroplane. During boat trips you can watch wild eagles, loons, seagulls, moose and deer. For those who like hiking, there are special trails. The guidebook for each trail will tell you about plants and animals you will come across. We were surprised at seeing toilets at the trailheads, and trails so well marked that you can't go astray. Along the paths there are thickets of wild strawberries, blackberries and dewberries.

Teachers and college professors bring their students to the park to study nature and test the quality of the water in the lake. The park staff conducts research in the park. They study and monitor the wolves, bears, lynxes, beavers, and wild birds inhabiting the park.

Several NGOs cooperate with the national park. To raise funds for the park they conduct walkathons, organize sales, and collect donations during the tours. One of the events conducted by the NGOs was a fishing tackle exchange, where lead sinkers and jigs, which are hazardous to fish and birds, could be traded for steel ones.

It seems to me that the American experience can be very useful for our country where we cannot solve the problem of coexistence between nature and industrial enterprises.

In the beginning of the 20th century, the hydroelectric potential of the waterfalls of the Rainy River began to be harnessed. A hydroelectric plant, paper plant and sawmill were constructed. The paper company is the biggest enterprise and main employer in this region.



Anna Belosokhova (right) with other program participants on a boat in Kettle Falls, Minn.

more than \$20 million on purchasing and installing equipment to purify wastewater about 20 years ago. Nowadays, they spend about \$1 million to maintain the water-purifying facilities. The company reports on wastewater quality to the state agencies supervising water resources.

Drinking water is pumped from the Rainy River, and then the water is filtered using the processes of coagulation and flocculation (polymer substances are added to the water to amalgamate minor particles to bigger ones for the former to accumulate on the filters). The water is chlorinated and sent to large underground reservoirs; finally it goes to the city water-supply system, or is delivered to homes without city water hookup. The quality of the water is controlled at all stages of purification. The management process is computerized. Only three specialists work at the station [which is operated by the city of International Falls].

Also, only three specialists work at the station on wastewater purification. First the sewage is desilted, and then the water is biologically purified with the use of special microorganisms. After that the water is chlorinated and discharged into the river. Solid sediment is taken out to the fields as fertilizer.

It seems to me that the American experience can be very useful for our country where we cannot solve the problem of coexistence between nature and industrial enterprises.

We learned about this experience and about many other things during our stay in the United States under the Open World Program. As we lived with host families, and some of us could speak some English, we had a chance to communicate with people. They were really interested in the Russian lifestyle. I still remember the words of one American man, a representative of the electric company, who said that he felt a bit uneasy that Russians know so much about Americans, and that they, in their turn, know so little about Russia.

**Editor's footnote: The park is Voyageurs National Park. The term voyageur, French for traveler, was given to the French-Canadian canoeemen who transported early fur traders through the region's waterways.*

A Teacher From a Rural Area as an Expert on Ecological Education

Irina Pisareva
Ecology Teacher
School No. 14, Shuya Village, Valday District
Novgorod Region
Open World 2002 (Environment)
Host Community: New Orleans, La.
Host Organizations: USDA Graduate School International Institute/Council for International Visitors of Greater New Orleans

As a participant in the Open World Program for Russian leaders, I visited New Orleans, La. The local program was designed to provide Russian leaders with the knowledge and skills that will allow them to make their way to the stars through difficulties (*per aspera ad astra*). As for me, I am still reaching my stars. Anyway, I think I can sum up my achievements and share what I managed to fulfill being an ordinary teacher from a rural area of Russia.

I received my first “laurels” after the local newspaper *Valday* published my article “Back From Travel Afar.” Acquaintances and complete strangers called me. They all were interested to know how people live in America.

The same year I was also recognized professionally: I was awarded with the Honorary Teacher

medal. At the same time, I was invited to work as a scientific assistant in Valday National Park [located about 220 miles northwest of Moscow]. I am still combining two jobs: scientific research and work in the educational sphere.

Before my trip to the States I worked with a Danish project. We organized ecological expeditions for children. But after I visited the U.S.A., I was offered a contract by DANCEE [Danish Cooperation for Environment in Eastern Europe] to work as an ecological education expert. My job responsibilities included translating the Danish teacher training manual *The Living Forest* into Russian and adapting it to local conditions in Valday National Park. The manual is published in Russian and distributed to teachers in Russian schools. I conducted international trainings on

The local program was designed to provide Russian leaders with the knowledge and skills that will allow them to make their way to the stars through difficulties (per aspera ad astra).

how to work with this book that were attended by specialists willing to promote environmental education.

During 2002–2003 we carried out three international sessions on different environmental issues hosted by the Shuysky Expeditionary Center. The biggest one took place in August 2003 with the support of the Social Ecological Union [a Moscow-based international network of environmental groups]. Shuya hosted representatives of 25 schools located on protected areas of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States], from the western borders (Belovezhskaya Pushcha)* to the Pacific Ocean (Sikhote-Alinsky Reserve). The trainings were conducted in the Shuysky Expeditionary Center in a wilderness environment that meets biosphere reserve standards.

Still, my greatest achievement is my decision to study in the postgraduate school at Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University. Currently I am working on a thesis on the history of modern pedagogical science and the development of the ecological center model.

I am looking forward to cooperating further with the Open World Program and to arranging a visit of my American colleagues to Valday. I would be happy to arrange a trip for American environmentalists.

**Editor's footnote: a national park in Belarus named after the famous forest that makes up most of its area.*

Continued from page 4

The Nordic Council of Ministers' Scholarship Scheme — Exchange of Civil Servants

The program gives financial support to civil servants from North-West Russia (St. Petersburg, the Republic of Karelia and Leningrad, Archangelsk, Murmansk, Pskov, Novgorod and Kaliningrad regions), Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to carry out study visits in the Nordic countries — Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The aim of the program is to offer civil servants operating on behalf of administrative structures in the Baltic countries and North-West Russia opportunities to build networks between the civil structures of North-West Russia and Baltic countries and the same structures of Nordic countries either by study visits to Nordic countries or by visits of Nordic experts to adjacent areas. Information can be found at www.rscl.ru/MoreInfo.html?MessageID=2431.

Scholarship Program for Energy Experts

The Scholarship Program is initiated and funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers. It is supported and promoted by the Nordic Regional Energy Group and the Committee of Energy of the Baltic Council of Ministers. The program has been running in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania since 2001 and in 2002 the program was extended to cover North-West Russia (St. Petersburg, Kaliningrad, Murmansk, Arkhangelsk and Karelia).

The program objectives are:

- to create and strengthen long-term cooperative links and relations between energy experts, administrations and companies in the Nordic countries, the Baltic countries and Russia;
- to provide the countries' energy administrations with expert staff trained in the challenges of the future energy markets;

- to provide the candidates with an in-depth knowledge and personal experience of international energy cooperation; and
- to provide the candidates with a thorough knowledge of the changing energy sector, its future challenges and the climate issues in the Nordic countries, the Baltic countries and North-West Russia.

The application form (www.norden.ru/files/EnergyExpertsAppForm.pdf) completed in English is to be sent before April 9, 2004, to the Nordic Council of Ministers' Information Office in St. Petersburg, 10 Kazanskaya (Plekhanov) St., Office 2, St. Petersburg, 191186.

Open World has in the last six months organized regional conferences in Khabarovsk (environment), Samara (health) and Tomsk (women as leaders), in addition to the St. Petersburg information management conference featured in our previous issue. Highlights of the conferences are reported below.

“Communities’ Local Answers to Environmental Problems of Siberia and the Far East”

Khabarovsk, Oct. 23–26, 2003

The first of four scheduled regional thematic conferences for Open World alumni was held Oct. 23–26, 2003. The conference, entitled “Communities’ Local Answers to Environmental Problems of Siberia and the Far East,” united 21 alumni who work on environmental issues in the region. The official opening of the regional conference took place at the Far East State Research Library on Oct. 23.

Pamela Spratlen, U.S. Consul General in Vladivostok; Vera DeBuchanne, Program Manager for Alumni Coordination at the Open World Leadership Center; and Open World alumna Irina Viktorovna Filatkina, Director of the Far East State Research Library, greeted the conference participants from Kemerovo Region, Irkutsk, Chita, Ulan-Ude, Vladivostok, and Amur Region.

Following the opening ceremony and reception, participants traveled to Bychikha, a village south of Khabarovsk, where the conference continued.

Alumni made presentations on the projects they are implementing, highlighting the array of challenges facing the regions. Following the presentations, alumni began sharing ideas and also participating in strategic planning trainings. The goals of the conference were to discuss coalition-building techniques applicable to the implementation of environmental projects and to create a sustainable network for information sharing among alumni.

As the result of intense work under the guidance of two trainers — Inga Zinovieva and Andrey Chernyaev of the Siberian Center of Community Initiatives Support, Novosibirsk — conference participants created a network for alumni interested in ecological issues. See www.openworld.gov/phpBB2/viewforum.php?f=41&sid=8d322b99a1d87d9287fff3d762cc75c4.

Conference participants developed strategic plans for the upcoming year and discussed the creation of a website to house information about all their projects.

The participants presented their projects the morning of the first day. The presentations included:

1. “Development of Environmental Policy for the Kemerovo Region,” Anna Belosokhova, Information Ecological Agency (Novokuznetsk), www.ineca.ru

2. “Nongovernmental Assessment of the Environmental Impact of the Strela Space Complex,” Yulia Kovalenko, Amur Regional Branch of the Youth League of Lawyers (Blagoveschensk)
3. “Development of the Regional Component of the Natural Science Education Curriculum for the Secondary Schools of Primorsky Krai,” Alexander Vrisch, Phoenix Fund (Vladivostok), www.phoenix.vl.ru
4. “Economical Use of Curative Mineral Waters. Restoration of Natural Resources. Regulation of Use of Natural Resources by Federal Authorities,” Marina Belyankova, Center of Legal Protection for Entrepreneurs (Khabarovsk)
5. “The Current State and Preservation of Native and Relict Plant Species of the Baikal Shoreline,” Natalia Badmayeva, General and Experimental Biology Institute of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Ulan-Ude)
6. “Let’s Preserve the Unique Forest of Zabaykalie,” Irina Bolgova, Dauria Ecological Center (Chita)
7. “City Event ‘Moydodyr,’” Galina Tkachenko, Visit Youth Center (Svobodny City, Amur Region)

“Health of Russia”

Samara, Dec. 5–6, 2003

The city of Novokuybyshevsk in Samara Region hosted a conference Dec. 5–6 entitled “Government, Commercial and Not-for-Profit Sectors in Public Health Service: A Coalition Approach for the Health of the Russian Population.” Twenty Open World alumni from Samara, Toliatty, Novokuybyshevsk, Izhevsk, Penza, Saratov, Chapayevsk and Pokhvistnevo (Samara Region) participated in the conference. The team of experts included the following specialists:

Dr. Kirill Danishevsky, consultant to the Open Institute of Public Health Foundation, Research Assistant at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Dr. Alexey Shabashov, Healthy Regions Association President; Dr. Dina Balabanova, King’s College, Great Britain.

The conference was also attended by: Alexander Khilkov, Program Coordinator for the Open World Leadership Center, U.S. Embassy in Moscow; Open World alumnus Oleg Valentinovich Volkov, Deputy Mayor of Novokuybyshevsk for Social Issues; and Open World alumnus Anatoly Mikhaylovich Voznyuk, Deputy Head of the Family, Maternity and Childhood Issues Department, Samara Region Administration.

The goals of the conference were:

- to acquaint alumni with current trends, programs and projects aimed at solving problems of smoking, infectious diseases, and health protection in general; and
- to share ideas and identify ways of cooperation within the framework of the Open World Program.

Presentations by experts generated active discussion about the challenges identified. Conference participants demonstrated a deep knowledge of the issues discussed. The experience of the regions in tackling some of the problems was interesting for the alumni.

The results of active and productive group work were presented at the final session in the form of these projects:

- “Creation of an Antitobacco Coalition”
- “Assistance Program to Reduce the Rise in Infectious Diseases”
- “A Model for Reforming the Regional Health Service System”

“Women’s Leadership – Bringing Development and Prosperity to Russian Society”

By Oksana Silantyeva

Tomsk, Feb. 20–22, 2004

On Feb. 20, 2004, a regional thematic conference for Open World Program alumnae who participated in the “Women as Leaders” program kicked off in the snowy Siberian city of Tomsk. More than 30 Open World women alumnae from six regions gathered for the conference, entitled “Women’s Leadership – Bringing Development and Prosperity to Russian Society. Views, Opinions and Experiences of Women Leaders of Siberia,” to discuss their experience in promoting women’s interests.

Present at the conference were: Britta Bjornlund, Open World Program Manager;

Continued on page 8



Tomsk conference participants

You are welcome ...

... to join our project

Many children's, youth, and civic organizations do not have technical equipment to establish databases or carry out work on environmental programs. It would also be very helpful to obtain handheld quick-results laboratory equipment for water analysis. The Ministry of Natural Resources of Sverdlovsk Region has already started a program of providing working computers and printers to environmental organizations and would be glad to share its experience. The project can unite specialists from different regions.

Olga Naschetnikova

Chief Specialist

Department of Environmental Safety

Ministry of Natural Resources of

Sverdlovsk Region

(3432) 61-50-20

e-mail: nobel@labour.midural.ru

... to participate in a conference

April 21–23, 2004, Pereslavskiy Cinephotochemistry College and Plescheevo Lake National Park will conduct the VIII Annual Ecological Conference for Students and Young Specialists, "Ecology of the Regions: Situation and Perspectives." We are inviting students of higher education establishments and vocational schools, postgraduate students, young scientists and personnel of environmental organizations. Issues for discussion: monitoring of industrial and natural areas; environmental NGOs; industrial ecology; ecological education; environmental management.

Proposals for papers (not more than one printed page in length) should be sent to:

Tatiana Nikolayevna Shutova
Marina Vyacheslavovna Stoyan
152020, Yaroslavl Oblast
Pereslavl-Zalesskiy
Krasnyy Khimik, 1
tel/fax (08535) 203-32
e-mail: postmaster@college.botik.ru

... to publish your material in a newspaper

The editors of the newspaper *Fragile Forest*, published by the Dauria Ecological Center, invite authors, experts and interested people to send materials. The periodical highlights issues relating to forest utilization, the preservation of unique ecosystems, the development of a network of specially protected natural reserves, environmental pollution, and public monitoring of projects exploiting natural resources. The newspaper also publishes articles about citizens' environmental and social rights and about national and regional environmental NGOs. The newspaper is distributed within Chita Region. The newspaper has a circulation of 13,500 copies and is published once a month.

Dauria Ecological Center
672000, Chita, PO Box 1041
e-mail: root@ecology.chita.ru
www.dauria.chita.ru/english

... to participate in an ecological summer school

Fourteen-year-olds are welcome to participate in the Choices Ecological School. It takes place in the vicinity of Kemerovo Aug. 1–11, 2004.

Child and Youth Ecological Parliament
 (Kemerovo regional not-for-profit organization)
Regional Young Adult Library

650066, Kemerovo, prospect Lenina, 71
(384-2) 52-74-34

... to publish a photo book

The editor in chief of the Karelia environmental newspaper *Green Leaf* invites counterparts to take part in publishing a book about environmental problems in Russia and the United States.

Gennadiy Anasovich Mingazov
(8142) 78-54-91
e-mail: mingazov@rambler.ru

Continued from page 7

Alexander Khilkov, Open World Coordinator at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow; Open World alumna Irina Rukina, Economics Committee Chair of the Moscow City Duma [Council]; Open World alumna Nelli Krechetova, Assistant to the Governor of Tomsk Region; Vladimir Podkatov, Assistant to the Mayor of Tomsk; and Open World alumna Tatyana Dmitriyeva, Head of the International Department, Tomsk City Administration.

The opinion that women can only be successful in the social sphere was immediately negated at the conference. Participants represented a wide array of interests such as converting the military-industrial industry to commercial interests, promoting environmental awareness, fighting terrorism, supporting women in small business, and promoting culture.

While almost one-third of all participants represented local administrations, all participants, regardless of their own interests, voiced the necessity of working together to achieve goals. "Russia always appeals for women's help when hard times come," said Moscow City Duma Deputy Rukina. She also noted that women are strong enough to tackle problems traditionally only addressed by men — and to solve them creatively, adding that it is important for Russia to develop a policy that relates to women rather than nominally securing equality via the Constitution.

Women in local, regional and national governments, in business, in the social sphere and in community movements should occupy equal roles with men, influencing the dialogue in society. Impressions, knowledge, and experience gained during participation in the Open World Program inspired Open World alumnae to implement their professional and creative ideas in all spheres of life. This conference allowed them not only to share their experience but also to find partners for their interregional projects.

Openness is not just the ability to cross borders, but the ability to think creatively and critically. The conference participants showed this type of openness.

2004–2005 ALUMNI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	CITY	EVENT
May 25–26	Murmansk	PDW*
May 28–29	Nalchik	PDW
June 4–5	Krasnoyarsk	PDW
June 26	Yakutsk	IT Seminar
July 3	Orenburg	IT Seminar
July 27–31	Barnaul–Gorno–Altaysk	Conference (Youth Issues)
Aug. 26–29	Irkutsk	Conference (Economic/Social Development)
September (TBA)	Tyumen	PDW
Sept. 24–25	Blagoveshchensk	PDW
October (TBA)	Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy	PDW
Oct. 29–30	Volgograd	PDW
Nov. 19–20	Pskov	PDW
Dec. 3–4	Moscow Region	Conference (NGO Development)
Feb. 11–12, 2005	Novosibirsk	PDW

*PDW – professional development workshop

Visit www.openworld.gov/alumni/calendar.php for detailed information about these and other program events.