



CENTER FOR RUSSIAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT • 2002

“Thanks to Open World, in regional capitals and big and small cities throughout Russia, there are now mayors, legislators, judges, civil servants, educators, and entrepreneurs who know the real America, not the negative stereotype inherited from Soviet days. And whether the ideas they take back to Russia are practical, such as publishing city council meeting times in the local paper; or more abstract, such as understanding the importance of judicial impartiality to the rule of law, the net effect of Open World is to strengthen Russia’s embrace of democracy.”

—Dr. James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress and Chair of the Open World Board of Trustees

“I would just like to thank Open World for giving Russians the chance to take part in these exchanges, which in turn help them transform the social and economic life of their regions, and this vast country as a whole. Your program touches the lives of individuals, but their good works in turn will affect and inspire an entire generation of Russians.”

—U.S. Ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow



Academician Dmitri Sergeevich Likhachev and Dr. James H. Billington discuss the program in 1999

Introduction

The Open World Russian Leadership Program, now known as the Open World Program, was authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1999 as a result of discussions between Librarian of Congress Dr. James H. Billington and members of Congress led by Senator Ted Stevens (AK) on ways to increase mutual understanding between Russia and the United States and to support Russia's efforts to strengthen its democratic reforms. The program is the first and only exchange program administered by the legislative branch of the U.S. Government.

The Open World Program was designed to bring emerging federal and local Russian political leaders to the United States to meet their American counterparts and gain firsthand knowledge of how American civil society works. Program participants would experi-



Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (center) and Chief Judge George C. Paine II (far right) meet with rule of law delegation during Washington, D.C., orientation

ence American political life and see democracy in action, from the workings of the U.S. Congress to debates in local city councils.

Open World has in just four short years given more than 6,000 current and future Russian decision makers an in-depth introduction to American political and civic life.

The success of the Open World approach and the continued importance of its mission led Congress in December 2000 to establish a permanent, independent center to house the program, the Center for Russian Leadership Development at the Library of Congress, now the Open World Leadership Center.

Program Leadership

A Board of Trustees governs the Open World Leadership Center and its Open World Program. The Board held its inaugural meeting in March 2002 to approve plans and initial grants for the program year, and to elect its leadership.



The Open World Board of Trustees convenes in March 2002 to elect its chairman and to plan the 2002 program

The Librarian of Congress, Dr. James H. Billington, serves as Board chairman, with Senator Ted Stevens (AK), the principal sponsor of the legislation creating and continuing Open World, as honorary chairman. The Center's Board members include Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (TN), Senator Carl Levin (MI), Representative Amo Houghton (NY), Representative Robert E. "Bud" Cramer (AL), former Ambassador to Russia James F. Collins, former Representative James W. Symington, and financier and philanthropist George Soros.

Program Objectives

Open World is designed to enable Russia's emerging leaders to:

- ▶ **Observe** U.S. government, business, and community leaders as they carry out their daily responsibilities.
- ▶ **Experience** how the separation of powers, the system of checks and balances, freedom of the press, and other key elements of America's democratic system make the government more accountable, transparent, and responsive.
- ▶ **Develop** an understanding of the U.S. free enterprise system and its relationship to government.
- ▶ **Learn** how U.S. citizens organize and take initiative to address social and civic needs.
- ▶ **Build** mutual understanding with their U.S. counterparts.
- ▶ **Share** Russian approaches to common challenges.
- ▶ **Participate** in American family, community, and cultural activities.
- ▶ **Establish** lasting personal and professional ties with their U.S. hosts and counterparts.

Program Structure

Selection of Participants Candidates are nominated by prominent U.S., Russian, and international organizations and by Open World alumni. Applications go through multistage vetting by U.S. Embassy and Open World staff.



Women business leaders engage in team-building exercise in Washington, D.C.

Short-Term Exchange

Each Open World visit is short-term (typically ten days), including orientation in a major U.S. city and a study trip to a host community in any of the 50 U.S. states. Most Open World participants are lodged at the homes of American families during their stay.

Theme-Focused Visit

Delegations are chosen and organized by theme of interest and vocation, such as economic development, health, and educational reform. This theme drives the program agenda in the United States, including decisions on federal-level meetings and local and state placement and experiences.

Emphasis on High Quality Local Visits

Local programs in the 50 U.S. states are overseen by U.S. based educational institutions, civic groups, and other organizations with experience hosting foreign leaders. Most local visits include a home stay and opportunities to take part in social and community activities with host families.

Programs Tailored and Content-Driven

Each tailored program includes extensive participation by professional counterparts, an emphasis on participatory, on-site experiences and high-level, substantive meetings.

Language, Cultural Support Provided

The delegations have support from interpreters for professional activities, and bilingual, bicultural Russian facilitators are available for guidance on cross-cultural issues and interpretation during informal events.

Program Follow-up and Ongoing Alumni Activities

Open World organizes numerous activities in Russia for Open World alumni and encourages ongoing communication and cooperation among delegates and with Open World staff.

2002: A Year of Major Milestones

Open World conducted its largest exchange ever in 2002, bringing 2,531 Russian participants to the United States. And as of 2002 Open World has hosted delegations in all 50 U.S. states and has drawn participants from all 89 Russian political regions—from Murmansk in the far northwest to Kamchatka in the Russian Far East. As directed in its authorizing legisla-

tion, the program continued to focus on the emerging generation of Russian leaders. The average age of Open World delegates is 38 years old.

Since the program's inception, Open World has sought to be as broadly based as possible, and the 2002 program fully accomplished this objective. Sixty prominent Russian and American governmental and nongovernmental bodies were invited to nominate Open World delegates. Open World delegates who traveled to the United States were from 47 ethnic backgrounds and 86 Russian regions, including those with large Muslim populations, such as Adigei, Bashkortostan, Dagestan, Kabardino-Balkaria, and Tatarstan.

Approximately 50 percent of the delegates were elected and appointed leaders from the federal, regional, and local level—with the remaining leaders from many different areas of Russian civil society, including the media, the

nonprofit sector, the judiciary, the environmental and human rights movements, and private enterprise.

While Open World has ensured a high level of participation by women since its inception, 2002 marked the first time that more than 50 percent of the delegates were women leaders.

2002: Participation by U.S. Organizations and Hosts

On the American side, Open World 2002 was equally broad-based. A total of 372 communities in 48 states hosted Open World delegations in 2002, with more than 720 American families providing home stays.

Eighty-five percent of Open World participants stayed with American families, gaining a firsthand look at daily American life, and the availability of new American host sites continues to expand each year.

Snapshot of 2002 Delegates and Programs

THEME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION	U.S. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY
Economic Development	Microcredit Manager	Credit Consumer Cooperative "Sodestvie," Smolensk Region	Nevada State Development Corporation officials discuss work with lending programs to help small business owners obtain financing for business growth and expansion.
Education Reform	Deputy Head	Education Department, Ozyorsk City Administration, Chelyabinsk Region	School district officials in Vancouver, Washington, conduct a workshop on the accreditation process for administrators, teachers, and charter schools.
Environment	President	Rostov City Public Organization Eco-Logic	St. Mary's County, Maryland county commissioner, county land planner, and state environmental regulators share their views on environmental issues.
Federalism	Chairperson	Sakhalin Regional Election Committee	Alaska state legislators brief delegation on state election procedures, candidates and ballot measures for August 27 state primary election.
Health	Head Physician	Izhevsk Medical Prevention Center, Udmurtia	Executive Director of the National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville, Alabama, reviews strategies for preventing and treating child abuse.
Rule of Law	Judge	Supreme Court of North Ossetia-Alaniya Republic	Russian judges visit Grand Rapids, Michigan, where they sit with district court judges during court hearings, getting an insider's view of the proceedings.
Women as Leaders	Legal Advisor	Center for Legal Protection of Entrepreneurs, Khabarovsk Krai	Three women mayors and a former mayor from the Tri-Cities area of Tennessee and Virginia discuss challenges to women leaders in both America and Russia.
Youth Issues	Teacher/Psychologist	Social Rehabilitation Center for Minors, Moscow Region	Staff and young people from a Sioux Falls, South Dakota youth center discuss their after-school recreation and education opportunities, and working with homeless and runaway youth.



Russian delegation hosted by USDA International Institute enjoys holiday celebration in Portland, Oregon

Eighteen different nongovernmental and governmental organizations from across the United States, each with expertise in conducting international visitation programs, received grants from Open World to administer the Russian delegates' trips. These national hosting organizations in turn carried out the Open World visits with the help of a wide range of local organizations and institutions, including universities, civic groups, sister-city associations, and nonprofit education and training corporations.

American leaders at all levels—including 36 members of Congress, five U.S. Supreme Court justices, 13 governors, mayors of more than 30 major cities, numerous company heads, nongovernmental organization (NGO) directors and others—were actively engaged in the program.

Themes Cover Wide Spectrum of Current Issues

2002: Major Program Areas

The Center for Russian Leadership Development consulted extensively with U.S. and Russian government officials and policy experts in various fields prior to choosing programmatic themes for 2002.

Open World's focus for 2002 exchanges included (partial list) health, rule of law, women as leaders, and NGO development. In addition, delegations visited the United States to explore economic development, educational reform, environmental issues, federalism, and, at the suggestion of U.S. Ambassador to the Russian Federation Alexander Vershbow, youth issues (including drug, alcohol, and HIV/AIDS intervention programs).

The programmatic themes provided direction for the selection and composition of the delegations. Meetings and events for the visits reflected the theme of the delegation.



The National Peace Foundation hosts a delegation at a Rotary Club meeting in Asheville, North Carolina

Program Highlights

Supreme Court Justices

Three Russian Supreme Court justices, Yuriy I. Sidorenko, Valentin V. Kuznetsov and Vladimir V.

Demidov, reviewed ongoing Russian judicial reforms and discussed Russian and American judicial practices with U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Associate Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Anthony Kennedy, Sandra Day O'Connor and John Paul Stevens. The Russian justices also had working meetings with other U.S. judicial leaders and observed court proceedings. One visit was administered by the Center for Democracy, the other by American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS in association with U.S. District Judge Michael M. Mihm of Illinois.



Justice Yuriy I. Sidorenko (center) and Judge Michael M. Mihm (right) and others in front of the U.S. Supreme Court

Intellectual Property Rights

A key parliamentary sponsor of Russia's new trademark law and three of his fellow deputies met on intellectual property rights issues with members of Congress and U.S. trade and consumer officials in May 2002, while the legislation was still pending in the Russian parliament. Organized for Open World by the Coalition for Intellectual Property Rights, this timely visit also enabled the deputies to attend the International Trademark Association's annual meeting and to consult with the U.S. Copyright Office and U.S.-Russia Business Council members. The amended trademark law was passed and signed into law in December 2002.



Former U.S. Ambassador to Russia James Collins (left) shakes hands with Russian Duma Deputy Adrian G. Puzanovski, while Duma Deputy Alexander M. Yashin looks on

Presidential Insiders

Three of President Vladimir Putin's legislative aides compared notes with President George Bush's chief legislative liaison during a July 2002 trip to Washington, D.C., conducted for Open World by the Center for Democracy. During their in-depth look at the U.S. legislative process, the Putin aides also watched the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee mark up the Homeland Security Department bill and examined how laws are shaped with members of Congress, congressional and agency staff, and some of the capital's top business and organization lobbyists.

Political Campaigns

Regional legislators from the Russian Far East saw the U.S. election process in action during a November 2002 visit to Anchorage organized by the Alaska State Legislature. The Russians followed Republican and Democratic candidates as they campaigned door-to-door; visited party and candidate

headquarters; observed voting; celebrated Election Night with Senator Ted Stevens (AK) and Congressman Don Young (AK); and analyzed election results with Alaska state legislators. Russia's parliamentary and local elections planned for 2003 made Open World's election activities especially timely.



Senator Ted Stevens (second from left) confers with legislators from the Russian Far East in Anchorage, Alaska

Meet Open World Leaders

A Focus on Political Leadership

When arriving in the United States as one of the first Open World delegates in 1999, Lyudmila K. Komogortseva was having second thoughts about her recent decision to enter the political arena. An outspoken human rights and environmental activist, she knew that she would face an uphill battle for office given the Communists' strength in her region, and she was not sure she was up to the challenge.

Open World 1999 Alumna Lyudmila K. Komogortseva

A primary emphasis of the Open World program is to provide Russia's future political leaders with a firsthand look at the American political process and practical experience working with American political leaders, election officials and campaign participants from strategists to volunteers. Open World participants engage in hands-on experiences, direct observation, and substantive exchange with their professional counterparts. Open World visitors campaigned door-to-door with political candidates, attended city council meetings, met with American political campaign experts and attended campaign events.

Today, Ms. Komogortseva has earned a reputation for bravely taking on the powers in the heart of Russia's

Communist-dominated “Red Belt” as a high-profile Union of Right Forces deputy in the Bryansk Regional Duma (parliament).



Lyudmila K. Komogortseva in front of the Michigan State Legislature building

Ms. Komogortseva’s 1999 Open World visit was hosted by the National Democratic Institute (NDI). NDI hosted her and her fellow delegates in Washington, D.C., to discuss campaign strategy with national Democratic and Republican party officials, meet with congressional staff on constituent relations and services, and receive briefings on the role of the media and watchdog organizations in the U.S. political process, including one by then NBC White House correspondent Claire Shipman. A meeting with U.S. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC) was a highlight of the Washington portion of their visit.

The delegates next traveled to Michigan for hands-on media, government, and elections activities. A morning spent following U.S. Representative (now Senator) Debbie Stabenow (MI) as she campaigned for the U.S. Senate at a county fair and an afternoon going door-to-door with a state legislator campaigning for reelection would prove especially useful for Ms. Komogortseva. She and her fellow delegates also met with the mayor of Lansing and visited the state legislature.

Upon her return to Bryansk, Ms. Komogortseva organized a small but dedicated team of local Union of Right Forces activists that included students and members of local human rights and environmental groups. Effective grassroots organizing and retail politicking enabled her to win election to the regional duma despite the strength of the Communist opposition and her lack of access to local government-controlled media.

Ms. Komogortseva considers her successful race “the direct result” of her participation in Open World and notes that because of the confidence she gained through her Open World experience, *“I started working more actively with the mass media, and I participate more in news conferences and events.”* She uses her legislative position as a platform for calling attention to environmental and human rights issues and for speaking out against abuses of power or official neglect. Ms. Komogortseva has chastised Bryansk officials for awarding themselves taxpayer-funded apartments; escorted trolley depot workers to the Bryansk mayor’s office to ensure they received a hearing on their complaints about low pay; and monitored anti-Semitism in her region for the Union of Councils for Jews of the Former Soviet Union.



Lyudmila K. Komogortseva (left) visits the Calhoun County Justice Center in Michigan

“I very often have to explain to people what it means to be aware of, fight for, and defend their rights, respect themselves and fellow citizens, have private property rights, and other things that are obvious to the U.S. citizens, but not so obvious to the people of Russia. My U.S. experience proves to be very helpful in this and in other professional activities,” says Ms. Komogortseva, who continues to head the Bryansk-based Human Rights Association in addition to serving in the regional duma.

A Focus on Jury-Trial Procedure

Russia adopted jury trials during the nineteenth century, but juries were banned throughout the Soviet era. The jury-trial system was reinstated on a pilot basis in the early 1990s in nine Russian regions. The judicial reform package introduced by Russian President Vladimir Putin includes the nationwide expansion of jury trials for serious criminal cases. Thousands of

judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys in Russia's 89 regions must quickly become familiar with jury procedures.

In response, Open World 2002 included programming for three delegations of prosecuting attorneys, defense attorneys, and judges. Local programs provided participants a hands-on introduction to how American-style jury trials are conducted.

"Nothing holds more promise for achieving the long-term security and prosperity of the world community than the rule of law. Nations that adhere to the rule of law share certain common understandings that reach across cultural and political divides. The Open World Russian Leadership Program plays a vital role in this dynamic process."

—Justice Sandra Day O'Connor
Supreme Court of the United States

*Open World 2001
Alumnus Judge
Aleksandr A. Kozlov*

Judge Aleksandr A. Kozlov of the Moscow Region Court visited Minneapolis/St. Paul as an Open World delegate in September 2001. Hosted by Judge Paul A. Magnuson of the District of Minnesota, Judge Kozlov and his two fellow delegates quizzed two federal appeals court judges about appeals court procedures; observed court proceedings in Judge Magnuson's courtroom and in state courts; and participated in a closing roundtable with a group of federal judges.



Judge Kozlov (third from left) and rule of law delegation are greeted by Judge Paul Magnuson (second from left) and Rotary hosts in Minnesota

Since his Open World visit, Judge Kozlov has aided Russia's adoption of the jury-trial system by sharing his understanding of Russian and American jury-trial procedure with his colleagues in lectures and training programs. In May and September 2002, for example, he helped lead jury-trial seminars in Pskov and

Novgorod for judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys from across northwest Russia. The seminars were conducted by the Connecticut-Pskov and the Western New York-Novgorod rule of law partnerships, both of which are members of Open World's rule of law implementing partner, the Russian American Rule of Law Consortium.

Judge Kozlov had experience in conducting jury trials but says that his firsthand observations during his Open World visit gave him important insights into the psychology of the courtroom.



Judge Kozlov and delegation hold discussions in Judge Magnuson's chambers in St. Paul, Minnesota

"I studied the way the judge works during a jury trial, his relations with jurors and their attitude toward the judge, the judge's actions in the process of examining evidence, and how the decision about the sentence is made," said Judge Kozlov.

Judge Magnuson, one of the chief architects and first host judges of Open World's rule of law program, observed firsthand how Judge Kozlov put his Open World experience to use. While on a trip to Russia in 2002, Judge Magnuson visited Judge Kozlov and watched as his Russian colleague presided over jury selection for a murder and robbery trial.

Speaking of the Open World experiences of Judge Kozlov and his fellow rule of law program alumni, Judge Magnuson recently noted, *"Besides the knowledge gained about the day-to-day operations of U.S. courts, there are also profound lessons learned about American society, the esteemed position of judges, and the principles of the rule of law. It is clear to me that the judges and legal professionals participating in Open World are taking these lessons home with them and sharing them with their colleagues, multiplying many times the effectiveness of the Open World rule of law exchange program."*

A Focus on NGO Development

Thousands of Russian nongovernmental organizations created in the last decade provide an important vehicle for meeting social and civic needs and offer ordinary citizens opportunities to take initiative in the public arena independently of the state. Over the past ten years, a talented pool of Russian NGO activists and administrators has been developed. But Russia's NGOs face significant difficulties in securing funding, building administrative capacity, and dealing with restrictive new laws on registration.

Open World 2002 worked to strengthen this vital segment of Russia's civil society by including more than 350 NGO representatives from across Russia in its exchanges. These participants learned firsthand how their U.S. counterparts manage, staff, and fundraise for their organizations, and how U.S. NGOs interact with government at all levels. Among Open World 2002's NGO participants were human rights activists, advocates for people with disabilities, heads of charities, and representatives of Russian women's organizations.

Open World 2002 Alumna
Elena V. Perfilyeva

Elena V. Perfilyeva, the dynamic director of the eight-year-old Information Ecological Agency (INECA), saw her June

2002 environment-themed Open World visit to New Haven, Connecticut, as an opportunity to examine how U.S. policymakers obtain, analyze, and act on environmental information; to meet with environmental experts inside and outside of the U.S. government; and to study the role public opinion plays in shaping

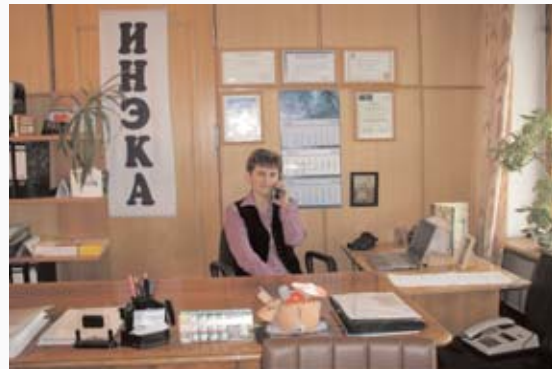
U.S. environmental policy. The information she acquired would prove particularly useful in her work as the Russian director of a large public-private project to develop an environmental action plan for the Kemerovo Region, located in southwest Siberia.



Elena Perfilyeva

During their week in Connecticut, Ms. Perfilyeva and the other Russian environmental leaders in her delegation discussed cost-benefit analysis, pollution credits, and environmental monitoring at the state's

Department of Environmental Protection; visited New Haven to study ways in which the nonprofit regional water authority manages the local watershed; reviewed land-use planning with the head of a Connecticut coastal management agency; and were briefed on local government perspectives on environmental issues by the mayor and first selectman of two neighboring towns.



Elena Perfilyeva in her INECA office

INECA is now at the forefront of the environmental movement in Kemerovo. The famous coal mines and the chemical plants that help make Kemerovo one of Russia's most economically successful regions also contribute to persistent environmental challenges—challenges that Ms. Perfilyeva and her INECA colleagues work to address by promoting public participation in environmental decision-making and by providing a wide range of technical and consulting services, including environmental impact assessment and environmental auditing.

Ms. Perfilyeva applied the insights she gained from her Open World experience when drafting the environmental action plan for Keremovo, a plan approved by the governor. She has also been asked by the governor to draft regional legislation on environmental policy and monitoring. Another of her projects is the establishment of an ecological council for the city of Kemerovo that will provide a mechanism for all interested parties to develop consensus on and promote environmental protection measures.

Says Ms. Perfilyeva, *"I obtained the idea to create such an establishment while on the program, and most of my knowledge of its principles and provisions I acquired from my American colleagues during my ten-day trip on Open World."*

A Focus on Building Healthy Communities

In 2002, 17 percent of Open World visitors participated in health-themed delegations. The Russian leaders who took part in these visits included high-level regional and municipal health officials, top hospital administrators, university educators, and directors of health-related NGOs. Recognizing that responsibility for healthcare delivery in Russia is rapidly devolving from the federal to the regional and community levels, Open World 2002 focused on exposing participants to community-based health models that include government, health providers, the educational system, NGOs, and the business community.

*Open World 2002
Alumnus Dr. Michael I.
Faerberg*

Dr. Michael I. Faerberg is the busy chief physician and head administrator for Kurgan City Maternity

Hospital #1, considered the top maternity facility in the region. Dr. Faerberg was one of six leaders to visit Kurgan's sister-city of Appleton, Wisconsin, on a health-themed Open World visit in September 2002 hosted by the Washington, D.C.-based American International Health Alliance (AIHA) and World Services of La Crosse, Wisconsin.



Dr. Faerberg and Dr. Montgomery Elmer (AIHA representative) during closing reception in Washington, D.C., at the Russian Embassy

Dr. Faerberg's delegation included the head of Kurgan's municipal sports and youth department, an inspector with the region's child protection services, the president of a state-owned Kurgan television station, and the chief physician of a Kurgan medical clinic. This mix of government, community, and health-care leaders from a single Russian city was a special feature of many of the health programs Open World

offered through AIHA and World Services. This "healthy communities" model involved interdisciplinary teams of local leaders who learned about health promotion programs and strategic planning principles; saw examples of successful community-based health promotion programs in U.S. counterpart communities; and then created action plans for their own communities.



Kurgan City delegation at AIHA Moscow pre-departure program orientation (Dr. Faerberg is facing the camera on the left)

Dr. Faerberg's host community, Appleton, and nearby Neenah, Wisconsin, not only have a sister-city relationship with Kurgan, but they are active partners in Kurgan's economic development. Delegates met with the mayor of Neenah, the head of Neenah's nonprofit community development agency, local public health and school officials, and representatives of an array of local health insurance, healthcare, and social service providers.

The city of Kurgan, the capital of Kurgan Region, has a population of 365,000 and suffers from the same ills that afflict many other communities in this part of Russia—economic decline, rising drug abuse, and alcoholism. However, leaders such as Dr. Faerberg offer hope for the region.

In addition to overseeing a hospital that delivers more than 1,500 babies annually, Dr. Faerberg, 57, is active in the Kurgan mayor's program to prevent drug abuse among the city's youth and coordinates his hospital's innovative on-site and school-based health education programs for families and adolescents.

Following his return to Kurgan, Dr. Faerberg participated in a follow-up conference that brought together the Kurgan region's vice-governor and other Kurgan alumni of Open World health programming to discuss

their Open World experiences and their projects for implementing “healthy communities” health promotion programs. At the conference, Dr. Faerberg announced plans to work with Appleton to develop new Internet-based resources on health issues. He has also become involved with a project to develop a baseline assessment of community health that will provide data on many indicators, including substance abuse.

Says Dr. Faerberg of his Open World experience, *“Within our interdisciplinary group we discussed all the components of the Healthy Community model, and made a specific plan for its implementation. Now everything depends on us, and we are determined to succeed.”*

A Focus on Legal Education

In 2002, the rule of law program launched a new legal education component, with 24 deans and faculty of Russian law schools participating in visits hosted by Cleveland State University College of Law, George Washington University Law School, Rutgers Law School, University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law, University of Maine School of Law, and Vermont Law School. Court administrators were also included in the Open World 2002 specialized rule of law programming, with one delegation participating in a court management program hosted by the National Center for State Courts in Portland, Oregon, where they attended the annual meeting of the National Association of Court Managers.

Open World 2002 Alumna Judge Sergey K. Shishkin Judge Sergey K. Shishkin, 38, is the chair of the Petushki City Court in the Vladimir Region of Russia and a member of the Council of Judges. Judge Shishkin is also “Professor” Shishkin, commuting regularly to the ancient city of Vladimir, the regional capital, to teach law students at Vladimir State University. Judge Shishkin visited Tucson, Arizona, in October 2002 as part of an Open World exchange. His visit was hosted by U.S. District Judge John Roll of the District of Arizona and organized by the Academy for Educational Development and its nonprofit local partner, International Training and Consulting, Inc.

A special, on-the-spot request from Judge Shishkin’s group to interview American prisoners resulted in their quizzing inmates of the county jail about their living

conditions and relations with the guards. Other highlights of Judge Shishkin’s Tucson program included participating in a judges’ roundtable hosted by Judge Roll; observing a three-judge panel of the state Court of Appeals deliberate on two cases that had just been argued before them; attending a University of Arizona law school class; and watching a tribal court trial and then discussing the outcome with the presiding judge, the prosecutor, and the public defender.



Judge Shishkin (waving) and delegation in Tucson, Arizona

After returning to Russia, Judge Shishkin incorporated information learned during his Open World visit in his law-school lectures, and held several seminars for his colleagues and other members of the local judicial community. The voluminous background materials he brought back have proven helpful not just to him and his fellow judges, but also to court staff. Judge Shishkin has made changes in his own courtroom operations as a result of his Open World trip, most notably improving his communications with the Pristav Service, the Russian equivalent of the U.S. Marshals Service.

“I think that one of the most important contributions of the Open World Program is that it provides us [Russian judges] with the opportunity to directly communicate with our American colleagues and to see the U.S. legal system in action,” says Judge Shishkin.

In 2002, 42 U.S. judges hosted 213 of their Russian counterparts, and dozens more—including U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Associate Justices Sandra Day O’Connor, Anthony M. Kennedy, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Stephen G. Breyer—played an active role in the Russian jurists’ professional programs during the year.

A Focus on Women as Leaders

“The program makes it possible to strengthen relations between our two countries at the level of interpersonal relations, and through contacts between ordinary citizens, who are able to see, hear and understand one another. The many meetings...gave us a lot. But the most important thing—they provided us the opportunity to change our stereotypical views toward American society.”

—An Open World “Women as Leaders” Participant

The year 2002 marked the first time that Open World included women as leaders as a theme for delegations. Russian delegates job shadowed their American counterparts; attended leadership training seminars; met with prominent American political leaders and policy specialists on women’s issues; and visited women’s organizations to learn new strategies for fundraising, membership and volunteer recruitment, and advocacy.



Women leaders hosted by American University’s Women & Politics Institute relax at the home of Dr. Karen O’Connor (second from right), director of the Institute

Among the 294 Russian women leaders who traveled to the United States on this theme were the president of a regional charitable foundation, a senior specialist at the Russian Federation Ministry of Education, the director of a regional league of women voters, the editor in chief of a major newspaper, and the head of the family, maternity and childhood department for one of Russia’s largest cities.

Open World 2002 Delegation Against Human Trafficking

Under ordinary circumstances, Yelena V. Zabadykina, a consulting psychologist for a women’s community crisis center and a staff member of the St. Petersburg Center for Gender Problems, might not have expected to find herself discussing legislative strategy in Washington, D.C., with a high-level official in the Russian Ministry of the Interior. What brought these two and eleven other Russian women together around a Georgetown University conference table in October 2002 was a pioneering collaboration between Open World and the Vital Voices Global Partnership to train emerging women leaders fighting human trafficking in Russia. This was Open World’s first exchange conducted with Vital Voices, which works to expand women’s roles in politics, civil society, and business worldwide, and to stop human trafficking.



Anti-trafficking delegation gives an interview at Voice of America in Washington, D.C.

Although official statistics on human trafficking from Russia are lacking, some estimate that as many as 160,000 women are trafficked from the country each year, many lured by false advertisements for higher-wage jobs abroad, including in the United States. Many more women are trafficked into or through Russia. The victims may be sexually exploited or forced into slavery-like working conditions.

Established and new NGOs within Russia are working to address the trafficking problem; the Putin administration has set up a high-level anti-trafficking task force, and at the close of 2002, legislation outlawing human trafficking was pending in the State Duma,

thanks to the efforts of a working group on the issue headed by Duma Deputy (and Open World Alumna) Elena B. Mizulina.

The Russian delegates who gathered in Washington, D.C., for the Open World anti-trafficking program included a representative on the government anti-trafficking task force; academics; attorneys; social service providers; human rights activists; and a municipal councilwoman who serves on the committee that oversees family and women's issues. They came from Moscow and St. Petersburg, the Russian Far East, the Urals, and more isolated regions near Russia's borders with Kazakhstan and China. Some act against trafficking by providing counseling or legal services to victims, or by carrying out research on the issue. Others fight it by conducting public awareness campaigns to educate young women about the threat, or by working with law enforcement officials to encourage them to take the problem more seriously.

During their Open World visit, the Russian delegates exchanged ideas and information with top U.S. experts on trafficking, including Ambassador Nancy Ely-Raphel, then head of the U.S. State Department's trafficking office, and another State Department official and former congressional staffer who had helped draft landmark U.S. anti-trafficking legislation. Other working sessions provided training in leadership skills, advocacy, legal protections for victims, government-NGO cooperation in combating trafficking, media relations, and coalition-building.

Intensive training sessions with experts were coupled with site visits to D.C.-based social service organizations. The delegates visited the Whitman-Walker Clinic for briefings on the hotline, counseling, and other services it offers to victims of AIDS, a disease of special concern to those who work with the sexually exploited.

The delegates were also the featured speakers at a forum held by the Georgetown University Institute for the Study of International Migration and attended by faculty, students, and counter-trafficking professionals.

Back in Russia, delegates have already made effective use of their Open World training and contacts. Two

have published articles on what they learned, and another has conducted USAID-funded seminars for officials in her city on domestic violence and trafficking. A delegate from the Russian Far East was invited by the U.S. State Department to participate in an international conference on stopping trafficking; and another program alumna has developed a comprehensive women's rights training program with a trafficking component for women leaders in the centrally located Volga Federal District.

"There's a perception that in Russia very little is being done to fight trafficking but here... are women—the participants in this program—who have been leading very courageous anti-trafficking efforts in Russia," said Lycia Sibilla, Vital Voices Director for Europe and Eurasia.

"The extensive networks and diversity of the Open World participants... [are] critical to the development of the comprehensive strategic approach this serious problem requires," noted a Vital Voices program officer.

"Right away I obtained access to effective models for fighting trafficking and providing services," reported one participant. Said a fellow delegate, *"I found out we are not alone. I'm from so far away, but there are so many of us."*



Women as leaders delegation hosted by Vital Voices meets with Senator Hillary Clinton (NY)