



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS AND EXCHANGE - TURKMENISTAN



PROGRAM NEWS

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THIS MONTH'S NEWS IN BRIEF:

TAG Alumni Recruitment Efforts Encourage 358 New Applicants. Following TAG '07 Alumni recruitment in Ashgabat, Dashoguz, Turkmenabat, and Mary, the TAG selection committee received 358 applications for the second round of the competition.

GCE Students Conduct Research on Climate Change, Share Results Online. Ten 6th-grade students from Ashgabat took part in the international Leap Year Weather Day (LYWD) project, observing and posting local climate conditions and learning about conditions worldwide.

GCE's Modern Lesson Plan Contest, WebQuests Featured in Interactive Teaching Methods Round Table. Fifteen secondary school teachers from Ashgabat discussed interactive teaching methods at a round table led by MITE Roman Magomedov and GCE Education Specialist Serdar Jorayev.

TAG Alumni Recruitment Efforts Encourage 358 New Applicants

By the March 3, 2008 application deadline, GCE's Tech Age Girls (TAG) selection committee received 358 applications for the second round of the competition after TAG '07 alumni and GCE staff conducted outreach presentations for approximately 180 students throughout Turkmenistan.

TAG alumni conducted recruitment in November 2007 and February 2008, travelling to Ashgabat, Dashoguz, Turkmenabat, and Mary to tell students about the TAG program and the impact that it has had on their lives. TAG alumni spoke to students about the program's goals and successes, and briefed them on the details of the application process,



TAG'07 Alumna Karina Ismailova gives advice to a student in Turkmenabat.

stages of the competition, and the opportunities for semifinalists and finalists.

On February 21, 22, and 29 TAG alumni Irina Adamyan and Maral Rahimova told 7th- through 9th-grade girls in Ashgabat about the skills they obtained during the training and about their internships in international organizations including the OSCE, IREX, and UNICEF. On February 21, TAG'07 alumni Gulchehra Kamalyan and Karina Ismailova and Master in Information Technology Education (MITE) Zulhiya Kanafinova met with 33 students from four schools in Turkmenabat where they emphasized TAG's long-term impact on participants and communities.



A TAG alumna tells students about the contest and her project.

Diana Kazina, a 9th-grade student from Turkmenabat School No.26 commented, "I like participating in contests because it stimulates me to develop my character, my knowledge and skills." She continued, "The TAG contest is a wonderful chance for all my friends and me to develop our computer skills, leadership, responsibility and try our best to lead projects for our community." In addition to giving presentations on the TAG program, the alumni and GCE staff assisted students in preparing and submitting their applications.

GCE Students Conduct Research on Climate Change, Share Results Online

On February 29 ten 6th-grade students from Ashgabat took part for the first time in the Leap Year Weather Day (LYWD) project. LYWD is an international project where students throughout the world conduct research on climate change in their communities on leap year day.

In preparation for the project, the excited students read about previous leap year day projects conducted in other countries and applied to participate in this year's project on the LYWD project website. Students learned computer and Internet skills in courses conducted by Masters in Information Technology Education (MITEs) Serdar Jorayev and Roman Magomedov. On the day of the event, the students, regular participants of IATP training, took the temperature of the air and observed weather conditions at noon. They also took digital photographs of their surroundings to illustrate the climate conditions on leap year day to share with their counterparts throughout the world.



Students record their observations of the weather.

Participants worldwide posted their weather observations and photographs on the LYWD website (<http://switlik.jacksonsd.org/home.aspx>) and compared and contrasted their results.



Through the event students gained a better understanding of differences in climate conditions in countries across the world.

GCE's Modern Lesson Plan Contest, WebQuests Featured in Interactive Teaching Methods Round Table

On February 3, MITE Roman Magomedov and GCE Education Specialist Serdar Jorayev discussed GCE's Modern Lesson Plan Contest and WebQuests as valuable classroom tools for interactive teaching and learning during a round table discussion on "Applying Innovative Technologies in the Classroom" at the Bilgirje Educational Center in Ashgabat, which provides foreign language, business, and computer skills courses. The round table consisted of a panel discussion and presentations of modern lesson plans and WebQuests, an Internet-based learning tool.

The 15 secondary school teachers from Ashgabat in attendance shared their experiences with interactive methods and agreed upon the importance of such discussions for teachers trying to improve the effectiveness of their teaching. The teachers, are used to poor Internet access and cannot imagine using the Internet in their classrooms, learned about downloading WebQuests onto the school's Intranet, or proxy server, so that students can view web pages without an Internet connection. The school's Intranet then stores files from websites, which can be used during lessons. A teacher commented, "[WebQuests] involve all the students in class in the activity. This is my first experience with WebQuest as a lesson organizer and I like it very much." Other teachers agreed that such innovative technologies are the future of classroom learning in Turkmenistan.



Turkmen students' photograph of climate conditions in Ashgabat on leap year day 2008.



Teachers discuss interactive and innovative technologies for the classroom.

