



# NEWSLETTER

## U.S. MISSION IN TURKMENISTAN

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

NOVEMBER 2009

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## Ambassador Krol Gives Remarks at Oil and Gas Expo 2009

Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs, Ambassador George A. Krol visited Turkmenistan November 16-19 to head a delegation from the United States to the Turkmenistan International Oil and Gas Expo 2009 (OGT 2009). The Senior Advisor to the U.S. Special Envoy for Eurasian Energy Daniel Stein accompanied Ambassador Krol in many of his meetings. Ambassador Krol met with several high-level Turkmen officials to discuss an array of bilateral issues including energy.

The following are excerpts from Ambassador Krol's remarks at OGT 2009:

Thank you for inviting me here today. It is a great pleasure to be here with all of you to mark the opening of the 2009 Turkmenistan International Oil and Gas Exposition.

The United States of America considers energy security to be a high priority and Central Asia is an important region to the global energy picture. Recent trips to the region



Ambassador Krol holds a press conference

by high level American officials reinforce our view that Turkmenistan is an important player in the global energy market and will be for many years to come. The United States looks forward to continued engagement and cooperation with Turkmenistan

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## Independence Day Congratulations of Sylvia Reed Curran, Charge d'affaires, a. i. American Embassy



Sylvia R. Curran, Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Hello, my name is Sylvia Curran and I am the Charge d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Ashgabat. As the head of the US Embassy in Turkmenistan, I have the great pleasure of representing the people and government of the United States here in Turkmenistan. In that capacity, and on behalf of the people of the United States, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the people of Turkmenistan on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of independence.

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## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS IN SHORT

**Free English Language Courses** - Public Affairs Section announces English Language Courses.

Send your information (First and Last Names, date of birth) to: "[AshgabatEducation@state.gov](mailto:AshgabatEducation@state.gov)"

**Courses start:** January 11, 2010

**Audience:** Age 17 and older, all levels of English

**Duration:** 9 months

**Sign up for testing!**



**Testing dates:** January 4-5-6, 2010

**Location:** Ak Altyn Hotel - 4th Floor

**Number of places is limited!**

## Global Undergraduate Exchange Program in Eurasia and Central Asia



The Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (Global UGRAD) in Eurasia and Central Asia is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State. The Global UGRAD program provides opportunities for full-time undergraduate students to spend one academic year of non-degree study in a US university or community college.

Applications for the Global Undergraduate Exchange Program in Eurasia and Central Asia can be obtained and submitted at:

[http://www.irex.org/programs/ugrad/ugrad\\_info.asp](http://www.irex.org/programs/ugrad/ugrad_info.asp)

**Applications are due at 17:00 on Tuesday, December 15, 2009**

and/or by contacting IREX field office at:

### IREX/Turkmenistan

48A Gorogly Street, 1st floor, Ashgabat 744000

Tel/Fax: (993 12) 33-10-34/38 ext.16, 19

e-mail: [ugrad@irex.org](mailto:ugrad@irex.org)



## Alumni Celebrate Halloween with an Open Concert and Fun Activities



A group photo

On October 31, over 20 FLEX alumni organized a concert dedicated to Halloween at the Turkish Cultural Center. The concert, called "Once upon a Halloween night", gathered over 200 visitors. The event included dances, play "Twilight Mix", raffle, children's games in the auditorium, and a video about Halloween. The main goal of this event was to introduce and explain Halloween to the general public: to promote understanding of how Halloween is celebrated in the USA and how FLEX alumni brought this celebration to Turkmenistan. Before the concert, the alumni held a pumpkin carving contest where they chose the best jack-o-lanterns and the winners were shown at the performance.

The Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy assisted in printing brochures about Halloween, which were handed out at the entrance. Moreover, candies were given as one of the symbols of Halloween for "trick or treat". During the event, a donation box was passed around where money was collected from the general public to go to the blind children school in the city of Ashgabat.

## FLEX EXCHANGE PROGRAM



### Eligible students:

- (i) were born in the period between January 1, 1993 to July 15, 1995;
- (ii) have not lived in the United States for more than three months in the last five years;
- (iii) speak English well.

In order to participate in the competition please bring (i) a proof of eligibility (original birth certificate or passport), (ii) one recent photograph (3x4 cm) and a (iii) pen. Students with disabilities are encouraged to participate in this competition.



### TESTING SCHEDULE:

#### Dashoguz, Dashoguz region

December 6 10:00 a.m. School 2, Dashoguz city

#### Mary, Mary region

December 6 10:00 a.m. School 19, Mary city

#### Turkmenbashy, Balkan region

December 13 10:00 a.m. School 13, Turkmenbashy

#### Turkmenabat, Lebap region

December 13 10:00 a.m. School 2, Turkmenabat

#### Balkanabat, Balkan region

December 20 10:00 a.m. School 3, Balkanabat

#### Ahal region

December 26 10:00 a.m. School 2, Abadan

#### Ahal region, Tejen

December 27 10:00 a.m. School 32, Tejen

#### Ashgabat

January 4 10:00 a.m. School 15, Ashgabat

## ETS TESTING



**TOEFL Test: January 16, 2010**

**(deadline for registration December 7, 2009)**

**SAT Test: January 23, 2010**

**(deadline for registration December 15, 2009)**

**GRE Test: February 6, 2010**

**(deadline for registration December 28, 2009)**

## OPPORTUNITY GRANTS

This is a grant program to help you become a student at a U.S. college or university: financial help can be provided for standardized tests (e.g., TOEFL, SAT), application fees, mailing, transport, visas, and more!

*Opportunity Grants have an open deadline.*

*For more information on any of these programs, please contact:*

**American Councils (ACCELS)**

Tel.: (993-12) 33-10-16/33-10-21,

48a Gorogly Street- Ashgabat, 744000



## Alumni of U.S. Exchange Programs Discuss Turkmen-American relations with the Director of U.S. State Department's Central Asia Office

On October 16, 2009, The Director of the Central Asia Office, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs of the U.S. State Department Tom Hushek met with alumni of the Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX) and the Turkmenistan American Scholarship Program (TASP) at the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy to discuss alumni's role in community development in Turkmenistan.

Alumni shared their experiences in the United States, spoke on US-Turkmenistan foreign relations, educational opportunities, and cross-cultural values and shared their community activities in Turkmenistan. In return, alumni asked Mr. Hushek his views and impressions on Turkmen-American relations and cooperation. Alumni considered the meeting a unique opportunity to get an inside view of bilateral relations between Turkmenistan and the United States.



Director of the Central Asia Office Tom Hushek holds discussion with alumni

Learn more about alumni at:  
<https://alumni.state.gov>



## U.S. Embassy Helps Turkmen Law Enforcement Officers Learn English

November 6 marked the graduation of the latest class of Turkmen law enforcement officers (LEOs) from the US State Department's "English Language Training for Turkmen Law Enforcement Officials" program.

*"Knowledge of English opens the door to a whole world of essential information and critical tools that improve a law enforcement officials' ability to perform their duties."*

*"I hope that you view this ceremony not as an end, but as a milestone in your English language learning and your overall professional development. Please continue your studies, and let us continue the good work that we are doing together."*

Chargé d'Affaires a.i.,  
 Sylvia Curran

This year's graduates include participants from Turkmenistan's State Customs Service, State Border Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of National Security, State Migration Service, State Counter Narcotics Service and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

With funding from the US State Department's Inter-



U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Sylvia Curran grants graduation certificates to Turkmen law enforcement officers

national Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau, students attend classes three times a week over a ten month period.

As a reward, the top three students are invited to participate in a UK study tour after graduation. The project has trained more than 50 Turkmen LEOs since its launch in 2006 and objects in Turkmenistan.

## Independence Day Congratulations by Charge d'affaires, a. i. American Embassy

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This is an exciting time to be in Turkmenistan. With continued economic development and President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov's commitment to developing the health and education sectors, Turkmenistan stands on the cusp of a new integration with the world at large. Continued development depends on successfully educating the next generation to participate in the global community. Well-educated citizens help to build a stronger state and future

by promoting economic and humanitarian development.

Turkmenistan's policy of permanent neutrality is an excellent guarantee of its independence and sovereignty, allowing it the freedom to build mutually beneficial and respectful relations with other states and to make independent decisions that will hopefully benefit the citizens of Turkmenistan.

We are pleased to be engaged with the people and Government of Turkmenistan at this crucial time and offer our continued support of our already sound relations.

Finally, to the citizens of Turkmenistan, I wish each and every one of you peace, happiness, good health, and prosperity in the year ahead.

## Ambassador Krol's Remarks at OGT 2009

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on a broad range of issues, including, but not limited to, energy.

As participants of this conference are well aware, our host's strategic geographic location allows Turkmenistan to play a unique role in regional and global energy security. Its vast hydrocarbon reserves may represent diversified supplies for numerous countries. In turn, Turkmenistan has the opportunity to expand its customer base by pursuing diverse export routes. While a certain degree of interdependence facilitates trade and investment among regional neighbors, true political and economic security of energy producers and energy consumers depends on diversification throughout the energy supply chain-- in production, transit and transport, as well as consumption. As part of our own strategic energy policy, both on the international and domestic front, the United States is committed to diversifying our own energy supplies and energy supply routes. Moreover, a transparent, competitive energy market ensures both price and production stability, enhancing overall long term economic and political stability.

In recent years, the world has become increasingly aware of the importance of secure, reliable energy transit and supply. That is one reason why my country supported Turkmenistan's resolution in last year's UN General Assembly on Energy Security. Overdependence on a single supplier or transit route creates both economic and political vulnerabilities and can result in supply disruptions to consumers and loss of income for producers. These vulnerabilities only exacerbate uncertainties in the current global market. In a world of increasing demand for energy resources, expanding access to energy and enhancing security of supply are a crucial parts of ensuring reliable and stable deliveries of energy resources to international markets. The impact of supply disruption is only multiplied as global economies struggle to recover from widespread recession. By diversifying supply and supply routes, reliable production and transit of energy supplies will lay the foundation for the stability required for markets to flourish within Central Asia and beyond.

Cooperation on energy policy benefits both the producer and the consumer. In this sense, we do not view energy security as a game where one party wins and another party loses. The same principles that make energy markets work best for energy exporters are those that provide the foundation for sound energy policy for energy importers. Greater energy interconnectivity, as well as greater diversity, competitiveness, and transparency in energy markets, will help propel economic development and increase energy security. Diversification reduces risk, increases competitiveness and creates market stability.

Turkmenistan represents not only a substantial strategic source of hydrocarbons, but also a growing investment opportunity. The increased presence of international oil companies, many of whom are now opening offices in Ashgabat testifies to this fact. Just as Turkmenistan now looks to increase and diversify its hydrocarbon exports to

foreign markets, we are pleased that international companies are increasingly looking at Turkmenistan as an important investment market, and not only in the hydrocarbon sector. Turkmenistan has already undertaken a series of economic reforms to encourage foreign investment, including successful unification of its exchange rates and currency redenomination. These efforts should encourage further market reform and transparency. We look forward to continued economic engagement with Turkmenistan in numerous forums, including through our Own Bilateral Consultations. The extensive reforms announced by President Berdimukhamedov, when fully implemented, should make the domestic economy of Turkmenistan more competitive and improve the business to attract more international investors including from my own country.

In the energy sphere, which is the focus of this conference, we recognize that both onshore and offshore, Turkmenistan represents enormous potential for companies involved in every aspect of the energy supply chain. Some of Turkmenistan's offshore blocks are already producing and there are many more that are open for bidding.

The technically challenging nature of these offshore fields makes them a good fit for experienced international oil companies, which have the technology needed to maximum production.

Turkmenistan's hydrocarbon resources are a treasure with the potential to impact people in many corners of the world. More importantly, perhaps, Turkmenistan's hydrocarbons are a resource that can fuel Turkmenistan's own development and benefit the Turkmen people. Exploration and production will create jobs; training opportunities and new technology will further strengthen Turkmenistan's domestic energy industry; diverse export routes will increase economic security; revenue from hydrocarbon sales will come back to the Turkmen people through investment and development programs, such as the President Berdimuhamedov's Rural Development Program.

It is the desire of the United States to be a partner in Turkmenistan's own efforts to ensure its oil and gas sectors reach their full potential, fueling the economic growth and development of Turkmenistan and contributing to a stable global energy market. But our partnership should not only concentrate on the oil and gas sectors. It should include cooperation and investment in the development of Turkmenistan's untapped potential for renewable, solar and wind sources of energy.

In conclusion, the United States, its government, our people and businesses look forward to working with the government, the people and businesses of Turkmenistan to create a better future for all our citizens and in the global community of nations. We must never forget that under this one sun and located on this one planet we are all one people striving to live in peace, harmony and prosperity.



Ambassador Krol gives interview to State "Turkmensitan" TV Channel

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