



NEWSLETTER

U.S. MISSION IN TURKMENISTAN

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

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Excerpts From President Obama's Remarks at UNGA

Good morning. Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, fellow delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to address you for the first time as the 44th President of the United States. I come before you humbled by the responsibility that the American people have placed upon me, mindful of the enormous challenges of our moment in history, and determined to act boldly and collectively on behalf of justice and prosperity at home and abroad.

In this hall, we come from many places, but we share a common future. No longer do we have the luxury of indulging our differences to the exclusion of the work that we must do together. I have carried this message from London to Ankara; from Port of Spain to Moscow; from Accra to Cairo; and it is what I will speak about today -- because the time has come for the world to move in a new direction. We must embrace a new era of engagement based on mutual interest and



President Barack Obama calls for a new era of worldwide engagement

mutual respect, and our work must begin now.

We know the future will be forged by deeds and not simply words. Speeches alone will not solve our problems -- it will

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Third United States-funded Border Crossing Checkpoint Opens in Turkmenistan



Officials cut the ribbon to open the bordercheckpoint

On October 15, 2009, a delegation of representatives from the U.S. Government, headed by Charge d'Affaires Sylvia Curran, the Director of the Central Asia Office, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs at the U.S. State Department Mr. Tom Hushek, Rear Admiral Michael Franken representing the United States Central Command and Colonel Wroblewski representing the Nevada National Guard, gathered in Turkmenabat for the official opening of a new Turkmen border crossing checkpoint at

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS IN SHORT

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Diversity Visa Lottery - Applicants may access the electronic Diversity Visa entry form at: <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov>
Deadline: November 30, 2009
For more details see page 2.

President Obama Wins Nobel Peace Prize

On October 9, President Barack Obama won the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize. It made President Obama the third sitting U.S. president to win the prize.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee praised the president's cooperative approach to global issues. The prize came after Obama has been in office less than nine months. He was selected from 205 nominees and speaking in the White House Rose Garden a few hours after being awakened with the news at 6 a.m., Obama said he did not view the prize as an affirmation of his accomplishments.

"To be honest, I do not feel that I deserve to be in the company of so many of the transformative figures who've been honored by this prize -- men and women who have inspired me and inspired the entire world through their courageous pursuit of peace," he said.

And yet, he said: "I know that throughout history the Nobel Peace Prize has not just been used to honor specific achievement. It's also been used as a means to give momentum to a set of causes."

Obama is pushing to restart Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, stop Iran's nuclear enrichment program, pass legislation to slow global warming, and strengthen international nuclear nonproliferation protocols -- all of which require broad international cooperation.



President Barack Obama

The USAID Reviews the Results of 10-years of health projects under the name "ZdravPlus"



USAID Health Manager, Elena Samarkina gives a presentation on "Perspectives of USAID and MOHMIT on future cooperation"

On October 9, 2009, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is celebrating completion of its ZdravPlus project in Turkmenistan. USAID ran two sequential parts of the ZdravPlus project in the country -- ZdravPlus I in 2000-2005 and ZdravPlus II in 2005-2010. During these 10 years, the project worked to introduce the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses strategy, support the National Safe Motherhood Program, as well as numerous efforts related to health sector finance reforms.

The USAID project implemented activities in 14 districts throughout Turkmenistan. **"We want to thank the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry and our other partners for the many meaningful results we have achieved under this project,"** says Ashley Moretz, USAID's representative officer for Turkmenistan.

USAID is planning to continue its assistance to the Safe Motherhood program in Turkmenistan through a new project that will begin at the end of 2009 and continue to build on the partnerships formed by ZdravPlus.

Learn more about

USAID worldwide at:

<http://www.usaid.gov>



Learn more about USAID programs and projects in Turkmenistan at:

<http://turkmenistan.usembassy.gov>

INFORMATION ON DIVERSITY VISA LOTTERY (DV-2011)



DIVERSITY VISA REGISTRATION PERIOD:

• Entries for the DV-2011 Diversity Visa lottery must be submitted electronically between October 2, 2009 and November 30, 2009. Applicants may access the electronic Diversity Visa entry form at:

www.dvlottery.state.gov.

Paper entries will not be accepted.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR TURKMENISTAN:

- Natives born in Turkmenistan; a person whose spouse was born in Turkmenistan; a person whose parents were born in Turkmenistan.
- A person with either a high school education or its equivalent, defined as successful completion of a 12-year course of elementary and secondary education; or two years of work experience within the past five years in an occupation requiring at least two years of training or experience to perform.

IMPORTANT PROCEDURES:

- All entries by an individual will be disqualified if more than ONE entry for that individual is received, regardless of who submitted the entry.
- Your entry will be disqualified if all required photographs are not submitted: separate recent electronic photos of yourself, spouse and unmarried children under 21.

For more detailed information on DV-2011 and electronic entry requirements visit:

<http://www.dvlottery.state.gov/>

or contact:

Information Resource Center - Ak Altyn Hotel, 4th Floor, Magtymguly 141/1, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan 744000
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Third United States-funded Border Checkpoint Opens in Turkmenistan

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Farap on the border with Uzbekistan. This state-of-the-art facility will allow efficient international commerce while deterring illegal trafficking in narcotics, weapons of mass destruction, persons, and contraband.

In her opening remarks, the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Sylvia Curran emphasized that **“this Border Crossing Checkpoint is the third checkpoint which the United States Government has provided to Turkmenistan. These checkpoints represent the continuing efforts between the United States and Turkmenistan to work together to battle against those forces which threaten the peace and stability of our countries.”**

The first border checkpoint “Altyn Asyr” was opened in 2006 on the border with Iran and the second border checkpoint “Imamnazar” was opened in 2007 on the border with Afghanistan. The U.S. Government spent more than \$6 million in total on Farap project. The Farap Border Checkpoint is designed with the latest technology to provide a significant increase to Turkmenistan’s ability to screen traffic entering and exiting this border area. This



U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Sylvia Curran outlines the importance of Turkmen-American cooperation in her opening remarks

capability will enable the Turkmenistan Customs Service, the State Border Service, the State Migration Service, together with six other agencies, to better protect Turkmenistan from smuggling, narcotics, and the other evils which often accompany illegal trafficking. The high level of technical capabilities of the checkpoint will greatly increase the safe, secure flow of traffic to and from Uzbekistan.

United States Assists Turkmenistan with Conservation and Restoration of Valuable Books

The U.S. Embassy held a ceremony on September 23 to award a grant to Turkmenistan’s National Library for the conservation and restoration of rare and valuable books. The grant will help the National Library with the conservation and restoration of nearly 50,000 rare and valuable books from the 16th-19th centuries. These books represent massive portions of Turkmenistan’s literary treasures, and preserving them will enable generations of Turkmen to continue to enjoy the wisdom of their heritage.

“Annually, this is a highly-competitive, global competition with U.S. Embassies all over the world, submitting proposals for Washington’s approval. Historically, Turkmenistan has had many successful proposals for outstanding projects, and this year’s group of proposals was no exception”

Chargé d'Affaires a.i.,
Sylvia Curran

The grant is part of a global program for cultural preservation called the Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation. To date, the Ambassadors Fund has supported more than 500 projects worldwide, totaling more than \$13.4 million. Over the past eight years in Turkmenistan the U.S. has supported 11 projects worth more than \$230,000 to preserve historically important cultural sites and objects in Turkmenistan.



U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Sylvia Curran presents the AFCP grant winner with a congratulatory letter

In the past, funded projects have included technical support for the restoration of historic buildings; assessment and conservation of museum collections; archaeological site preservation; and improved storage conditions for archives and manuscripts.

Learn more about Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation at:

<http://exchanges.state.gov/afcp/>



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USAID and partners mark completion of a three-year community-based program

On September 17, 2009, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Counterpart International in Turkmenistan (Counterpart) marked successful completion of the USAID-funded Turkmenistan Community Empowerment Program (TCEP) at a meeting in Ashgabat.

At the meeting, representatives from local self-governance bodies of Turkmenistan, international organizations and communities discussed how the USAID-funded project improved local infrastructure, strengthened cooperation with local governments, and created opportunities for youth. The participants discussed how the project contributed towards the goals and objectives of the National

Program on Improving the Living Standards of the Populations of Villages, Towns, District Cities, and District Centers.

The three-year program, implemented by Counterpart in partnership with the American Bar Association/Rule of Law Initiative (ABA/ROLI) and the Urban Institute, worked to support community-level initiatives and cooperation with local government officials. 75,000 citizens from 42 rural communities have benefited from this work. Using USAID technical assistance, communities have contributed to renovating local infrastructure, thus taking an active part in local social and economic development. All targeted communities received legal advice, business training, and courses in various vocational skills. Local government representatives also engaged in the community-level initiatives by providing funding and specialists.

Turkmen Public Auditors Learn to Analyze Investment Projects with USAID Support



A group photo: public investment project advisor Adrian Rouse (third from left) and specialists of the Supreme Control Chamber

On October 16, a group of specialists from the Supreme Control Chamber of Turkmenistan completed a training course on selection and evaluation of public investment projects, including Public-Private Partnerships. The eight-day course was arranged by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Project for Economic Reforms to Enhance Competitiveness (EREC).

Given the continued increase in the number of large-scale construction projects in Turkmenistan and the growing tendency for the government to attract private companies in these projects, the training course drew broad interest. The course provided Supreme Control Chamber specialists with practical skills to analyze potential infrastructure projects from an economic and social standpoint. Specialists also learned about the types and benefits of cooperation between the private sector and government.

EREC is one of the many programs made possible by the American people through the U.S. Agency for International Development in Turkmenistan. Since 1993, the American people through USAID have provided more than \$80 million in programs that support Turkmenistan's economic growth, social development, and community initiatives.

President Obama's Remarks at UNGA

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take persistent action. For those who question the character and cause of my nation, I ask you to look at the concrete actions we have taken in just nine months.

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, we and many nations here are helping these governments develop the capacity to take the lead in this effort, while working to advance opportunity and security for their people. In Iraq, we are responsibly ending a war. We have removed American combat brigades from Iraqi cities, and set a deadline of next August to remove all our combat brigades from Iraqi territory. And I have made clear that we will help Iraqis transition to full responsibility for their future, and keep our commitment to remove all American troops by the end of 2011.

I have outlined a comprehensive agenda to seek the goal of a world without nuclear weapons. In Moscow, the United States and Russia announced that we would pursue substantial reductions in our strategic warheads and launchers. To confront climate change, we have invested \$80 billion in clean energy. We have substantially increased our fuel-efficiency standards. To overcome an economic crisis that touches every corner of the world, we worked with the G20 nations to forge a coordinated international response of over \$2 trillion in stimulus to bring the global economy back from the brink. And we joined with others to launch a \$20 billion global food security initiative that will lend a hand to those who need it most, and help them build their own capacity.

The United Nations was born of the belief that the people of the world can live their lives, raise their families, and resolve their differences peacefully. And yet we know that in too many parts of the world, this ideal remains an abstraction -- a distant dream. We can either accept that outcome as inevitable, and tolerate constant and crippling conflict, or we can recognize that the yearning for peace is universal, and reassert our resolve to end conflicts around the world.

The United States stands ready to begin a new chapter of international cooperation -- one that recognizes the rights and responsibilities of all nations. And so, with confidence in our cause, and with a commitment to our values, we call on all nations to join us in building the future that our people so richly deserve. Thank you very much, everybody.

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