



United States Mission in Turkmenistan

Pushkin Str. 9, Ashgabat
744000 Turkmenistan

Phone: (993-12) 35 00 45 Fax: (993-12)39 26 14
Website: www.usemb-ashgabat.rpo.at

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Monthly Newsletter

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U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Elizabeth Jones Meets with Turkmen Government and Citizens

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Assistant Secretary Jones meets Tim Nader, American Bar Association Representative, along with Rector Odekov at Turkmen State University

In an interview January 16, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs A. Elizabeth Jones stated that Central Asia "deserves a lot more attention, and it's getting a lot more attention." As part of that commitment, Ambassador Jones spent January 30-31 in Turkmenistan meeting with Governmental and other community leaders.

Ambassador Jones met with President Saparmurat Niyazov, as well as National Security Advisor and Advisor to the President on Humanitarian Assistance Mukhammet Nazarov, Deputy Chairmen Yolly Gurbanmuradov and Berdimurat Rejepov, and Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov, to discuss international and regional affairs, including Afghanistan, and a range of bilateral issues.



Ambassador Kennedy and Assistant Secretary Jones at press conference in the Embassy

At Turkmen State University on January 30, Ambassador Jones congratulated law student winners of a moot court competition supported by USAID, who will travel to the United States to compete in an international competition this spring. (See page 2 for details.)

On January 31, Ambassador Jones hosted a roundtable at the U.S. Embassy with leaders of social organizations and initiative groups, often referred to as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), working in the fields of education, ecology, women's issues, and business. The group discussed possible legislation and ways the Government and international community could better support their work. Ambassador Jones also met with representatives of UN organizations and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to discuss the humanitarian aid situation in Afghanistan and other international programs. Government officials also treated Ambassador Jones to a tour of the stables at the Hippodrome and discussion of the Akhal-Teke horse breed.

Ambassador Jones previously served as the State Department's Senior Advisor for Caspian Basin Energy Diplomacy, after having been Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (1998-2000). Ambassador Jones served as Ambassador to Kazakhstan (1995-98) and Executive Assistant to Secretary of State Warren Christopher (1993-94). She has also served in Germany, Pakistan, Iraq, Jordan, and Egypt. Her first assignment was in Kabul, Afghanistan (1971-72).



Assistant Secretary Jones (center) with alumni of U.S.-sponsored exchange programs in the office of ACCELS

U.S. Congressional Delegation, Headed by Senate Majority Leader Thomas Daschle, Thanks Turkmenistan for its Humanitarian Aid Efforts

Six members of the U.S. Congress, including five Senators and one member of the House of Representatives, visited Turkmenistan January 18, 2002, to discuss a range of bilateral issues with the Government of Turkmenistan, including the important role Turkmenistan has played in the delivery of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. This was among several stops on the delegation's regional tour, which also included Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

The delegation, headed by the Senate Majority Leader Thomas Daschle of South Dakota, met today with National Security Advisor and Advisor to the President on Humanitarian Assistance Mukhammet Nazarov, and Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov. On behalf of the American people, the members of Congress thanked the Turkmen Government for its vital contribution to the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. The delegation also raised bilateral political and economic issues and suggested possible ways in which U.S.-Turkmenistan relations might be further expanded. Other members of the delegation were Senator Robert Smith of New Hampshire, Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota, Senator Richard Durbin of Illinois, Senator Mark Dayton of Minnesota, and



U.S. Senate Majority Leader Thomas Daschle and Turkmenistan's National Security Advisor Mukhammet Nazarov during talks in Ashgabat

Representative Ellen Tauscher of California.

Currently, 36% of all World Food Program wheat delivered to Afghanistan is processed and bagged in the city of Turkmenabat. This makes Turkmenistan second only to Pakistan in volume of aid transited to Afghanistan. Since December 2000, the WFP warehouse has processed 109,213 tons of wheat and vegetable oil. Deliveries from Turkmenistan have steadily increased since September 11. In December, 54% of all WFP food delivered to Afghanistan was shipped via Turkmenistan - almost 55,000 metric tons.

The U.S. Government and people remain committed to providing the Afghan people with necessary food and other humanitarian aid. The U.S. Government consistently donates 80% of all aid for the World Food Program. From October to December 2001, the U.S. Government spent over \$246 million on assistance to Afghanistan. In addition, American schoolchildren collected nearly \$2 million for America's Fund for Afghan Children, which has been spent on hats, socks, coats, tents, school supplies and other critical humanitarian items.



Ambassador Laura Kennedy and Senator Byron Dorgan chat after the meeting at the Ashgabat Airport

Two Law Students to Travel to U.S. for Moot Court Competition

On January 28-29, the American Bar Association (ABA/CEELI) in cooperation with Turkmen State University's Law Department sponsored the Turkmenistan National Philip C. Jessup Moot Court Championship. The champion team, senior Tavus Mollaeva and junior Jahan Guseinova will represent Turkmenistan at the World Jessup Championship to be held in Washington D.C. in March. On January 30, awards to the participating and winning teams were presented in a special ceremony at TSU by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Elizabeth Jones and TSU Rector Rahman Odekov.

Established in 1959, the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition is a worldwide competition which provides law students with an opportunity to argue important and timely questions of international law. Nearly 400 teams from about 75 countries participate in the Jessup Competition, making it the largest moot court competition in the world. The Competition is named after Philip C. Jessup, former justice at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Each year's competition involves a different hypothetical case written by leading international law scholars.

Embassy Reaches Out to the Community in the Holiday Season

New Year's Concert of American Music Performed in National Conservatory of Turkmenistan

More than 400 people attended the New Year's concert of classical and popular American music on January 4, 2002, organized by the National Conservatory of Turkmenistan and supported by the U.S. Embassy. Chargé d'Affaires Eric Schultz wished everyone success in the New Year. Outstanding young Turkmen singers performed famous musical pieces of composers such as Leonard Bernstein, George Gershwin, Scott Joplin and others. Performers included Vladimir Mkrtyumov, Svetlana Faramazova and Olga Myat'yeva, all winners and finalists of international music contests. The Conservatory's Jazz Band performed modern and classical jazz. All singers concluded the concert together the traditional New Year's song "Auld Lang Syne."



M. Rozmuradova and N. Nuriyev performing Gershwin's "I Got Rhythm"

Alumni Organize a Holiday Party in Buzmein Boarding School

On January 8, 2002, eight alumni of various U.S. Government-sponsored academic exchange programs including the FLEX, Undergraduate and Muskie Programs visited the Buzmein Boarding School where they organized a holiday party for the students. One alumnus dressed as Santa Claus while others played various games to entertain the forty orphans who stayed there during the New Year's holiday. The alumni also brought a number of New Year's presents for the kids. The event was initiated by the U.S. Embassy's Alumni Coordinator Aygul Kochamanova. The U.S. Embassy will continue to give support to the Buzmein Boarding School in future.



Enesh Sahatmamedova, Yulia Rejepova, Murat Ovez-Mamedov, Maya Berdikliecheva with kids at the event



National Conservatory's Jazz Band performing "A Cat"

ACCELS Conducts Marketing Seminar in Dashoguz

ACCELS conducted a training seminar on marketing for 38 students and teachers of the Dashoguz Business Center on January 8-18, 2002. Coordinator of the CARANA Program Gulnara Durdymamedova and two FLEX alumni, Oksana Hojayeva and Lena Legai, introduced practical approaches to marketing during their presentations about marketing in the U.S. They demonstrated real examples of marketing decisions of American retail and wholesale traders. They described their own experience in purchasing goods and services offered by American top producers which helped the audience to understand consumers' behavior in the United States and how it is influenced by American culture.

The project familiarized the audience with marketing concepts and strategies and basic tools for composing an effective marketing plan, and linked marketing theories with practical approaches and methods.

America Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Every year on the third Monday in January, America celebrates the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the most famous civil rights leader in American history.

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was the son of the pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. He was ordained a minister himself in 1947. He graduated from Morehouse College (B.A., 1948), Crozer Theological Seminary (B.D., 1951), and Boston University (Ph.D., 1955). In 1954, King became minister of a Baptist church in Montgomery, Alabama.

Dr. King led the boycott (1955-56) by Montgomery African-Americans against the segregated city bus lines, and he attained national prominence by advocating a policy of passive resistance to segregation. In 1956, he gained prominence as a civil rights leader when the Montgomery buses began to operate on a desegregated basis.

After the Montgomery success, Dr. King organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which gave him a base to pursue further civil rights activities, first in the South and later nationwide. His philosophy of nonviolent resistance led to his arrest on numerous occasions in the 1950s and 1960s.

Dr. King organized the massive March on Washington (August 28, 1963), which brought more than 200,000 people together. It was there that he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, in which he called for equality for all peoples in American. In 1964 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr. King's plans for a Poor People's March to Washington in 1968 were interrupted for a trip to Memphis, Tennessee, in support of striking sanitation workers. On April 4, 1968, he was shot and killed by an assassin's bullet on the balcony of the motel in Memphis where he was staying. His death was a tragedy which ripped through the heart of the American people.

First International Financial Accounting Course in Turkmenistan offered by Pragma Corporation

On December 17, 2001, USAID Representative John Kropf awarded certificates to the first group of Financial Accounting course participants in Turkmenistan. The course was one of many taught by specialized trainers of the Pragma Corporation, a USAID contractor.



Dilbar Orazova and Leila Djoraeva during the course

Participants consisted of accountants from various international companies, Turkmen private and governmental companies, Turkmen banks, the Tax Inspection Office and the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

The three-week course provided an opportunity for participants to learn International Accounting Standards. The twenty participants emphasized the importance of the course for their daily work. Mr. Kropf congratulated the participants on the successful completion of the course.

Pragma will continue to offer accounting course through June. The organization aims to train 250 accountants from the private sector by that time. For information on signing up, contact the Pragma office at 35-45 17.



Robert Morris, Director of Pragma Corporation, Maksat Kulmanov, Pragma staff member, and John Kropf, USAID Country Director, award participants for their achievement.

Accountants and Auditors Certification Examination Announcement

USAID's Small and Medium Enterprise Development Project implemented by the Pragma Corporation would like to invite participants of our "Financial accounting I" course and other interested accountants to participate in the certification examination for accountants and auditors.

The exam is conducted by the International Council of Certified Accountants and Auditors (ICCAA) and with the technical assistance of USAID.

Date:	February	26,	2002
Location:	78	Magtymguly	St.
	Ashgabat	(American	Center)
Registration begins:		8:30	am
Examination begins:		9:00	am

What to bring: a passport, pen/pencil, calculator, ruler, water or any other soft drinks. You may use the training material as well (books, cards of accounts, standards).

You can register for the examination at Pragma's office at 2 Pushkin St., Ashgabat or call us at 35-45-17, 39-24-93, 35-74-45, and 35-28-75.

Deadline for registration February 22, 2002.

Conference on Encouraging Greater Entrepreneurship Development

On January 14-15, 2002, a conference to discuss the most acute issues of entrepreneurship development in Ashgabat was held at the cultural Center "Dyar". The conference was initiated by the Fund of Entrepreneurship Development, a local organization, and sponsored by the USAID/Global Training for Development project.

Presentations were given by Batyr Hudaynazarov from the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, Tachmuhammet Berdyev from the Ministry of Economy and Finance, M. Allaberdyev from the Tax Inspectorate, Serdar Annaev from the Registration Agency, and Senem Nurnazarova from the Fund of Entrepreneurship Development. Guest speakers from the following local banks also came to speak about credit policy for businessmen in the city of Ashgabat: Garagum, Senagat, Turkmenbashi, Dayhan, Turkmenistan, and Garashyzyk. Mark Urban, acting Country Representative of Turkmenistan, opened the event.

About one hundred local entrepreneurs participated at the conference. They questioned speakers about the bureaucratic procedures for small and medium enterprises. The businessmen and the presenters discussed national legal, regulatory and institutional policies, including licensing, inspections, taxation, registrations, customs, import/export procedures, property acquisition, and the hiring of employees.

The Global Training for Development project together with the local Fund of Entrepreneurship Development is hoping to conduct similar conferences in Lebap, Mary and Dashoguz welayats. They will also organize a series of roundtable discussions for representatives of the Ministries and leading entrepreneurs. For more information, contact the Global Office at 35-02-24.

This month's Information Resource highlight: **Dow Jones Interactive Commercial Database**

We at the Information Resource Center at the U.S. Embassy Ashgabat regularly respond to information search requests. You can also sign up to receive information and news articles on various topics related to U.S. politics, government and international peace and security.

One of our main sources of such information is Dow Jones Interactive. This provides online, same-day, full-text coverage of Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Financial Times of London, and business sections from 54 papers around the country. It also provides full-text of over 265 regional newspapers and 175 international publications and papers. Approximately 2,800 business and trade publications are also included.

Please give us a call or stop by to receive custom-search Dow Jones Interactive articles. We are located at first floor of the building of National Institute of Education. Ask for Azat Myradov, IRC Assistant. Or reach us at irc-ashgabat@iatp.edu.tm, tel: (993-12) 35-00-45.

Focus: The International Visitors Program

This year, the International Visitors Program celebrated its 62nd anniversary world-wide. About 4,400 specialists from around the globe, including a number from Turkmenistan, travel to the U.S. every year for professional consultations and observation tours to make useful contacts and explore U.S. experiences in particular areas. Some participants come to the United States for a period of two to three weeks by individual program, others by single-country group or regional projects designed just for specialists in one field, and some participate in multi-regional programs.

The U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat organizes projects based on the Turkmen Government's interest in developing particular areas. Unlike other exchange programs, it is not an open competition. In the past several years, there have been International Visitor programs devoted to nature protection, labor markets, art and museum management, private health care development, social welfare development, drug abuse educational programs, foreign policy, judicial and legislative systems and others. Participants have included representatives of executive (Cabinet of Ministers) and legislative (Mejlis) branches of the Turkmen government, members of various governmental and state organizations, economists, engineers, teachers, academicians, journalists, diplomats, lawyers, doctors, and many other professionals. Most recently, two Turkmen participated in a Central Asian regional project on Water Resources Management. Mr. Hommatmyrat Rakhimov, main engineer from National Hydrometeorological Committee at the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, and Mr. Yanov Pashiev, main hydrotechnician at the Ministry of Water Resources of Turkmenistan, visited seven American states from November 24 - December 15. They studied water management and use in agriculture, water purification, state and local projects to support water users associations, ecological issues, and educational programs for professionals.

All of those involved in organizing such professional exchanges -from the Embassy to the State Department's Office for International Visitors Programs-- believe that their time and funds work for a better understanding of the world, develop friendship between people and strengthen ties between nations.

*Please contact us at
irc-ashgabat@iatp.edu.tm
with comments or questions
Thank you!*