



# NEWSLETTER

## U.S. MISSION IN TURKMENISTAN

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

DECEMBER 2009

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### CONTACT US

Ak Altyn Hotel, 4th Floor,  
Magtymguly 141/1,  
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan  
744000

Phone: 36 33 31  
36 13 65  
Fax: 36 46 93

Email:  
[irc-ashgabat@state.gov](mailto:irc-ashgabat@state.gov)

### Christmas Holiday Concert

On December 27, 2009, the Public Affairs Section, in conjunction with the National Conservatory of Turkmenistan and Turkmen Society of the Deaf and Blind hosted a Holiday Concert at the Turkish Cultural Center to celebrate the spirit of Christmas and New Year's. The concert repertoire comprised a variety of holiday songs and music compositions in Russian, English, and Turkmen. The performers included National and Honored Artists of Turkmenistan, Music Laureates of International Competitions, the Turkmen National Conservatory Choir, members of the U.S. Embassy community, and performers from the Turkmen Society of the Deaf and Blind. Representatives from international, non-governmental, and local governmental organizations, as well as other embassies, and alumni from U.S. exchange programs attended the concert.

Cultural Affairs Officer Victoria Wolf and Mistress of Ceremonies Tylla Ovezova delivered opening remarks. The concert finale



**Janna Sayan, soloist from the National Conservatory of Turkmenistan, performs *The Nightingale* by Alexander Alyabyev**

was marked by an outstanding rendition of B. Anderson's Happy New Year performed by all participants. The event was a great opportunity to share the spirit of the season, build cultural understanding, and highlight the significance of the holidays for the American people.

### New Year's Greetings by Sylvia Reed Curran, Charge d'affaires, a. i. American Embassy



**Sylvia Curran, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. and children around a Christmas Tree**

On behalf of the American Embassy in Ashgabat, the United States Government, and the American people, I would like to extend our warmest New Year holiday wishes to the people of Turkmenistan. During this holiday season, Americans – like the people of Turkmenistan – will take time to celebrate with their families and friends. Most Americans celebrate the Christmas holiday on December 25th. During this festive season, many Americans will gather around a decorated tree, sing-

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### NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS IN SHORT

#### TOEFL Testing

Testing date: March 5, 2010



Registration deadline: February 1, 2010

Contact: American Councils (ACCESL)

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

48a Gorogly Street- Ashgabat, 744000

- Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) program - **deadline: February 8, 2010**
- Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program - **deadline: April 2, 2010**  
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## Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program

The U.S. Embassy Announces an open competition for the 2011.

The Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, and implemented by IREX, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization. TEA will provide 154 secondary school teachers from Europe and Eurasia, East Asia and the Pacific, the Near East, South and Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Western Hemisphere with unique opportunities to develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge about the United States. The international participants will travel to the United States in spring or fall 2011. Their program will include customized seminars and intensive training in teaching methodologies, lesson planning, and teaching strategies for the participants' home environment, as well as the use of computers for Internet, word processing, and as teaching tools. The 6-week program will also include a 2-week internship at a secondary school to actively engage participants with American teachers and students. Trips to U.S. cultural sites and academic support will be provided for participants throughout the program.

### Candidates should be:

- Be secondary-level, full-time teachers with five or more years of classroom experience in either English as a Foreign Language, Social Sciences (social studies, civics, history, or geography) or Math and Sciences
- Practicing teachers
- Residents of their country of citizenship at the time of application
- Ministry of Education officials, educational administrators, and full-time teacher trainers, university faculty and private English Language tutors are **not eligible**

### Candidates should have:

- A university degree or equivalent.
- A minimum of five years of classroom experience
- A minimum TOEFL score of 450.

### Application

**Application deadline: April 2, 2010**

Applicants can obtain the form from the Ministry of Education's International Relations Department, or the US Embassy's Public Affairs Section. For consultations, please call the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Section in Ashgabat, contact person for this program is Educational Programs Assistant Maysa Niyazova and American Corners in Dashoguz, Turkmenabat and Mary, or the Ministry of Education, International relations Department and Regional departments of Education in velayats.

### Contact information

U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section  
Hotel "Ak Altyn" 4th floor, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 744000;  
Tel: (+993-12) 36 46 92; 36 33 31  
Fax: (+993-12) 36 46 93

## Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) program

The United States Embassy is accepting applications for the Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) program. This is a 6-week, non-degree, post-graduate program, to take place in various higher education institutions of the

United States during Summer 2010, embodying studies of the United States Institutes in the following fields:

1. U.S. Culture and Society
2. American Politics and Political Thought
3. Contemporary American Literature
4. US Foreign policy
5. Journalism and media
6. Religious Pluralism in the United States
7. Program for secondary school educators

\*Programs 1-6 are open to university-level faculty and professionals.

\*Program 7 is open to classroom teachers, teacher trainers, curriculum developers, textbook writers, Ministry of Education officials, or other related professionals with responsibility for secondary education

### The following criteria apply:

1. Candidates should be mid-career, motivated and experienced professionals from institutions of higher education.
2. Candidates should have little or no prior experience in the United States, whose home institution is seeking to introduce aspects of US studies into its curricula, develop new courses in the subject of the visited institute, enhance and update existing courses on the United States, or offer specialized seminars for professionals in US studies areas related to the program theme.
3. Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour.
4. Each candidate should provide a short personal statement (one page) indicating why he or she is interested in participating in the program and what he or she expects to get out of the program.
5. All candidates should demonstrate English language fluency.
6. Priority will be given to candidates who have special interest in the program subject areas as demonstrated through past scholarship, accomplishments and professional duties.

The program covers all costs – travel, living expenses, books, incidentals and medical insurance.

### Application

**Application deadline: February 8, 2010**

Applications can be picked up from the Public Affairs Section, 4th floor, Ak Altyn Hotel, starting Thursday, December 16, 2009.

For additional information please email:

[AshgabatEducation@state.gov](mailto:AshgabatEducation@state.gov)

## U.S. Embassy Helps Former Refugees Develop Vocational Skills

On December 11, local authorities, the Keik Okara public organization, and the U.S. State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration participated in the opening of a joint venture consisting of new sewing, carpet weaving, and metal workshops. It began operating in a school in Gokhan settlement, Mary province. Local authorities provided newly renovated premises to accommodate the workshops and US funding paid for sewing machines, carpet weaving stands, a metalworking lathe, and other related equipment. As a result of the project, the workshops will provide vocational training for young people and generate income for former refugees living in the settlement.

In his remarks at the opening of the facility, U.S. Embassy First Secretary Peter Eckstrom noted that the project was an example of the results that can be achieved when local authorities, public organizations and the Embassy work jointly. "Each of the parties made a significant contribution, without which the project could not have been completed. Most important was the input from local residents in order to provide a facility that will meet their needs and provide more opportunities for young people."

The U.S. State Department Bureau of Population, Ref-



**Carpet makers work on looms**

ugees and Migration's Julia Taft Refugee Fund finances refugee assistance projects around the world. The fund began in October 2000 with the intent of responding to critical gaps that have not been addressed in larger multilateral refugee programs. In 2008, projects were funded in 34 different countries. This was the first Taft Refugee Fund project to be implemented in Turkmenistan.

## Turkmen Specialists Continue Expanding their Knowledge on Econometrics in Partnership with USAID

On December 14, the United States Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), launched a 3-month training program on econometrics for Turkmen economic and banking sector specialists.

The training course will concentrate on the fundamentals and theory of applied econometrics. Participants will engage in macroeconomic and microeconomic modeling, financial analysis, and monetary policy. Upon completion of the course, the participants will have acquired skills necessary to test economic hypothesis, develop and estimate econometrics models, and interpret econometrics results. This course is a continuation of a series of econometrics seminars which were arranged by USAID through its Economic Reforms to Enhance Competitiveness project (EREC) for the specialists of the Ministry of Economy and Development, the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank, the State Statistics Committee and the Institute of Strategic Planning and Economic Development of Turkmenistan.



**Specialists of Turkmen economic agencies are registering for a 3 month econometrics training course**

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

## New Year's Greetings by Charge d'affaires, a. i. American Embassy

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ing, exchanging gifts, and enjoying each other's company. It is a magical time for everyone, especially children, who eagerly await the arrival of Santa Claus and the presents that he brings. It is also a time to look forward to the promises of a New Year.

In 2010, the United States is dedicated to continuing our mutually beneficial and productive relationship with the government and people of Turkmenistan. We look

forward to close cooperation on joint projects that will support President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov's ambitious program of reform, with the aim of benefiting all of Turkmenistan's citizens. We expect that the New Year will bring further progress in the Government of Turkmenistan's ongoing effort to conform its laws with international standards in all fields. And we wish to further deepen the cultural and educational ties – and friendship – between our two countries.

And so, from our Embassy family to your family, we wish you peace, prosperity, health and well-being in the New Year. Happy New Year in 2010 from the United States of America. Thank you very much.

## Turkmen University Professors of Accounting Improve Teaching Skills with USAID Support



*University professors have discussions on teaching methodology*

On December 23, 2009, a group of 15 Turkmen University professors of economic and financial disciplines completed a week-long training course on Interactive Teaching methodologies, organized by USAID's Project for Economic Reforms to Enhance Competitiveness (EREC) and the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan. This training course targeted academics from the Turkmen National Institute of Economics and Management, the State Polytechnic Institute, the State Agricultural University, the Institute of Transport and Communication as well as the Banking College under the Central bank of Turkmenistan and the Trade College.

This training took place at the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Training Center, which was jointly opened in February 2009 by USAID and the former Supreme Council on Science and Technology under the President of Turkmenistan (now the Academy of Sciences). The course aimed to equip the professors with advanced training methodologies and techniques for better integration of international accounting standards into existing curricula. The current training course is the last one in the series. Throughout 2009, the participants completed four accounting disciplines, including three as part of the Certified Accounting Practitioner (CAP) level of the CIPA certification program and have already gone through all required examinations.

## Delegation from Ashgabat's Sister City, Albuquerque, New Mexico, visits Ashgabat for the 18th Anniversary of the Independence of Turkmenistan

On October 24-31 Ashgabat hosted a delegation from its sister-city in the USA, Albuquerque, from the state of New Mexico. The delegation consisted of ten people, members of the Ashgabat-Albuquerque Sister-Cities Committee, who came to Ashgabat to take part in the 18th anniversary of Turkmenistan's Independence. Their schedule of activities included Independence Day celebrations such as the parade in front of the Presidential Palace, a fireworks display, visits to the library, cultural centers and museums, and to the Ashgabat Mayor's office to meet with Mayor Azat Bilishov.

One of the members of the delegation was Alana McGrattan, a recently retired librarian at the Indian School in Santa Fe, NM. Ms. McGrattan took an active part during her visit, and was an important part in helping the local English Language Fellow Valerie Sartor complete one of her projects. The photos posted below show Ms. McGrattan, Ms. Sartor and members of the Turan Mugallym teachers'



*Ms. Alana McGrattan presents a digital projector and a laptop to the Turan Mugallym Teachers' Association*

association receiving a projector as part of the ELF project aimed at helping teachers in Ashgabat use technology in the classrooms.

*Learn more about*

*Sister Cities International at:*

<http://www.sister-cities.org>



## Turkmen Farmers Learn How to Increase Poultry Production Profits

Over twenty experienced poultry producers from all over Turkmenistan attended a three day workshop to learn how to improve poultry production operations on December 9-11, 2009. The workshop was as part of a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) project called "Stamping out Pandemic Avian Influenza" (STOP AI).

In partnership with the with livestock and poultry veterinary service of the Association "Turkmen livestock", USAID invited twenty five poultry veterinarians and

production management specialists to participate in the training sessions. Participants learned about topics as diverse as incubator-usage, brood and growth management, poultry housing and waste management, record keeping, and poultry nutrition.

As STOP AI project is focused on avoiding pandemic avian influenza, participants also reviewed and discussed how they could work together to manage poultry health issues including discussions of common poultry diseases and the use of vaccination in commercial poultry production. A biosecurity risk assessment exercise led to the development of biosecurity plans for each of the participant farms. Participants also learned about global best practices for responding to an HPAI outbreak.