

## MAIN EVENT



OSCE Secretary General, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut (right), met with President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov during his visit to Tashkent.

## OSCE Secretary General visits Tashkent

OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut stressed the need to strengthen the relationship between the Organization and Uzbekistan in talks with President Islam Karimov and Foreign Minister Elyor Ganiev on 28 July in Tashkent.

Concluding his first visit to a participating State in the Central Asian region, the Secretary General said: "The OSCE's primary concern is to maximize the impact of its assistance on Uzbekistan's capacity to uphold its OSCE commitments and to improve the lives of its citizens". He added it was essential for the OSCE to assist Uzbekistan in its reform process, taking the country's priorities into account.

During the meetings, the State authorities expressed their expectations towards the OSCE. The Secretary General and the OSCE team indicated their willingness to increase and balance the co-operation between the Organization and Uzbekistan in all three dimensions of the OSCE concept of security. Close contacts and concrete activities will continue between the OSCE Centre in Tashkent and the State authorities in order to follow up on this exchange.

The recent events in Andijan of 12 and 13 May were also discussed during the meetings. The Uzbek side noted that the ongoing Parliamentary investigation, whose main task is to establish the causes and criminal acts at the origin of these events, would also include an assessment of the actions of both the government and the law enforcement agencies.

Secretary General de Brichambaut welcomed the statement by President Karimov that trials resulting from the investigations' conclusions would be open to interested parties and that the OSCE Centre in Tashkent would have the opportunity of observing such trials. The Uzbek leadership pledged to share all the findings of the national investigations, once these have been concluded.

The two sides agreed on the requirement to press ahead with discussions on reforming the 55-nation security Organization to ensure it remains relevant to the needs of all participating States. Both parties agreed on the need to make the Organization more effective

in addressing current threats and more responsive to the needs of participating States.

Both sides also agreed that regional integration was crucial for stability and prosperity in Central Asia. The State authorities confirmed their readiness to host a conference on economic integration in Central Asia, to be organized by the OSCE later this year.

Other issues discussed included the prospects for increased OSCE assistance in counter-terrorism. Economic and ecological co-operation were also high on the agenda. Senior experts from the OSCE Secretariat on both economic affairs and counter-terrorism held separate working meetings with their local counterparts. A briefing session was organized for members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Tashkent. A meeting was also held with representatives of civil society of Uzbekistan.

## HEAD OF CENTRE ACTIVITIES

## 10th Anniversary of OSCE Presence in Uzbekistan



Ambassador Miroslav Jenča

In 2005 OSCE is celebrating 10 years of its presence in Uzbekistan. In June 1995 OSCE opened a Central Asian Liaison Office in Tashkent and the memorandum of understanding between the organisation and Uzbekistan was signed in Tashkent 10 years ago, on 12 July 1995. The office was later transformed into the OSCE Centre in Tashkent when OSCE opened offices in the neighbouring states.

Over these ten years the office has faced many challenges and interesting tasks. The office have worked with government officials, civil society and other international organisation with the mandated task to promote the OSCE commitments and principles in Uzbekistan. Just a couple of years ago, OSCE drastically increased its involvement in the Central Asian region by providing additional funds for the offices here. The office has over these ten years gone from a monitoring and advising office to become a full-fledged OSCE field office with activities in all three dimensions and covering all geographical areas of Uzbekistan.

The Head of Centre in Tashkent, Ambassador Miroslav Jenča said: "Nowadays, OSCE is facing several challenges that will continue to re-shape the organisation. There are continuing discussions on monetary contributions, on ways to operate and what exactly OSCE should be doing and how to operate. Despite these questions, the co-operation the office has established with partners in Uzbekistan, is a solid foundation on which we could and should continue to build. I am convinced that in close co-operation with partners, we can continue to promote the OSCE commitment and principles in Uzbekistan and I look forward to doing so."

## POLITICO-MILITARY DIMENSION

**Workshop on Rocket Fuel Component (Mélange) Disposal**

On 6-8 July the OSCE Centre in Tashkent participated in the joint OSCE-NATO Technical Workshop on Rocket Fuel Component (Mélange) Disposal, held in Kiev and organised by the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and NATO's Security through Science Programme.

The workshop provided an opportunity for officials from OSCE states affected by the mélange problem to meet experts from NATO and the OSCE who are dealing with this issue, as well as international consultants and to share experience, identify potential areas of co-operation and move towards the comprehensive solutions.

A representative of the environmental NGO ECOSAN participated in the workshop. During the workshop, Centre in Tashkent made a presentation on the mélange problem in Uzbekistan. OSCE Centre in Tashkent stands ready to cooperate with the government further on the issue of elimination of mélange in Uzbekistan.

**New Internet Café for Journalists in Samarkand**

The Centre in Tashkent has launched its second Internet Café for Journalists on 8 July, opening new possibilities for media professionals who need access to the up-to-date global information network.

"Free and professional media are vital for the development of modern democratic societies," said Ambassador Miroslav Jenča, the Head of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent, in his opening speech.

"I hope this resource centre will not only contribute to your professional growth, but also become a place for communication and exchange of experience for the journalists of Samarkand."

The successful experience of the Internet Café for Journalists in Tashkent, which has been functioning since November 2003, has prepared the ground for a similar initiative in Samarkand (central Uzbekistan). A third one will officially be opened in Nukus (Republic of Karakalpakstan) soon.

On average, more than 500 visitors - journalists, students and teachers - use the resources of Internet Café in Tashkent each month.



Visitors of new internet café for journalists in Samarkand, launched by the OSCE Centre in Tashkent

Located in the centre of Samarkand, the Internet Café for Journalists is easily accessible. Training sessions on modern information technologies equipment and Internet skills will be organized for users on a regular basis by the project staff.

The project is one of a number of efforts, the Centre in Tashkent is undertaking in order to promote media freedom in the country.

## ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION



Domestic waste threatens to civil community

**Roundtable on Environmental Security and Civil Initiative**

The Centre in Tashkent, jointly with the Environmental Public Advocacy Centre "Armon", conducted a roundtable on environmental security and civil initiative on 21-22 July in Tashkent province. Discussions focused on topics related to the use of chemicals in agriculture and their impact on the environmental conditions and social welfare.

**Promoting Development of Arbitration and Supporting Farmers**

During August, NGO "Legal Problems Research Centre" carried out a series of two-day trainings under the Centre in Tashkent supported project entitled "Promoting Development of Arbitration and Supporting Farmers in Uzbekistan" in Jizzakh, the Republic of Karakalpakstan and Horezm provinces.

Approximately thirty-five participants in each province took part in these trainings, which aimed at facilitating the development of arbitration in the provinces of Uzbekistan, and promoting legal protection of farmers in Uzbekistan through educating the local lawyers on how to settle disputes of farmers by arbitration, to carry out legal consultations.

**Best Practices in Combating Corruption**

The Centre in Tashkent has provided 50 copies of its handbook entitled "Best Practices in Combating Corruption", in the Uzbek language to the Andijan province branch of Business Women's Association, including 40 copies for distribution during the awareness raising seminar on anti-corruption issues in Asaka city (Andijan province), and 10 copies for use of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation's staff – co-organizer of this event.

## HUMAN DIMENSION

**Training on Public Advocacy**

On 7 July the Centre in Tashkent organized a training programme on the role of public advocacy in civil society for twenty-five members of civil society organizations from all over Uzbekistan.

The four-day event on the “Basics of Advocacy” was part of the OSCE Centre’s “Women Empowerment” programme, aimed at enhancing civil society organizations’ capacity in advocacy.

Topics to be presented and discussed during the training events included the nature and role of public advocacy within the context of democratic societies, developing and conducting advocacy campaign by emphasizing public education.

Participants explored and practiced elements of planning needs assessment, and defining goals and targets, stakeholders’ analysis, working with the media and structural environment.

Special emphasis was given to co-operation and solidarity, as well as to monitoring and evaluation of the advocacy campaign as a process of learning from experiences.

Training served as an opportunity to create a learning community and share already existing experiences and material on the subject matter.



Participants improved their knowledge on legislation analysis during the training course organized by the OSCE Centre in Tashkent

**Training Course on Monitoring Human Rights in Local Prisons**

The Centre in Tashkent organized a training course on monitoring of human rights in local prisons and detention facilities from 15 to 19 July in Bukhara

The course aimed to build the capacity for conducting monitoring activities in prisons in Uzbekistan and review international standards in the field.

It was part of the prison reform programme of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent.

The event was attended by 18 representatives of non-governmental organizations from different regions of the country. The aim was to help form new monitoring groups and widen the geographic range of monitoring activities.

At present, there are four monitoring groups in Tashkent city and the Tashkent, Bukhara and Navoi regions.

## CROSS-DIMENSIONAL PROGRAMME

**A Meeting of Central Asian Youth Network**

Thirty-five university students from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan met on 1 July in Charvak, some 90 km from Tashkent, to improve their skills in teamwork, political engagement, research writing, as well as in sports.

Hosted by the Centre in Tashkent, the three-day event was part of the activities of the Central Asian Youth Network (CAYN), which aims to help in conflict prevention by bringing together university students and discussing OSCE principles and commitments.

“We want to build and strengthen cross-border links between the young people of Central Asia,” said Ambassador Miroslav Jenča, the Head of the OSCE Centre.

“We are convinced that bringing students together for joint research activities will help prevent conflicts and promote good relations among the peoples of the region.”



Participants of the training on public advocacy, organized by the OSCE Centre in Tashkent

**Project Management Training**

From 13 to 15 July the OSCE Centre in Tashkent convened the training on “Project Management” in Tashkent, Hotel “Grand Mir”. The training brought together 22 participants from governmental and civil society institutions from all over Uzbekistan.

The training was organized as a part of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent’s “Democratization and Rule of Law: Women Empowerment” programme aimed at enhancing OSCE counterparts capacity in project development, monitoring and evaluation.

Topics to be presented and discussed during the training events included systemic nature of project management, participatory need assessment and the philosophy behind it, defining activities to meet the objectives and outputs, monitoring and evaluation as a learning tool that can increase efficiency of the projects.

Experts from the OSCE Centre in Tashkent, UNESCO and the American Bar Association focused on political-military, economic, environmental, democratisation and rule of law issues in Central Asia.

CAYN was launched in May 2004 by the five OSCE Centres in Almaty, Ashgabad, Bishkek, Dushanbe and Tashkent.

The activities of the Network include seminars, workshops, conferences, group research work and online discussions on its own portal, [www.cayn.net](http://www.cayn.net).

### Summer School for Students from Uzbekistan

Around eighty university students from Uzbekistan participated in a 10-day summer school at the Semurg camp near Tashkent, beginning on 11 August. The school, organized by the OSCE Centre in Tashkent, for students from the Tashkent and Syrdarya regions as well Tashkent city was designed to improve their knowledge of civic education and the OSCE principles and commitments.

Guest speakers from the OSCE Centre, as well as the Central Election Committee of Uzbekistan had been invited to participate in the event.

The summer school is a part of the OSCE Centre's recently-launched "Youth of XXI Century" project designed to engage young people



Eighty first-year university students in Uzbekistan improved their knowledge of civic education and OSCE principles at summer school organized by the OSCE Centre in Tashkent

more actively in the development of their society by promoting civic and political awareness, as well as by fostering their knowledge and commitment to democratic values.

The project is being implemented jointly with local NGOs - Legal Training Centre, "Iqbol" Youth Centre, Initiative Development and Support Centre "Nihol" - and OSCE Central Asian Youth Network club.

## MAIN UPCOMING EVENTS

### Politico-Military Dimension

- Opening of Internet Café for Journalist in Nukus (Nukus, September-October);
- 7th Central Asian Media Conference (Almaty, 13-14 October);

### Economic and Environmental Dimension

- Training on "Promoting development of arbitration and supporting farmers in Uzbekistan" (Tashkent province, 12-13 September; Samarkand, 4-5 October; Bukhara, 11-12 October; Navoi, 13-14 October);
- Training within the Project "Youth Entrepreneurial Training Phase I" in partnership with Youth Social Movement "Kamolot" (Jizzakh, 12-17 September; Tashkent, 3-8 October);
- Environment and Security Initiative: REHRA Visit (Tashkent, 21-23 September);
- Training on market economy for young women (Tashkent, 28-29 September);
- FIU/AML Workshop (WB, UNODC) (Tashkent, 3-4 October);
- OSCE Annual Coordination Meeting for Economic and

Environmental Officers (Vienna, 9-11 October);

- ARMON: Field Survey and Workshop on "Environmental Security and Civil Initiative": Industrial wastes problem in Almalyk, Tashkent Province (21-22 September, Almalyk); Nuclear wastes problem in Yangiabad, Tashkent Province (Yangiabad, 11-14 October);
- Training entitled "Promoting Farming Development in Uzbekistan" in partnership with the Association of Dekhkan and Farmers of Uzbekistan (Tashkent, 19-20 October);

### Human Dimension

- ToT on CEDAW Monitoring and Reporting and MDGs jointly with the Centre of Civic Support Initiatives, Ombudsman, National Centre of Human Rights, Swiss Embassy Gender project and Asian Development Bank (Tashkent, 19-23 September);
- Meeting with members of the Working Group on Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings (Tashkent, 30 September);
- Central Asian Youth Network (CAYN) conference (Issyk-kul, 31 October - 2 November);

The OSCE CiT Newsletter, which is also available online, is published in English and Russian by the OSCE Centre in Tashkent.



Centre in Tashkent

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