

NEWSLETTER

MAIN EVENT

HELSINKI

KAMARIMUSITIKKISALI
KAMMARMUSIKSALEN
CHAMBER MUSIC HALL.

OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel (right), and Finnish President Tarja Halonen opening the 30th anniversary seminar of the OSCE in Helsinki

Celebrating 30 years of the Helsinki Final Act

It took 30 years to travel from Helsinki to Helsinki. But what a journey, what a time it was! Despite the conflicts and problems, even tragedies, overall the past three decades were marked by positive developments.

I remember Helsinki and the CSCE from the meetings of the Slovenian opposition on the eve of the first democratic election in the former Yugoslavia. What we knew about the CSCE sounded subversive and liberating. We whispered the letters "CSCE" with hope and enthusiasm.

That first meeting in 1972, in Dipoli, Finland, set in motion a process that surpassed the wildest dreams of its planners. Two years of negotiations came to fruition in the summer of 1975 when 35 Heads of State and Government met in Finlandia Hall.

Despite the grand occasion, there were plenty of skeptics who felt that the meeting was a de facto recognition of the Cold War status quo. The critics said that the West had sold out to the Communist bloc. But it did not turn out that way.

In 1990 and in 1991, the Iron Curtain fell and new democratic governments took over. The OSCE was at the centre of this great moment in history, working over a period of 30 years to pull the West and the East together.

In many ways, this moment of unification continues as the OSCE now spans a region from Vancouver to Vladivostok,

with 55 nations under one roof. For that we have the Helsinki Process to thank — the series of meetings and commitments that followed up the Final Act and created momentum for dialogue, confidence-building and openness.

The process of creating a whole, free and prosperous Europe is not yet complete. Peace in the Balkans is still fragile, while in parts of Europe, the reform process is only a few years old. It is important that we remain vigilant and that the OSCE stay involved in south-eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. We need to show the same political courage shown by the founders of the OSCE as we plot a future course for this great Organization and the ideals it stands for.

Dimitrij Rupel
Foreign Minister of Slovenia
Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE

(Source: OSCE magazine, October 2005)

OSCE PA President visits Tashkent

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's President Alcee Hastings met with President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov on 2 November in Tashkent.

During the meeting, the sides considered current affairs and perspectives of relations between Uzbekistan and the OSCE, as well as co-operation on maintaining security in the region.

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U.S. Congressman Alcee L. Hastings, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

As part of his visit to Uzbekistan, OSCE PA President Hastings visited Legislative Chamber of Lower House of Parliament and familiarized with its activities.

He also met with the Speaker of Legislative Chamber of Lower House of Parliament, Erkin Khalilov. They discussed issues on strengthening interparliament relations and educational system.

US Congressman Alcee L. Hastings was elected President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in July 2004 at the 13th Annual Session in Edinburgh, Scotland, and was re-elected at the 14th Annual Session in Washington, DC. He has also served as OSCE PA Vice-President, Chair and Vice-Chair of the First General Committee, as well as two terms as Committee Rapporteur.

HEAD OF CENTRE ACTIVITIES

OSCE Centre in Tashkent opened new Resource Unit

OSCE Centre in Tashkent has launched Resource Unit at the Training Centre of the General Directorate for the Execution of Punishments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Opening of the Resource Unit will create neces-



Ambassador Miroslav Jenča, Head of the Centre in Tashkent visits new Resource Unit

sary conditions for more effective work of the Training Centre and provide to teachers and trainees of the Centre – personnel of the penitentiary system – access to information related to their professional and academic activity.

“OSCE Centre in Tashkent pays a great attention to the issue of training of the penitentiary establishments’ personnel” – said Miroslav Jenca, Head of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent, in his opening speech.

Resource Unit will consist of two structural divisions: special library and computer class with permanent access to Internet.

Initially, OSCE Centre in Tashkent with the support of the United Nations Development Programme in Uzbekistan, OSCE/ODIHR Rule of Law Coordinator for Central Asia, “Penal reform International” Representative Office in Central Asia, International Centre for Prison Studies (United Kingdom) granted to the Training Centre about sixty items of literature on human rights and penitentiary standards, latest tendencies in the development of the penitentiary systems of neighboring countries, methodological issues in Uzbek and Russian languages.

Project on establishment and support of the Resource Unit at the Training Centre of the General Directorate for the Execution of Punishments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan is a part of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent activity in the field of Penitentiary System of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

POLITICO-MILITARY DIMENSION

OSCE Expert Workshop on Combating the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes

The OSCE Centre in Tashkent facilitated the participation of two Uzbek experts in the Expert Workshop on Combating the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes, organized by the Action against Terrorism Unit of the OSCE on 13-14 October in Vienna, Austria.

The main goal of this expert workshop was to help identify possible strategies to combat the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes while ensuring respect for international human rights, including those concerning the right to privacy and freedom of opinion and expression, and to consider concrete measures to enhance international co-operation on this issue.

The workshop brought together national and international experts to discuss the threat posed by terrorist use of the Internet. Specific presentations were focused on the extent of the threat, best practices and possible solutions to existing problems associated with the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, as well as the outline of relevant legal frameworks for appropriate and acceptable counter-measures which can be taken to combat this threat.



150 participants from all five Central Asian countries discuss developments in the region in the media field.

Seventh Central Asian Media Conference

The 7th annual Central Asian Media Conference in Almaty was organized by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the Centre in Almaty on 13-14 October.

For the seventh time, 150 participants from all five Central Asian countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – gathered to discuss developments in the region in the media field. The participants included journalists and representatives of non-governmental media organizations, as well as officials, experts and foreign guests. As in previous years, the conference provided a unique opportunity for interaction, an exchange of views among the participants and a creation of new bonds between regional colleagues.

The Representative on Freedom of the Media has in the last years developed a whole set of publications, recommendations and “recipes” for best practices and good governance of the Internet which hopefully will serve as guidelines for all OSCE participating States.

As the result of Conference, Almaty Declaration on Pluralism in the Media and the Internet was adopted and is available in English and Russian at http://www.osce.org/documents/rfm/2005/10/16767_en.pdf and http://www.osce.org/documents/rfm/2005/10/16767_ru.pdf respectively.

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION

Seventh Water Donors Meeting

On 6 September the Centre in Tashkent attended the 7th Water Donors Meeting on exchange of information regarding the current status of the agricultural and water management projects in Uzbekistan.

About 30 participants, including professionals from engineering and consulting companies, representatives of infrastructural and development organizations, international organizations, public sector and governmental officials shared information

regarding their current activities and held open discussions on related issues.

National Workshop on Financial Intelligence Unit

The Centre in Tashkent supported the participation of experts in the joint World Bank, UNODC and OSCE National Workshop on Establishing and making Operational the Financial Intelligence Unit, which took place on 3-4 October.

“I hope this workshop will act as foundation for discussion of issues, regarding the establishment and organization of financial monitoring in Central Asian countries, whose purpose will be to implement international standards to counteract money laundering and financing terrorism,”- said Ambassador Miroslav Jenca, the Head of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent, in his opening speech.

The workshop aimed at sharing best practices from around the world, and improving legislative and institutional capacity. The workshop was designed specifically for Uzbekistan.

The Financial Intelligence Unit is a special unit, that will gather and analyze information on suspicious transactions and co-operate with law enforcement bodies of Uzbekistan and abroad in order to strengthen the worldwide fight against money laundering and the financing terrorism.



Workshop was a foundation for discussion of issues, regarding the establishment and organization of financial monitoring in Central Asian countries

Economic and Ecological Knowledge of Farmers

From 14 to 15 November, the OSCE Centre in Tashkent in conjunction with the Farmers' Association of Uzbekistan organised a training course entitled “Increasing Economic and Ecological Knowledge of Farmers”, for approximately forty farmers in Samarkand province.

Participants included farmers from different districts of the province who were able to improve knowledge and skills on such issues as soil ecology, production of environmentally clean and competitive products and running agro-business.

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The training also addressed such practical issues as:

- (1) improving the ameliorative condition of soil and measures to prevent land erosion;
- (2) methods to combat plant insects and diseases, including usage of biologic methods and providing information on the modern chemical means;
- (3) impact of environmental degradation on volume and quality of agricultural products and human health;
- (4) information regarding the production of competitive product and ways of exporting;
- (5) briefing on how to use business plan to make ones business efficient;
- (6) marketing of agricultural products.

Entrepreneurial Training for Youth

The OSCE Centre in Tashkent is working to promote youth entrepreneurship and assist to increase self-employment opportunities among the young people in Uzbekistan. With the help of the Republican Youth Social Movement “Kamolot”, the Centre has organized a series of training workshops to help youth develop their own business plans and learn to defend their entrepreneurial interests.

On 21-26 November the Centre in Tashkent within its joint Project entitled “Entrepreneurial Trainings for Youth” with the “KAMOLOT” organized the Phase II training in Tashkent for twenty five selected potential young entrepreneurs from Jizzak, Syrdarya, Tashkent provinces and Tashkent city.



Young people learned about current legislation regulating private business, taxation issues, marketing and business plan development, and financial management.

These young people learned about current legislation regulating private business, taxation issues, marketing and business plan development, and financial management. Each participant developed his/her entrepreneurial ideas into a business plan, which was evaluated by the workshop trainers.

In accordance with the project goal the two best business plans from each region will be submitted by “KAMOLOT” to local commercial bank for funding.

HUMAN DIMENSION



The training was aimed at preparing national experts who could maintain objective evaluation and contribute to preparing reports on the realization of CEDAW in Uzbekistan.

Gender Equality focus of training course supported by the OSCE Centre in Tashkent

TASHKENT, 19 September 2005 - Gender equality and international standards in the field are the focus of a training course

in the Uzbek capital this week, supported by the OSCE Centre in Tashkent, the Swiss Embassy and the Asian Development Bank.

The five-day event, entitled “Women’s human rights: realization, monitoring and reporting of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)”, will bring together representatives of the General Prosecutor’s office, the ministries of Interior and Health, the Ombudsman, the National Human Rights Centre and the Women’s Committee, as well as different Uzbek non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The course is aimed at preparing national experts who could maintain objective evaluation and contribute to preparing reports on the realization of CEDAW in Uzbekistan.

The training is an outcome of a joint initiative of the National Human Rights Centre of Uzbekistan, the Ombudsman, and the NGO Civil Initiatives Support Centre.

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