



# NEWSLETTER

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## Global Connections and Exchange Program for Tajikistan

Global Connections and Exchange Program for Tajikistan has established 27 Internet Learning Centers (ILCs) in secondary schools across Tajikistan. The program's main goal is to increase global dialogue and educational opportunities by installing modern computer equipment with Internet access in schools, and developing training and learning projects for teachers and students.

### Tajikistan Global Connections and Exchange Program activities include:

- \* Teacher training on using computers and the Internet in classroom teaching;
- \* U.S. school partnerships on civic education projects, teacher and student exchanges;
- \* Public access and programs for community members and disadvantaged groups;
- \* Development of sustainable practices for schools and communities.

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Youth Leaders of Tajikistan

### Youth Leadership Program on Free Expression

The Youth Programs Division of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is offering a fantastic opportunity for Tajikistan high school students and teachers to participate in the new Exchange Program – Youth Leadership Program on Free Expression (YLPFE) which is implemented by Relief International – Schools Online. The Youth Leadership Program on Free Expression is offering fifty youth and educators from Tajikistan, Jordan and Azerbaijan to participate in a one month exchange program to Washington DC, Los Angeles, CA San Francisco and Sacramento, CA. By engaging highly motivated youth and youth educators, the program builds strong relationships between the three countries and the United States in order to promote good governance and positive youth engagement in civil society. Participants will gain understanding and skills in volunteering and community service, leadership, democracy and civil liberties and cross cultural understanding. They will learn about American society, meet American teen-agers, and study the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution with a focus on the freedom of speech.

Two exchanges are planned: the first exchange will take place from October to November, 2006 and the second one from January to February, 2007. Selection of the first team of students and teachers was conducted at the end of August. 7 students together with 2 teachers were selected to represent Tajikistan. More information about our finalists will be provided in the next issue of our newsletter.

## Summer is the Time for Study



Students learn to write English words

In early July School No. 8 for the deaf in Dushanbe received an honorable guest - Ms. Anna Mussman, Program Officer for the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, who met with students and teachers of the school and talked to them about possibilities of the Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX) for the deaf students. Moreover she got the students acquainted with Mrs. Cindy McCann who kindly agreed to help them to develop their English language skills. Mrs. Cindy McCann is a teacher from Washington State, USA and this summer she teaches special English classes for the group of deaf students. It will be a three-month course that will help 15 through 17 year old boys and girls to learn English and try their luck in applying to the FLEX Program.

Mrs. McCann knows international sign language and has a great experience in working with students. Through the written English, students will be able to express their thoughts and communicate with schools from USA and other countries. From the very beginning students showed an inexhaustible interest and willingness to study English. In general, they learn two languages: English language which they started with the ABCs, and the international sign language which has some commonality with Russian sign language. After a few weeks students were able to compound sentences, translate small paragraphs, and search the meaning of new words in dictionaries.

Students have about three months to learn English, and then participate in the FLEX Program. They have a wonderful teacher – Mrs. Cindy McCann who is

kindly volunteering and teaching English classes for the group of deaf students, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her and Ms. Anna Mussman for their invaluable support.



Mrs. Cindy McCann teaches students to compile English sentences



Students pronounce English words with the help of international sign language

## Tajikistan Exchange Teachers

The Tajikistan Teacher Exchange 2006 was announced to be open for Lead Teachers of 27 Internet Learning Centers (ILCs) of our country. It was not easy, both for the applicants and those who were selecting the finalists, to take part in this contest in spite of the hottest time of the year – July. Many applications were submitted by the teachers, but only a few of them have successfully passed the first step of the contest and were invited to be interviewed by the Selection Committee. And finally, at the end of July we got the finalists who will visit the U.S. in the spring of 2007 together with their colleagues from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Palestine GCE countries. Tajikistan Exchange Teachers are:



Munira Rahimova -  
the Lead Teacher  
of Dushanbe ILC

1. Munira Rahimova is the Lead Teacher in Dushanbe ILC of school No. 10 for 3 years since the very opening of ILC at this school. She teaches Russian Language and Literature since 1993. And currently she works 24 hours per week teaching students from 5th through 11th grades. While in the United States, Munira would like to learn innovative methods used by U.S. teachers at their classes, the role of a teacher at school, know more about use of modern technologies in education, online methods of teaching, and collect materials on culture and history of the USA.

2. Sabohat Mamadalieva is the Lead Teacher in Vakhsh ILC of school No. 1. She teaches English Language since 2004 and her current schedule at school makes up 30 hours per week for students of 5th-11th grades. During her trip to the U.S. Sabohat wishes to learn about educational system of the USA, new teaching methods and visual materials used at classes, and the culture and tradition of the USA.

3. Halima Bobohonova is one of the Lead Teachers in Isfara ILC of school No. 1. She teaches English since 2004 at school No. 69 for students of 5th-10th grades, and her schedule is 17 hours per week. During her stay in the United States she would like to get acquainted with U.S. teachers, exchange and share experience, and learn teaching methods used by U.S. teachers.

Our sincere congratulations to the finalists of Teacher Exchange who will be presenting Tajikistan GCE in the U.S. next year! We wish them good luck and fruitful work.



Halima Bobohonova helps with  
English translation of literature  
project

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## ILCs Meet with Ms. Anna Mussman



Ms. Anna Mussman and Mrs. Cindy McCann talk to students from Fayzabad ILC

This summer Tajikistan Global Connections and Exchange students had a unique opportunity to meet with Program Officer for the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs – Ms. Anna Mussman who coordinates Global Connections and Exchange and Future Leaders Exchange Programs. Ms. Anna Mussman visited the ILC of special school No. 8 for the deaf students in Dushanbe, ILCs of Vahdat, Fayzabad and Nurek. The students and teachers were very happy to receive Ms. Anna Mussman at their ILCs and talk about program activities, their favorite projects, discuss the future of ILCs, share with their ideas and get useful advice and suggestions from such an honorable guest – Ms. Anna Mussman.

Students and teachers expressed their gratitude for GCE Program, and asked Ms. Anna Mussman to visit them more often in the future.

## CATEC 2006

This year the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Central Asian Teachers of English Conference (CATEC) took place in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan which gathered together teachers not only from Central Asia but also from the South Asian countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan, and guests from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey and the United States.

Twenty English language teachers with the support of the U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan represented our country in this conference which lasted from June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>. Among Tajikistan participants there were teachers from our Internet Learning Centers:

1. Rano Sultonova – one of the Lead Teachers from Kayrakkum ILC who had a poster session about English Club and its activity in her school.
2. Robiya Majidova another Lead Teacher from Kayrakkum ILC had a poster session about Project Lesson – its objectives, organization and results.
3. Ibrahim Rustamov from Isfara ILC made a presentation about Internet and English Language Teaching (ELT): using E-tools in ELT, and demonstrated new teaching tool Classroom Performance System (CPS) donated by the U.S. partner teacher - Alvin Moses.

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