



SalamAlum

OSCE Academy Alumni Magazine

ISSUE 3, FALL 2013

Elham Gharji '10

Education is Magic, pg 13

«...my education at the OSCE Academy has given me the ability to lead an organization»

CONTENTS

ISSUE №3 2013

- 1 - Welcome Note
- 2 - OSCE Academy Updates
- 3 - Director's Farewell Note
- 4 - Welcoming New Deputy Director
- 6 - Alumni Network in Numbers
- 7 - Alumnus of the Year 2013
- 8 - Plov From Alumni
- 9 - 2nd Alumni Reunion
- 12 - Alumni Career Achievements
- 13 - NUPI Fellowship
- 15 - GCSP Scholarship
- 16 - Alumni Hobbies
- 20 - Alumni Travel Grant
- 22 - Welcome New Alumni
- 24 - Alumni Fund

Dear Alumni,

The latest issue of Salam Alum is designed to update you on the activities of the Alumni Network and a number of changes that have occurred at the OSCE Academy in 2012-2013.

In recent times the OSCE Academy has had two farewells, bidding "good-bye" to both Deputy Director Violetta Yan in 2012 and Director Dr. Maxim Ryabkov in 2013. A great number of achievements were made at the OSCE Academy under the guidance of Dr. Ryabkov and Ms. Yan and their footprint will be a lasting one in the life of the OSCE Academy.

We are pleased to announce that in Fall 2012 the OSCE Academy welcomed a new Deputy Director – Shairbek Juraev - and will soon welcome a new Director, who will arrive with fresh ideas for the Academy's further development.

The 2nd Alumni Reunion took place in September 2013, gathering around 80 alumni from the Central Asian region, Afghanistan, Russia and Poland.

This year participants of the reunion included not only graduates of the MA in the Politics and Security Programme, but also the first graduates of the MA in the Economic Governance and Development Programme the Academy launched in 2012. From now on the Alumni Network will grow apace, increasing the number of young professionals both within and beyond the region.

Our alumni continue to receive exclusive opportunities for further education and professional development. In fall five alumni

from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan were selected for internships at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs within the framework of the Junior Public Officers' Programme. Two alumni are doing their fellowships at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs under the One-Year Stay at NUPI project. Another alum won the prestigious European Scholarship for Central Asia 2013-2014.

For the second year running with support via the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) the OSCE Academy Alumni Network is offering two annual Alumni Travel Grants to enable OSCE Academy alumni to attend conferences, summer schools, or events for professional certification and trainings worldwide. In 2013 grants were received by Dildora Khamidova'05 and Ernest Turdubaev'06.

Finally, in keeping with the tradition of selecting an Alumnus/a of the Year, Jafar Usmanov'05 from Tajikistan is the OSCE Alumnus of the Year. Congratulations, Jafar!

In order to contribute to the next issue of the Alumni Journal you can send your stories and ideas to alumni@osce-academy.net!

Our sincere gratitude goes to the OSCE, the OSCE-participating states and especially to the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), which generously funds the alumni activities of the OSCE Academy!

Editor

Victoriya Orazova

Designer

Emil Akhmatbekov

MASTER OF ARTS IN ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2012 the OSCE Academy launched a new graduate programme, the MA in Economic Governance and Development. It is a 15-month programme that offers an interdisciplinary curriculum in economics, governance and development based on international standards of teaching. The

programme aims to expand the areas in which the Academy prepares the next generation of a professional elite to contribute to the development of the region. The first wave of students from the programme graduated in April 2013.

Currently there are 23 students, who have the opportunity to meet

and be taught by leading academics, experts, and representatives of international organizations. Because the programme meets international educational standards, it attracts many of the most talented and qualified graduate students throughout Central Asia and the wider OSCE region.

NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR



In 2012 the OSCE Academy welcomed its new Deputy Director Shairbek Juraev. Prior to joining the Academy team, Shairbek Juraev worked as a director of the Central Asian Studies Institute at the American University of Central Asia (AUCA). In 2007-11 he also served as a Dean of Academic Development at AUCA and Assistant Professor and Chair of the International and Comparative Politics department. Shairbek's previous practical experience includes stints

with the Institute for Public Policy, the Institute for War and Peace Reporting and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Shairbek holds an MSc in International Relations from the London School of Economic and Political Science (2005) and a BA (Hon) in International and Comparative Politics from the American University of Central Asia (2004).

JUNIOR PUBLIC OFFICERS 2013-2014

For the third year running the Junior Public Officers' Programme is providing opportunities to alumni from

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan to intern at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of their

countries for a period of three months. This year the finalists are:



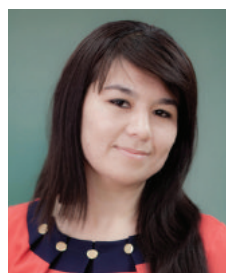
Aliya Sadykova '10
Kazakhstan



Reina Artur kyzy '13
Kyrgyzstan



Begaim Akimbaeva '13
Kyrgyzstan



Uguloy Mukhtorova '13
Tajikistan



Ahmad Munir Faruhee '13
Afghanistan

DIRECTOR'S FAREWELL NOTE

Dear Alumni,

I would like to take this opportunity to bid farewell to you, as I am leaving the post of Academy Director as of this October. I would like to believe that my years at the Academy were very productive - at least they felt quite busy to me. The new programmes, a significant increase in the number of students, our very decisive engagement with Afghanistan, and, of course, the Alumni Network can all be mentioned as positives. Of course, much of this was achieved in the face of adversity, as old regional problems remain fundamentally unsolved.

And I have to say that it is up to you to solve them! For whatever the volume of our activities and of all other international initiatives combined, we will never be able to achieve what only you can: an actual transformation of your societies. This is why the Academy has been encouraging your initiatives within the Alumni Network and continues to welcome them, regarding the Network as owned by you, if still «unfortunately» funded externally.

So this is my parting wish to you: take ownership of the structures and institutions that have been created with external support.

Here I shall end my moralizing, and will say that I have been very lucky to work with all of you over these years. I have learned a lot, and hope to be able to come back to Central Asia in some future capacity.

Good luck to you all!

TAKE OWNERSHIP OF THE
STRUCTURES AND INSTITUTIONS
THAT HAVE BEEN CREATED WITH
EXTERNAL SUPPORT.



Maxim Ryabkov,
Director of the OSCE Academy

WELCOMING NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Shairbek, you have spent a year as a Deputy Director of the OSCE Academy. Could you now tell us what motivated you to apply for this position and whether your expectations have been met so far?

Indeed, time goes quickly and one year has already passed since I joined the Academy. I can say that I knew the Academy for quite some time before joining it last year, mostly as an occasional reader of MA theses. So, I treated it primarily as an academic institute. Having spent several years at the American University of Central Asia, the Academy appeared an interesting place to be a part of, with similarly high academic standards but differences in terms of the organizational set-up and the type of educational programs.

Today I can say that the Academy is more than it may appear from the outside, and is indeed a unique institution in many ways. It provides a rare opportunity for young aspiring professionals in Central Asia to receive high quality graduate training without leaving the region. It is an exceptional institute in ensuring the representation of all Central Asian states (including Afghanistan) among the students and participants of professional trainings. The generous support of our donors and partners helps us to recruit students from all socio-economic backgrounds, which I believe is a very important part of our mission. Beyond its educational component the Academy can be seen as an excellent example of a truly functioning regional project for the OSCE and an outcome of productive international cooperation among many states and

organizations.

Do you foresee/plan to make any changes/improvements or innovations at the OSCE Academy?

One immediate update for our alumni is that we expect a new director very soon. I think Maxim did a lot for the Academy, overseeing the expansion of graduate programs, expanding the Academy's network of international partners and funders, and ensuring the smooth operation of the Academy's team. With that, we all will be looking forward to further development of the Academy in all areas of its operations, with a particular view to building institutional sustainability over the longer term.

As of now, I would emphasize that the Academy will be working on consolidating its MA programs, particularly through continuous review of curricula, moving towards having a more permanent and committed faculty body and developing a more robust information management system for the purpose of academic records.

Enrolling more new students and connecting with our alumni will remain two other priorities. We particularly want to continue receiving ever more high quality applications from all parts of the region. This means we have to continue expanding our outreach and improve the ways we communicate the Academy to our audiences.

We also plan to further develop the ways we remain connected to our graduates. The Alumni Reunion in September 2013 provided much inspiration both to the Academy staff and alumni themselves, I

“I WISH OUR GRADUATES TO NEVER STOP PURSUING FURTHER LEARNING IN THE FORM OF PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT. FORMAL EDUCATION IS PART OF THE PROCESS, BUT I CALL ON ALL OF YOU TO CONTINUE ENRICHING YOURSELVES, AND THUS, YOUR COMMUNITIES, BY REMAINING OPEN TO NEW KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND HOBBIES.”



believe. We are looking at ways in which the Academy can continue providing support to the professional development of our alumni and also at ways to enable our graduates to continue cooperating with the Academy.

The list of plans could go on, but I want to make a final point regarding plans to develop the Academy into a producer of new knowledge. We plan to work more on creating opportunities for our faculty and students to conduct empirical studies and share them with the world. This is an important part of serving our communities, especially given the generally very underdeveloped state of knowledge generation in the region, not to mention its exchange and application.

But at any rate, the development of new priorities and the identification of areas for improvement are dynamic processes that require active inputs from many parties. So, I encourage alumni, just like students, faculty and staff, to remain in touch with us and provide us with any feedback they find important.

There are a lot of administrative tasks involved in your work. Do

you have time to do research as well? If you have done research already, then what is the topic?

I believe one would not be motivated to work in an academic institution without having one's own academic and research interests. Administrative work does offer challenges in terms of the amount of work that can be feasibly achieved, but I have been trying to allocate some time for reading, writing and remaining active in academic discussions. Recently I co-authored a book chapter on the nature of engagement of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan with Afghanistan, and wrote a shorter essay on the developments in/of political parties in Kyrgyzstan since 2010. My real interest is with the study of the nature of the state in Central Asia, particularly in the context of dynamic domestic and international developments that shape our understanding of the "state". But, as you can imagine, big projects require a commitment of the same size.

What are your wishes to the students and alumni of the OSCE Academy?

I wish our graduates to never

stop pursuing further learning in the form of professional and personal development. Formal education is part of the process, but I call on all of you to continue enriching yourselves, and thus, your communities, by remaining open to new knowledge, skills and hobbies.

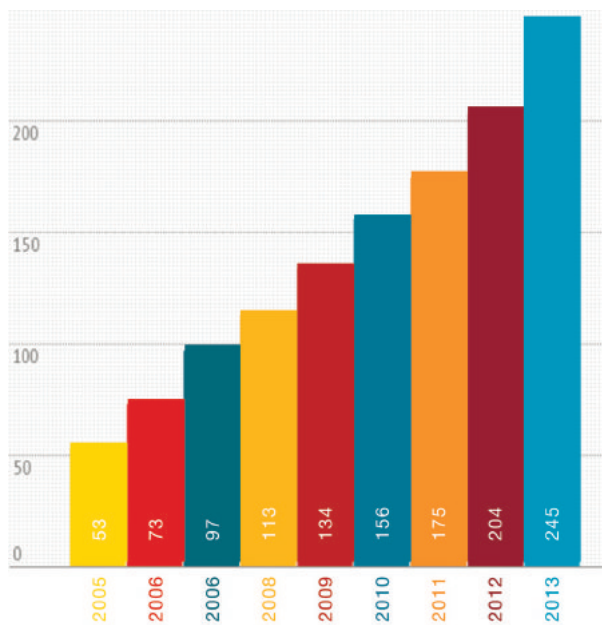
The OSCE Academy's mission is to serve the security and development of the region. I hope you all never lose your vision for the long-term development of the region, and that you will use your energy, skills and patience for the good of society.

Finally, the degree to which our alumni remain connected and committed to the Academy is very important to the staff, faculty and a great pool of friends and supporters of the Academy. We will be working hard not to lose touch with any of you, but it also takes effort from you to keep the Academy within the radar of your attention. So, let's just look forward to our next meeting!

ALUMNI NETWORK IN NUMBERS

Beginning from 2012 the OSCE Academy launched a second Masters Programme in Economic Governance and Development (<http://www.osce-academy.net/en/masters/economic-governance/>). The first group of students graduated in April 2013, and joined the OSCE Academy Alumni Network. Altogether the number of alumni has now reached 245.¹

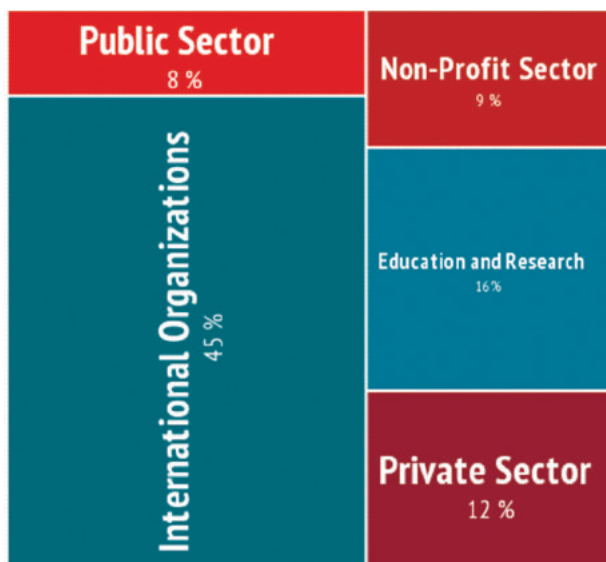
ALUMNI NETWORK SINCE 2005



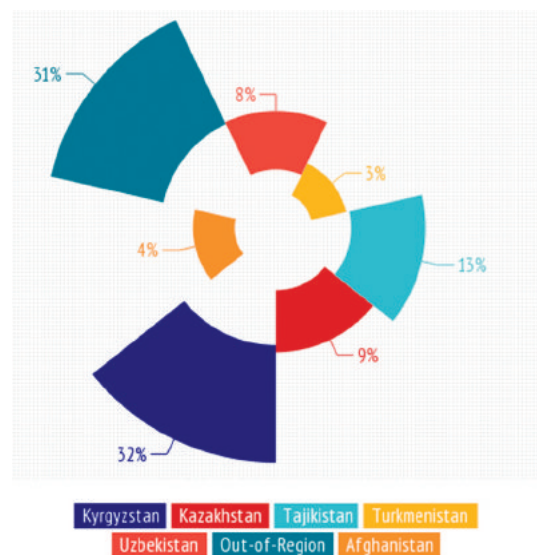
EMPLOYMENT



SECTORS EMPLOYMENT



GEOGRAPHY



¹The Statistics 2013 is based on the results of the Alumni Survey 2013 and contains the information on 175 alumni.



«FOR ME, THE ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD IS THE BEST TOOL TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO AN INDIVIDUAL ALUM AND SIMULTANEOUSLY MOTIVATE THE ALUMNI TO RE-ENFORCE THEIR EFFORTS FOR THE SAKE OF THE ALUMNI COMMUNITY»
JAFAR USMANOV '05

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR 2013

It has become a tradition of the OSCE Academy Alumni Network to select a graduate once a year to receive the title of Alumnus/Alumna of the Year. In 2013 we congratulate Jafar Usmanov '05 from Tajikistan, who received the title of the Alumnus of the Year for continuous achievement.

Professionally Jafar has moved up a level, from a technical post involving border security and management at the OSCE Office in Tajikistan to the more sophisticated field of political affairs. "This change in area of responsibility opens up a wide spectrum of potential contributions I can make in the political and military dimensions of the work the OSCE Office in Tajikistan does," enthuses Jafar. In formal terms Jafar went from being a National Border Officer to a National Political Officer.

Additionally, Jafar has contributed to civil society building in his country through the promotion of the first ever Youth Parliament of Tajikistan, of which he is a co-founder. According to Jafar, "this brand new institution has managed to gain currency and occupy a unique place in the mosaic of youth civic activism in Tajikistan and we are now preparing for pilot elections to the Youth Parliament."

Moreover, our Alumnus of the Year for 2013 finds time for academic research. Recently, Jafar submitted a manuscript to a European peer-review journal on Afghanistan post-

2014 which is slated for publication in the near future. Policy-oriented research achievements in the last year included a study on access to education in Tajikistan for national minorities. The study was commissioned by the Central Asian Regional Bureau of the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and led to a comprehensive report, which will be published in late 2013.

"For me, the Alumnus of the Year award is the best tool to express appreciation to an individual alum and simultaneously motivate the alumni to re-enforce their efforts for the sake of the alumni community. The fact that the whole community decides and chooses the best candidate from our number gives me a great feeling of having been acknowledged and credited by fellow alumni. At the same time it transmits increased responsibility and expectations on a person in front of his/her colleague mates. It is a great feeling of honor and responsibility powered by the confidence and expectations that are invested in you by the community.» Jafar Usmanov '05



PLOV FROM ALUMNI

Following the 2nd Alumni Reunion and a discussion of the activities of the Alumni Network alumna Dina Iglkova '07 from Kazakhstan initiated the organization of "Plov from Alumni" for current students. The idea was supported by other alumni. On 3 October 2013 during lunch time students enjoyed the meal, followed by the Semi-formal Table Tennis Tournament. The winner of the tournament was Iskandar Konunov, student of the MA in Politics and Security and 2nd place was taken by Davron Ishnazarov, student of the MA in Economic Governance and Development.

"Plov from Alumni" was organized as a sign that we, too, were once students and remember how nice it is to have this kind of informal events. We hope that this small, but very joyful event will grow into an annual tradition and will be supported by more alumni every year.





“LOOKING AT THE STATISTICS PROVIDED BY THE ACADEMY ON YOUR CAREER... AND IT IS A CAREER... I AM VERY HAPPY. I THINK THIS IS CERTAINLY ONE OF THE BEST AND MOST INTERESTING PROJECTS I HAD THE PRIVILEGE AND HONOR TO INFLUENCE SLIGHTLY.”

-DR. TIM EPKENHAS, EX-DIRECTOR

2ND ALUMNI REUNION

On 7-8 September 2013 the OSCE Academy in Bishkek held the 2nd Alumni Reunion of the Master of Arts in Politics and Security and of the Master of Arts in Economic Governance and Development.

The reunion gathered about 80 graduates of the Academy coming from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Poland and Russia. The meeting was opened with a welcome speech from the Director, Dr. Maxim Ryabkov, OSCE Ambassador Sergey Kapinos and the ex-Director of the OSCE Academy Dr. Tim Epkenhas.

The two-day long forum included sessions on professional development, network-building and community service. The graduates of the first years of the Academy's operation, now experienced professionals in international organizations, government bodies, research organizations and other institutions took a chance to share their experience and knowledge with the recent graduates.

The reunion overlapped with the Academy's regional security seminar, and the alumni had a chance to take an active part in a panel titled “Managing Values and Interests: Key Security Challenges in Central Asia in 2013” with speakers such as Dr Muratbek Imanaliev (Institute for Public Policy), Dr Shahrbanou Tadjbaksh (Science Po and UNRCCA) and Dr Pal Dunay (Geneva Centre for Security Policy).

The Alumni Reunion provided a valuable opportunity for active alumni of the Academy to meet new members of the network, establish personal and professional contacts and discuss the further development of the alumni network.

By supporting promising youth in Central Asia and the wider region, the OSCE Academy seeks to build capacity through the creation of a

network of young leaders and initiate an innovative discourse centered on OSCE values.



STRENGTHENING AN ALUMNI NETWORK SPIRIT



AGAIN TOGETHER, ALUMNI OF 2009 AND 2008



DR. TIM EPKENHANS (EX-DIRECTOR), AMBASSADOR SERGEY KAPINOS (OSCE), AND DR. MAXIM RYABKOV (OSCE ACADEMY)

ENJOYING TEAM-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

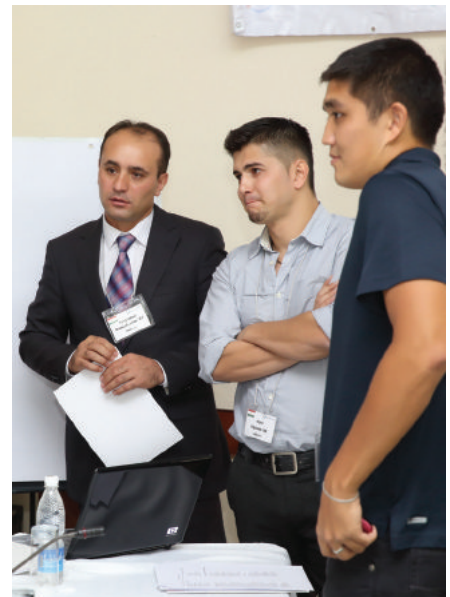




ALUMNI OF 2005 - FIRST ALUMNI OF THE OSCE ACADEMY MA IN POLITICS AND SECURITY PROGRAMME

DR. PAL DUNAY (GENEVA CENTRE FOR SECURITY POLICY), DR MURATBEK IMANALIEV (INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY), DR SHAHRBANOU TADJBAKSH (SCIENCE PO AND UNRCCA) AND DR MAXIM RYABKOV (OSCE ACADEMY)

DISCUSSION IN THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUPS





EDUCATION IS MAGIC

ElhamGharji '10, President of the Gawharshad University in Afghanistan

"In June, 2011 I took the risk of accepting the offer to work as the President of Gawharshad University in Kabul. With zero past experience of running a university, but with the high levels of confidence in my leadership potential that my education at institutes such as the OSCE Academy gave to me, I am now a bona fide president. Now, as I look back at my last two years of hard work, I see what any young man in my country can be proud of: We grew from about 450 students and 18 instructors to about 1600 students and over 80

instructors, while 95% of our students enrolled based on their fellows' recommendation to study with us. It reflects a high level of satisfaction. Relying on outside funding in 2011, we are now a financially self-sustaining private university. We have grown in terms of the size of our student body, as well as the number of educational programs. We have students from all 34 provinces in the country and take pride in providing the safest environment for women to study: as many as 36% of our students are women, which is a great achievement

in itself. The mission of the university is to promote the universal values of human rights and democracy by preparing well-educated Afghans, particularly the poor and women, to assume leadership roles in the future. Female education is an important part of our work.

Of course, it was not easy. I had the privilege to work with an extremely inspiring group of Afghans who have been educated abroad and have returned to Afghanistan to share their knowledge and education with the new generation of Afghans. Our

instructors are all Afghans who have received their MA or PhD degrees from universities in Iran, India, Australia, USA, Canada, and Britain. Of course, as far as I am concerned, my own degree from the OSCE Academy is invaluable. With such a diverse and inspiring team of Afghans we have succeeded in becoming the ever popular Gawharshad University of Afghanistan.

Gawharshad University was established in August 2010. The founder of the university is Dr. Sima Samar, a very well-known Afghan human rights activist, who is currently the chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) and who also served as the UN's special human rights rapporteur in Sudan, Minister of Women Affairs in Afghanistan and deputy head of Afghanistan's transitional Government. With her, a former minister of Foreign Affairs, a

former minister of finance, a former minister of higher Education, a former minister of Rural Development and Rehabilitation, and five more Afghan academics serve on the university's board of trustees. Working with such a strong team of individuals was another privilege and opportunity, a springboard to improve my knowledge and skills. All these people helped the university to be what it is now.

I first joined the Gawharshad University as a part time instructor teaching academic writing and comparative politics. Then, I was offered the opportunity to work with the university's management on organizational development programs. In May 2011, when the board was deciding on a replacement for the position of the president of the university, I was recommended. A month later, I received the offer. To be honest, I was hesitating over whether to take it or not, mostly because I

feared that I was not experienced enough to take on such a senior position. But having received support from the board I finally decided to accept it, believing that my education has given me the ability to lead an organization. In addition, I saw many very young Afghans around me in very senior positions within governmental and non-governmental organizations. who demonstrated excellent leadership skills and who inspired and encouraged me to go for high positions and tasks. I saw one thing in common among all those young Afghans: an education at places like the OSCE Academy, which qualified us to do the big things in life. The magic was truly in the education."

ONE-YEAR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AT NUPI



«THE YEAR HAS NOT YET ENDED AND I ALREADY MISS IT. DID YOU HEAR, OSLO? I WILL MISS YOU.»

As part of its cooperation with the OSCE Academy, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) offers the opportunity for two OSCE alumni to go to Oslo for single year fellowships in the Research Group on Russia, Eurasia and the Arctic. The project is led and mentored by Dr Indra Overland and coordinated by Kristin Fjæstad. The fellowship is an add-on to the MA degree from the OSCE Academy, and the purpose is to further prepare the two successful applicants for work in international affairs or study at PhD level by deepening their practical and academic experience. Applicants can be graduates of any year (i.e. not just fresh graduates) and can be from the MA in Politics or the MA in Economic Governance. Their daily work at NUPI is a combination of their own research initiatives and assistance to ongoing research projects in the department. Shemshat Kasimova'10 and Bakhromzhon Mananov'11 were fellows in 2012, and currently, Natalia Zakharchenko'12 and Said Reza Kazemi'12, are both at NUPI. The research supervisors at NUPI are very satisfied with the progress of the fellowships scheme and believe they have given the fellows relevant work experience in an academic environment.

Natalia Zakharchenko'12 shared her experience:

“Oslo. Did I ever think that I would spend one amazing, productive and incredibly remarkable year of my life in that city? Probably not. But it happened that I became a Visiting Research Fellow at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI). This great opportunity developed by NUPI in cooperation with the OSCE Academy in Bishkek opened new horizons for me and helped to define my future career plans. Amazed by the established working environment in the institute, I tried to get involved in a variety of research projects, both my own and those of the senior researchers. Recently I have been



involved in the compilation of two big databases for research on energy politics in Russia. One studies public protests regarding energy in Russia and another looks at the history of conflicts among foreign energy companies in Russia. As for my own research, currently I am finishing my article on the impact of gender quotas on the political involvement of women in Kyrgyzstan (co-author Kristin Fjæstad). Besides that, I am writing on Kyrgyz-Afghan relations after 2014 for the OSCE Academy Security Policy Brief.

Indeed, now I have a dream that a similar research institute will one day be established in Kyrgyzstan. Being a year away from home is always a challenge. However, the support of my parents, friends, and, of course, my beloved one, kept my mood high and gave me the energy to go on. One of the most remarkable events for me was my participation in the summer session of the NATO School of Azerbaijan which also took place with NUPI assistance.

Having an opportunity to meet high-level officials and experienced international researchers provided me with inspiration for further academic and career achievements. Overall, I am very grateful for the opportunity provided. The year has not yet ended and I already miss it. Did you hear, Oslo? I will miss you.”

<http://english.nupi.no/Activities/Departments/Department-of-Russian-and-Eurasian-Studies/>

Natalia Zakharchenko

GCSP – A EUROPEAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR CENTRAL ASIA

Every year one OSCE Academy alum gets the exclusive opportunity to receive a European Scholarship for Central Asia for the Master of Advanced Studies in International and European Security from the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and the European Institute of the University of Geneva (IEUG). The European Scholarship for Central Asia 2012-2013 was received by Malika Tukmadiyeva '12, a graduate of the MA in Politics and Security Programme:

“If my studies in the OSCE Academy were invaluable in terms of theoretical and academic experience, my study at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy was a true introduction to the thinking of practitioners and decision makers. I believe it is a unique program, the strength of which lies in an area most educational programs do not focus on – the integration of theory and practice.

It was not only an opportunity to learn in the classroom from world renowned experts in the field of international security, but also a chance to learn from my fellow participants – highly competent high-class professionals, who proved themselves humble, noble people and responsive friends - people I could really look up to. The staff and faculty of the GCSP and the Geneva University deserve a separate note of appreciation, and I will always be grateful to all the exemplary supervisors I was privileged enough to learn from. Special thanks go to Dr. Graeme Herd and Dr. Pal Dunay for being extremely encouraging and supportive, always attentive to each and every participant, watching our progress, doing their best to help us to better develop our skills and knowledge.

The nine months of my study at the GCSP and Geneva University GCSP have really been a joy and an enriching experience for my personal and professional development. I have gained not only in terms of academic knowledge but also valuable social and professional exposure. It has helped me to expand the boundaries of my thinking, and needless to say, enhanced my career, making me at the



very least more “marketable” as a young professional.

Last but not least, studying in the heart of international Geneva deserves a special mention – to visit the museum of the International Committee of the Red Cross or casually wander to the United Nations for lunch – could a student of political science ask for anything more?”

The European Scholarship for Central Asia 2013-2014 was received by Daniyar Alymkulov '11

ALUMNI HOBBIES

Alina Sottaeva '05



«I am an OSCE Academy alumna '05. The first thing that grabbed me about the Academy from the moment the very first course started was the DIVERSITY visible everywhere: in the cultures among participants, in the professors' approaches, and in the curriculum. This diversity helped me understand things more, discuss thoroughly before drawing

conclusions, and think critically. Being surrounded by a diverse atmosphere helps a person develop multiple facets to their character and not judge something when having few of facts available. That is why I pay tribute to the OSCE Academy approach in teaching, in enabling profound group research work, in always providing vast opportunities to be a better

researcher, a better professional and a better person.

Presently, I work for a communications agency as a deputy general director in Saint-Petersburg. I love what I have been doing here due to the range of opportunities I have to draw on my experiences from my studies and previous work experience to implement better



ALINA'S WORKS



ALINA'S WORKS



development strategies. Being able to think in broader terms, to find new approaches, being proactive and innovative - this is what I really like doing.

Despite the busyness of everyday life I find time for hobbies - photography and traveling. I have been a passionate amateur photographer since 1993. This is an opportunity for me to express myself and show others the way I see our world. I like to capture cities and architecture and pay close

attention to details. Also I like to take pictures of oceans and mountains - always impressive and very powerful. Looking at my pictures I hope people can understand the person I am.

While traveling, one can see the beauty of diversity in full - different cultures, traditions and customs that provide the bases for people's outlooks and judgments in life. This diversity also shows how important it is to be open to the world, tolerant and respectful, thoughtful and tactful

about other cultures and nations when taking important decisions.

My only advice to those who are about to graduate and follow their dreams is that it is always important to be comprehensive and mindful that every coin has two sides. Be a citizen of the world, but never forget your roots!

Per aspera ad astra, dear Alumni!»

RETHINKING DIVERSITY - CHALLENGES FOR EQUALITY IN EUROPE AND NEW RESPONSES



THE OSCE ACADEMY ALUMNI NETWORK, WITH SUPPORT OF THE NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (NUP) OFFERS TWO TRAVEL GRANTS ANNUALLY TO ENABLE OSCE ACADEMY ALUMNI TO ATTEND CONFERENCES, SUMMER SCHOOLS, TRAININGS ACROSS THE WORLD OR EVENTS FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION. THE FIRST TRAVEL GRANTS OF 2013 WERE RECEIVED BY DILDORA KHAMIDOVA'05.

I was honored to get a Travel Grant from the OSCE Academy in Bishkek this spring and take part in the conference 'Rethinking Diversity: Challenges for Equality in Europe and New Responses' in Lithuania. The conference was organized by 'UNITED for Intercultural Action', a European network bringing together over 500 civil society organizations active in promoting equality. The speakers at the conference included representatives from the Swedish Equality Ombudsperson, the Council of Europe and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Over five days participants enjoyed fruitful discussions, intensive training, and workshops about discrimination, campaigning and dozens of other topics. Besides the «Welcome» plenary session, participants were able to participate in activities such

as the «Danger of Words» as well as sessions of their working groups.

Participants were divided into discussion groups to speak about the definitions and concepts associated with the various words most frequently used during the meeting. «Multiple Discrimination and Intersectionality» was the key topic. From the activity participants were able to understand the importance of taking care over what one says and comprehend nuances in speech. Different people sometimes understand even the simplest words differently.

Additionally, an Intercultural Evening and an Info Market event offered the opportunity for other participants to enjoy traditional dancing, cuisine, videos and music. At the Info Market participants presented their NGO's with dynamic methodologies to apply to their daily work. Tables with information material from different organizations explained what networking means and showed how strong a tool it can be. Moreover, participants enjoyed a very nice evening with plenty of tasty snacks from all over Europe and Asia. That part of the event was extremely diverse!

The training continued with thematic working groups. The thematic working groups allowed the participants to work on specific themes engaging different aspects of the general topics of the UNITED conference. The Working Groups dealt with the following topics:

- Labeling Minorities
- New Coalitions
- Legal Responses for

Equality

- No hate speech
- International Solidarity

Yet another remarkable event was the *Political Café*. This was a chance to discuss topics that were not on the official agenda. There were four different *Political Cafés* prepared by

participants during the evening. The topics discussed were «Hungary, what went wrong in 2010», «State Repression in Russia», «Street Art to counteract Racism» and «European Elections: how to counteract right-wing parties».

It was a great experience for me to conduct a workshop on International Advocacy as a part of Capacity Building for NGO training. In the course of this workshop I shared skills and knowledge regarding effective interventions and equipped participants with some important tips and recommendations on how to draft alternative reports.

My participation in the conference helped me to advance professionally. For one thing, it helped me broaden my knowledge base of diversity challenges in Europe via hot debates and discussions.

The conference programme was followed by a lovely afternoon in Vilnius, a visit to local NGOs and a session in the Living Library, an informal Human Rights education method approved by the Council of Europe. We visited interesting local projects and enjoyed a guided city tour around the Lithuanian capital. The tastiest part of the programme was the dinner in Vilnius where the participants had a chance to meet new guests and NGO representatives.

On the last day of the training the participants were free to communicate their feelings, ideas, and perceptions. A plenary session, workshops, working groups and evaluations rounded off the UNITED conference. Even though the conference has finished, networking and work promoting diversity continues!!!



ERNIST TURDUBAEV '06

Received a Travel Grant for a professional certification in Project Management at the Project Management Institution (PMI)

“For the last 4 years, I have been conducting trainings on project management for university students and business representatives. Acquiring the certificate in project management is the second level of my career development as a trainer. The PMI certification offers unlimited worldwide opportunities for further career development, particularly in the field of managing projects in a diverse range of fields.”

The details and the application are available at: <http://www.osce-academy.net/en/graduate/Travel/>

FIRST ALUMNI OF THE MASTER OF ARTS IN ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT



From left to right: Mr. Ofarid Amidkonov (TJ), Mr. Daniyar Moldokanov (KG), Mr. Muboriz Amidkhonov (TJ), Mr. Nurbek Tashbekov (KG), Mr. Mederbek Yrsaliev (KG), Ms. Natalia Lee (KZ), Mr. Rauf Amzaliev (TJ), Mr. Samat Kozhobaev (KG), Mr. Akhbar Borran (AFG), Ms. Firuza Zabirova (UZ), Ms. Nadejda Khrustaleva (KG), Ms. Somaia Nezami (AFG), Mr. Oybek Saidhodjaev (UZ), Mr. Azamat Yestaev (KZ), Mr. Ilhom Safarov (TJ).

Not on the photo: Mr. Bakhodirzhon Radzhapov (KG), Mr. Bakhshi Karimdad (AFG), Ms. Hussaini Azada Mohammad (AFG), Mr. Shahid Ahmad Khalid (AFG)



ALUMNI OF THE MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICS AND SECURITY



From left to right: Ms.Nuraida Abdykapar kyzy (KG),Zarema Shaymardanova (UZ), Rashid Gabdulhakov (UZ), Vasiliy Lakhonin (KZ), Ibrokhimzhon Ulmasov (KG), Irina Malyuchenko (KZ), Uguloy Mukhtorova (TJ), Begaim Akimbaeva (KG), Reina Artur kyzy (KG), Bekhruz Yodogorov (TJ), Samat Murzaliev (KG), Abdul Kayoom Suroush (AFG), Nikolay Tyan (KZ), Adilet Mukushev (KZ), Shohruh Abdullaev (UZ), Guzal Abdirazakova (KG), Aziz Berdykulov (TJ), Medet Suleimen (KZ), Issa Hafasa (AFG), Dinara Zhaksylyk (KZ), Marziya Davlyatova (TJ), Chinar Meredova (TM), Zamira Isakova (KG), Makfuza Khakimova (TJ)

Not on the photo: Kunduz Ryspek kyzy (KG), Aida Aidarova (KG), Ahmad Munir Faruhee (AFG)



GIVING BACK

The OSCE Academy Scholarship Programme offers an opportunity for the brightest students to receive an MA degree for free. The number of successful graduates has reached 245 people, the majority of whom are working for the development of the region and have already achieved success in their own careers. To show

their commitment and gratefulness to their Alma Mater, active alumni brought up the idea of establishing an Alumni Fund. This idea was discussed by alumni during the reunions. The aim of the Alumni Fund is to give back to the OSCE Academy for its contributions to the academic and professional development of each

graduate, encouraging students to be the best and to support student life.

Donations from alumni will be collected during the campaign period- February through May and used for the projects illustrated below:



Project 1: E-Book Readers for Library

Electronic books are becoming more popular, especially if the hardcopy of the book you urgently need is already taken by somebody. E-book readers will give an opportunity to our students to have an access to electronic books, without carrying a laptop everywhere. We will aim at purchasing two-three e-readers.



Project 2: Stipend for the Best Research

This will be a reward from Alumni for students of both MA Programmes for a hard work on their research. The best MA Thesis is selected according to the results of the defense. We will aim at awarding symbolic stipends to up to three students with top MA theses.



Project 3: Extracurricular

Student's room and the mini-sport yard under the tent are two favorite places of students to spend their leisure time. Alumni can contribute to renewal and increase of sport equipment and facilities for a student's room. Immediate plans are to renovate current sports equipment in the yard.

If you would like to donate to one of these projects, please write an e-mail to alumni@osce-academy.net with the following information:

- 1) Amount donated
- 2) The name of the project

Those who prefer to donate to the general box as opposed to one of these projects specifically are welcome to do so as well. Those funds will be used according to the Academy's decision-making process and will be duly reported to alumni.

How to give?

The donation can be:

- Brought in cash to the OSCE Academy
- Collected by the OSCE Academy's representative from your office in Bishkek
- Collected by focal points in each country and transferred through alumni attending the alumni conferences or reunions
- Transferred via internet banking. Bank details and instructions are available at:

<http://www.osce-academy.net/en/graduate/alumnifund/>

Alumni will receive an annual expenditure report. The Academy will ensure that each contributor is mentioned on the website and in SalamAlum.

OSCE Academy

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