

SalamAlum

OSCE Academy Alumni Magazine

ISSUE 4, FALL 2014

**NURBEK
BEKMURZAEV '14**
(PG. 12)

*“FOR ME, THE ALUMNI STIPEND CAME AT THE
TURNING POINT IN LIFE.*

***IT TOOK ME FIFTEEN
YEARS TO FIGURE OUT
WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO DO
FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE,***

*AND THE AWARD PLAYED AN IMPORTANT
ROLE IN CEMENTING MY DETERMINATION TO
PURSUE MY CAREER GOALS.”*



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Dear Readers,

This past year has been marked by several major milestones for the OSCE Academy and the OSCE Academy's Alumni Network that we are happy to present in our latest issue of SalamAlum.

In May 2014 the OSCE Academy welcomed a new director, who has been a friend of the OSCE Academy for many years - Pal Dunay. In this issue of SalamAlum Dr Dunay answers questions that we have collected from alumni and shares his plans and views on the future of the Academy.

In September we held our 3rd Alumni Conference on Central Asia: Comprehensive Security and Sustainable Development. The Conference this year was opened by a keynote speech from Dr Rick Fawn "Regions in the World: Lucky We Are to Study [in] Central Asia." Over the course of three panels fifteen graduates presented their work on important regional issues.

This year we are glad to announce the establishment of the Alumni Fund. During the campaign that was held from February through May we collected 681.3 EUR and spent it on three projects: 2 e-book readers for the Library, an exercise-bike for students and bonus stipends for students from each MA Programme for the best MA Thesis.

In 2014 our graduates received the chance to participate in the OSCE Academy-NUPI project "History writing and nation-building in Central Asia" that

will run from September 2014 to July 2016 and foster research and publishing skills among OSCE Academy alumni.

In the autumn three alumni from Kyrgyzstan 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 graduate received the European Scholarship for Central Asia 2014-2015 and is currently studying at the GCSP in Geneva.

With the support of NUPI, two more Travel Grants were given out this year to Bobur Nazarmammedov '11 to attend the 2014 Mahathir Global Peace School "Interstate Diplomacy and Economic Justice for Global Peace and Conflict Resolution" in Malaysia, and Nazira Kozubekova '11 to attend the Fourth Annual ECMI Summer School "National Minorities and Border Regions" organized by the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) in Germany.

Last but not least, the Alumnus of the Year Award of 2014 was granted to Ibrokhimzhon Ulmasov '13 from Kyrgyzstan for his great professional achievements since his graduation from the OSCE Academy. Congratulations, Ibrokhimzhom!

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

Editor
Victoria Orazova

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NEW DIRECTOR

In 2014 the OSCE Academy welcomed a new director, Dr Pal Dunay. Dr Dunay has led the International Training Course in Security Policy at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy since 1996, with the exception of 2004-2007, when he worked as Senior Researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). His experience also includes directing the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, heading the Security

Policy Department of the Hungarian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and teaching at the International Law Department of Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest.

Dr Pal Dunay holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the Budapest University of Economics. He has taught modules at the OSCE Academy since its establishment and plays an important role coordinating GCSP-OSCE Academy cooperation. (read more on pg. 5)



JUNIOR PUBLIC OFFICERS' 2014-2015

OSCE Academy continues to provide our graduates with the opportunity of an internship at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of their respective countries for three months through the Junior Public Officers' Programme. This year finalists are:



Nurbek Bekmurzaev '14 (KG)

"The Programme provides significant room for the country's service not only through the three-month internship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but also introduction into the environment of government service."



Sakina Kasemi '14 (AFG)

"This Programme will help me to get introduced to the MFA's system and will make it easier to me to be its permanent employee."



Emil Ibraev '14 (KG)

"At this internship I will be able to look at the sphere of international relations and foreign policy from a practical perspective."

ALUMNI FUND

In 2014 the OSCE Academy's Alumni Network established an Alumni Fund. The donations were collected for three projects, which are already fulfilled: 2 e-book readers for the Library, bike-simulator for students and bonus stipends for students from each MA Programme for the best MA Thesis. (read more on pg. 11)



WELCOMING OUR NEW DIRECTOR

AFTER MORE THAN **TEN YEARS OF TEACHING** AT THE OSCE ACADEMY, IN MAY 2014 **DR PAL DUNAY** JOINED ITS TEAM AS **DIRECTOR**.

IN ORDER TO **LEARN ABOUT DR DUNAY'S PLANS** AT THE OSCE ACADEMY, WE HAVE COLLECTED **QUESTIONS FROM OUR ALUMNI**.

“Let me first of all thank you all for the many interesting and intellectually challenging questions asked.

This is a clear demonstration of the keen interest of the alumni community in the future of the OSCE Academy.

This is great and highly reassuring.” – Dr Pal Dunay

Q: What inspires and motivates you in this job, as an academic why did you agree to embark on such responsibility?

P.D: My motivations to apply for the job were complex. I was working for the last 18 years (except for one interval of three years) at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), an extremely useful and far-reaching initiative of the Swiss government. It has a somewhat

similar field of activities as the OSCE Academy does, albeit under very different conditions. I was responsible for the eight-months-long international training course in international security (the ITC) that has been accredited by the University of Geneva for the last six years. It was a great job in an excellent international environment with great colleagues and often with excellent bosses. It was my life for many years. I could

not have imagined a better job. However, it is important that one can draw a line between his or her life and work. I started to feel that the GCSP was my life and had difficulties accepting that the institution was changing in a manner that was not to my liking in every sense. Not to mention that some of my best colleagues and friends had left to pursue their next career steps. In such a situation one has to consider what to

do. I drew my conclusions and started to look for new challenges.

Although I have been in Bishkek in my current position for only six months, I am not a newcomer to the Academy and Bishkek. As my former workplace was a major contributor to the Academy and the contribution was in-kind, I had the privilege to teach at the Academy every year since its inception for at least a week, including the first so-called trial course that started more than a decade ago. Once I was asked by the then Director of the Academy to write an assessment on the MA programme. In sum, many of my current colleagues knew me and I knew them when I applied for the position. So I feel like an insider-outsider. It is also important to mention that those who were in charge of the OSCE Academy during the last ten years, Dr Tim Epkenhans, Dr Maxim Ryabkov, as directors, and Mr Shairbek Juraev, as acting director for seven months (during the selection process for the new director), have done an incredible job. Without their commitment and dedication the Academy would not be what it is.

In fact, I am somewhat older than the former directors. They were in their thirties when they started to work at the Academy whereas I am in my fifties. When I started my professional career more than thirty years ago, I decided that I would never stay at a workplace for the reason of pay. Even though responsibility for a family makes this consideration more complex, I feel fortunate I did not have to make too much of a compromise. I was able to leave the GCSP that I still often miss, and join the Academy. My family, who are still in Budapest, have supported my choice, and I am indebted to them for their support.

Last, but not least, I am Hungarian. I am coming from a country that has valuable experience in socio-economic and political transformation. Sharing this experience, including the downsides and doubts is essential and may help those students that we teach here in Bishkek understand the challenges ahead. Hungary is also a country that is providing evidence now that democratic transformation is a two way street. People in Central Asia should learn that democratic transformation has a high cost and democracy as a catchword - without the substance provided by good governance - is a hollow shell.



Q: What will be the priority of the OSCE Academy's work in the nearest future?

P.D: I would like to see the Academy to flourish over the next few years. I would like to have the two MA courses equally well-established and also ensure that the short executive courses follow "customer demand" in the region. For me it is also essential that the OSCE Academy is truly regional. Every Central Asian state should feel that the Academy is here to work for the region. Students from each of the six countries will continue to join our courses, which is essential to our mission. In addition, we would like to have a few students joining our courses from other countries as their valuable experience can enrich the mutual learning process. This has been the case in the past. We used to have students (one or two every year) from Armenia, China, Germany, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, the U.S., and so on. I think a few participants from other countries, preferably with some professional

working experience, would contribute to realizing our objectives.

I would like the OSCE Academy to be a platform for thinking about Central Asia. I would like to attract young professionals to join us and teach for a semester or an academic year and some of the best professionals around to come and teach a module. My predecessors were successful with this and I hope to follow in their footsteps.

It would be great to have more and better quality policy-oriented research at the Academy and contribute to widely-disseminated publications in the fields covered by our work here. The Academy should host Ph.D. students working on Central Asian matters for their research year. These students should also contribute a little to the Academy's courses and consult students in their areas of expertise.

The Academy's success is partly dependent upon the support of donors. It is very important for us to diversify support and increase our budget somewhat. At a time when Central Asia generally, and Kyrgyzstan specifically is losing some

attention in the West due to the significant reduction of international presence in Afghanistan and the closure of the Manas airbase, diversification is a must. Support should not only take the form of financial contribution. In-kind contribution would be also much appreciated. We would like to send our MA students for internships to places where they can keep learning and take effective working methods. So, broadening the range of the institutions where they can go for internships is essential and we are working hard on this.

As far as my ambitions are concerned: I am not a revolutionary who believes that if I change many things they will definitely get better. I have seen institutions weakened - if not ruined - by *l'art pour l'art* change. So continuity, particularly in the case of such a successful institution as the Academy is absolutely essential. I also have to measure the potential for change against a very good working atmosphere. It is essential to have an excellent atmosphere at the Academy as a workplace. The monthly salaries, a bit higher than the local salaries in Kyrgyzstan but not particularly competitive when compared internationally, will not keep my colleagues at the OSCE Academy. It is the shared common purpose and good human relations that should contribute to the value of working with us. I try to work in a motivating environment, assess work fairly and make my colleagues understand that we can also improve together. The Academy has a liberal internal working environment and that should be retained.

Q: Will you contribute to strengthening the relationship between OSCE Academy and GCSP? What will that relationship look like? Will there be more lecturers from GCSP, or more places for internships, or more places for the Alumni of the OSCE Academy?

P.D: Cooperation between the GCSP and the OSCE has flourished since the beginning of the century. It was ambassadors Gérard Stoudman and Fred Tanner, who were strongly supportive of the idea among others due to their interest in the 'Switzerland of Central Asia' as Kyrgyzstan was then called. It was an initiative that was timely and thoughtful. The partnership flourished particularly during ambassador Tanner's tenure as director of the GCSP. The relationship grew from financial contributions to teaching contributions at the MA course of the OSCE Academy before

an annual conference on Central Asian security came into existence. The GCSP has also regularly hosted OSCE alumni and, in particular, the Central Asia scholarship holder on an annual basis for the ITC/MAS (Master of Advanced Studies). It has been a rich and colourful programme.

Ambassador Tanner is now at the OSCE in Vienna, Dr Graeme Herd is at the George C. Marshall Center in Garmisch-Partenkirchen following a year and a half at Plymouth University, whereas I am in Bishkek. This is a major change as Ambassador Tanner was the lead in terms of supporting cooperation, Dr Herd was the intellectual engine and I also made a contribution. In sum, those individuals who were behind the initiative are now gone. However, both Ambassador Tanner and Dr Herd are supportive of the Academy in their new positions, which is something that I greatly appreciate.

I hope cooperation will continue. In fact, it does. There is a Central Asian scholarship holder at the ITC/MAS again and one intern from the Economic Governance and Development course will go for an internship in January and February 2015 for the first time. Further broadening is a bit difficult as it requires further resources on both sides and that is not guaranteed. So let us proceed with cooperation and then we will see. I will visit the GCSP twice in the next few months and I will raise the opportunity of further cooperation with the senior management over there.

Q: How do you see the Central Asian dimension of the Helsinki +40 process?

P.D: Let us be fair. Under the current conditions when the participating states are at loggerheads and there is no reconciliation in sight, Helsinki +40 must reflect this. Although half a year in politics, including international politics, is a long time, I doubt that the participating states will be able to enrich the content of Helsinki +40 unless some miracle happens. Time is running out.

This may cast a shadow over Central Asia as well. If Central Asia is regarded as a sphere of influence, a contested territory, there will be very little the process can achieve. However, I see several OSCE centres and project coordinators doing their best so that Central Asia can benefit.

Q: I read about the "East of Vienna" and "West of Vienna" dilemma among the OSCE participating states, in one of your papers during my studies at the OSCE Academy. Kyrgyzstan along with other Central Asian states, is often criticized by western countries for inter-ethnic and minority policies especially in the volatile Fergana Valley with its enclaves and cross border tensions.

What do you think about similar developments in Central Europe? For example the ethnic policy of the Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and the leading Fidesz Party towards Ethnic Hungarian Minorities in Transsylvania, Transcarpathia and southern Slovakia?

P.D: Prime Minister Orban is a populist that plays to an audience. That audience is a politically less educated, less well informed part of the electorate. He advocates nationalism as long as it brings him votes. If the population did not buy his cheap slogans he would not use them. However, it is dangerous as nationalists in other countries may react in kind. In such a situation there might be some escalation of words if not actions.

This is an important difference between Central Asia and East-central Europe. In the former, there is little strength to mitigate disagreements, whereas in East-central Europe where most states are EU and NATO members, it is more about words than about actions. Rhetoric may be vocal and unfortunate, but everybody knows there are limits. It is a "war of words" and not a war fought with Kalashnikovs.

Q: What would be your wish/advice to our alumni?

P.D: I would ask the alumni to support the OSCE Academy as they have done for a long time and also help us find the best possible students for the years to come. I also ask the alumni to reflect upon issues, to learn from and thus contribute to the development of the region. Without engagement there is no development and no change. People make the difference.

As far as advice: I would recommend the alumni to find adequate balance between their personal interests and the needs of this region. Central Asia can only develop if the young and talented people of this region contribute to it.

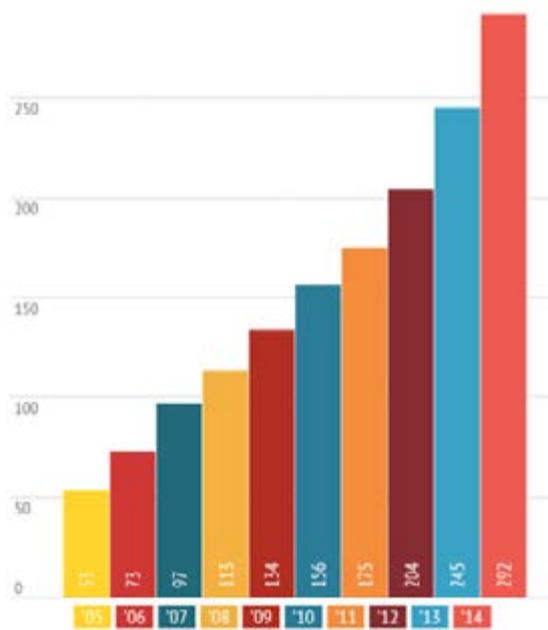
ALUMNI NETWORK IN NUMBERS

In April and September 2014 two more classes of Masters students successfully completed their studies and joined the OSCE Academy's Alumni Network, bringing the total number of alumni to 292. Our graduates are working for the government, leading international and national non-profit organizations and

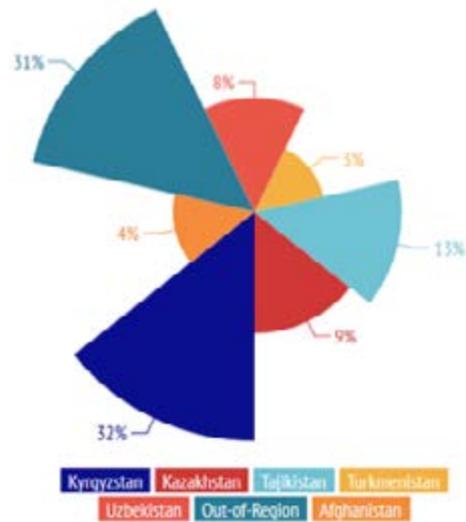
private companies in Central Asia and beyond, contributing to the development of the region.

The provided data illustrates the general statistics, which is based on the results of the Alumni Survey 2014 and contains the information on 219 alumni.

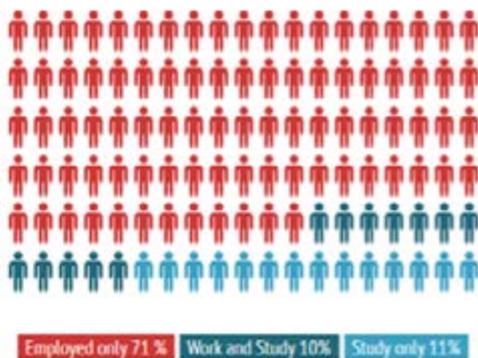
Alumni Network since 2005



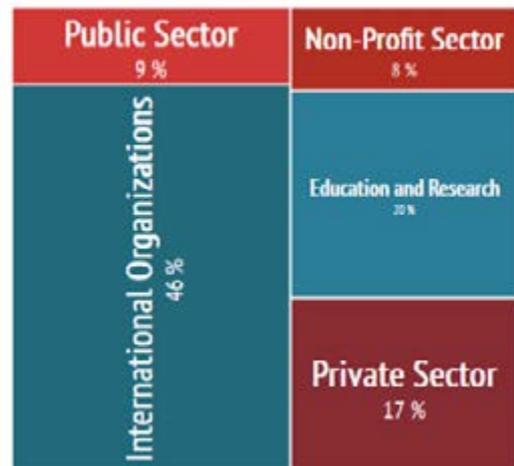
Geography



Employment



Sectors of Employment



3RD ALUMNI CONFERENCE



Participants of the 3rd Alumni Conference

On 12-14 September 2014 the OSCE Academy hosted its 3rd Alumni Conference titled “Central Asia: Comprehensive Security and Sustainable Development”. The event was opened with a keynote speech by Dr Rick Fawn, Professor of International Relations at the University of St Andrews on “Regions in World Politics: Lucky to Study (in) Central Asia”. Fifteen graduates of the OSCE Academy presented their papers within the three OSCE dimensions-panels: Politico-Military, Economic-Environmental and Human. The presentations touched upon security in Central Asia and Afghanistan; the role of the OSCE in the regional stability and democratization of Central Asia; human security and labor migration; energy issues and the impact of the Eurasian Economic Union and other important regional topics. Dr Pal Dunay, Director of the OSCE Academy, Mr Talant Sultanov, Director of the National Institute for Strategic Studies (NISS) and Mr Shairbek Juraev, Deputy Director of the OSCE Academy, chaired and moderated the conference panels.

The Conference was honored and welcomed by Mr John MacGregor, the Deputy Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and Ms Kristin Fjæstad, Junior Research Fellow, NUPI.

At the end of the conference participants voted for the best three papers presented, to be published as Central Asian Security Policy Briefs:

“TAPI and CASA-1000: A win-win

trade between Central Asia and South Asia” – Mr Sayed Masood Sadat '14, Data Analyst, Survey and Research Department of the Asia Foundation, Afghanistan.

Abstract:

“Central Asia despite having large energy export capacity, has been underperforming economically due to shortcomings in accessing export markets. To its south, the South Asian region has seen population growth and economic expansion but has nevertheless been underperforming economically and in providing welfare due to shortages of energy. Central Asia and South Asia could both harness this situation to their mutual advantage by striking an energy deal. Currently there are two such projects: the TAPI natural gas pipeline and the CASA-1000 electricity transmission lines, offering medium-term potential to export gas and electricity from Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. However, despite international support, both projects face real challenges that has already delayed their work for years.

With investment from international donors and rivalries set aside for the sake of economic gains, insecurity in Afghanistan and to some extent in Pakistan remains perhaps the only viable challenge on the way to realizing the TAPI pipeline and to a lesser extent CASA-1000. Stakeholders fear that such multi-billion dollar projects

could be taken hostage by militants for ransom. However, looking at similar projects like government-operated water dams in insecure areas of Afghanistan, armed opposition groups such as the Taliban have never engaged in sabotage of such vital infrastructure. In fact the Taliban agreed to construct the TAPI pipeline in 1997, raising hopes that with extra security deployed and local communities benefiting directly from the pipeline, the Taliban would not risk losing popularity by targeting a project that benefits local people.”

“Labour migration from Central Asia to Russia: Economic and Social impact on the Traditional Societies of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan”- Ms Irina Malyuchenko '13, Assistant at the Department of Trade and Investment, Embassy of Brazil, Kazakhstan

Abstract:

“One of the popular trends in political and social discourse in the Russian Federation (before the destabilization of Ukraine) was the issue of labour migration from the countries of Central Asia, for which migration plays an increasingly important economic role. Based on official data provided by the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation, in the first six months of 2014 there were about 3.8 million foreign citizens from the former Soviet republics of Central Asia in Russia. These flows of seasonal workers come mainly from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. The possibility to migrate and to work in Russia represents a “safety valve” against the unstable socio-political situation in the poorest countries of the region and postpones unemployment-fuelled social tensions. Thus migration flows have complex and ambiguous implications for traditional Central Asian societies. The author aims to discuss the economic impact on societies in terms of the great dependence experienced by the countries with the smallest GDP on remittances from Russia. This is viewed in the context of a diminished workforce, “brain drain” and the social impact of migration flows

on the traditional societies of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan as regards the changing position of women in society, an increase in so-called “extended families” because of the lack of males in the country, “SMS divorces”, the increasing number of homeless children whose parents earn money abroad, and growing problems with child labour and absenteeism at schools. Special attention will be paid to the difficulties of migrants entering their native community after returning home and problems restoring native citizenship for people from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, which both prohibit dual citizenship. Most of the findings and conclusions are based on the author’s own compilations and observations after living for a year in Bishkek, studying with course-mates from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan and travelling several times to Moscow and Saint Petersburg.”

“Economic impact of the Eurasian

Economic Union in the context of Central Asia”- Ms Gulaikhan Kubaeva ‘14, Analyst, System Analysis Department, Analytic Center at Economic Research Institute (ERI), Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Abstract:

“The Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) of Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus, was launched as the next step towards further economic integration after the Customs Union (CU). The EEU has a mandate to bring equal economic benefits to member countries through widening trade possibilities, attracting FDI and providing a common labor market for its members. However, economic indicators have already demonstrated that Kazakhstan has been the member that has benefited the least from integration during the first three years of the CU. Therefore, if the future is any reflection of the past, despite some economic gains from EEU membership, Kazakhstan might

potentially be losing on several fronts. Moreover, as an outcome of the integration process, the trade restrictions of Kazakhstan with states outside the EEU have increased.

Kyrgyzstan and possibly Tajikistan will also look to join the EEU. Kyrgyzstan is the trade hub of Chinese products for Central Asia, which the Kyrgyz economy is reliant upon. At the same time, Kyrgyzstan is highly dependent on remittances and trade with Russia. Tajikistan’s economic dependency in terms of investments and remittances on Russia is even stronger than of Kyrgyzstan. It seems that sooner rather than later, Tajikistan will join the EEU. Meanwhile, the case of Kyrgyzstan is ambiguous, as there is a potential loss of Chinese trade when the country joins the Union.”

If you would like to read the full papers, please, write to alumni@osce-academy.net



Dr Rick Fawn presenting on the regions in the world



Gulaikhan Kubaeva '14 presenting her paper



Zahid Jalali '09 delivering his speech



Shemshat Kasimova '10 commenting the presentation

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR 2014

Starting from 2011 the OSCE Academy's Alumni Network selects one graduate to receive the title of Alumnus/a of the Year. The candidates are nominated by alumni for their academic and/or professional achievements. This year we congratulate Ibroghimzhon Ulmasov '13, who received the title of Alumnus of Year 2014 for his professional achievements, despite the fact that he left the Academy only a year ago.

After graduation Ibroghimzhon was selected for the Junior Public Officers' (JPO) Programme supported by the OSCE Academy at the MFA of the Kyrgyz Republic. At the same time he was selected as a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) to the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna. The JPO programme lasted for nine months and three of them Ibroghimzhon spent working for the Office of Internal Oversight (Internal Audit) of the OSCE Secretariat. After three months he was sent to the OSCE Office in Yerevan, Armenia. For the next



half a year he worked for the Economic and Environmental Department of the OSCE Office in Yerevan. After the completion of the JPO Programme he got a position at the OSCE Office in Bishkek and currently he is working as a Programme Assistant in the Police Matters Programme.

Congratulations, dear Ibroghimzhon and keep up the good work!

ALUMNI FUND 2014

In 2014 the OSCE Academy Alumni Network established an Alumni Fund. 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.

"I will always be ever grateful to the OSCE Academy for the opportunities it provided me to study in an exciting and challenging environment. It was the place I seriously started to apply and develop my analytical skills, as there are not many educational institutions in Central Asia that develop students analytical and academic writing skills in both Russian and English. In addition, it was the first time I studied in an international environment filled with culturally diverse, intelligent and exciting people. The quality of education and the invited lecturers was impressive. And of course, scholarship-based education at an institution of this kind represented a rare opportunity for many of us. The OSCE Academy opened a new world to me and the Alumni Fund was a good opportunity for me to give at least a tiny portion back."

–Ulugbek Bekmukhamedov '05

681.3 EUR were donated to the Alumni Fund during the first campaign and were used for three projects:

1. 2E-BOOK READERS FOR THE LIBRARY



Electronic books are becoming more popular, especially if the hardcopy of the book you urgently need is already taken. E-book readers will allow our students access to electronic books without the need to carry a laptop everywhere.

2. EXERCISE BIKE



During studies, students spend a lot of time sitting. To help students stay active and healthy we have purchased an exercise bike.

3. STIPENDS FOR THE BEST MA THESIS

The first student, and now alumnus, to receive the Alumni Stipend for the Best MA Thesis is Nurbek Bekmurzaev '14. He wrote his work on "Independent Islam in Central Asia: Reasons behind Independent Islamic Leaders' Resistance towards the State Control of Religion in Kyrgyzstan." Nurbek work was given the title of the Best MA Thesis according to the decision of the Comprehensive State Exam Committee, advised by the Independent Reviewers.

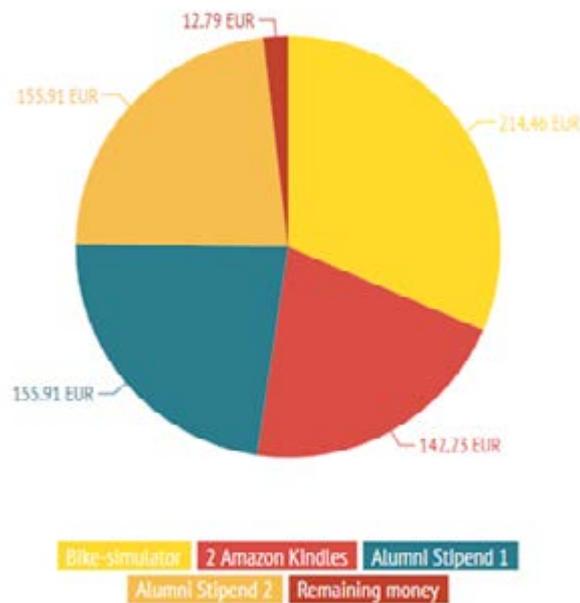


"It would have been a deceitful act, if I had said that I did not want to get the best thesis award. Nevertheless, the desire to produce a decent academic text was the main motivation behind

my work. It was a joy and privilege to receive the award and stipend. The award made me feel appreciated. More importantly, it provided an impulse - and funding - for what I enjoy doing most and hope to build my future career on. For me, the Alumni Stipend came at the turning point in life. It took me 15 years to figure out what I would like to do for the rest of my life, and the award played an important role in cementing my determination to pursue my career goals. Certainly, it was a wonderful idea to establish the Alumni Fund. The award and stipend promise to become one of the most memorable accomplishments of many more students to come. Certainly this is the case for me." – Nurbek Bekmurzaev '14

The second Alumni Stipend will be given to a student of the MA in Economic Governance and Development Programme in April.

Alumni Fund Report 2014



Alumni Stipend 1 (incl. taxes) was received by Nurbek Bekmurzaev for the Best MA Thesis work. Alumni Stipend 2 (incl. taxes) to be received by a student of the EGD programme for the Best MA Thesis work in April 2015

If you would like to receive more detailed report, please, write to alumni@osce-academy.net

The OSCE Academy is thankful to each of our graduates for donations. We made a goal for this year – three projects – and we have achieved it! Every year the Alumni Network is growing, hence our goals can grow as well. The OSCE Academy is a unique institution - it is fully funded by donors,

for which the Academy is grateful. But there is always a place for additional improvements in conditions for students. The Alumni Fund is the best means for these improvements!

To read more about the Alumni Fund and Donate, please visit our webpage:

www.osce-academy.net/en/alumni/alumnifund/

INTERNSHIP UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF ALUMNUS

Each year the OSCE Academy directs its students to do their internship during the last semester at the Academy at various work places. The internship is part of the academic programme, which helps the interns to transform the theoretical knowledge which they gained from the OSCE Academy into practical knowledge. And now we have reached the stage when our graduates supervise the work of our students during the internship. Rano Abutrobova '14, MA in Economic Governance and Development, shares her experience.

During the internship period at the OSCE Academy, I was accepted for a placement at the Pamir Energy (PE) Company where I completed my internship and carried out research for writing my MA Thesis. The company was an exclusive Public Private Partnership Company in Central Asia, which provides



Dastanbui Mamadsaidov '07

the population of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) with clean renewable electricity. This company manages the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity in this region.

During my internship period with the PE Company I worked for the Sales and Marketing Department. This was a very appropriate place for my internship, because I wrote my MA thesis on the "Role of Small Hydropower Plants in the Rural Development in GBAO. Case study PE Company". My internship was completely focused on the activity of the Sales and Marketing Department and the impact of electricity on the living standard of consumers.

The most interesting part was when my supervisor was appointed – Dastanbui Mamadsaidov – an OSCE alumnus of 2007. Dastanbui explained to me my responsibilities very clearly. Moreover, Dastanbui helped me with the research process as he himself had faced similar challenges during his own internship period. It is very good when your supervisor is from the same



Rano Abutrobova '14

Academy as you are, because there is a common and mutual understanding.

Together with Dastanbui as my supervisor, I was meeting my responsibilities and focused on making a profit for the company and ensuring personal growth. This position gave me a lot of experience. For instance, I got fieldwork experience and learned how to collect data from respondents and interviewers. All the theoretical knowledge, which I gained from the OSCE Academy, was transformed into practical knowledge at PE. I learned how to talk to important stake holders regarding energy problems and I was able to openly share my own views and opinions about the future of the PE Company. Through this internship, I also enhanced my communication as well as teamwork skills.

The internship had a great impact on my academic qualification generally as well as my MA thesis specifically. My internship place corresponded to my MA thesis topic and this was an excellent contribution to my thesis.



“TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!”

By Sevilya Murodova '07, Senior Advisor, GIZ PSD

While looking back at the career path that I have, I say “Thank you OSCE Academy”. Would I have ever imagined that my bravest dreams would come true? Everything started one day when I was granted a scholarship to the OSCE Academy to do MA in Political Science back in 2007, and later went for an internship at NUPI (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs). My natural curiosity and thirst for answering the question of whether politics or economics dominates the world was satisfied during the fantastic year I spent at the Academy in Bishkek. The Academy has not only given me theoretical and purely academic knowledge but also allowed me to

gain practice through opportunities to learn from decision-makers and high-class professionals during my studies.

Furthermore, immediately after my graduation I received a number of interesting job offers in the region of Central Asia. I understood that having both knowledge in economics and political science, I became highly competitive in the labour market of the region. Having a hard decision to choose among the job offers that had been showered on me after graduation, I decided that I wanted to make a difference and contribute to the wellbeing of the society around me. Therefore, I chose to work at the German International Cooperation (GIZ) as an adviser in the sustainable

“One of the studies is called “Jobs, Skills, Labour Migration, and Consumption Survey in Central Asia”. It was conducted in cooperation with the World Bank. Around 6,600 households were interviewed. It is the outcome of excellent collaboration and will be widely used. The findings can be used for effective economic policy-making and represent a generous contribution to economic science. Think tanks and universities will benefit much.”



economic development programme. I was very delighted to start my work immediately as a professional programme expert. The diversity of knowledge I had obtained in the Academy, helped me to use various instruments and skills during my work. I could also easily switch from one field or theme to another.

The ability to lead high-level discussions on economic and political topics, the diplomatic approach I employed during discussions of sensitive issues, definition of exact goals and the ability to drive the process resulted in my promotion as a senior advisor on economic policy and issues related to labour migration. In addition to that, the research skills that I had gained both at the Academy and NUPI helped me to successfully lead a number of regional surveys, which contributed to my knowledge on the region, as well as adding value to economic policy strategies and expanding datasets for researchers around the world in a way that contributes meaningfully to the further development of economic and social science.

Previously, I had worked at the micro level with the primary beneficiaries of technical assistance. Later it shifted towards macro level - directly with decision makers. This required new knowledge and allowed me to gain new

experience linking the two to better achieve development goals while maintaining the transparency required. During my work at the GIZ representative office, I was also seconded to the headquarters in Germany to support one of the sector projects.

When I look back at my career path I see that knowledge obtained at the Academy was a necessary prerequisite for my professional success. In particular, I think it was instrumental in my successful experience during my work at GIZ, the World Bank and other international institutions. Wherever I have worked, I have always tried to unite people, teams, projects and institutions. I believe that unity can benefit societies and contribute to their wellbeing. I am also very grateful to GIZ, accepting me into their family and contributing to the skills I possess. The motto of GIZ CIM resonates well with what I was taught at the Academy - "One person can make difference" and I would add: "Together we can make a big difference!"

In 2013, the scholarship of the Turkish Presidency for Turks and related communities was granted to me in order to receive a PhD in economics at Ankara University, Graduate School of Social Science. Bridging East and West performing well economically, having a rich history and culture

as well as possessing a number of renowned institutions, Turkey was the ideal place to further pursue my academic goals. I am very content with the professionalism of the faculty members and high quality of education there. The respect and constant willingness to support, that I have experienced from the Turkish Presidency for Turks and Related Communities, overwhelmed me. They are always eager to contribute to the development of further skills, and offer advice on living in Turkey. The hospitality of the Turkish people has made this country incredibly attractive not only for someone from Central Asia, but also from other regions of the world. I believe that doing my PhD in Turkey was a good decision and will add to my further professional development. The process is ongoing and I continue to explore living and studying in Turkey.

It is the OSCE Academy that taught me to move further with a great amount of optimism and self-confidence. Having done so has equipped me with the necessary tools that I have been able to use during my work. Therefore, I am looking forward both to my academic life and my professional one. There would be no success without the strong foundations this success can rest on. "Thank you, OSCE Academy!"



CAPACITY-BUILDING OF KYRGYZSTANI WOMEN IN PREVENTION OF RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM

By Mahabat Murzakanova '08, Religion and Peacebuilding Programme Manager, INGO "Search for Common Ground"

My name is Mahabat Murzakanova, a 2008 Alumni of the OSCE Academy, who had the best GPA of that academic year and went on to intern at the OSCE headquarters. Currently I work at the INGO "Search for Common Ground" as Religion and Peacebuilding Programme Manager within the framework of a project supported by the British Embassy in Bishkek. This two-year

project is aimed at capacity building in order to prevent violent extremism in Kyrgyzstan. The project has been successful, because all activities are set during quarterly meetings of the Consultative Working Group (CWG) that is composed of 19 members sourced from the Defence Council, the President's Office, 10th Special Unit of the Ministry of Interior, the Muftiate, scholars

from the Kyrgyz National University and Kyrgyz-Russian Slavonic University, as well as well-known independent experts. Among its activities the SFCG, working jointly with CWG, has conducted 11 researches on various topics, among which are: "the psychological and social portrait of an extremist and a terrorist", "strategies to combat violent extremism", "the role of imams



Group work during training in Osh

Nadira Narmatova,
MP of Jogorku Kenesh

Jamal ajim Frontbekkyzy, head of Progressive Association of Women “Mutakallim”

in conflict resolution” and others. In 2005 1.1% of women were persecuted for committing crimes connected to extremism, while in 2013 that figure increased to 23%. Among active and identified members of extremist groups, women compose 7.4%.¹

This year a series of trainings for the Ministry of Interior, State Committee for National Security, Imams, youth, journalists and women have been planned. The trainers are members of the CWG, who work with prevention of religious extremism in Kyrgyzstan and know better what and how to train vulnerable groups. Following a decision by the CWG in May for the first time in the history of Kyrgyzstan religious women activists from all seven regions of the country received training. The training was supported by MPs, local religious imams and qazis, who gave mini-lectures, provided in both the mosque and the centres for conducting training.

The three-day trainings for approximately 100 women activists of the Muslim community were conducted from June 11-13 in Osh and from June 16-18 in Bishkek. The trainings



were devoted to strengthening the capacity of women to prevent violent extremism in the Kyrgyz Republic. During the three-day trainings in Osh and Bishkek participants acquired knowledge on issues related to preventing religious extremism, such as the essence of religious extremism and terrorism from the perspective of Islamic law; clarification of the positions of the various Islamic schools and movements operating in the countries of Central Asia; theological aspects relating to issues of religious extremism and Jihadism; the role and place of women in Islam; ideas of religious tolerance from the perspective of Islamic law, and a case study in the activity of religious women in “Atyncha”.

One of the participants, Aichurok Torobekova said that this is the first

anti-extremism educational training in the Southern part of Kyrgyzstan for women and stated that: “Of course I had heard of what radicalism and terrorism is in general terms I also heard that there were cases of extremism in Kyrgyzstan. But nobody told us how to fight it. This is the first training in Osh organized especially for women. It was interesting to listen to the speeches of trainers from different sectors such as the Muftiate and law enforcement”.

¹Lieutenant Colonel Ratbek Turusbekov, Senior Investigator at 10 Special Unit of the Ministry of Interior, “Social and psychological portrait of an extremist and a terrorist”. Research conducted for SFCG



BACK TO THE OSCE ACADEMY AS AN... INSTRUCTOR

In September 2014 Ernist Turdubaev '06, returned to the OSCE Academy's classroom for one week, but this time his place was at the instructor's desk. Ernist taught the "Project Management" (PM) Module to students of the MA in Economic Governance and Development Programme. "It was a great pleasure to become a part of the Academy for a whole week. The time has come when we pay back the knowledge we obtained during the study year at Academy. For me, it was an amazing experience to work with high

profile students of the Academy, in the challenging and exciting atmosphere they create during the classes," says Ernist. Students appreciated the course very much, which was reflected in the course evaluation. "The module examined the basic principles of the Project Management (PM) by explaining and analyzing necessary measures – the planning, scheduling, resource allocation, risk measurement, monitoring, and evaluation activities – required for successful completion of a project. It was a very interactive class with a lot

of interesting discussions which made me want to learn more and participate. Through this module, I gained useful knowledge and important PM skills. Hence, I highly recommend the module to all the OSCE Academy's prospective students," said one of the students, Meerim Topchubaeva.

The OSCE Academy is proud to see its graduates in the role of qualified instructors and hopes that this case is just the beginning of fruitful academic cooperation.



LOVE IS IN THE AIR

ALMOST ALL GRADUATES OF THE OSCE ACADEMY WILL AGREE THAT DURING THE INTENSIVE STUDIES HERE ONE HARDLY FINDS TIME TO SLEEP AND TO GO OUT FOR SOME FUN. NEVERTHELESS, OUR ALUMNI MANAGE TO LIVE THEIR LIVES ACTIVELY AND EVEN FALL IN LOVE NATALIA ZAKHRACHENKO '12 AND RASHID GABDULHAKOV '13 GOT MARRIED IN FEBRUARY 2014. CURRENTLY RASHID IS THE PROGRAM'S ASSOCIATE AND NATALIA IS THE CENTRAL ASIA PROGRAM'S VISITING SCHOLAR AT THE ELLIOT SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, WASHINGTON DC, USA.

Q: Rashid and Natalia, please, share with us, how did your love story start?

Rashid: It was a typical day at the Academy, lots of lessons, reading, writing, and hungry stomachs. Raya eye was in need of spare hands and I stepped in to make the salad for lunch. While I was chopping away in the kitchen, Natasha came in for lunch with her friends. She was smiling, laughing, glowing. How can one not fall in love with her? I just had to show off my culinary skills to Natasha and thus pretended that I was asking everyone

how satisfied they were with the salad, although I only cared about her opinion. Yet, I played it cool and cold, although I could not stop laughing. I literally could not stop smiling and laughing. Meeting Natasha was like a breath of fresh air, it was like a well of water for a person stranded in the desert – it was perfect. We met again and again and each time I wanted to see her more and more. I just could not get enough of her and wanted to spend all my time with Natasha.

Natalia: (Laughing and smiling) Indeed, the way to my heart was through

my stomach. I was never even thinking that I would meet my other half in the Academy. As we like to sing with Rashid from time to time, “We found love in a hopeless place”. Rashid is my first and only love, I don’t remember what was more charming, his sense of humor, or the salad, but it was definitely love at first sight.

Q: Natalia, what was the most impressive surprise Rashid did for you?

Natalia: We, probably already sound like one of these too sweet’n’nasty



couples, but, honestly, every day with Rashid is the surprise. He cooks, he sings, he makes jokes, he draws, he finds perfect flowers and gifts. Sometimes, I think that he should be a little bit less talented, so I can reach his level. We both love to travel and our recent vacation was one of his last surprises.

Rashid: The worst is when we are away from each other. I start missing her very fast. When she was in Norway it was the most difficult time, and it was also very important to be connected. We tried to surprise each other a lot, and I hope Natasha liked some of the songs I recorded for her :). In all reality everything I do I do is for her, as cliché as it may sound. I want to impress her all the time. As for surprises from Natasha, she is the greatest one of all.

Q: Both of you are currently working. Is it difficult to combine career and the family life?

Rashid: Not at all. We cherish and respect each other's growth in all aspects and we help each other out with everything, including work. We all play different roles every day. Of course, my main role is that of a husband, but I

am also someone's son, brother, uncle, friend, teacher, etc., and so is Natasha, but most of our time and energy we dedicate to each other.

Natalia: Totally, agree. To add, we also help each other with our work, thus, spending time efficiently and leaving more for ourselves.

Q: Do you ever have debates/discussion over political issues, like during studies at the OSCE Academy, at home?

Rashid: We discuss politics and life, philosophy, and practical day-to-day issues. We usually have the same view and otherwise learn from each other.

Natalia: (Laughing) We love to debate. All right, I do.

Q: Do you build future plans? Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?

Rashid: I have many interests and would like to continue being active in the wide range of fields. I enjoy teaching, writing, researching, but I also love cooking and making art.

Natalia: Most likely I will stay in research or academia. Rashid is already teaching, and my dream is to teach one day when I will be ready :)

Q: What is a secret component of a successful life for you?

Rashid: This question is very subjective and I tend to calculate success by the level of happiness. If close people are safe and healthy, if you are not lonely and have an ability to develop yourself, to grow and do things that make you happy, then you have it pretty good. Financial issues do matter, but if you have the right person near you, your potential is unlimited.

Natalia: Successful life, for me, is about your inner balance; it is satisfaction with what you do and who surrounds you. I also think that constant growth and development matter. I don't like stagnations and seek to make every day better than the previous.

May be you would like to say something to our students and alumni or express a gratitude to people who contributed to your happy life? □

Rashid: Some inner power was telling me that I must come to the OSCE Academy and I decided to listen to it. Besides the education that we all cherish I found something most fundamentally important. This does not mean that everyone will be as lucky, probably not at all, but the education is still good.)

Natalia: Spend time wisely. You will miss it. Study hard, party harder. Live your lives :)



EUROPEAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR CENTRAL ASIA

SINCE 2008 THE OSCE ACADEMY'S GRADUATES GET THE EXCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE THE 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 2013-2014 WAS RECEIVED BY DANIYAR ALYMKULOV '11, A GRADUATE OF THE MA IN POLITICS AND SECURITY PROGRAMME:

"The European Scholarship for Central Asia gave me an invaluable opportunity to acquire the Master's in Advanced Studies in International and European Security organized by both the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and the University of Geneva (UNIGE). It was one of the most fruitful learning experiences I ever had both professionally and academically. The program is an amazing mixture of exploring theories of international relations and security policy and examining their utility in every given case, be it hypothetical or contemporary development in one or another part of the world. The faculties of the GCSP and the UNIGE are unique and the guest lecturers from different high level institutions across the world are highly competent, so it was a great pleasure and honor to listen and to learn from them.

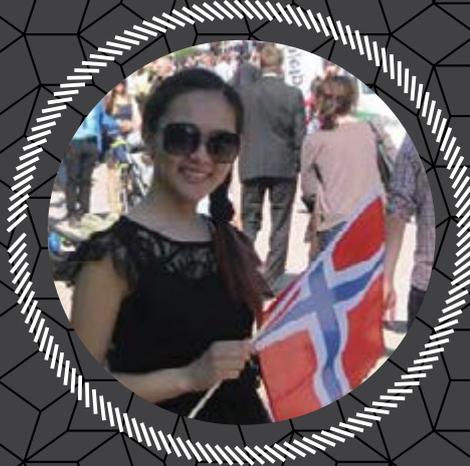
I was one of 28 participants from 22 different countries, ranging from military officers from South Sudan,

France, Russia, China, United States, Germany, India, to workers of the MFA of Afghanistan, Egypt, Switzerland, and many others. Despite the quality of lectures led by the faculty and guest lecturers, such as Ahmed Rashid who is very famous for his books on Afghanistan and Central Asia, the main learning experience for me was learning from participants themselves. During class discussions in that diplomatic environment, I learnt a lot about why countries act in this or that manner. For instance, from my fellow participants from China, I learnt how sophisticated Chinese international and national politics is and that one must consider the history and cultural peculiarities of the country to comprehend major developments.

It is a unique program, which gave me an opportunity to visit the EU Commission in Brussels, to listen to European civil servants, to participate in the Media Training delivered by

practitioners with extensive experience at the BBC, and many more opportunities. During the second half of my studies, I was primarily working on my Master's thesis titled "Afghanistan and Central Asia after 2014." The libraries of the University of Geneva and the UN Library gave me enough resources to complete my thesis to a high academic level. I would like to thank the faculty members of the GCSP and UNIGE for the incredible job they did and special thanks go to Dr Pal Dunay, who was my thesis supervisor and who guided me through the whole process. I also wanted to thank the OSCE Academy for providing its graduates with this amazing opportunity to study in Geneva.

This was one of the best years of my life, due in no small part to the fact that I made a lot of friends from different parts of the world. And I will miss Geneva very much. It became my second home."



BEING A FELLOW AT NUPI

A ONE-YEAR-FELLOWSHIP AT NUPI 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. THE PROJECT IS LED AND MENTORED BY DR INDRA OVERLAND AND COORDINATED BY MS KRISTIN FJÆSTAD. THIS YEAR FELLOWS ARE: NURAIDA ABDYKAPARKYZY '13 A GRADUATE OF THE MA IN POLITICS AND SECURITY AND DANIYAR MOLDOKANOV '13, A GRADUATE OF THE MA IN ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT. NURAIDA SHARED WITH US HER EXPERIENCE AT NUPI:

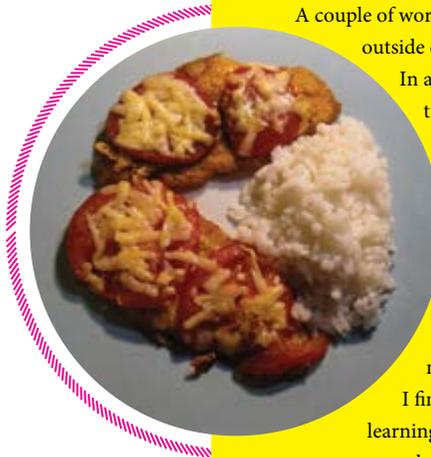
“This year I was lucky to receive an amazing opportunity to be a visiting research fellow at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs for one year. The year is not over yet, but I already know that I am going to cherish my experiences at NUPI for a long time to come.

NUPI is a great place to work, and even better for starting an academic career. I am enjoying the privilege of NUPI's friendly working environment and many interesting seminars on various topics. Fellowship at NUPI provided me the opportunities to not only gain experience by assisting senior researchers, but also working on my own project. Currently, I am working on my first academic article based on a master thesis that

I wrote at the OSCE Academy. In September, I presented the result of my work at the ECPR Summer School on Parliaments at the Vrije University in Brussels, Belgium.

Moreover, I am involved in the project “History writing and nation-building in Central Asia” together with four other OSCE Academy Alumni – Nazar Mammedov, Khushbakht Hojiev, Nurlan Tussupov and Farkhod Aminjonov. Currently, we are working on academic articles co-authored with the project leader Helge Blakkisrud.

I am extremely thankful to my colleagues at the Research group for Russia, Eurasia and the Arctic. Their support encourages and motivates me to succeed at my career and life.”



A couple of words about my life outside of work.

In addition to traveling, hanging out with many interesting people and trying to live a healthy life, after moving to Oslo

I finally started learning how to cook

my own meal. Of course, I am not nearly as good as Raya eje yet, but I consider it as one of my biggest accomplishments in this year. Cooking turned out to be very empowering; it gives me the sense of control over my life and self-confidence.

This is my attempt to cook otbivnye that we used to eat for lunch near the Academy. I am sure many of the students tried them.

'HISTORY WRITING AND NATION-BUILDING IN CENTRAL ASIA'



Mr Nazar Mamedov '09, Mr Khushbakht Hojiev '06, Dr Helge Blakkisrud, Ms Kristin Fjæstad, Ms Nuraida Abdykaparkyzy '13, Mr Nurlan Tussupov '09

The project 'History writing and nation-building in Central Asia' is aimed at developing research and publishing skills among OSCE Academy alumni and is part of the broader ongoing cooperation between the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI). The project team consists of a project leader from NUPI, Helge Blakkisrud, and one alumnus from each of the five Central Asian countries. The five alumni were selected in summer 2014 and are: Nurlan Tussupov '09 (Kazakhstan), Nuraida Abdykaparkyzy '13 (Kyrgyzstan), Khushbakht Hojiev '06 (Tajikistan), Nazar Mamedov '09 (Turkmenistan) and Farkhod Aminjonov '09 (Uzbekistan).

The project will consist of two

phases. Currently, the researchers are working on individual articles about history writing and nation building. The team recently submitted a panel proposal to the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) conference in New York in April 2015 and plan to present their work there before the articles will be submitted to academic journals. In the second phase, from summer 2015, the researchers will be working on book chapters to a book, which will be edited by Helge Blakkisrud.

In early September 2014 the team participated in the workshop in Istanbul. Nurlan Tussupov '09 reflected on this event: "The 'History writing and nation-building in Central Asia' project's seminar in Istanbul gathered

five OSCE Academy alumni as well as coordinators of the project from NUPI Ms Kristin Fjæstad and Dr Helge Blakkisrud. The framework of the seminar let us exchange ideas and opinions about a number of subjects related to the modern nation-building processes in the region. Rewarding time spent at the seminar resulted in five topics that to various extents reveal the complexity of connection between the history writing and nation-building in all five Central Asian republics. For me the seminar was also a great opportunity to see my classmates and friends Nazar Mamedov '09 and Farkhod Aminjonov '09 as well to meet new friends Khushbakht Hojiev '06 and Nuraida Abdykaparkyzy '13."

THE OSCE ACADEMY ALUMNI NETWORK, WITH SUPPORT OF THE NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (NUPI) OFFERS TWO TRAVEL GRANTS A YEAR TO ENABLE OSCE ACADEMY ALUMNI TO ATTEND CONFERENCES, SUMMER SCHOOLS, TRAININGS, OR EVENTS FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION ACROSS THE WORLD. THE GRANTEES OF 2014 ARE BOBUR NAZARMUHAMEDOV '11 AND NAZIRA KOZUBEKOVA '11.

2nd MAHATHIR GLOBAL PEACE SCHOOL



On Inter-State Diplomacy and Economic Justice for Global Peace and Conflict Resolution

On 17 February 2014, the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), Malaysia hosted the official launching of the Mahathir Global Peace School (MGPS) on the theme “Global Peace and Conflict Resolution.” The programme was organized by Universitas Muhammadiyah Yokyakarta, Indonesia and the Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF), Malaysia. A total of 33 participants from South-East Asia and Central Asia joined the MGPS programme as the second cohort of young professionals from diverse cultural backgrounds to attain a deep understanding of peace and security to determine a better future.

Two of the OSCE Academy’s MA in Politics and Security programme alumni, myself and Erkinbek Kamalov '05, also attended the MGPS programme and shared knowledge and professional experiences with other participants about the security challenges affecting

the Central Asian.

The MGPS programme included classroom seminars and excursions designed for studying issues relating to peace and conflict resolution. Over two weeks participants of the MGPS gained comprehensive knowledge and were exposed to focused discussions on global peace and conflict resolution, encompassing definitional scope and theoretical and practical relevance in a globalized world. Participants also explored the theoretical and practical dimensions of global peace and conflict resolution in an international context and examined the role of international institutions, such as the United Nations, in promoting and maintaining global peace.

Public lectures and seminars were conducted by notable speakers including the Fourth Prime Minister of Malaysia and President of the Perdana Global Peace Foundation, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Former Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr M Jusuf Kalla, Chairperson of the Central Board of Muhammadiyah, Prof. Dr M Din Syamsudin, Director General of IDFR, Dato’ Hussin Nayan and the Rector of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yokyakarta, Indonesia, Prof. Johan Galtung, and Prof. Dr Bambang Cipto.

As part of the MGPS programme, participants also visited two historical cities of Malaysia - Melaka and Putrajaya, and were able to investigate the political, ethic, and economic implications of good governance and its relationship to cosmopolitanism as an alternative to more traditional notions of nationalism.

The closing ceremony of the MGPS

programme included a certification of appreciation ceremony for participants and was followed by my speech in which I stressed the importance of training a new generation of peace-builders at a time when the international community is experiencing drastic security challenges in different parts of the globe, in order to bring peace, security and prosperity to communities across the world.

Overall, the MGPS provided me a great opportunity to exchange views with global leaders, scholars, NGOs and social workers on topics related to peace, solidarity and sustainable development in Asia as well as to gain the professional skills and tools for addressing them. These two weeks were essential for me to fully understand the global order and policy formulation strategies, both of which are vital for the tackling international security challenges. In addition to this, the extensive range of group discussions provided me a unique forum to expand my understanding about global peace and conflict resolution.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the OSCE Academy and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) for awarding me the travel grant to facilitate this visit. It has been a valuable experience and I hope that it will allow me to take my work a lot further than would have been possible otherwise.

By Bobur Nazarmuhamedov '11, MA/PHD Student, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences Master’s Program in International Area Studies, University of Tsukuba, Japan

FOURTH ANNUAL EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MINORITY ISSUES SUMMER SCHOOL “NATIONAL MINORITIES AND BORDER REGIONS”

2014 Theme: Alternative Approaches to Reconciliation

During my studies at the OSCE Academy I got very interested in minority issues and under the supervision of Dr Maxim Ryabkov, I wrote a thesis paper “Prospects of Multilingual Education and its Discontents in Central Asia: The case study of Kyrgyzstan”. Having graduated the OSCE Academy I was engaged in the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Projects “The Infrastructures for peace-policy dialogue and preventive action” in 2011 and “Human rights protection for stability in Central Asia” in 2013 working in the field of protection and advancement of the rights of ethnic minorities in Central Asia.

In fall 2014, the OSCE Academy provided me a travel grant to participate in the annual Summer School on National Minorities and Border Regions that gathered prominent scholars and experienced practitioners from diverse European institutions in the city of Flensburg on the German side of the Danish-German border.

The European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) Summer School offered a platform for discussing theoretical and practical approaches of reconciliation and provided an opportunity for international participants to exchange



views and ideas on peacebuilding and post-conflict reconciliation, evaluating existing practices and exploring the positive example of the German-Danish border region of Schleswig-Holstein.

Specific topics of the summer school included media and reconciliation, processes of mediation, success and failure of reconciliation, alternative approaches to reconciliation as economic empowerment, reconstruction of social capital, building civic identities and mechanisms for accommodating diversity. Besides these focal points we were given an opportunity to present country-specific case studies related to the topic.

The programme of the course was very intensive and in addition to interactive workshops and discussion sessions, meetings with minority representatives and youth groups and other social events were organized by the ECMI.

One of the main outcomes of the summer school was the establishment of a network of professionals from different countries across the world interested in peacebuilding and post-conflict. This network will now be a means for pooling experiences and expertise in these important fields.

The Summer School equipped me with theoretical and practical knowledge as well as the skills that will be useful in my further studies as well as a strong belief that I can contribute to and generate impact on the improvement of the human rights situation of minorities in the country.

I express my gratitude to the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs and the OSCE Academy, which supported this unique opportunity for my professional development.

By Nazira Kozubekova '11,
National Project Consultant, UN
OHCHR, Kyrgyzstan

ALUMNI OF THE MASTER OF ARTS IN ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT



ACHEKEEV
JOOMART (KG)



ABUTROBOVA
RANO (TJ)



ALYMKULOVA
NAZGUL (KG)



ABYLKASYMOVA
ALINA (KG)



DZHIGANSHINA
TATYANA (TM)



ILIMBEK UULU
TALGAT (KG)



ISHNAZAROV
DAVRON (UZ)



KARIBAYEV
AZAMAT (KZ)



KUBAYEVA
GULAIKHAN
(KZ)



KULIEV
KODIR
(UZ)



LESKIN
ANDREY
(TM)



LIM
EKATERINA
(UZ)



MAMYTOVA
NURAI (KG)



MAMYTOVA
SALTANAT (KG)



MIRZOMUSTAQIMOVA
FIRUZA (TJ)



OMURKANOVA
MALIKA (KG)



QASEMI
SAKINA (AFG)



RUSLAN KYZY
MEERIM (KG)



SADAT
MASOOD
SAYED (AFG)



SAMAR ELENA
(TM)



SULEYMANOVA
GULNORA (UZ)



ZHAKYPOVA
NARGIZA (KG)

ALUMNI OF THE MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICS AND SECURITY



ABDYRAMANOVA
ASEL (KG)



ABUBEKER
MADINA (KG)



BEKMURZAEV
NURBEK (KG)



HAKIMI ABDUL
WAHEED (AFG)



IBRAEV EMIL
(KG)



ISRAILOV
TYNCHTYKBEK
(KG)



KABATOVA
KARLYGASH
(KZ)



KASHEFI
FATEMA
(AFG)



KHAKIMOVA
MAKHFUZA(TJ)



KODURANOVA
AIANA (KG)



KURMANBEKOVA
AICHUREK (KG)



KUSSAINOV
DANIYAR
(KZ)



MARININ
SERGEY (KZ)



MATYAKUBOVA
DILMIRA (UZ)



NAZARI MOHAMMAD
JAWED (AFG)



OROZOBEKOVA
ALMAKAN (KG)



QONUNOV
ISKANDAR (TJ)



RAKHMATBOEVA
DILNOZA (TJ)



RUSLAN
HOJAEV (TM)



SAMADOV
RUSTAM (TJ)



SAYED JAWID
HASHEMI (AFG)



SOKOLOVA
REGINA (TJ)



SULTANBEKOVA
ZHYLDYZ (TJ)



SYDYKOVA
ALTYNAI (KG)

