

835th Meeting of the Permanent Council
11 November 2010
Presentation by the OSCE Academy in Bishkek

Dear Chairman, your Excellencies, dear colleagues,

It is a great honour for me to speak on behalf of the OSCE Academy to the Permanent Council. Since 2002 when the OSCE Academy was created, we are fostering the capacity for promotion of the OSCE agenda in Central Asia through graduate education, professional trainings, facilitation of regional dialogue and research.

In all four areas of our activity, we remain a Central Asian institution with strong regional ownership, implementing the values and principles of the OSCE and committed to promotion of regional cooperation in Central Asia.

The Programmes that we run are reflected in the following short film that we offer for your kind attention.

Text in the film

The OSCE Academy in Bishkek is a regional centre of postgraduate education and a forum for regional security dialogue and research. It was created in 2002 by the initiative of the Kyrgyz Republic and operates according to a Memorandum of Understanding between the Kyrgyz government and the OSCE. The Central Asian Governments, Finland, Germany, Canada, Geneva Center for Security Policy, OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, are represented on our Board of Trustees.

Our mission is to further OSCE values and principles through professional capacity building in the areas of comprehensive security, the rule of law and human rights.

The OSCE Academy's Master of Arts in Political Science is a unique graduate programme, approved and licensed by the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education.

Annually we enrol about 25 students from all Central Asian countries and some out-of-region students including from Afghanistan.

Admission is based on merit, regional and gender balance. Those who pass rigorous tests are offered a living stipend. This equal opportunity policy allows us to have a diverse and talented student body.



Since 2004, more than **two thousand people** have applied for the programme, and the number of graduates has reached **163** this year.

Our intensive interdisciplinary curriculum reflects the subjects and themes most relevant for Central Asia, including the OSCE, conflict prevention and management, energy and water politics, ethnic relations and ethnic conflict, multilateral security arrangements, sustainable development and many others.

Thanks to the generous support of the donors and in-kind contribution of Geneva Centre for Security Policy and Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, we always attract highly qualified international and regional faculty.

Through internships at the OSCE Secretariat, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the OSCE, the SCO Secretariat and other places our students acquire professional skills enabling them for a serious career.

And we are proud to say that our graduates are occupying positions of responsibility in their countries – 89% of them live and work in Central Asia.

We want our graduates to make impact where they are most needed. From 2011 graduates of the OSCE Academy's Masters Program will be offered **three-month positions as junior professionals** with the **Ministries of Foreign Affairs**. Respective Agreements have been signed with the **Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic**.

Our investment does pay off, as is further attested by a vigorous Alumni Network that held its first Reunion this year which gathered together 60 alumni.

Above all, the OSCE Academy's vibrant multicultural and stimulating environment makes the Masters Programme a place of fostering tolerance, and support regional and multiethnic dialogue.

The OSCE Academy trains Central Asian journalists to write **analysis of security issues** – we both build their professional skills and teach who to acquire a comprehensive vision of the problems of their region. In 2010, jointly with the Deutsche Welle Akademie we have run a 12-week Summer School on Advanced Journalism for Central Asia. The focus was on coverage and analysis of ethnic conflict.

Our four-week Certificate Programme on Project Management, Human Rights and Conflict Sensitivity enhances the capacity of Central Asian and Afghan development professionals **to deal with conflict potential and maintain a human rights agenda**.

We also assist greater **regional ownership of the development and security agenda**. This is the idea behind our new public policy training for civil servants and civil organizations' professionals



The OSCE Academy is a forum for international dialogue on Central Asian security. Reaching out to various policy and expert communities, we build the capacity for informed security dialogue across national borders.

The Annual Central Asian Security Seminar Central Asian Security epitomizes our efforts. It is jointly organized by the OSCE Academy, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (Switzerland), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (Norway), and Near East South Asia Centre for Strategic Studies (United States).

Every year, more than thirty leading experts from Central Asia, United States, Russia, Europe, China, and India are joined by representatives of international organizations and donors. They discuss most current issues of Central Asian security.

This event creates a powerful link between expert and policy communities and builds capacity for evidence-based decision making.

Our research agenda is growing. We run several data gathering projects on politics and security in Central Asia relevant for all three OSCE baskets; and expanding our publications of policy relevant analysis.

The OSCE Academy is a sustainable regional institution with a vibrant agenda and strong reputation. The generous support by the OSCE participating states and our partners makes our success possible and invests in long-term positive development of Central Asia.

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Dear Chairman, your Excellencies, dear colleagues

Thank you for your attention.

The OSCE Academy's success would not have been possible without the constant support rendered to the Academy by the OSCE participating States, donors and partners. We take this opportunity to thank twenty OSCE-participating States for their financial contributions that they have made to the OSCE Academy since 2004 (Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United States of America). Our special appreciation is due to our host country, the Kyrgyz Republic, that provides many forms of support for the Academy, including the wonderful premises that the Academy uses.

We would like also to thank the Republic of Kazakhstan as the Chair of the Organization for the enabling environment in which the OSCE Academy operated throughout 2010.



We plan an expansion of our graduate education programme, further development of professional trainings, strengthening of the dialogue and research agenda and promotion of our alumni through an alumni network. We look forward to establishing new institutional partnerships for the benefit of all our programmes.

For these endeavours to materialize we hope to be able to rely on the continuing support of the OSCE participating States.

On behalf of the OSCE Academy I thank you for your attention and support.