



OPEN WORLD
LEADERSHIP CENTER

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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**The President of the Senate
The Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Dear Mr. President and Madam Speaker:

On behalf of the Open World Leadership Center Board of Trustees, it is my privilege to submit to you the Center's 2009 annual report. Congress founded the unique Open World program 10 years ago as a bipartisan and bicameral initiative, recognizing the historical opportunity and significance of a congressionally driven effort that introduced



emerging leaders from Eurasia to their counterparts throughout the United States. Since then the Open World program has linked more than 16,500 emerging leaders from countries of Eurasia to 6,100 host families in every state of the Union.

As Open World marks its 10th anniversary, it is fitting that this report focuses on the program's accomplishments and role in supporting the U.S. Congress and its constituents. More than half of program participants in 2009 met with Members of Congress or senior staff. Seven Members of Congress from the Helsinki Commission met with 59 participants from countries where they have oversight. Chairs of various congressional caucuses met with parliamentarians to discuss key issues, ranging from water management, prevention of human trafficking, and nonproliferation to long-standing sovereignty issues. Through such engagement, participants welcomed the opportunity to deepen their understanding of how the U.S. legislative branch represents, influences, and benefits the lives of the American people.

Our first decade has brought extraordinary results: institutional collaborations such as sister courts, varied new exchanges between civic organizations, and concrete issues like e-governance in both the U.S. and the Eurasian region. The next 10 years will provide valuable opportunities to build on a powerful alumni network, while bringing together a new generation of young leaders from our respective countries for peace and prosperity in Eurasia.

Sincerely,

James H. Billington
James H. Billington
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Message from the Executive Director

The year of our 10th anniversary marked not just a milestone in time; we also welcomed our 15,000 participant to the United States. Numbers, though, do not convey the real impact of this legislative branch constituent diplomacy program. In the following pages, you will see Russian President Dmitriy Medvedev visiting the classroom of Open World alumna Olga Borutskaya, who pioneered mainstreaming students with disabilities after observing the practice in the U.S. You'll meet the cybersecurity expert from the Republic of Georgia who used his Open World contacts to strengthen his country's defenses from external attack when he became its cybersecurity "czar." From foster care to perinatal medicine, from combating human trafficking to linking U.S. and Eurasian legislatures, Open World has helped forge partnerships that benefit both sides, and often endure.

Open World's guiding principle is to show, not tell. For example, a senior member of the Moldovan parliamentary leadership was a little hesitant about the home stay that we arrange for our visitors. When I asked him later what he thought of spending a few nights in an American home, he replied, "That was one of the best parts of the program. I got to see the United States from the inside out." An eternity of PowerPoints could never convey what he experienced directly; that's the way adults learn. And his American hosts, themselves constituent diplomats, learned no less from him than he did from them.

Because we reside in the legislative branch, the participation of numerous representatives and senators conveys a powerful message of the strength of our form of democracy, where elected officials serve their



constituents. For many delegates taking part in Open World, seeing firsthand the complicated and often messy process of accountable governance provides insights that no amount of textbooks, training, or lectures can convey. Members of Congress and their staffs have added immeasurably to that experience by giving their time to engage in a dialogue with our guests. In fact, in 2009 more than 650 of our delegates met with senators, representatives, or their staffs, often in the state or congressional districts where they were hosted. Time and again, our guests have told us the most lasting impression they've gained has been of how accessible U.S. officials are to those who voted them into office.

I hope that you enjoy reading this report and that you come away with a shared sense of mission in Open World, Congress's constituent diplomacy program.

Sincerely,

John O'Keefe
Executive Director

The Honorable Ted Stevens

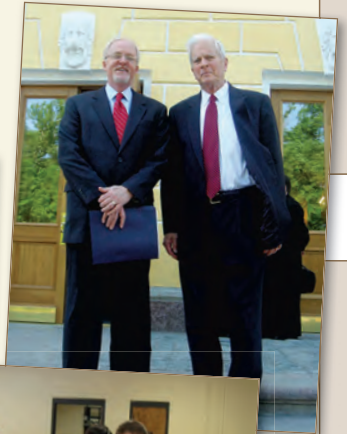
— *In Memoriam* —

As this publication went to press, Open World lost its cofounder, honorary chairman of the board, and great friend, former senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, who died tragically in a plane crash on August 9, 2010. Sen. Stevens led the bicameral, bipartisan effort in 1999 that launched Open World as a pilot program, and later sponsored the legislation that gave the Open World Leadership Center a home in the legislative branch. Over the next decade, he remained actively involved in the program, offering support and advice whenever called upon. While all of us at the Open World Leadership Center mourn the passing of our honorary chairman, we take comfort in knowing that his legacy will endure in the thousands of Open World alumni who regard Americans as friends and who work, in ways large and small, to expand freedom and opportunity in their own countries.

For 10 years the Open World Leadership Center has created exchanges of people and ideas to form lasting partnerships, projects, and friendships across the United States and Eurasia. In 2009, the Center, in its role as a supporting agency of the legislative branch in the government of the United States, linked rising leaders to our elected officials and citizens in towns and cities in 49 states and over 200 congressional districts.

What does it mean to be a legislative branch agency?

- ☆ It means that the U.S. Congress has a resource that promotes “Constituent Diplomacy” among its citizens.
- ☆ It means that U.S. lawmakers and other leaders have an unfiltered and firsthand account of their Eurasian counterparts’ issues and problem-solving techniques.
- ☆ It means that Americans in every state in the Union make a difference at the grassroots level and affect positive change in their communities as well as their “sister” communities in Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia.



OPEN WORLD
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*Partnering emerging Eurasian leaders with
the U.S. Congress and their constituents for 10 remarkable years*

☆ A Resource to Inform U.S. Foreign Policy

Open World connects Members of Congress who seek a deeper knowledge of issues affecting Russia and Eurasia to their counterparts and community leaders from the countries where the program operates. In 2009, 655 Open World delegates visited one-on-one with Members of Congress and their professional staffs, helping Congress expand its knowledge base through dialogue with the people making a difference in their societies.

Open World Hosts Russian Justices and Helsinki Commission Members

On April 2, Open World Board Chairman James H. Billington hosted a meeting at the Library of Congress that brought together a Russian delegation headed by Supreme Commercial Court Chief Justice Anton Ivanov and Reps. Alcee Hastings (Fla.) and Robert Aderholt (Ala.) of the Commission on Cooperation and Security in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission. Seven of the 18 congressional members of the Commission met with Open World delegates this year. The Library

of Congress was one stop on a trip undertaken by Chief Justice Ivanov, funded by the Supreme Commercial Court, to discuss Russia's new consumer bankruptcy legislation with American judges, bankruptcy officials, and scholars. Among those accompanying him was alumna Alexandra Makovskaya, a senior staffer to the Supreme Commercial Court at the time of her 2003 Open World visit to Washington, D.C., and now one of the Court's justices.

Open World Board Chairman James H. Billington, right, welcomes Russian Supreme Commercial Court Justice Anton Ivanov, center, to the Library of Congress on April 2 as, from left, Helsinki Commission congressional member Rep. Alcee Hastings (Fla.) and delegate Justice Dmitriy Dedov look on. This year, 59 Open World participants met with congressional members of the Commission and staff.



Congressional Staff Delegation Meets with Alumni Overseas

Jason Bruder, of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee majority staff, and Chad Kreikemeier, foreign policy legislative assistant to New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, chair of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on European Affairs, met with Open World alumni during a congressional staff trip to Georgia, Moldova, and Russia. On Aug. 31, the Senate staffers met at the Moscow City Duma, or Council, with Deputy Ivan Novitskiy and his staff adviser Inna Smirnova, director of the Chernobyl Foundation. The two Russians, both alumni, said their Open World programs had been professional and productive and had a positive impact on them. In Georgia, Bruder and Kreikemeier attended a dinner with U.S. government program alumni, including a past Open World participant, and in Moldova they discussed the country's financial and political situation with mayors who had participated in Open World.

Russian VIPs Hold Environmental Talks with Conservation Caucus

Sen. Alexander Shkolnik and State Duma Deputies Valery Chereshnev and Akhmat Erkenov were part of a seven-member Russian delegation that visited Washington, D.C., and Maryland on an environmental exchange cohosted by the Open World Leadership Center and the International Conservation Caucus Foundation, which supports the work of the House International Conservation Caucus (ICC). Open World representatives, including Executive Director John O’Keefe, accompanied the delegates during most of their April 27–29 visit. The Russians met with ICC cochairs Reps. Norman Dicks (Wash.), Harold Rogers (Ky.), and Ed Royce (Calif.); ICC member Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (Calif.); Sens. Tom Udall (N.M.) and Sheldon Whitehouse (R.I.); and executive branch and nongovernmental organization officials. The talks covered ways in which to build support in Russia’s parliament for environmental protection, encourage U.S.-Russian environmental partnerships, and protect forests and fisheries. The Russians also reviewed state and local natural resources management in meetings with Maryland officials in Annapolis and during a visit to a landfill, a surprising highlight for the delegates.

California Rep. Ed Royce, right, cochair of the House International Conservation Caucus, meets with Russian delegates during an April environmental exchange cohosted by the Caucus and Open World. With Rep. Royce are, from left, Deputy Akhmat Erkenov, State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly, Committee on Education; Valery Chereshnev, chair of the State Duma Science and Technology Committee; and Gennady M. Inozemtsev, chair of the Russian Salmon Fund and Russia program manager at the Wild Salmon Center/U.S.



“
*... we also welcomed our 15,000
participant to the United States.”*



☆ Linking the U.S. Congress to Eurasian Counterparts

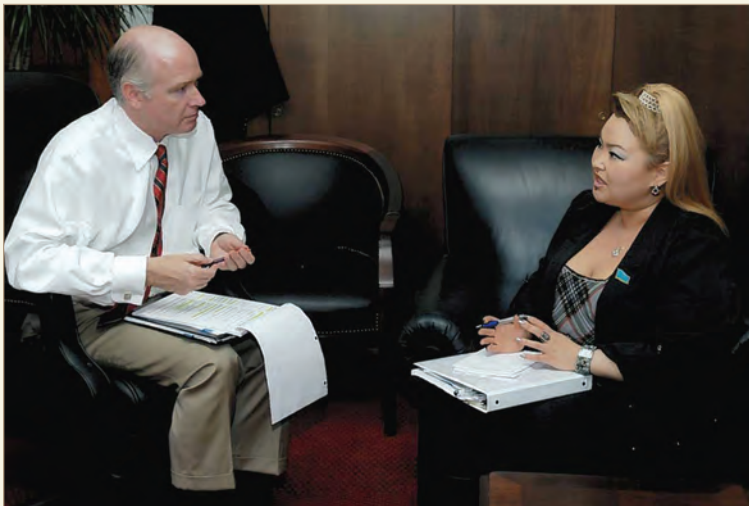
Open World engages Russian and Eurasian legislators responsible for improving the laws and policymaking procedures in their home countries, from the local to the national levels. By providing these parliamentarians and other lawmakers direct access to Members of Congress, the program allows participants to see for themselves how laws are made in a democratic country and how elected representatives and their constituents work together to create solutions.

Kazakhstan's Youngest Parliamentarian Travels to Capitol Hill

Bakhyt Syzdykova, the youngest member of Kazakhstan's lower house of parliament and one of the country's few female MPs, had separate meetings with two Members of Congress while taking part in an accountable governance exchange hosted by Open World grantee Vital Voices on Sept. 12–20. Ms. Syzdykova and Rep. Robert Aderholt, chairman of the House Friends of Kazakhstan Caucus, discussed organizing an exchange between the Youth Parliament of Kazakhstan and the Alabama Youth Legislature, now scheduled to take place in February 2011. During a meeting with Congressman Eni Faleomavaega of

American Samoa, participants discussed the issue of federal-level support for the care of nuclear test victims and their descendants. The all-women delegation, which included regional legislators and NGO leaders, also had the opportunity to meet with Melanne Verveer, ambassador-at-large for global women's issues at the U.S. Department of State, as well as with Vital Voices honorary chair, Texas Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Rep. Robert Aderholt (Ala.), chairman of the House Friends of Kazakhstan Caucus, meets on Sept. 17 with Kazakh parliamentarian Bakhyt Syzdykova, who took part in an all-women delegation that visited Washington, D.C. Syzdykova is also the speaker of the Youth Parliament of Kazakhstan and a strong advocate for children's rights and protection.



Sen. Lugar Compares Notes with Lawmakers from Turkmenistan

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Ranking Member Richard Lugar met on Feb. 27 with four Turkmenistani parliamentary deputies taking part in Open World, including International and Interparliamentary Affairs Committee Chairman Batyr Berdyev. The Turkmen deputies and Sen. Lugar compared notes on legislative jurisdiction, schedules, campaigning, and staffing. The group also discussed how the United States and Turkmenistan are dealing with the global economic crisis, and briefly reviewed Turkmenistan's proposal in the UN General Assembly to create an international security system for transnational energy pipelines. In their talks with Sen. Lugar and others, the deputies noted that

Turkmenistan's parliament is newly enlarged and has greater powers and responsibilities than previously, but it does, however, remain single-party. The Arkansas Council for International Visitors organized the parliamentarians' community visit in Little Rock, where the delegates observed proceedings in the state legislature, met with Mayor Mark Stodola, and had a Q-and-A session with the assistant director of the Legal Services Division of the state legislature's Bureau of Legislative Research.

National grantee: Academy for Educational Development

Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar, center, the ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, meets on Feb. 27 with, from left, Turkmenistani parliamentary deputies Resulberdi Mammedov, Baymyrat Babaev, Batyr Berdyev, and Yoldash Sheripov. The visiting lawmakers were Open World's first parliamentary delegation from Turkmenistan.



Parliamentarians Have Working Sessions in Missouri

Missouri Rep. Russ Carnahan, third from left, meets with deputies of Turkmenistan's parliament on an exchange organized by the Academy for Educational Development. The four delegates, who spent Oct. 3-11 in St. Louis studying U.S. legislative processes and education, were surprised to learn from Rep.



Carnahan that any Member of Congress can initiate legislation, which is not the usual practice in their country's parliament, the Mejlis. The group also attended a city council meeting and met with a former state senator and an aide to Sen. Kit Bond. The host organization, the World Affairs Council of St. Louis, noted that the delegates were impressed by the openness of officials at all levels of government and by the decentralization of the U.S. education system.

“Open World has helped forge partnerships that benefit both sides, and often endure.”



Providing Insight on and Access to Eurasian Issues

By interacting face-to-face with government and community leaders of Russia and Eurasia, Members of Congress have opportunities to gain firsthand information and unique perspectives that they can apply to their caucus and committee work.

Georgians Examine Cybersecurity Laws with House Committee Staff

Open World Georgian delegates involved in drafting their country’s Personal Data Protection Act met with House Energy and Commerce Committee staff members working on H.R. 2221, the Data Accountability and Trust Act, to discuss and compare cybersecurity legislation. During the Nov. 7–15 exchange, the delegates also took part in an open-ended roundtable discussion on IT security with professors from the Center for Secure Information Systems at George Mason University, officials from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, and former U.S. Ambassador to Georgia William Courtney. Upon returning home, delegate Irakli Gvenetadze became director of the Georgian Ministry of Justice’s Data Exchange Agency, which is responsible for the nation’s cybersecurity and e-government program. He continues to communicate with those he met on the Open World program, including representatives from the Department of Homeland Security’s Computer Emergency Readiness

Team and congressional staffers.

National grantee: Academy for Educational Development



Cybersecurity experts from Georgia meet on Nov. 12 with congressional staffers during an Open World exchange. From left are Gregory Guice, counsel to Rep. Rick Boucher, chair of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications, Technology and the Internet; Jacob Olcott, House Committee on Homeland Security staff member; Timothy Robinson, legislative aide to Illinois Rep. Bobby Rush; Giorgi Gabrielashvili, head of the Legal Department, Civil Registry Agency, Georgian Ministry of Justice; facilitator Berdia Natsvlshvili; and Irakli Gvenetadze, director of the Data Exchange Agency, Ministry of Justice.

Ukrainian Delegates Get In-Depth View of U.S. Anti-Trafficking Initiatives

In October, the Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center at George Mason University in Arlington, Va., hosted an Open World delegation of Ukrainian government officials and nongovernmental organization (NGO) leaders on a program focused on U.S. assistance to victims of human trafficking. The issues of human trafficking prevention and child protection are of particular interest to Congress—notably, New Jersey Rep. Chris Smith, who authored the legislation that came to be known as the “International Megan’s Law.” In meetings with their U.S. counterparts, the five Ukrainian delegates

examined such topics as coordination between government entities, law enforcement agencies, and NGOs, and legal mechanisms protecting victims, with a special focus on children. Among the program highlights was a presentation by delegation member Olena Sichkar, deputy director of the State Social Services Agency of Ukraine, to more than 30 U.S.-based professionals, including representatives of anti-trafficking NGOs, academic and research institutions, and international organizations. Ms. Sichkar discussed her agency's work in assisting survivors of human trafficking at the International Organization for Migration office in Kyiv.

Open World Alumna Receives State Department's 'Women of Courage' Award

On March 11, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and First Lady Michelle Obama presented Open World alumna Veronika Marchenko, head of the Russian NGO Mother's Right, with one of the State Department's eight 2009 International Women of Courage Awards. Established by Marchenko in 1990, Mother's Right has grown into one of the most outspoken and effective NGOs fighting peacetime deaths and human rights violations in the Russian armed forces. Marchenko took part in a 2002 Open World rule of law exchange, which she described as a rare opportunity to learn about the U.S. judicial and political systems. The following day, Marchenko visited the office of California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, where she spoke with Legislative Assistant Rich Harper about how the international donor community could support local NGOs in Russia, despite a 2006 Russian law that makes NGOs subject to much greater government scrutiny if they accept foreign funding.

First Lady Michelle Obama looks on as Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton congratulates Open World alumna Veronika Marchenko on receiving a 2009 International Women of Courage Award, which is given annually by the State Department to women around the globe who have shown exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for women's rights and advancement.



Conference on Nonproliferation Exchanges Draws Alumni from Across Russia

This summer, 27 of Open World's then 59 Russian nonproliferation alumni attended a successful, privately funded conference in Moscow led by the two U.S. nonproliferation experts who conduct Open World's nonproliferation exchanges. The June 16–17 event was designed to foster better understanding of the cooperative nonproliferation programs between the United States and Russia, and to identify positive results of the program and possible improvements. Conference attendees noted many benefits of the

exchanges, including career advancement, a broader understanding of nonproliferation, which has led to greater involvement in new projects, and better communication among nonproliferation alumni. By introducing young Russian leaders from the science, engineering, government, and nongovernment fields

to U.S. methodologies for addressing and managing nonproliferation matters, the program has increased substantially the level of mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries in the pursuit of nonproliferation goals.

U.S. Ambassador to the Russian Federation John Beyrle, front row, fifth from right, hosts Open World nonproliferation alumni at the ambassador's residence, Spaso House, in Moscow. To date, Open World has hosted 79 participants from 24 Russian regions, representing 52 different entities, including leading institutions such as the Kurchatov Institute, Russia's national center for nuclear energy research and development, and the State Atomic Energy Corporation, known as "Rosatom."



Russian Leaders Discuss Adoption and Foster Care Issues on Hill

Jetaine Hart, second from left, an aide to Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu, meets on Capitol Hill on Dec. 11 with Russian leaders involved in adoption and foster care issues. The delegates included a regional lawmaker and an assistant to the chair of the State Duma Committee on Family, Women, and Children. Kidsave International hosted the delegation on a program spanning two cities. In Washington, D.C., the delegates heard from the National Foster Care Coalition about advocacy that led to legislation supporting foster families. In Los Angeles, a meeting on effective child welfare management at the Los Angeles County's Department of Children and Family Services provided the Russian participants with new strategies of team decision making. The National Peace Foundation served as national grantee.



☆ Demonstrating the Role of Legislature to Emerging Leaders

Elected officials and parliamentary staff from emerging democracies gain valuable insights into the U.S. system of government, some of which they can apply to their legislative and policymaking activities within their own governments.

Alumna Provides Research Expertise to Russian Regional Legislature

Since 2004, alumna Tatyana Vechkutova has served as chief specialist at the Center of Research and Analysis of the legislature of Samara Region, in southwest Russia. The center provides research services and access to print and online information resources, including legal and legislative databases, to 300 users from the regional legislature and the governor's office. Two examples of its work from this year are an analysis of Samara's participation in Russia's 2008 national education project and an impact study of a 2004 regional law subsidizing school meals for poor children. At the time of her 2003 Open World "library leaders" exchange, hosted by the public library in Phillipsburg, N.J., Vechkutova headed a children's library. She credits her Open World activities and the "self-made" Americans she met with helping encourage her to seek a higher-level public service job.

Russian Delegates Study Accountable Governance in Massachusetts

State Duma Deputy Viktor Antonov and three Pskov City Council members spent April 22–May 2 studying accountable governance in Boston, Amherst, and Plymouth, Mass. State Senate President Therese Murray and State Sen. Stan Rosenberg helped plan and conduct the exchange; both have long worked on health care and economic issues with officials in Pskov Region. The Open World delegation spent two days at Boston City Hall reviewing municipal operations, budgeting, and economic development with City Council President Michael Ross, City Chief Financial Officer Lisa Signori, and other officials. They also had joint sessions with an Open World delegation of Pskov city health leaders being hosted in Amherst at the same time, bringing together practitioners and public officials working to improve health care accessibility. On May 1, Sen. Murray had a working lunch with the entire accountable governance delegation to discuss health care policy and finance, and U.S. Rep. Bill Delahunt met one-on-one with Deputy Antonov. The Institute for Global Health at the University of Massachusetts Amherst coordinated both visits.

Massachusetts Senate President Therese Murray, fourth from left, hosts a delegation of Russian lawmakers at a May 1 luncheon in the Senate Reading Room at the State House. With her are, from left, Jay Curley, Vice President, Massachusetts Blue Cross/Blue Shield; Alexandra Proshina, translator; Grigory Storonenkov, Member, Pskov City Duma; Victor Antonov, Member, Federal Duma; Roman Masimenko, Member, Pskov City Duma; Sergey Gavrilov, Member, Pskov City Duma; Cheryl Bartlett, Mass. Department of Public Health; and Henri Rauschenbach, Government Affairs Specialist.



Open World Exchange Leads to Constituent Outreach, Environmental Legislation

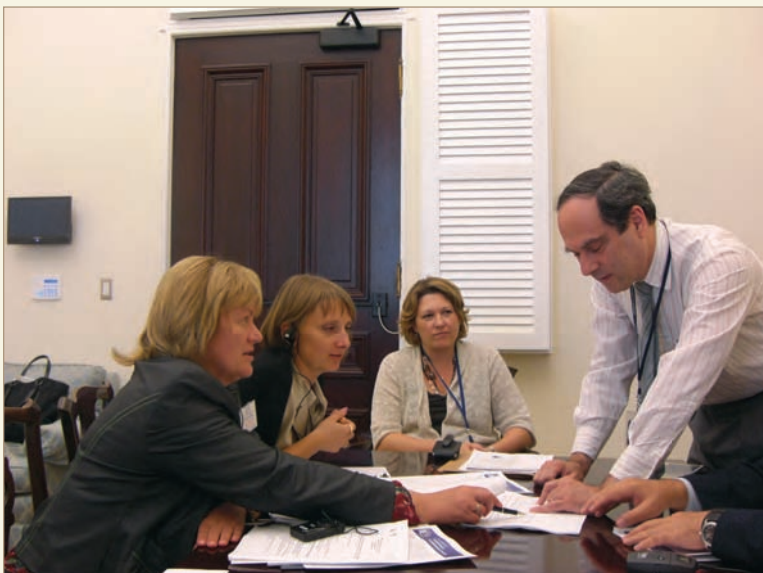
Aleksandr Bolotnikov, a member of the Sakhalin regional legislature in Russia, reported to Open World that as a result of his 2005 environmental exchange to Harrisburg, Pa., he began sending regular reports to his constituents—and now considers this an important part of his duties as a legislator. Deputy Bolotnikov was shown a constituent newsletter by his Harrisburg home host, a part-time aide to a state legislator, and was impressed by how informative and visually interesting it was. He also used the knowledge gained during tours of Harrisburg-area recycling facilities to help develop legislation for a domestic-waste recycling program that was adopted by the Sakhalin regional government in 2009 and later approved by the Russian federal government. In addition, the delegation had a number of meetings and site visits related to fisheries that Deputy Bolotnikov found useful when drawing up a proposal on the development of fish farming in Sakhalin Region, which encompasses Sakhalin Island and the Kuril Islands.

Top Ukrainian Legislative, Ministerial Staff Study U.S. Budget Processes

Three top Ukrainian parliamentary staffers and a key budget official for Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers received an in-depth briefing on the U.S. federal budget process from House and Senate Budget Committee staff, including Senate Budget Committee General Counsel Joe Gaeta, during their Aug. 25–27 orientation in Washington, D.C. The Ukrainian parliamentary staff all work on budget or appropriations issues; one delegate had received House Democracy Assistance Commission training in 2008 and met with Open World managers, leading to this Open World hosting. The delegates also had productive

sessions with Ohio Rep. Marcy Kaptur's legislative director, Deborah Koolbeck; two Congressional Research Service analysts; and Government Accountability Office and District of Columbia budget and economic experts. Senior officials from the Office of Management and Budget gave the Ukrainians extensive insight into how the President's budget is prepared. The group then headed to Columbus, Ohio, to examine state and local budget processes. *National grantee: Academy for Educational Development*

A delegation of Ukrainians working on budget issues meets with Kate Eltrich, left, associate director of legislative affairs at the Office of Management and Budget, and Richard Kogan, right, senior advisor to the director of OMB, during their August orientation.



Turkmenistani Delegates Visit U.S. Legislative Branch and Utah State Auditors

Four high-level staffers of Turkmenistan's Supreme Audit Chamber had sessions on Feb. 27 with the Library of Congress's inspector general and a senior auditor from his office; the executive director and budget officer of the Library's Office of Compliance; and Government Accountability Office senior staff. The Supreme Audit Chamber, which has wide-ranging jurisdiction, was only created in 2007 and, as Open World Program Manager Vera DeBuchanan noted, the Turkmen auditors wanted "to learn from our experiences to see if they are on the right track." The delegates requested audit policy manuals and standards for future study, and asked their U.S. counterparts probing questions about the qualifications of their staffs, the oversight of and legislative basis for their offices, and the scope of their authority.

Highlights of the Turkmen auditors' community visit in Salt Lake City, hosted by Utah Valley University in Orem, included meeting with the Utah state auditor and legislative auditor general to discuss and compare audit procedures and systems. *National grantee: Academy for Educational Development*

An Open World delegation of Turkmenistani auditors join visiting parliamentary deputies from their country in a Feb. 26 meeting with Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs George Krol. The two delegations also met with House Office of Interparliamentary Affairs Director Kay King, former U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan Laura Kennedy, and National Security Council representatives.



*“
Open World’s guiding principle
is to show, not tell.”*

☆ Facilitating Constituent Outreach and Diplomacy

Constituent and citizen diplomats make a unique and valuable contribution to international cooperation when they participate in the Open World program. The mutual understanding and sense of common purpose that grows out of sharing experiences with Open World delegates is unforgettable and leads to long-term professional relations and friendships.

Maryland and Leningrad Region Explore Expanding Partnership

Open World host Mendy Nitsch, director of International Affairs for the Maryland Secretary of State's office, had meetings and site visits Aug. 3–4 with Open World alumni in Leningrad Region to advance the Maryland Sister States Program (MSSP) partnership there. Along with members of the Maryland-Leningrad Region Sister State Steering Committee, Nitsch helped plan and conduct three Open World accountable governance exchanges—including one this year in Annapolis and Rockville—that support an MSSP initiative to assist Leningrad Region in implementing a federal law shifting more government responsibilities to localities. Nitsch met in Gatchina with two alumni—a city manager and a mayor from a nearby town—and a local education official to discuss expanding the sister-state relationship to include

educational and social services partnerships. She then visited Kirovsk as the guest of the city manager and the mayor of the neighboring town of Shumskoe, both Open World alumni, and toured a school and rehabilitation center. Nitsch traveled to Russia as head of a Maryland delegation to an international youth forum in St. Petersburg at the invitation of the governor of Leningrad Region.

Mendy Nitsch, second from right, of the Maryland Secretary of State's office, meets with municipal leaders from Kirovsk District, including Open World alumni Denis Mironov, center left, head of the village of Shumskoe, and Aleksey Koltsov, center right, head of the Kirovsk Administration, during her August trip to Leningrad Region. The Maryland/Leningrad Region Sister States Program celebrated its 10th anniversary this year.



Sister Cities Atlanta and Tbilisi Celebrate Ties at 'Taste of Georgia' Fundraiser

The Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City Committee (ATSCC), an Open World host organization, cosponsored the second annual "Taste of Georgia" fundraiser to support Georgian citizens displaced from their homes in the August 2008 conflict with Russia. The Sept. 19 benefit at Atlanta City Hall featured traditional Georgian cuisine and wine, entertainment, and a silent auction. Among those honored by ATSCC at the evening event were the First Lady of Georgia, Sandra E. Roelofs; Georgia's Ambassador to the United States, Batu Kutelia; and Atlanta Hawks center Zaza Pachulia, a native of the nation of Georgia and member of the fundraiser host committee. ATSCC Chairman John E. Hall, Jr., who this year was named

Georgia's honorary consul for the southeast U.S., first became involved with the country of Georgia when he participated in a 2007 Open World program that brought a delegation of Georgian attorneys to Atlanta. Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, has been Atlanta's sister city since 1988.

Ukrainian Delegation Visits New Sister City in Kansas

An Open World trip in June helped cement a new sister-city relationship between the centuries-old western Ukrainian town of Dolyna and Prairie Village, a planned community outside Kansas City. With help from several Prairie Village Sister City Committee members, Barbara Dolci, executive director of the International Visitors Council of Greater Kansas City, which hosted the five-member Dolyna delegation, built individualized programming into the agenda. Museum director Tetyana Seniv, who is fluent in German, visited the 19th-century Shawnee Indian Mission with German-speaking committee chair Jim Hohensee. Two other committee members—architect Rod Atteberry and Ukrainian-American Vera Glywa—provided an architectural tour of Prairie Village for Yaroslav Shyyak, who oversees city architecture and construction for Dolyna District, and Dolyna City Council Secretary Viktor Hoshlyk. Dolyna City Comptroller Nadiya Popovych met with her Prairie Village counterpart, Karen Kindle, and, in another peer-to-peer session, Volodymar Spodar, head of Dolyna District Education Department, toured a local high school with the school district superintendent and the school principal.

National Grantee: U.S.-Ukraine Foundation

Mayor Ron Shaffer, holding flags, of Prairie Village, Kan., welcomes Open World delegates from his community's Ukrainian sister city, Dolyna. Highlights of the visit included tours customized for the delegation of four city and district officials and a museum director.



Rule of Law Delegates from Russia Visit Maryland Court

Maryland First Lady and Baltimore District Court Judge Catherine Curran O'Malley, left, welcomes a Russian rule of law delegation to the governor's residence in Annapolis during a 2007 exchange. This year, Judge O'Malley met with three justices of the peace, a prosecutor, and a defense attorney from Russia during their Sept. 8–Oct. 3 visit, hosted by the Maryland/Leningrad Region Rule of Law Partnership; the



Russian American Rule of Law Consortium served as national grantee. With District Court colleague Judge Jeannie Hong, Judge O'Malley held a working session on domestic violence issues with the Russian delegation, who then observed court proceedings involving the use of protective orders and temporary restraining orders. To date, the Maryland Sister States Program and the Maryland/Leningrad Region Rule of Law Partnership have hosted 81 participants from Leningrad Region on 15 Open World exchange visits to the state.

Ashgabat Water Specialists Travel to Sister City Albuquerque

In October, the Albuquerque/Ashgabat Sister Cities Committee hosted an Open World delegation of three Turkmenistani water specialists, whose visit was coordinated around the theme of water resource management—a shared challenge for both cities located in arid climates. On field trips to water management facilities and conservation projects, as well as in meetings with federal and state officials, the delegates explored such issues as water rights, irrigation, water conservancy, and operations management with their counterparts and hosts. They also discussed legislative policy with the district

office staffs of Sens. Jeff Bingaman and Tom Udall and Rep. Martin Heinrich, and with the Mayor's Director of Economic Development. The delegates toured the water treatment research and development facility of MIOX, a private international company that has expressed interest in working in Turkmenistan. It is Open World's hope that a joint water project will result from the interaction.

National grantee: Academy for Educational Development

The water specialists are seen here in mid-town Albuquerque next to an arroyo, or stream bed, accompanied by Bill Myer, Albuquerque - Ashgabat Sister Cities Committee Chair. The Albuquerque - Ashgabat partnership has been in existence since 1990.



Georgian Delegates Take Part in Chicago Town Hall Meeting

Illinois Rep. Danny K. Davis, third from right, meets in his Chicago office on Nov. 10 with a delegation of Georgian prosecutors and court press secretaries, including a spokesperson for the Georgian Supreme Court, second from left. Immediately after this session, the delegates headed to a local elementary school to observe Rep. Davis hold an evening town hall meeting, during which he spoke about the Open World program and introduced the delegates to meeting participants, who gave the visiting Georgians a warm welcome. The International Visitors Center of Chicago organized the group's local program, with the Academy for Educational Development serving as the national grantee.



Health Care Leaders from Russia Take Part in Atlanta Program

After an Oct. 15–16 orientation in Washington, D.C., 10 health care leaders from across Moscow Region traveled to Atlanta for an intensive weeklong program at Emory University conducted by the World Health Organization Collaborating Center in Reproductive Health. Georgia Rep. Tom Price, cochair of the new Congressional Russia Caucus, met with the delegates in Atlanta and discussed his ideas about the work of the Caucus. The program in Atlanta is part of a continuing project that Open World national grantee Future of Russia Foundation (FORF) initiated at the Moscow Regional Perinatal Center (MRPC) in Balashikha to provide specialized perinatal care for high-risk mothers and newborns, as well as postgraduate education for perinatal care professionals. Russian President Dmitriy Medvedev visited the MRPC in late 2007, after Open World hosted its first delegates involved in the center's work, and said that the MRPC could serve as a nationwide model.

Georgia Rep. Tom Price, cochair of the Congressional Russia Caucus, third from right, meets with Open World partners and Russian health delegates in Atlanta on Oct. 19. The delegates took part in a weeklong program on perinatal care at Emory University.



Boulder Welcomes Delegates from Sister City Dushanbe

In October 2009 four Tajikistani public- and private-sector water managers visited Boulder, Colo., for an exchange on potable water organized by the City of Boulder Utilities Division and Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities. The exchange was timely for Tajikistan, as a lack of coordination at the national level and an overreliance on international donors for technical assistance mean that potable water is not widely provided to the population and is often contaminated with industrial and agricultural runoff. The Tajikistani's schedule included meetings with managers at large water treatment facilities in Boulder and smaller operations in surrounding communities. The delegates also had in-depth discussions with their counterparts from the City of Boulder's Department of Public Works on utility rate structures, finance, and billing as well as on the city's drought plan and water conservation program.

National grantee: World Services

Open World delegates Gul Sharifov, left, and Toziddin Pirov and facilitator Gulru Sharofovna introduce themselves at a welcome reception on Oct. 5 hosted by Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities. The partnership between the two cities was initiated in 1982.



Congressional Meetings

This year, 655 Open World participants—almost half of the 2009 program participants—met with members of Congress or their staffs.



House Foreign Affairs Committee Professional Staff Member Amanda Sloat, left, meets with Diana Badtiyeva, center, director of the North Ossetia-Alania Youth Rehabilitation Center and the 15,000th delegate to take part in an Open World exchange. With them is Toby T. Gati, senior international adviser at the law firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and vice chair of Supporters of Civil Society in Russia, which coordinated the delegates' orientation in Washington D.C. Ms. Badtiyeva was a member of a delegation of Russian political and civic society leaders headed for Chicago to study American federalism and U.S. public policy.



Rep. Carol Shea-Porter, right, meets on Capitol Hill with Russian delegates heading to New Hampshire. Open World Executive Director John O'Keefe, center, also attended the Oct. 28 meeting.



North Carolina Rep. David Price, left, meets with delegates from the Republic of Georgia.



Washington Rep. Jim McDermott, right, greets Russian judges in his Capitol Hill office on July 24 before they travel to Seattle for their program.



Sen. Ben Cardin, center, meets with Ukrainian delegates on Oct. 28 in Baltimore.



Ukrainian delegates meet with Rep. John Olver, center, in Boston on Oct. 26.

Texas Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, center, meets with an all-women delegation of Kazakhstani legislators and NGO leaders on Sept. 17; John O'Keefe, far right, executive director of Open World, also attended.



Pennsylvania Rep. Allyson Schwartz, right, meets with Georgian parliamentarians on Nov. 5 in her Capitol Hill office.

Utah Rep. Jason Chaffetz, left, discusses government transparency with Kyrgyzstani legal education delegates as he leads them through the National Statuary Hall Collection in the U.S. Capitol on June 11.



Rep. Corrine Brown of Florida meets with a delegation from Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstani Media and Library Delegates Stop by Capitol Hill

June 11 was a busy day for the Open World Leadership Center, as two newly arrived Kyrgyzstani delegations—one headed for Kansas City, Mo., the other for Orem, Utah—each met on Capitol Hill with members of their host community’s congressional delegation. The Kansas City-bound group, which included a deputy head of the Kyrgyzstani parliament’s press service and other media professionals, attended Sen. Claire McCaskill’s weekly Thursday morning coffee for constituents visiting from Missouri. Later in the day, the Kyrgyzstanis had an informative Q-and-A session with the Show Me State’s senior senator, Kit Bond. The League of Women Voters of Kansas City, Mo., Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties was the media delegation’s local host. The second Kyrgyzstani delegation, composed mainly of library managers, sat down with Utah Sen. Robert Bennett for a discussion that focused on the checks and balances between the different branches of the U.S. government. Rep. Jason Chaffetz, who represents

the delegation’s host city of Orem, talked about the importance of government transparency while leading the Kyrgyzstanis through the Capitol’s imposing Statuary Hall. Utah Valley University conducted the delegation’s professional visit.

National Grantees: League of Women Voters, Academy for Educational Development

Missouri Sen. Kit Bond, head of table, holds a meeting on Capitol Hill with a Kyrgyzstani media delegation headed for Kansas City; joining them are the senator’s legislative correspondent Joshua Kremer; standing, and communications director Shana Marchio.



Russian Educators Learn About Innovations in Cleveland Schools

Four Russian Open World delegates hosted in Cleveland in mid-November wrapped up their exchange with a special learning opportunity: a video-linked Q-and-A session with Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich. The delegates, all high-level regional and local education officials, asked Rep. Kucinich, cochair of the new Congressional Russia Caucus, a range of questions on education and U.S.-Russian relations during a visit to his Lakewood district office. Other highlights of the group’s trip, organized by the Cleveland-based Council of International Programs USA (CIPUSA), included touring one of the world’s few Montessori high schools and visiting a school for autistic children run by the famed Cleveland Clinic. The delegates also gave high marks to learning about an innovative program that uses dance, hip-hop music, and other art forms to engage at-risk students in Cleveland schools. In 2009, its

first year as an Open World grantee organization, CIPUSA conducted six exchanges on local governance and education for Open World delegations from Russia.

Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich meets via video link with Russian officials visiting his Lakewood district office on Nov. 20. Also shown are President Lisa Purdy, far left, and Director of Programs Kate Windle, far right, of the Council of International Programs USA, the Russians' Open World host organization, and Open World Program Manager Jeffrey Magnuson, third from left.



Educators in Oregon and Ukraine Lay Ground for Student Exchanges

During a spring 2009 exchange to Roseburg, Ore., education leaders from Uzhhorod National University and Kremenchuk State Polytechnical University in western Ukraine signed an agreement on educational cooperation with Umpqua Community College (UCC), one of their host organizations. The delegates and the host community representative identified a variety of common interests, including education collaboration, cooperation on issues related to viticulture and enology, and possible sister-city linkages. In late August, Open World host Pete Bober, director of UCC's Small Business Development Center and Workforce Training, traveled to Ukraine, where he met with the delegates to discuss future projects. He also worked with representatives from the two universities to identify candidates for an April 2010 Open World delegation, which will help lay the groundwork for a visit by Ukrainian students to participate in a special summer business institute at Umpqua Community College in summer 2011. *National grantee: Academy for Educational Development*

Dr. Ross Tomlin, left, vice president of Umpqua Community College, confirms an agreement on cooperation on April 23 with Andriy Markevich, head of the International Relations Department at Kremenchuk State Polytechnical University, and Yaroslav Lazur, dean for external relations, Uzhhorod National University. The three educational institutions anticipate future collaboration on student exchanges, conferences, distance learning, and teacher training.



Journalists from Tajikistan Meet with Counterparts in Connecticut

Five journalists from Tajikistan spent the first week of October in Storrs, Conn., getting a firsthand look at how the U.S. values freedom of speech and an independent media, and the role journalists play in a democratic society. Hosted by the Global Training and Development Institute at the University of Connecticut, the delegation held discussions with local municipal government officials, visited various news media outlets, and attended presentations at the university's Department of Journalism. A highlight for the delegation was the opportunity to attend the award ceremony for the Thomas J. Dodd Prize in

International Justice and Human Rights, presented this year to the Committee to Protect Journalists. The visit was a learning experience for the hosts as well. After being interviewed by a student journalist for the university newspaper, the delegates provided the student with feedback on how she could improve her interviewing skills. The student remarked afterward how constructive and "right on" the delegates' comments were.

National grantee: Academy for Educational Development

Members of a delegation of journalists from Tajikistan meet on Oct. 5 with Sen. Christopher Dodd at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. Sen. Dodd was on hand to present the journalism prize that is awarded annually in honor of his father, the late Sen. Thomas J. Dodd.



“... the Open World program has linked more than 16,500 emerging leaders from countries of Eurasia to 6,100 host families in every state of the Union.”

Russian President Medvedev Visits Alumna's Innovative School

On Sept. 1, the first day of school in Russia, President Dmitry Medvedev made a high-profile visit to Moscow School #518, whose principal, Open World alumna Olga Borutskaya, has overseen her institution's participation in a project to mainstream students with disabilities. After touring the school and talking with students and staff, President Medvedev discussed inclusive education with Borutskaya and other school personnel. Borutskaya told the president that, while special schools for children with disabilities receive higher per capita funding, "regular" schools like hers that mainstream these children do not receive any extra assistance. Noting that "this is important information," President Medvedev said he would have the Ministry of Education look into the issue of funding and praised Borutskaya's school for being in the vanguard of inclusive education.

President Dimitriy Medvedev joins principal Principal Olga Borutskaya and students on the first day of classes at Moscow School #518. An alumna of Open World, Borutskaya's became an advocate of individualized education plans for special needs students as a result of her 2008 exchange in Worcester, Mass.



'I will support Open World "vyuma rukami" (with both hands).'

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev
St. Petersburg, Russia, May 27, 2009

Open World Celebrates 10 Years of Partnerships



Open World alumni, trustees, hosts, friends, supporters, and staff gathered on Sept. 29 at the Library of Congress for a gala celebration of the Open World program's 10th anniversary, generously supported by Mr. Donald M. Kendall, former chairman and CEO of PepsiCo. Founded by Congress in 1999 as a result of the vision of Board Chairman James H. Billington and Russian academic Dmitriy Likhachev, Open World has remained a program where Russian and other Eurasian leaders can engage with their American counterparts and create dialogue and partnerships to benefit present and future generations.



The day started in the Library's Members Room with a symposium of alumni, Members of Congress, Obama administration representatives, and Open World trustees. Among those taking part were Washington Capitals owner Ted Leonsis, front right, and his star Russian players: Alexander Semin, far left, Alex Ovechkin, third from left, and Semyon Varlamov, far right. Pictured with the Capitals contingent are Virginia Rep. Jim Moran, third from right, and Michael McFaul, front, special adviser to the President and senior director of Russian and Eurasian Affairs at the National Security Council. Chairman Billington described the three hockey players as "the Russian heart of the Washington Capitals."



Open World Trustee Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska, center, sports a 4-H cap given to him by Vladislav Ovchinnikov, right, vice chancellor for social work at Kemerovo State University in Russia. Ovchinnikov started a 4-H program in his hometown after staying at a Nebraska 4-H camp during an Open World exchange hosted by Dr. Kay Rockwell, left, professor emerita of the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Chairman Billington joins Open World host Judi Dutcher, president and director of the Museum of Russian Art in Minneapolis, during a pre-dinner reception in the Members Room. Open World nominated Dutcher to take part in a Russian-sponsored arts exchange to St. Petersburg in summer 2008.

Post-reception, attendees moved into the Great Hall of the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building for a Eurasian-themed dinner. Pictured, from left, are Michael White, vice chairman of PepsiCo and CEO of PepsiCo International; Donald M. Kendall, former chairman and CEO of PepsiCo; former Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens; and Larry D. Thompson, senior vice president for government affairs, general counsel, and secretary of PepsiCo.



Chairman Billington hosted a small afternoon gathering in the Librarian's Ceremonial Office for Open World trustees and others to meet with Mr. Kendall and Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich, right, who had recently cofounded the bipartisan Congressional Russia Caucus with Georgia Rep. Tom Price.



Sen. Ben Nelson, left, toasts 10 years of the Open World Program with Hussein Chechenov, chair of the Committee on Education and Science of the Federation Council, the upper house of the Russian parliament.



Ambassador Abdujabbor Shirinov of Tajikistan, left, talks with Jeffrey Minear, counselor to the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, during the dinner in the Great Hall. Ambassador Sergey Kislyak of Russia, Ambassador Oleh Shamshur of Ukraine, and Ambassador Nicolae Chirtoaca of Moldova also attended the celebration.

Thanks to the support of Congress, the vision of the Open World Leadership Center Board of Trustees, and the Center's relationships with leaders throughout the United States and Eurasia, the Open World program continues to flourish in the 21st century, promoting mutual understanding and grassroots partnerships that span much of the globe.

Open World Partners

The Open World Leadership Center would like to acknowledge the agencies and organizations that worked so effectively with Center staff to carry out program operations and specialized programming in 2009, and the donors that so generously supported the Center's alumni program.

General Program Support

The **Library of Congress** provided the Open World Leadership Center with financial-management services, administrative support, and office and event space through an interagency agreement.

U.S. Embassy staff in Open World countries made recommendations on 2009 nominating organizations and themes; participated in nominating and selecting candidates; hosted candidate vetting sessions; and took part in pre-departure orientation sessions and alumni events. Embassy staff also served as the Center's liaison with government and nongovernmental entities.

The nonprofit **American Councils for International Education** provided major administrative and logistical support to Open World.

Cooperative Programming

The **Honorable Charles Taylor** of Asheville, N.C., provided hosting and financial support for government and business leaders from Ivanovo Region, Russia, who visited his community.

Cultural Leaders Program

Major support for Open World's Cultural Leaders Program was provided through partnership and funding from the **National Endowment for the Arts**, which works with Open World to find opportunities for dialogue and collaboration between Russian artists and arts managers and their U.S. counterparts. The NEA also advised on program design and content.

CEC ArtsLink staff in New York and St. Petersburg, Russia, administered the Cultural Leaders Program nominations process, helped coordinate pre-visit communications, and provided program evaluations.

Rule of Law Program

The **U.S. Judicial Conference Committee on International Judicial Relations** (IJRC) coordinates the U.S. federal judiciary's relations with foreign judiciaries and serves as an international resource on the rule of law. The IJRC helped develop Open World's rule of law programming and organized federal court participation in the program, recruiting federal host judges and providing general program guidance. In its capacity as the U.S. federal judiciary's administrative arm, the **Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts** provides staff support to the IJRC. This staff assisted federal host judges and organized the Washington orientations for rule of law delegates.

Alumni Program

American Councils for International Education managed the privately funded Alumni Program and tracked Open World results.

Open World Trustee Ambassador **George Argyros** and the **Argyros Family Foundation** generously committed \$500,000 to the Alumni Program, for expenditure over a three-year period beginning in June 2008 (the Argyros Fund). Other donations to Open World's Alumni Program came from the **Russell Family Foundation** in Gig Harbor, Wash.; **TNK-BP** oil company, headquartered in Moscow; Michael Yanney, chairman of the Burlington Capital Group in Omaha; the **Oklahoma Bar Foundation**; and former U.S. ambassador to Russia and current Open World trustee **James F. Collins**.

2009 National Host Organizations

Each year the Open World Leadership Center competitively selects organizations across the United States to carry out its community-based professional exchanges. The national host organizations (grantees) conduct the visits themselves or recruit and oversee a network of local affiliates and partners that do so. The Center gratefully acknowledges the following organizations for serving as national hosts for Open World delegations in 2009:

Academy for Educational Development	Washington, D.C.
Brubeck Institute at the University of the Pacific	Stockton, Calif.
CEC ArtsLink	New York, N.Y.
Center for Safe Energy (Earth Island Institute)	Berkeley, Calif.
Council of International Programs USA	Cleveland, Ohio
Freedom House, Inc.	Washington, D.C.
Friendship Force International	Atlanta, Ga.
Future of Russia Foundation	Huron, Ohio
Institute for Global Health, University of Massachusetts Amherst	Amherst, Mass.
Keystone Human Services International	Harrisburg, Pa.
League of Women Voters	Washington, D.C.
Magee Womancare International	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Mississippi Consortium for International Development	Jackson, Miss.
National Peace Foundation	Washington, D.C.
Northcentral Technical College	Wausau, Wis.
Resource Foundation	Carmel, Indiana
Rotary International	Evanston, Ill.
Russian Rule of Law Consortium	Burlington, Vt.
State of Connecticut Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division	Wethersfield, Conn.
Supporters of Civil Society in Russia, Inc.	St. Louis, Mo.
Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center at George Mason University	Arlington, Va.
University of Iowa International Writing Program	Iowa City, Iowa
University of Louisville School of Music	Louisville, Ky.
U.S.-Ukraine Foundation	Washington, D.C.
Vista360°	Jackson, Wyo.
Vital Voices Global Partnership	Washington, D.C.
World Services of La Crosse, Inc.	La Crosse, Wis.

2009 Local Host Organizations

Open World would like to thank the following organizations and institutions for hosting our delegations in 2009:

Alabama

Friendship Force of Birmingham
University of Alabama in Huntsville, Office
of International Programs and Services

Alaska

Alaska/Khabarovsk Rule of Law
Partnership Committee
Alaska Court System
Rotary Club of Homer-Kachemak Bay

Arizona

Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities Committee

Arkansas

Arkansas Council for International
Visitors*

California

Alushta-Santa Cruz Sister City Support
Brubeck Institute at the University of the
Pacific
Center for Safe Energy*
Citizen Diplomacy Council of San Diego
County of Santa Clara/Moscow Sister
County Commission
Friendship Force of Kern County*
Kidsave International
League of Women Voters of Piedmont
Northern California World Trade Center
Rotary Club of Pasadena
Sacramento City College, International
Studies Program

Colorado

Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities
Colorado Springs Sister Cities
International*
Friendship Force of Northern Colorado*
Institute of International Education, Rocky
Mountain Regional Center
Rotary Club of Longmont
Telluride Film Festival
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

Connecticut

Connecticut/Pskov Rule of Law
Partnership Committee
Connecticut Superior Court
Global Training and Development Institute,
University of Connecticut*
League of Women Voters of Canton, CT
State of Connecticut Judicial Branch

Delaware

Delaware Justice of the Peace Courts

District of Columbia

Global Arts Network
Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens
VitalVoices Global Partnership*

Florida

Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida
International Visitor Corps of Jacksonville,
Inc.*
Miami Council for International Visitors
Rotary Club of Seminole County South
Sister City Program of Gainesville, Inc.
U.S. District Court for the Middle District
of Florida
U.S. District Court for the Southern
District of Florida

Georgia

Columbus-Zugdidi Sister Cities
Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta
Georgia Council for International Visitors
Hall, Booth, Smith & Slover, P.C.*
U.S. District Court for the Northern
District of Georgia
World Health Organization Collaborating
Center in Reproductive Health, Emory
University School of Medicine*

Idaho

Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival,
University of Idaho

Illinois

International Cultural Educational
Association
International Visitors Center of Chicago*
Rotary Club of Chicago
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh
Circuit
U.S. District Court for the Southern
District of Illinois

Indiana

Indiana Judicial Center
Resource Foundation, Inc.

Iowa

Community Sister City Organization
Council Bluffs Sister City Association
Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa
City
Iowa Sister States*
U.S. District Court for the Southern
District of Iowa

Kansas

Rotary Club of West Wichita
Winfield Rotary Club, Rotary District
5690

Kentucky

Kentucky World Trade Center
University of Louisville School of Music
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
World Affairs Council of Kentucky &
Southern Indiana*

Maine

Maine/Arkhangelsk Rule of Law
Partnership Committee*

Maryland

Baltimore-Odesa Sister City Committee
Center for International Programs*
Friends of Chernobyl Centers, U.S.
League of Women Voters of Baltimore
County
Maryland/Leningrad Oblast Rule of Law
Partnership Committee
Maryland Sister States Program*
National Council for the Traditional Arts
National Peace Foundation

Massachusetts

International Center of Worcester
Jacob's Pillow Dance
Massachusetts Trial Court, Probate and
Family Court Department
Rotary Club of West Springfield
Rotary International District 7950
University of Massachusetts Institute for
Global Health*
U.S. District Court for the District of
Massachusetts
WorldBoston

Michigan

Colleagues International, Inc.*
International Visitors Council of
Metropolitan Detroit
Kalamazoo-Pushkin Partnership
Committee

Minnesota

Duluth/Petrozavodsk Committee, Duluth
Sister Cities International, Inc.
Minnesota Supreme Court
North Country Health Services
Plymouth Church Global Connections
Committee
Rotary Club of Hibbing
Rotary Club of White Bear Lake, Rotary
District 5960
Ted Dooley Law Office, LLC
U.S. District Court for the District of
Minnesota

Mississippi

Mississippi Consortium for International
Development

Missouri

City of Columbia, Public Communications
Office
Friendship Force of St. Louis
Greater St. Louis-Samara Sister City
Committee
International Visitors Council of Greater
Kansas City

Kansas City Plaza Rotary Club
League of Women Voters of Kansas City,
Mo., Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties
Supporters of Civil Society in Russia, Inc.*
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western
District of Missouri
World Affairs Council of St. Louis

Montana

Advisory Commission on International
Relationships, City of Great Falls
Montana Center for International Visitors

Nebraska

Applied Information Management (AIM)
Institute
Friendship Force of Lincoln

Nevada

Las Vegas Rotary
Northern Nevada International Center*
U.S. District Court for the District of
Nevada

New Hampshire

New Hampshire/Vologda Rule of Law
Partnership Committee
Portsmouth/Severodvinsk Connection

New Jersey

Global Education Center at Montclair
State University
Princeton University, Department of Slavic
Languages and Literatures

New Mexico

Albuquerque/Ashgabat Sister Cities
Committee
Los Alamos-Sarov Sister Cities Initiative
Santa Fe Council on International
Relations*

New York

International Center of Syracuse*
International Film Seminars, Inc.
International Institute of Buffalo
Irondequoit-Poltava Sister Cities
Linkages of Rochester, Inc.
Western New York/Novgorod Rule of Law
Partnership Committee

North Carolina

American Dance Festival
Durham-Kostroma Sister Cities
Committee
Institute for Global Collaboration, Forsyth
Technical Community College
International Affairs Council
International House of Metrolina*

North Dakota

Minot Area Council for International
Visitors
Peace Lutheran and Our Savior's Lutheran
Churches

Ohio

Cincinnati-Ukraine Partnership*
Cleveland Council on World Affairs*
Columbus International Program*
International Visitors Council, Columbus*
League of Women Voters of the Greater
Dayton Area
Supreme Court of Ohio

Oklahoma

Rotary Club of Oklahoma City
Tulsa Global Alliance*

Oregon

Eugene Emerald Rotary Club
Grants Pass Sister City Committee
League of Women Voters of Portland
Umpqua Community College
World Affairs Council of Oregon

Pennsylvania

American Institute of Finance and
Technology
Friendship Force of Greater Harrisburg*
GlobalPittsburgh*
Keystone Human Services International*
Magee Womancare International
Pennsylvania State University, College
of Agricultural Sciences, International
Programs
Ukrainian Cultural and Humanitarian
Institute
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District
of Pennsylvania

Rhode Island

Rotary International District 7950

South Carolina

Richland School District Two
Walker Institute for International and Area
Studies, University of South Carolina

South Dakota

Dacotah Territory International Visitor
Program
U.S. District Court for the District of
South Dakota

Tennessee

Blount County Sister City Association*
Friendship Force of Knoxville, TN*

Texas

Grapevine Rotary Club
League of Women Voters of Tyler/Smith
County
Rotary Club of San Antonio North
Central
Rotary Club of Northwest Austin
Texas A&M University, Sponsored Student
Programs

Utah

International Hosting
Izhevsk-Salt Lake City Partnership
Salt Lake Community College
Tooele Sister Cities, Inc.
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
U.S. District Court for the District of Utah
Utah Valley University, Office of
International Affairs & Diplomacy*

Vermont

Vermont Karelia Rule of Law Project, Inc.

Virginia

Albert V. Bryan U.S. Courthouse
Arlington Sister City Association
National District Attorneys Association
Norfolk Sister City Association, Inc.
Rotary Club of Lynchburg
Rotary Clubs of Alexandria and Mount
Vernon
Terrorism, Transnational Crime and
Corruption Center at George Mason
University*
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District
of Virginia
World Music Folklife Center

Washington

Foundation for Russian American
Economic Cooperation
Rotary Club of Lewis River
Spokane Community College
World Affairs Council of Seattle*

West Virginia

Center for International Understanding,
Inc.*

Wisconsin

Fox Valley Technical College
Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee*
Green Bay West Rotary Club
Hedberg Public Library
Jackson-Monroe-Vernon County
Leadership Program
Madison Area Technical College
National Peace Foundation
Northcentral Technical College
Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute,
Northland College

Wyoming

Vista 360°

*This organization hosted two or more
local Open World exchanges in 2009.

Program Information

Program History

Congress launched Open World exchanges for emerging Russian leaders in May 1999, in response to a speech that Librarian of Congress James H. Billington had recently given to senior Members of Congress on the future of Russia. In 2000, Congress created a separate legislative branch entity with a public-private board of trustees to manage the exchange program. The new administering agency, the Open World Leadership Center, opened its doors at the Library of Congress in October 2001. Congress made the other post-Soviet states, as well as Russian cultural leaders, eligible for Open World in 2003, and one year later extended program eligibility to any other country designated by the Center's board. In July 2006, the board approved new exchanges for Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and Tajikistan, and continued the original exchange with Russia and a program with Ukraine that had begun in 2003. The board in 2006 also approved a Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2007–2011. In 2007, Open World began to track results and meet other goals laid out in the plan, including launching exchange programs for the five expansion countries approved by the board in 2006.

With the board's approval, Open World in 2008 initiated programs for Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, bringing the number of countries participating in Open World to nine. In 2009, 1,390 participants came to the United States on Open World exchanges.

Open World Leadership Center

Staff

Washington, D.C.

Executive Director

The Honorable John O'Keefe
Ambassador (Ret.)

Financial Management Officer

Jane Sargus

Program Managers

Vera DeBuchananne
Lewis Madanick
Jeffrey Magnuson

Executive Assistant

Chang Suh

Public Affairs Officer

Maura Shelden

Moscow

Country Director

Alexander Khilkov

Deputy Country Director

Yelena Yefremova

Statistics

Open World has brought 16,500 current and future leaders from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan to the United States since 1999.

Government officials—federal, regional, and local—account for more than 50 percent of Open World delegates.

The average age of Open World delegates is 37.

Fifty-three percent of Open World delegates are women.

More than 6,100 host families in about 1,700 communities in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia have hosted Open World participants.

Statistics are as of December 31, 2009.

Open World Financial Information

In fiscal year 2009, the Open World Leadership Center received \$12,000,000 in appropriated funds, \$500,000 in interagency transfers, and \$412,724 in direct private donations. In calendar year 2009, the accumulated value of cost-sharing with the Open World community of grantees, local host organizations, and individual local hosts totaled \$1.7 million.

The Open World Leadership Center submitted a complete set of financial statements for fiscal year 2009 to the independent public accounting firm of Kearney & Company for a full audit. For the Center's fourth full audit, Kearney & Company again issued an unqualified (clean) audit opinion on the financial statements and reported no material weaknesses or reportable conditions in Open World's internal control, and no instances of noncompliance with laws and regulations affecting the financial statements. The table on page 32 (with accompanying notes) and the one immediately below present the fiscal year 2009 financial highlights from the Center's Consolidated Balance Sheets and Consolidated Statement of Net Costs. The Financial Statements document (with notes) and Kearney & Company's Independent Auditor's Report are available in full on the Open World website at www.openworld.gov.

OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER

Consolidated Statements of Net Costs For the Years Ended September 30, 2009 and 2008

	FY 2009	FY 2008
Net Costs by Program Area:		
Program Costs	\$14,643,577	\$17,233,322
Less Earned Revenue	0	0
Net Costs of Operations	<u>\$14,643,577</u>	<u>\$17,233,322</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER

Consolidated Balance Sheets As of September 30, 2009 and 2008

	FY 2009	FY 2008
ASSETS		
Entity Assets:		
Intragovernmental Assets		
Fund Balance with Treasury (Note 2)	\$ 1,034,951	\$ 974,019
Investments (Note 3)	7,727,380	6,938,700
Total Intragovernmental	8,762,331	7,912,719
Property and Equipment	1,586	2,039
Prepayments (Note 4)	471,549	421,700
Other (Note 5)	0	1,615
Total Assets	<u>\$ 9,235,466</u>	<u>\$ 8,338,073</u>
LIABILITIES		
Intragovernmental Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Funded Payroll Benefits	\$ 160,080	\$ 25,683
Advances from Others	406,729	119,967
Total Intragovernmental	566,809	145,650
Accounts Payable and Accrued Funded Payroll Benefits	1,136,589	1,158,142
Unfunded Annual and Compensatory Leave	64,978	94,581
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 1,768,376</u>	<u>\$ 1,398,373</u>
NET POSITION		
Cumulative Results of Operations - Earmarked	7,467,090	6,939,700
Total Net Position	7,467,090	6,939,700
Total Liabilities and Net Position	<u>\$ 9,235,466</u>	<u>\$ 8,338,073</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Note 2. Fund Balance with Treasury

	2009	2008
OWLC Funds Originally from Appropriations	\$ 207,244	\$ 325,456
Gift Funds	827,707	648,563
Total	\$ 1,034,951	\$ 974,019
Status of Fund Balance with Treasury:		
	2009	2008
Unobligated Balances – Available	\$ 0	\$ 0
Obligated Balances - Unavailable	1,034,951	974,019
Total	\$ 1,034,951	\$ 974,019

Note 3. Investments, net

The Center’s funds that are not needed currently to finance current activities are invested in interest-bearing obligations of the United States. The Center has directed the Library to invest funds derived from contributions in Treasury securities. Due to the short-term nature of the investments, the cost of investments in conjunction with accrued interest approximates their fair market values. Investments outstanding were \$7,727,380 and \$6,938,700 for fiscal years 2009 and 2008. Average annual investment rates were 3.344% and 4.542% in fiscal years 2009 and 2008.

	2009	2008
Face Value	\$ 7,677,000	\$ 6,870,000
Interest Receivable	50,380	68,700
Investments, Net	\$ 7,727,380	\$ 6,938,700

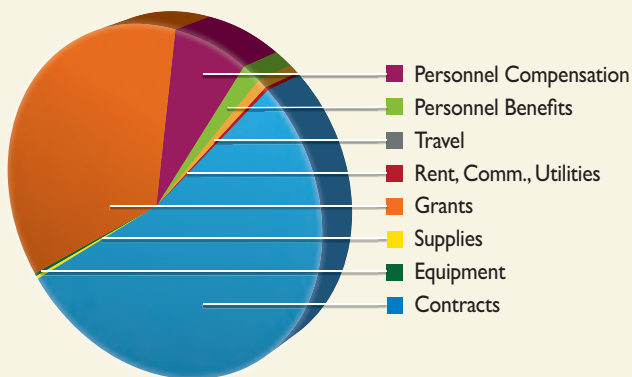
Note 4. Prepayments

The Center awards grants to approximately 20 organizations with exchange-program expertise that are competitively selected for the purpose of hosting the foreign delegates. In fiscal years 2009 and 2008, \$471,549 and \$421,700 had been paid to but not yet used by these organizations to carry out their services.

Note 5. Other Assets

Other assets primarily consist of account receivables for fiscal year 2008 of \$1,615.

DISTRIBUTION OF SELECT OBLIGATIONS CATEGORIES, FY2009



Note: "Contracts" includes, but is not limited to, the costs of applicant and participant processing, travel planning, participant airfare, and database management and other expert services. "Grants" covers payments to hosting organizations.

OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER OBLIGATIONS FY2009

Category	FY2009 Actual Obligations
Personnel Compensation	955,283
Personnel Benefits	232,411
Travel	85,241
Transportation of Things	2,716
Rent, Comm., Utilities	16,237
Printing	5,059
Other Services/Contracts	9,150,345
Supplies	7,920
Equipment	440
Grants	5,047,636
TOTAL – FY2009 Obligations	\$ 15,503,288

Note: Administrative costs equal \$1,019,292 or 7 percent of total obligations. Open World used trust fund revenue, prior year recovered funds, and cost reduction measures to maintain programming at previous years' levels.