

OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER

Annual Report

2008



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OPEN WORLD 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

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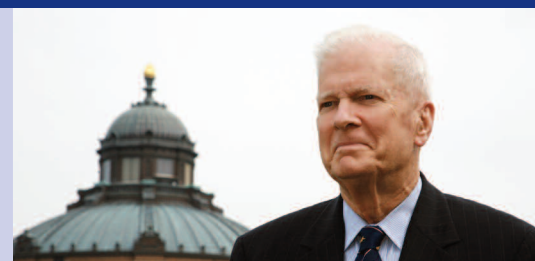
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The President of the Senate The Speaker of the House of Representatives

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 2008 annual report on the Open World exchange program. Through Open World, Congress has linked over 14,000 emerging leaders from countries of Eurasia to communities throughout the United States. Some 6,000 American volunteer families in all 50 states have hosted these leaders from an expanding number of different countries. Additionally, hundreds of Members of Congress have hosted or met groups of Open World participants, providing a useful avenue for Members to carry out their oversight responsibilities on a range of topics, from human-trafficking issues to nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

This 2008 annual report summarizes Open World's accomplishments in a country-by-country review that highlights our professional programming in the United States. Our participants make use of the ideas, experiences, and professional contacts they gain through Open World. For example, inside our report you will learn more about how two public health care providers from Moldova shared their American experience with their colleagues in trainings across Moldova on tuberculosis issues in Moldova and the United States. In the section on Azerbaijan, you will read about how an NGO leader adapted a campaign volunteer form for a 2008 U.S. congressional candidate to recruit citizen monitors for Azerbaijan's 2008 presidential election.

The success of Open World does not lie in the accomplishments of the participants alone, as dedicated Americans continue the work of Open World well beyond initial contact with the program. Often, American hosts make reciprocal visits to see alumni of Open World in their home countries. Additionally, the generosity of our many supporters provides a means for Open World to thrive. We are especially grateful to Mr. George Russell and Open World Trustee Ambassador George L. Argyros for donations from their family foundations, which helped support the enhancement of our alumni program.

In 2008, as we approached our 10th year, Open World continued to actively adapt its programming. Open World engaged dozens of delegates in a historic U.S. election as it unfolded through the year, with an additional 100-plus delegates observing or participating in activities on Election Day. In response to a congressional request, Open World began to focus on child protection and adoption issues, linking Russian social services professionals with their U.S. counterparts in Virginia, Maryland, and Michigan. Our alumni also applied aspects of their American experience to their own efforts to improve their societies, such as by increasing volunteerism, strengthening disability rights, and encouraging greater transparency in government.

As Open World expands its reach into Eurasia, the program will offer the new generation of leaders in this strategically significant region exposure to the American traditions of individual rights and accountability of elected officials.

Sincerely,



James H. Billington
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Message from the Executive Director



We at the Open World Leadership Center expanded our program in 2008 to Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, two nations poised to play an important role in Central Asia not just because of their enormous gas and oil reserves, but because of the contribution they can make to maintaining stability in the region. In 2008, delegates from the nine Open World countries visited a total of 212 congressional districts in 44 states, where Americans welcomed them into their homes and their communities. Open World's practical results, which often benefit both the countries of our guests and the U.S. towns and cities where they stayed, showed a significant increase in the number of partnerships created and projects undertaken by the delegates when they returned to their home countries.

This year's annual report features country-by-country examples of the impact that Open World has had on delegates and those they visited in the United States. As the report demonstrates, Open World builds bridges between professionals in many fields, from the first lady of Maryland, state District Judge Catherine O'Malley, who visited Leningrad Region alumni to continue her work with them on fighting domestic violence, to the jazz delegates who jammed with Chick Corea in Louisville, Kentucky. Exchanges that reinforce sister-city relationships—such as those between

Prairie Village, Kansas, and Dolnya, Ukraine, and Atlanta, Georgia, and Tbilisi, Georgia—have led to a blossoming of projects that would not otherwise have occurred. A senior officer in the U.S. Embassy in our newest partner country, Turkmenistan, wrote that “the program has a huge impact for visitors because they have been so isolated, and had few opportunities to see how things are done elsewhere,” attesting to the power of Open World to break down barriers. That we do this at low cost shows that our funds are well spent.

Open World would be just another of the scores of exchange programs run by the government were it not for our hosts who welcome Open World delegates into their homes, our dedicated staff, the high-quality delegate nominations coming from U.S. government agencies, NGOs, and others, and the cooperation of our embassies abroad and participating-country organizations. Our active, committed hosts and delegates, after being brought together through Open World exchanges, have joined to produce numerous partnerships in such vital endeavors as nuclear non-proliferation, maternal and child health care, human-trafficking prevention, and rural development.

Let me thank our tireless staff, grantees, contractors, and hosts, our generous donors and partners, and, especially, our participants. Together, they have created a vibrant, effective exchange of people, ideas, and practices benefiting thousands of communities throughout Open World's network of nations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John O'Keefe".

John O'Keefe
Executive Director



2008 – Open World Expands



Open World, founded in 1999 by the U.S. Congress to build mutual understanding between Russia and the United States by bringing young Russian leaders here to learn about American democracy and civil society, has always worked to expand its reach. Initially we did so by selecting participants from across Russia and hosting them in communities throughout the United States. Today, we continue to draw delegates from all corners of our participating countries and to host them in cities and towns across America. And Open World's virtual networking tools and overseas alumni activity encourage professional interactions begun during the U.S. visit to bear fruit afterward.

In 2008, Open World added Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to its seven existing program countries, all located in the strategically important heartland of Eurasia. We also expanded on other fronts, adding to our network of alumni and American hosts and contacts, fostering more partnerships and projects between participants and Americans, and connecting more Members of Congress, congressional staff, and other U.S. leaders to the future Eurasian decision-makers we brought to the United States. Our 2008 annual report illustrates, country by country, the concrete accomplishments and results produced by our expanding network of alumni, hosts, and partners.



Open World's original focus country has been sending emerging leaders to the United States since July 1999. Russia's more than 12,000 participants have come from all of the country's 83 regions, with heavy representation from regional and local governments, the judiciary and the legal profession, and the health, education, and social services sectors. Congress in 2003 established a separate Open World program for Russian cultural leaders.



Maryland First Lady Works with Alumni in Sister Region

On Feb. 9, state judge and Maryland first lady Catherine O'Malley, U.S. District Judge and Open World host Richard Bennett of Baltimore, and Open World cohost Pamela Harris, court administrator for the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Md., left for their Russian sister state of Leningrad Region on a reciprocal visit

involving several Open World alumni. (The three Marylanders are all active in the Maryland/Leningrad Oblast [Region] Rule of Law Partnership Committee, an affiliate of one of Open World's longtime grantees, the Russian American Rule of Law Consortium.) In the town of Tosno, the Maryland delegation had talks with alumni judges and others taking part in a pilot project on domestic violence prevention, visited a victims

rehabilitation center and the police department, observed a domestic violence trial, and met with the city's chief prosecutor (also an alumna) and her colleagues. The Americans and Russians compared investigative and courtroom procedures and planned future partnership activities on domestic violence prevention, which Open World hopes to support through exchanges.



"The Open World program is very important to the State of Maryland. The financial support through its grants and the expertise of its staff allow the Maryland Sister States Program to continue to actively pursue its projects and exchanges, most notably in municipal governance and education, with its partner state in Russia, the Leningrad Region."

— John P. McDonough
Maryland Secretary of State



Piano great Chick Corea accompanies saxophonist Stanislav Dolzhkov at a University of Louisville jazz clinic in February.

Visit Changes How Russian Clinic Treats HIV-Positive Pregnant Women

Dr. Yelena Voropayeva, who works at the city HIV/AIDS clinic in Orsk, reported that as a result of her April 2008 Open World trip to Minneapolis, she initiated the early start of anti-retroviral (ARV) therapy for HIV-positive pregnant women treated at her clinic, and also shifted from monotherapy (using one ARV drug) to highly active retroviral therapy, or HAART (using multiple ARV drugs), for these mothers-to-be. Orsk, which is near Kazakhstan, has one of Russia's highest rates of HIV infection, partly owing to the high level of injectable drug use. The clinic previously relied on an older standard of monotherapy for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT). Two Open World activities were key to Dr. Voropayeva's decision to change her clinic's PMTCT

protocol. After presenting an overview of HIV in Russia to some American counterparts, she learned from them that the rate of mother-to-child transmission has dropped to about 2 percent in developed countries, partly because of the use of multiple drug therapy. Dr. Voropayeva then, during a site visit to the University of Minnesota's Delaware Street HIV clinic, saw the results of using HAART and learned the specifics on how and when to deliver the medications from clinic staff. Dr. Voropayeva also benefited from discussing PMTCT with her host coordinator and home host, nurse Linda Brandt, who has worked on HIV case management in Voropayeva's home region of Orenburg. National grantee: World Services of La Crosse, Inc.

Cultural Delegates Jam with Chick Corea

During a Feb. 16–March 3 Open World visit to Louisville, Ky., four young Russian jazz stars shared a stage with piano great Chick Corea. The American jazz master was in town to give a jazz clinic for the University of Louisville School of Music, the delegates' host organization. About 100 musicians attended the clinic. The Russian delegates performed as a quartet for Corea, who thrilled everyone by accompanying the group on drums before taking over on keyboard. Said bass player Sergey Korchagin, "It was an incredible experience—to act together with someone of this level of musicianship ... someone I had only heard on records before. It felt absolutely wonderful to play together."

Alumni Make Strong Showing in Russian Parliamentary Election

The Dec. 2, 2008 contests for the State Duma, the lower house of Russia's parliament, saw 46 Open World alumni win seats—accounting for just over

10 percent of the chamber's 450 members. Of these 46 alumni, 25 were elected to a consecutive term, 13 will be first-time federal legislators, and 8

will be returning to the body after having lost their seats in the 2003 races.

Russian Delegations Observe U.S. Elections

One of the most eventful Election Days in U.S. history provided an exciting lesson in democracy for Russian accountable governance delegates who visited cities across the United States in early November to study the U.S. electoral process. Many of the Russians accompanied their hosts to the polls to watch them engage in the fundamental ritual of democracy. The delegates—mainly government officials and journalists—also went behind the scenes, observing operations at local campaign and party headquarters, media outlets, and board of election offices. For example:

- Two city duma deputies, a deputy's aide, and a journalist watched preparations for opening the polls in Broward County, Fla. *League of Women Voters of Broward County*
- Russian journalists viewed the latest polling numbers and projected results at the Gallup Organization's operational headquarters. *Kiwanis Club of Omaha, Inc.*
- At Oak Park, Ill. Democratic Party headquarters, delegates spoke with veterans of Sen. Barack Obama's previ-

ous runs for office and observed get-out-the-vote phone banking. *Friendship Force of Northern Illinois*

- Russian officials and legislative aides spoke on issues with getting out the vote in their country to a Wichita State University class. *League of Women Voters of Wichita Metro*
- Government officials interviewed the manager of the Asheville, N.C. television station about its election coverage, asking whether there is interference from the station owner or public officials. *Friendship Force of Western North Carolina*
- A facilitator was interviewed on live television about Montgomery, Ala. Mayor Bobby Bright's ultimately successful bid for Alabama's hotly contested 2nd Congressional District seat. *Friendship Force of Montgomery*
- Russian local officials dropped by a gathering of Republicans in Sedalia, Mo., celebrating wins by their local candidates. *League of Women Voters of Sedalia-Pettis County*



Russian delegates and League of Women Voters cohost Alice Levy (second from right) stand before a Broward County (Fla.) bus that bears an Election Day reminder.

- Delegates stopped by the Montgomery County (Ohio) Board of Elections to watch the coverage on the multiple TVs in the county auditorium and to discuss the ballot-counting process with the board's director. *Friendship Force of Dayton*
 - In Reston, Va., Russian delegates who had attended Sen. Obama's final campaign rally in Manassas, Va., the previous night watched election coverage with several of their home hosts until 1:00 a.m. *American Association of University Women, Reston-Herndon Area Branch*
- National grantees: Academy for Educational Development, Friendship Force International, League of Women Voters, National Peace Foundation

Alumnus Introduces Peer-to-Peer Counseling After Wisconsin Visit

As a direct result of his March 2008 Open World exchange to Wausau, Wis., Aleksey Shatrov, the general director of a Tatarstan NGO called the Center of Humanitarian Research and Social Technologies, introduced the peer educational approach into his center's work to prevent youth drug abuse. Shatrov was interested in learning new approaches to health promotion and substance abuse prevention during his

exchange, which was hosted by North-central Technical College. He was deeply impressed by how peer education helps overcome age, psychological, social, and other barriers to counseling youth. One of the activities that most inspired Shatrov's interest in peer-to-peer counseling was meeting with residents at Oxford House, a self-run addiction recovery house. Another useful session was held at the Women's

Community, which offers support groups to victims of domestic and sexual abuse. Shatrov has already integrated peer educational modules into the preventive curriculum of his center and prepared a group of more than 30 peer trainers. He estimates that about 1,000 young people will participate annually in peer educational preventive activities. National grantee: World Services of La Crosse, Inc.



Ukraine, Europe's second-largest country, has participated in Open World since December 2003. Ukraine's 800-plus alumni have come from all of the country's 27 regions and include journalists, judges, local legislators, election experts, and NGO leaders. Programming in 2008 focused on accountable governance, to aid in Ukraine's decentralization process; NGO development, to help build the advocacy and voluntary sectors; rule of law, to bolster judicial independence; and education, to support equal access at all levels.

Sen. Ben Nelson Meets in Omaha with Ukrainian Leaders

Ukrainian regional and local government officials hosted in Omaha in October 2008 met with Nebraska Sen. Ben Nelson (pictured, third from left). During their visit, conducted by the AIM Institute, the delegates also observed a pre-

meeting of the Omaha City Council and attended a meeting of the Midwest International Trade Association, where they had the opportunity to network with American business leaders. National grantee: U.S.-Ukraine Foundation



New Sister Cities Strengthen Ties Through 2008 Visit

In October 2008, Prairie Village, Kans., hosted a delegation of local legislators from its new Ukrainian sister city of Dolyna. The Ukrainians attended a session of the Prairie Village City Council; met with Mayor Ron Shaffer; and, led by the city administrator, toured and had an overview of municipal services at Prairie Village City Hall. As two of the delegates also serve as school administrators, the program included talks with Shawnee Mission School District officials and visits to six district schools. To better acquaint Prairie Village leaders and residents with their new sister city, the delegates made presentations on Dolyna and their own work at the City Council session and at a Prairie Village Sister City Committee meeting. The International Visitors Council of Greater Kansas City organized the visit. National grantee: U.S.-Ukraine Foundation



Delegates present on Ukrainian culture to students at Belinder Elementary School in Prairie Village, Kans.

Ukrainian Education Leaders Study School Practices in Pennsylvania



Ukrainian education officials and administrators hosted in western Pennsylvania in September discuss the state's role in school funding, curriculum development, and standards-setting with (from left) state Rep. Michelle Brooks and state Sen. Bob Robbins.

Three local education officials and two school administrators, all from Kyiv, received an in-depth introduction to the American educational system during a late September exchange organized by the Rotary Club of Greenville (Pa.), with assistance from the Rotary Club of Hermitage (Pa.) and Rotary District 7280. An extended session with state Sen. Bob Robbins and state Rep. Michelle Brooks (pictured at left) covered the state role in education, while a roundtable with area school superintendents allowed the Ukrainians to

ask wide-ranging questions on education practices. The program also featured tours and talks at a variety of schools, and opportunities for the delegates to discuss the Ukrainian educational system with Pennsylvania educators. The delegates were impressed by the technical instruction available to high school students at the Mercer County Career Center, and were especially inspired by the accommodations they saw for special needs students at all the institutions they visited. National grantee: Rotary International

Social Work Expert Hosts Leaders from Chernobyl-Affected Areas

In June 2008, Norma Berkowitz, professor emerita of the School of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and founding president of the nonprofit Friends of Chernobyl Centers, U.S. (FOCCUS), hosted an exchange on public health for five local and NGO officials from Ukrainian cities affected by the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. Berkowitz is a coeditor of *Chernobyl: The Event and Its Aftermath* and the author of *Humanistic Approaches to Health Care: Focus on Social Work*. Her Madison-based nonprofit assists UNESCO-established community centers that have provided services to thousands of Chernobyl victims over the past 12 years. As part of the June exchange she hosted, Berkowitz organized a roundtable on "Radiation and Health" for

the five Ukrainian delegates. Three U.S. radiation experts affiliated with the University of Wisconsin also participated in the free-flowing discussion. The session gave the delegates the opportunity to get authoritative answers to their questions about radiation in children, children's thyroid issues, cancer, and the impact of soil radiation levels on vegetables. When the delegates were asked in turn by the American discussants about the day-to-day effect of the Chernobyl disaster on their lives, one of the delegates, a psychologist at a community center for Chernobyl-affected populations, said "I have to live with this reality—when I eat foods from my garden I am calculating radiation levels instead of calories." Other sessions held for the delegates included



Open World participants answer questions about life in Ukraine, especially in Chernobyl-affected areas, during a June 27 public forum cosponsored by the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"Public Health and Long Range Planning" and "Working With Children in a Hospital Setting." National grantee: National Peace Foundation

Ukrainian Alumna Organizes Kyiv Protest Against Sex Tourism

Open World alumna and NGO activist Anna Hutsol took the lead in organizing a July 30 protest in central Kyiv against Ukraine's growing sex tourism industry. Members and supporters of Hutsol's women's organization, FEMEN, staged a "street theater" event and held up placards saying "Ukraine is Not a Bordello" in different languages. The goal of the protesters, mainly female university students, was to encourage the Ukrainian government to take legislative action against sex tourism. The rally was covered by Reuters.com, the English-language *Kyiv Post*, and many other media outlets. Hutsol had visited Bethlehem, Pa., in 2007 on a women as leaders exchange hosted by

Northampton Community College. Trip highlights included meeting with representatives of the League of Women Voters and of the Women's Leadership Initiative of the area United Way. Hutsol says, "This is the main lesson I have learned in the U.S., while watching the work of American NGOs—never to wait till the problem resolves itself or the government starts solving it; sometimes our government does not even know about existing problems. You should yourself initiate the change and work in the direction that in the end will result in a big change in your country." National grantee: Academy for Educational Development



Open World alumna Anna Hutsol.

MOLDOVA



Open World launched its program with this small, economically struggling Eastern European nation in March 2007. Open World's 2008 Moldovan exchanges emphasized agribusiness, to support efforts to modernize this sector of the economy; accountable governance, to help government bodies at all levels increase transparency, curb corruption, and foster a culture of public service; and public health, to aid initiatives to reduce infectious disease and improve access to primary care.

Press Officers Study Media Relations in Raleigh, N.C.

After discussing press freedom and media relations from a federal legislator's perspective with Rep. David Price (N.C.) during their Washington, D.C. orientation, an Open World delegation of Moldovan press officers spent April 4–12 in the Raleigh area studying the same subjects with their state and local counterparts, media representatives, and think-tank experts. A meeting with the Town of Cary's public information officer was a trip highlight, and was especially useful for a delegate who serves as

spokesperson for the mayor of Chisinau, Moldova's capital. All the delegates were struck by the effective and close cooperation between Cary's public information officer and the town manager, the transparency in the relationship with the media and civil society, and the variety of techniques used to get information to Cary residents, according to a delegation participant. The International Affairs Council in Raleigh



Press officers and other Moldovan delegates meet with North Carolina Rep. David Price (center) on Capitol Hill on April 3.

hosted the visit. National grantee: Academy for Educational Development



"The Open World Leadership Center provides opportunities for personal and professional interactions that go far beyond the usual exchange programs. Through my personal participation in its programs in my district, I learned firsthand of the Center's exceptional ability to create productive dialogues that lead to continuing relationships."

—Rep. David Price (N.C.)

Public Health Care Providers Share American Experience with Colleagues

Within just a few months of their return from a July 2007 Open World public-health exchange to New York City, Open World alumni and pulmonologists Dr. Liuba Nepoliuc and

Dr. Valentina Vilc began holding trainings across Moldova on tuberculosis (TB) issues in Moldova and the United States. The trainings included discussion of medical-services administration and TB prevention methods. Dr. Vilc estimates that some 300 family doctors, 400 medical assistants, and 60–70 pulmonologists attended these traveling seminars, which were covered by local media. During their 2007 New York City visit, which was conducted by the National Peace Foundation and Scian – The Institute for Scientific Policy Analysis, the two doctors and their fellow delegates took an extensive tour of Bellevue Hospital's Chest Center and TB isolation facility, plus engaged in a detailed question-and-answer session

with the hospital's TB clinic staff. The delegates also met with Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and himself an expert on TB control, and spent a full day in briefings with the department's TB specialists, covering civil liberty issues, directly observed therapy programs, epidemic management, surveillance, treatment protocols, and public-health department administrative procedures. After Dr. Vilc and Dr. Nepoliuc's return home, cohost Lee Feldman, Scian's chair and chief scientific officer, provided additional information on U.S. TB incidence and treatment that was used in the Moldovan training seminars.



Moldovan health leaders visit New York City's Bellevue Hospital in 2007 to learn how its staff diagnose and treat tuberculosis.

Alumna Helps Organize Roundtable on Promoting Moldova

Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration spokesperson Dorina Roman, an Open World 2008 alumna, helped organize a roundtable on "Promoting Moldova Globally" that was held at the U.S. Embassy in Chisinau on Oct. 27, 2008. The event attracted 30-plus attendees, including Moldovan professors, teachers, and students. Its featured speaker was a former government official from Estonia, who described the steps that country took to gain accession to the European Union. Roman and other roundtable participants then discussed strategies for developing and promoting Moldova's assets, which they identified as including bilingualism, qualified professionals,

world-class wines, and a rich cultural heritage. Roman was part of the delegation of Moldovan press officers hosted in Raleigh, N.C., in April by the

International Affairs Council. National grantee: Academy for Educational Development



Moldovan foreign ministry spokesperson and Open World alumna Dorina Roman (in red) attends an October 2008 roundtable in Chisinau that she helped organize.

Judge Opens Doors to a More Transparent and Modern Court

Renovations at the district court in Rezina were unveiled at a Dec. 4, 2008 ribbon-cutting ceremony led by the court's chair, alumna Olga Gangal, and U.S. Ambassador Asif J. Chaudhry (pictured). Ambassador Chaudhry said, "The new court we open today is a symbol of growing Moldovan pride in the rule of law. The changes made demonstrate that it doesn't matter who you are, justice is the same for everyone." The renovation work was done with the support of the Moldova Governance Threshold Country Program, which is managed by USAID. Judge Gangal commented that her Open World exchange, hosted by the Sister City Program of Gainesville (Fla.), Inc., helped her understand the judicial system in the United States and reinforced her organizational efforts. Upgrades to the Rezina court

included a modern IT system that publishes court decisions online and new photocopiers provided to facili-

tate free public access to court archives. National grantee: Academy for Educational Development



U.S. Ambassador Asif J. Chaudhry (left) and alumna Olga Gangal cut the ribbon to open the renovated Rezina District Court.

The small, mountainous nation of Georgia lies between Russia and Turkey and at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. Open World launched its Georgia program in February 2007, hosting a group of legal leaders and local officials. Exchanges in 2008 supported Georgia's initiatives to reform public administration and education, and to prepare for the introduction of jury trials.



Georgian Judges See U.S. Jury-Trial System Up Close in New York City

In April, four judges from Georgia unexpectedly found themselves in a New York City courtroom listening to the father of actress Uma Thurman testify against an obsessed fan accused of stalking her. The compelling proceedings were just one

highlight of an Open World exchange that took the delegates from courtroom to courtroom to observe all the steps in the U.S. jury-trial process. More drama—and insights—came during the two days that the Georgians watched Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Bon-

nie Wittner preside over jury selection in a manslaughter case. The Georgians owed their excellent access to Manhattan courts to their judicial host, state Chief Administrative Judge Ann Pfau, and to Barbara Zahler-Gringer, the state court system's counsel for administration and operations, and Alan Murphy, chief clerk of the Manhattan Supreme Court's criminal division. Talks with Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Ronald A. Zweibel, defense attorney Harvey Fishbein, and prosecutor Robert Hettelman gave the delegates three different expert perspectives on the jury-trial system. All four Georgians sit on the Tbilisi City Court, which is expected to handle the first jury trials held in their homeland since 1921, once implementing legislation is enacted. National grantee: Russian American Rule of Law Consortium



The April 2008 Georgian judicial delegation visits the Brooklyn Bridge.

Atlanta Hosts Organize Georgia to Georgia Business Forum

On Dec. 12, two Open World host organizations—the Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City Committee (ATSCC) and the law firm of Hall, Booth, Smith

& Slover, P.C. (HBSS)—in partnership with the U.S. Department of Commerce, held the first Georgia to Georgia Business Forum in Atlanta. Aimed at showcasing the business potential of the Georgian Republic, the forum was led by Open World host John E. Hall, Jr., chairman of both ATSCC and HBSS. The many area businesspeople who attended heard from representatives of the Embassy of Georgia and the U.S. Department of Commerce as well as from business, legal, and education leaders from the two Georgias. Says Hall, "The Georgia to Georgia Business Forum was a direct development of what has turned into long-term personal and professional friendships initiated and inspired by the Open World program." These relationships began in 2007,

when members of Hall's law firm home-hosted bar association leaders from Tbilisi during Open World's inaugural exchange with the country of Georgia. Hall himself became deeply involved in Atlanta-Tbilisi sister-city activities as a result of this 2007 exchange, assuming the chairmanship of ATSCC in early 2008 and traveling to Tbilisi in the fall to meet with the mayor and NGO leaders. Georgian Open World exchanges hosted in Atlanta by ATSCC and HBSS in 2008 continued the focus on bar association development and legal reform, with help from the Emory University School of Law, and also branched out into higher education. National grantees: Academy for Educational Development, National Peace Foundation



From right: Dr. Archil Undilashvili of Emory University, Georgian diplomat Malkhaz Mikeladze, Open World host John E. Hall, Jr., of the Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City Committee, and Badri Japaridze, vice chairman of the supervisory board of the Tbilisi-based TBC Bank, at the Dec. 12 Georgia to Georgia Business Forum in Atlanta.

New Georgian Parliamentarians Visit the Nation's Capital



New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (center) meets Georgian parliamentarians and Open World and Vital Voices staff on Dec. 10.

On Dec. 10, four newly elected members of the Georgian parliament met with New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (pictured above) as part of an accountable governance exchange hosted in Washington, D.C., by Vital Voices Global Partnership, a longtime Open World grantee. Earlier that day, the Georgians had an hour-long roundtable with House Foreign Affairs Committee Professional Staff Member Amanda Sloat; Jesper Pedersen, a senior staff aide for the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe; and Dr. Kay King, the director of the House Office of Interparliamentary Affairs. Government reform in Georgia and U.S.-Georgian relations were among the subjects discussed. The delegates also had the opportunity, during their Open World-organized D.C. orientation, to meet with John Sherry, an aide to Pennsylvania Rep. and Congressional Georgia Caucus Cochair Allyson Y. Schwartz.

Additional legislatively focused sessions that were helpful to the new lawmakers included a meeting with former Maryland Rep. Ambassador Connie Morella, who discussed her experience working in Congress; a presen-

tation by House Budget Committee Professional Staff Member Morna Miller on the federal budget process and the committee's role in it; and a briefing and question-and-answer session with two USAID officials that emphasized constituent relations and representation, transparency, and legislative consensus-building. Constituent outreach was also the topic of an informative meeting at the National Democratic Institute.

Other meetings concentrated on the Georgians' committee assignments and individual expertise in the areas of education, the environment, finance, human rights, rule of law, and foreign policy. These sessions involved representatives of the U.S. Departments of State, Commerce, and Education; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe; the National Endowment for Democracy; and the International Republican Institute.

Melanne Verveer, Vital Voices' cofounder and chair, wrapped up the Georgian parliamentarians' visit with a briefing on how to partner with NGOs to achieve legislative goals.



Georgian parliamentarians and Vital Voices staff meet in Washington with CNN's Jill Dougherty (front row, second from right).

Candidate Selection for Georgian Exchanges Continues Despite Conflict

The outbreak of hostilities between Georgia and Russia in August did not keep the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi from going ahead with a scheduled Open World candidate vetting session. Participating in the selection process were Public Affairs Officer

Cynthia Whittlesey, Department of Justice Resident Legal Advisor Roger Keller, Public Affairs Assistant Sophie Bzishvili, USAID/Caucasus Program Officer Director Craig Hart, and USAID Office of Democracy and Governance Project Manage-

ment Specialist Nino Buachidze. The resolute vetting committee members selected candidates to travel on rule of law, accountable governance, and education exchanges later in 2008.

An important region along the Silk Road in ancient times, today's Turkmenistan is known for its cotton production as well as its 94 trillion cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves and approximately 600 billion barrels of proven oil reserves. Strategically located, the country shares 1,079 miles of borders with Afghanistan and Iran. Open World welcomed its first delegation from Turkmenistan in October 2008 for a rule of law exchange.



Executive Director O'Keefe Meets with Turkmen Ambassador in Washington

Executive Director John O'Keefe met on Aug. 28 with Turkmenistan's ambassador to the United States, Meret Orazov. The two discussed the inaugural Turkmenistani delegation of four judges arriving in West Virginia on Oct. 18 (see below), as well as Open World's plans for future Turkmenistani exchanges. Community planning was

one of the programming topics covered during the meeting. Ambassador Orazov stressed the importance of developing U.S.-Turkmenistani community-to-community relations, citing sister cities as one example of such ties. He also said he would welcome having Open World delegates from Turkmenistan visit his embassy during their Washington, D.C. orientations. O'Keefe said in the Sept. 5, 2008 issue

of the *Open World News*, "The people of Turkmenistan are entering a period of their history where real progress on educational, judicial, and other reforms is possible, but by no means certain. Open World hosts can explore with their Turkmen guests potential models to adapt to the Turkmen culture."

West Virginia Welcomes Judicial Delegation

Four Turkmen judges hosted in Bluefield, W.Va., in October by the Center for International Understanding, Inc., had in-depth sessions in Charleston with federal judges; West Virginia Supreme Court justices; and U.S. Attorney Charles T. Miller, FBI and U.S. Marshals Service representatives, an Internal Revenue Service special

agent, and a postal special agent. The delegates also met Gov. Joe Manchin III (left photo below), toured the Mercer County Day Report Center in Princeton, and held talks with Mercer County Circuit Judge William Sadler and the general manager/editor of the *Princeton Times* (right photo below). Another highlight for the Turkmen

judges was visiting Beckley federal prison, where the living conditions impressed them. At the beginning of their U.S. visit, the delegates met on Capitol Hill with an aide to Rep. Nick Rahall (W.Va.). National grantee: Academy for Educational Development



Open World's inaugural delegation from Turkmenistan meets in the West Virginia State Capitol with Gov. Joe Manchin III (gesturing). The delegates then had sessions in the capitol with the state attorney general and two senior state legislative aides.



Tammie Toler (center back), general manager and editor of the *Princeton Times*, talks to visiting Turkmen judges about the Freedom of Information Act and how the newspaper informs its readers about judicial and law enforcement matters.

The second-largest Open World country after Russia, Kazakhstan is resource-rich, ethnically diverse, and strategically located between Europe and Asia. Open World's 2008 programming for Kazakhstan focused on accountable governance, women as leaders, public health, and rule of law.



High-Ranking Kazakhstani Jurists Visit Arizona Courts

As part of Open World's inaugural exchange with Kazakhstan, a Supreme Court justice, a senior prosecutorial official, and two judges from this Central Asian nation spent April 19–26 observing court proceedings and meeting with their counterparts in Tucson,

Ariz. The delegation was especially interested in a new state court dedicated to handling cases involving mentally ill defendants—which they saw in action with its founder, Pima County Superior Court Judge Nanette Warner. Other topics the delegates explored included family

law, adoption procedures, and judicial ethics. The Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities Committee, in Kazakhstan since 1987, hosted the visit. National grantee: Academy for Educational Development.

Kazakhstani Delegates Visiting Nevada Have Session on Judicial Discipline



Delegates hosted in Nevada in May enjoy a luncheon given in their honor by state first lady Dawn Gibbons (not shown) and attended by state Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Gibbons (no relation, standing) and other Nevada jurists.

David Sarnowski, the executive director of the Nevada Commission on Judicial Discipline, on May 27 led an open and instructive discussion on judicial discipline with three judges and one prosecutor from Kazakhstan. The question-and-answer session covered the types of complaints that may be filed against state judges, the disciplinary process, and the range of disciplinary actions the commission may impose. Among the other highlights of the delegation's trip to Reno and Carson City were re-

viewing jury trials with a federal judge, discussing the appellate process with state Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Gibbons and the state solicitor general, querying the state extradition coordinator on the mechanics of state-to-state and nation-to-nation extraditions, and attending a luncheon at the Governor's Mansion (pictured). The Northern Nevada International Center hosted the exchange. National grantee: Academy for Educational Development

Rep. Giffords Welcomes Kazakhstani Women Leaders to Arizona

Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (pictured right, facing camera) met in her Tucson district office on Oct. 30 with a Kazakhstani women as leaders delegation hosted by the Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities Committee. The Kazakhstanis also had sessions with a number of the most successful women in Tucson's business, academic, and philanthropic worlds. One delegate



emphasized how much she was inspired by the many volunteers she was encountering during her visit, saying, "When I meet with these people, I realize that we can change things and we can make our life better." National grantee: Academy for Educational Development.

This mountainous, predominantly Muslim Central Asian nation began taking part in Open World in June 2007. Rule of law issues were a major theme for 2008 visits. Through these exchanges, Open World seeks to work with Kyrgyzstan in introducing jury trials, tackling corruption, and improving access to justice. Open World Executive Director John O’Keefe is a former U.S. ambassador to Kyrgyzstan.



Alumnus Becomes Deputy Chair of New Council of Judges

Judge Erkin Toktomambetov, who served on the Chui Region Court at the time of his 2007 Open World visit to Orem, Utah, was in 2008 elected deputy chair of Kyrgyzstan’s new judicial self-governing body—the Council of Judges—and named chief judge of the Central District Court in Bishkek, the capital. The 15-member Council’s mission is to strengthen the independence, ethics, and professionalism of Kyrgyzstan’s judiciary. Toktomambetov and his fellow Council members in just two months developed a three-year budget for the judicial branch, a key step in promoting its independence. Judge Toktomambetov is also one of

the main judicial officials involved in the implementation of the U.S. government’s Millennium Challenge Account Threshold Program (MCATP) for the Kyrgyz Republic. The MCATP has as a major goal increasing the independence and effectiveness of the Kyrgyzstani judicial system. Participating in Open World enabled this influential and proactive judge to observe U.S. jury-trial procedures, take part in a mock legislative session, and discuss court management with his Utah counterparts and their staff. Judge Toktomambetov’s exchange was conducted by Utah Valley University. National grantee: Academy for Educational Development



Judge Erkin Toktomambetov (far left) and his fellow delegates meet with Rep. Chris Cannon (right foreground) during their Utah visit.

Director O’Keefe Meets with Alumni and Other Leaders in Kyrgyzstan

Executive Director O’Keefe visited Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in June on a trip sponsored by the American University of Central Asia Endowment Fund, whose advisory board he chairs. During his visit, Ambassador O’Keefe called on the deputy speaker of Parliament, the head of the presidential administra-

tion, and the chair of the Supreme Court to consult with and update them on Open World activities. O’Keefe also attended a gathering for Open World alumni, during which he met with the chair of the Kyrgyzstan parliament’s military affairs committee and one of Judge Toktomambetov’s colleagues on

the new Council of Judges. O’Keefe’s talks with these two alumni and others at the event focused on strategies for building U.S.-Kyrgyzstani partnerships at a time of decreasing U.S. popularity in the region.

Open World Hosts Women Legal Leaders from Kyrgyzstan

Two delegations of women legal leaders began their Open World rule of law



Susan Saksa (second from right), of Leadership Pikes Peak, with Kyrgyzstani participants she hosted in Colorado.

exchange on March 20 with a briefing at the U.S. Supreme Court and a meeting with Millennium Challenge Corporation, Justice Department, and American Bar Association staff active in international judicial and prosecutorial reform. One delegation made up of three human rights advocates and the senior assistant to the prosecutor for Osh (Kyrgyzstan’s second-largest city) traveled to Colorado Springs, Colo., for a program hosted by Leadership Pikes Peak on juvenile justice and domestic violence prevention. The other all-women delegation, which included three judges and a Ministry of Justice official involved in legal profession reform, observed proceedings in a variety

of courts in the La Crosse, Wis. area on a program organized by the La Crosse Area League of Women Voters and the La Crosse branch of the American Association of University Women. One of the human rights activists told Open World that she especially appreciated how her travel group included both government and NGO officials: “It is important for the government representatives from my country to hear the views of organizations like mine. The program brought us together and by treating us like equals gave us a chance to communicate with one another.” National grantees: Academy for Educational Development, World Services of La Crosse, Inc.

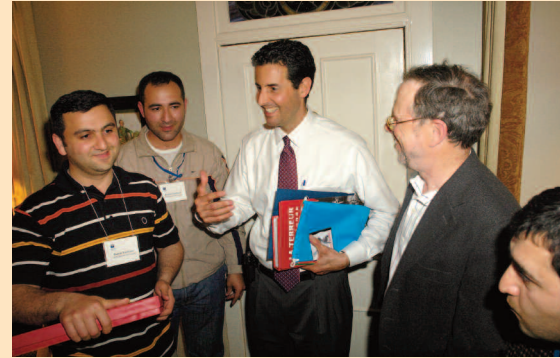
This strategically located, oil-rich, predominantly Muslim South Caucasus nation began participating in Open World in May 2007. Open World's Azerbaijan programming focuses on two areas—accountable governance and the rule of law—and is aimed at promoting transparency, judicial and legislative independence, and civil and media rights.



Bashir Suleymanli, field director of the nongovernmental Election Monitoring Center in Baku, designed a brochure for recruiting citizen election monitors based on a form for enlisting campaign volunteers that he obtained from Maryland Rep. John Sarbanes during an April Open World visit to Baltimore. This interchange came during an election house party that Suleymanli's host family held for

Election Monitor Multiplies Maryland Experience Back Home

Rep. Sarbanes (pictured at right). Suleymanli and his fellow delegates, along with local citizens who attended, also discussed campaign issues and constituent relations with the congressman. Suleymanli's NGO used the form he developed to involve citizens in monitoring Azerbaijan's October 2008 presidential election. The League of Women Voters of Baltimore County hosted Suleymanli and his fellow delegates. National grantee: League of Women Voters



Bashir Suleymanli (far right), other Azerbaijani participants, and Executive Director John O'Keefe (second from right) confer with Maryland Rep. John Sarbanes (center).

Grantee-Organization Official Meets with Alumni in Baku



During a spring 2008 working visit to Azerbaijan, League of Women Voters Deputy Executive Director Zaida Arguedas (pictured, center) paid a visit to the Central Election Commission in Baku with alumni Nurida Turabova (left) and Ramin Nuraliyev (right). Like Bashir Suleymanli (profiled above), Turabova and Nuraliyev had just taken part in a mid-April accountable governance exchange

hosted by the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County. Arguedas reported to Open World that both Turabova, a political-party official, and Nuraliyev, an adviser at the Central Election Commission, were eager to show her the Commission building and to explain some of the issues and projects they were engaged in.

Delegates with Disabilities Discover an Open World in New York

Four delegates with disabilities, including two wheelchair users, spent early November in Syracuse, N.Y., studying services, programs, and laws that help Americans with disabilities participate fully in community life. The delegation—believed to be the first of its kind to travel to the United States from Azerbaijan—visited inclusive schools, a restaurant with staff with disabilities, social-services and employment agencies, and the Onondaga County Board of Elections. After returning home,



Azerbaijani participants headed for Syracuse, N.Y., take in the White House during their Washington, D.C. orientation.

delegate Parviz Heydarov (pictured, third from left) published three articles describing his experience and advocating for greater rights for Azerbaijanis with disabilities. He also plans to write a book based on his Open World visit. Delegate Kamran Aliyev (pictured, far left) began implementing an Open Society Institute-funded project to provide disability-awareness training for children with disabilities and their parents. National grantee: World Services of La Crosse, Inc.



Open World's first delegates from this rugged, agricultural Central Asian country—four environmental officials and four defense lawyers—arrived in the United States in June 2007. Since then, the program has conducted exchanges for bar association leaders, microfinance experts, water management officials, and senior law enforcement officials, among others. Open World's 2008 programming for Tajikistan emphasized rule of law, education, public health, and civic participation and elections.

Reciprocal Visit Benefits Embassy Relations with Tajik Officials



Tajikistani parliamentarians hosted in 2007 by Utah Valley University (UVU) reunite in Dushanbe in 2008 with Utah Senate President John Valentine (center), Utah Senate Majority Leader Curtis Bramble (second from right), and UVU Vice President and Open World host Rusty Butler (second from left).

The U.S. Embassy in Dushanbe reported that a June reciprocal visit by two Utah state senators at the invitation of Tajikistani parliamentary Open World alumni gave embassy staff useful opportunities to interact with high-level Tajikistani officials before and during the visit. The two Utah legislators, State Senate President John Valentine and Majority Leader Curtis Bramble, had met with the Tajikistani parliamentarians during a 2007 Open World exchange to Orem and Salt Lake City. Embassy officials stated that preparing for the Utahans' visit enabled them "to work together with Ministry of Foreign Affairs representatives in a non-contentious way." Embassy staff further reported, "We were also able to attend meetings with Tajik officials that we often have trouble seeing." In the embassy's view "the visit demonstrated that elected officials from the United States can generate strong interest in the Tajik government and media, and visits by them can further Mission goals."

Open World Program Manager Visits Alumni

Open World's Lewis Madanick caught up with eight Tajikistani alumni during a July lunch in Dushanbe. Madanick was in the Tajikistani capital to meet with government officials, take part in candidate selection, and discuss future programs. Among the lunch attendees were rule of law alumni hosted by Iowa Sister States, the Sister City Program of Gainesville

(Fla.), and Washtenaw County (Mich.); a water management expert hosted by the Arkansas Council for International Visitors, and a Ministry of Agriculture specialist hosted by the Montana Center for International Visitors. The alumni described how they had used their Open World experiences and how much they had enjoyed staying with American host families.



Open World's Lewis Madanick (far left) meets with Tajikistani alumni over lunch in Dushanbe.

Nevada Open World Presenter Follows Up with Alumni

Thomas Tait, the president of the Nevada Tourism Alliance, met on May 27 in Dushanbe with Open World and State Department exchange-program alumni for a brainstorming session on how to increase international tourism to Tajikistan. The two Open World alumni—a top government tourism official and a private

tourism operator—had met with Tait during a 2007 Open World environmental-tourism exchange to Reno, Nev., conducted by the Northern Nevada International Center. The U.S. Embassy arranged Tait's follow-up visit to Tajikistan. Tait previously served as the Nevada Commission on Tourism's executive director, and since

1993 he has been sent by the State Department to numerous former Soviet and Eastern Bloc countries as a consultant. His May follow-up session with alumni looked at barriers to tourism, including visa restrictions, and ways to improve how Tajikistan is marketed to tourists.

Host Recognition Events

Open World held five host recognition events across the United States in 2008. During the first, which coincided with the annual grantees meeting in Washington, D.C., at the Library of Congress on May 20, Open World awarded certificates to 25 hosts for their own and their organizations' exemplary work on program exchanges. At this same event, Open World conferred the 2008 National Grantee of Merit Award on Rotary International, represented by Rotary Foundation Trustee Carolyn Jones and former Rotary International director C. Grant Wilkins. Other ceremonies were held in Kansas City, Mo.; Oshkosh, Wis.; and Berkeley, Calif. (pictured below).



Honoree Carolyn Kunkel (in blue) and Melissa Kreidler (right front) and other Host Recognition Event attendees look on as the award ceremony gets under way at the Library of Congress. Kunkel and Kreidler are involved with Open World hosting through Keystone Human Services International, a Harrisburg, Pa. nonprofit.



Above are snapshots from the May 2008 Host Recognition Ceremony: from left, Rep. and Open World Trustee Bud Cramer (Ala.) joins Ambassador and fellow trustee James Collins in presenting an award to Dr. John Pottenger of the University of Alabama in Huntsville; Ambassador Collins presents award certificates to University of Mississippi Professor Douglas Robinson and Karen Saunders of the Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center at George Mason University (Va.); and Ambassador Collins and Rep. Jan Schakowsky (Ill.) honor Angelo Loumbas of the Rotary Club of Chicago.



In Berkeley, Calif., from left, Rep. Barbara Lee's district director, Anne Taylor, presents City Council Member Gordon Wozniak with a host recognition award for his wife, Evie, as Enid Schreibman and the late Fran Macy of the Center for Safe Energy, an Open World grantee, look on. (June 25, 2008)

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. More than 1,470 participants came to the United States on Open World in 2008.

STATISTICS

Open World has brought 14,363 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 38.

51 percent of Open World delegates are women.

More than 1,700 communities in all 50 U.S. states have hosted Open World participants.

Statistics are as of December 31, 2008.

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

Webmaster and Designer
Igor Inozemtsev

Public Affairs Officer
Maura Shelden

Moscow

Country Director
Alexander Khilkov

Deputy Country Director
Yelena Yefremova

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In fiscal year 2008, the Open World Leadership Center received \$8,977,500 in appropriated funds, \$530,000 in interagency transfers, and \$393,867 in direct private donations. In calendar year 2008, the accumulated value of cost-sharing with the Open World community of grantees, local host organizations, and individual local hosts totaled \$1.8 million.

The Open World Leadership Center submitted a complete set of financial statements for fiscal year 2008 to the independent public accounting firm of Kearney & Company for a full audit. For the Center's third 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 to the right (with accompanying notes) and the one immediately below present the fiscal year 2008 financial highlights from the Center's Consolidated Balance Sheets and Consolidated Statements 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, 2008 and 2007

	FY2008	FY2007
Net Costs by Program Area:		
Open World Leadership Center:		
Program Costs	\$17,233,322	\$13,742,924
Less Earned Revenue	0	0
Net Costs of Operations	\$17,233,322	\$13,742,924

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

OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER Consolidated Balance Sheets As of September 30, 2008 and 2007

	FY2008	FY2007
ASSETS		
Entity Assets:		
Intragovernmental Assets		
Fund Balance with Treasury (Note 2)	\$ 974,019	\$ 2,481,158
Investments (Note 3)	6,938,700	13,357,838
Total Intragovernmental	7,912,719	15,838,996
Property and Equipment	2,039	2,718
Prepayments (Note 4)	421,700	600,049
Other (Note 5)	1,615	1,615
Total Assets	\$ 8,338,073	\$ 16,443,378
LIABILITIES		
Intragovernmental Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and		
Accrued Funded Payroll Benefits	\$ 25,683	\$ 34,795
Advances from Others	119,967	500,000
Total Intragovernmental	145,650	534,795
Accounts Payable and		
Accrued Funded Payroll Benefits	1,158,142	2,091,590
Unfunded Annual and Compensatory Leave	94,581	67,186
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,398,373	\$ 2,693,571
NET POSITION		
Cumulative Results of Operations - Earmarked	6,939,700	13,749,807
Total Net Position	6,939,700	13,749,807
Total Liabilities and Net Position	\$ 8,338,073	\$ 16,443,378

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

Note 2. Fund Balance with Treasury

	2008	2007
OWLC Funds Originally from Appropriations	\$ 325,456	\$ 1,144,975
Gift Funds	648,563	1,336,183
Total	\$ 974,019	\$ 2,481,158
Status of Fund Balance with Treasury:		
Unobligated Balances - Available	\$ 0	\$ 0
Obligated Balances - Unavailable	974,019	2,481,158
Total	\$ 974,019	\$ 2,481,158

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 \$6,938,700 and \$13,357,838 for fiscal years 2008 and 2007. Annual investment rates were 4.542% and 4.781% in fiscal years 2008 and 2007.

	2008	2007
Face Value	\$ 6,870,000	\$ 13,197,000
Interest Receivable	68,700	160,838
Investments, Net	\$ 6,938,700	\$ 13,357,838

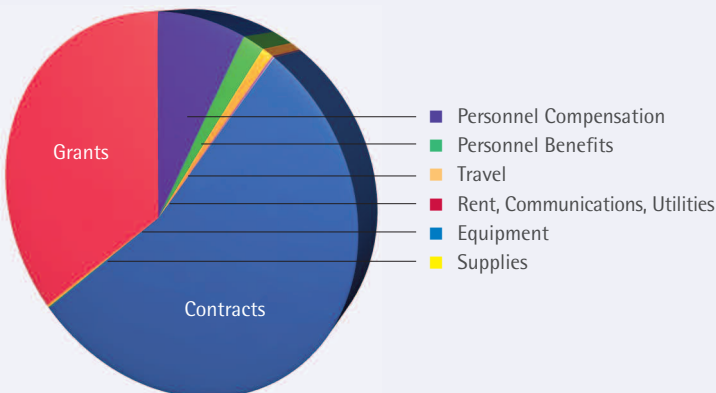
Note 4. Prepayments, net

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 2008 and 2007, \$421,700 and \$600,049 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 receivable due from payroll activity for fiscal years 2008 and 2007 of \$1,615.

DISTRIBUTION OF SELECT OBLIGATIONS CATEGORIES, FY2008



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 FY2008

Category	FY2008 Actual Obligations
Personnel Compensation	994,466
Personnel Benefits	229,885
Travel	116,966
Transportation of Things	2,346
Rent, Comm., Utilities	15,700
Printing	7,292
Other Services/Contracts	7,479,503
Supplies	11,641
Equipment	29,575
Grants	5,081,744
TOTAL - FY2008 Obligations	\$13,969,117

Note: Center administrative costs equal \$995,866 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.



2008 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 2008:

Academy for Educational Development	Washington, D.C.
Battelle Memorial Institute, Pacific Northwest Division	Richland, Wash.
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.
Freedom House, Inc.	Washington, D.C.
Friendship Force International	Atlanta, Ga.
Future of Russia Foundation	Huron, Ohio
International Writing Program at the University of Iowa	Iowa City, Iowa
Keystone Human Services International	Harrisburg, Pa.
League of Women Voters	Washington, D.C.
Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival, University of Idaho	Moscow, Idaho
Magee Womancare International	Pittsburgh, Pa.
National Peace Foundation	Washington, D.C.
Northcentral Technical College	Wausau, Wis.
Rotary International	Evanston, Ill.
Russian American Rule of Law Consortium	Burlington, Vt.
Supporters of Civil Society in Russia, Inc.	St. Louis, Mo.
Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center at George Mason University	Arlington, Va.
University of Louisville School of Music	Louisville, Ky.
U.S.-Ukraine Foundation	Washington, D.C.
Vital Voices Global Partnership	Washington, D.C.
Vladimir/Canterbury Sister City Association of Bloomington-Normal, Medical Partnership Committee	Bloomington, Ill.
World Services of La Crosse, Inc.	La Crosse, Wis.

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 2008, 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 2008 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.

AHCC, INC., a minority-owned international IT service provider based in Rockville, Md., provided Open World with website and database support to meet the Center's IT needs and mission to network community leaders.

Cooperative Programming

Open World collaborated with the **HOUSE DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE COMMISSION (HDAC)** to send three senior Georgian budget committee staff persons to Columbus, Ohio, in October following their HDAC program in Washington, D.C. In December, Open World held an orientation for high-level parliamentary aides from Ukraine and Georgia who had just completed an HDAC program. Open World then hosted the Ukrainians in Little Rock, Ark., and the Georgians in Denver, Colo.

Open World partnered with the **AMERICAN-RUSSIAN CULTURAL COOPERATION FOUNDATION** to host Russian museum and archive directors in Oshkosh, Wis., and Kansas City, Mo., in the fall.

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 (NEA)**, 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**.



2008 LOCAL HOST ORGANIZATIONS

Open World would like to thank the following organizations and institutions for hosting our delegations in 2008:

Alabama

Birmingham International Center
Birmingham Sister City Association
Friendship Force of Birmingham
Friendship Force of Montgomery
University of Alabama in Huntsville,
Office of International Programs
and Services

Alaska

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

Arizona

Arizona Supreme Court
Flagstaff Sister Cities Organization
International Training and
Consulting, Inc.*
People to People International,
Arizona Chapter
Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities
Committee*
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the
District of Arizona
U.S. District Court for the District
of Arizona

Arkansas

Arkansas Council for International
Visitors*
University of Arkansas School of
Law*
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the
Eastern & Western Districts of
Arkansas

California

Brubeck Institute at the University
of the Pacific*
Center for Safe Energy*
Citizen Diplomacy Council of
San Diego
International Visitors Council of
Los Angeles*
Long Beach/Sochi Sister City
Association
Los Angeles - Saint Petersburg
Sister City Committee
Northern California World
Trade Center
Paso Robles Rotary Club
Sacramento City College,
International Studies Program
San Diego-Vladivostok Sister
City Society
Sebastopol World Friends,
Chyhyryn Committee
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the
Eastern District of California

U.S. Court of Appeals for the
Ninth Circuit

Colorado

Arvada Sister Cities International
Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities
Colorado Springs Sister Cities
International*
CROSSwalk People Helpers
Friendship Force of Greater Denver
International Institute of
Education/Rocky Mountain
Regional Center
Leadership Pikes Peak
Rotary Club of Denver
Rotary Club of Denver Mile High
Rotary Club of Denver Southeast
Rotary Club of Estes Park
Rotary Club of Highlands Ranch
Rotary Club of Longmont
Rotary Club of Parker
Rotary Club of University Hills
Rotary Club of Westminster 7:10
Telluride Film Festival

Connecticut

Connecticut/Pskov Rule of Law
Partnership Committee
International Visitors Committee
of Connecticut
U.S. District Court for the District
of Connecticut

District of Columbia

CEC ArtsLink
Terrorism, Transnational Crime
and Corruption Center at
George Mason University*
Valbin's Center for International
Programs
Vital Voices Global Partnership*

Florida

Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida
International Visitor Corps of
Jacksonville, Inc.
Lakeland Sister Cities
International, Inc.
League of Women Voters of
Broward County
Miami Dade College
Moldovan Children's Audiology
Foundation
Sister City Program of
Gainesville, Inc.*
Stetson University College of Law
U.S. District Court for the Middle
District of Florida

Georgia

Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City Committee
Emory University School of Law
Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta
Hall, Booth, Smith & Slover, P.C.
League of Women Voters of
Atlanta-Fulton County
World Health Organization
Collaborating Center in
Reproductive Health, Emory
University School of Medicine

Idaho

Lionel Hampton International Jazz
Festival, University of Idaho

Illinois

Columbia College Chicago
Friendship Force of Northern Illinois
International Cultural Educational
Association
International Visitors Center of
Chicago*
Russian, East European, and
Eurasian Center, University of
Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Springfield Commission on
International Visitors
U.S. Court of Appeals for the
Seventh Circuit
U.S. District Court for the Northern
District of Illinois
Vladimir/Canterbury Sister City
Association of Bloomington-
Normal, Medical Partnership
Committee

Indiana

Hamilton Superior Court
Indiana Judicial Center
Indiana Supreme Court
Marion Superior Court
Muncie Public Library
National Peace Foundation
Rotary Club of Indianapolis

Iowa

Council Bluffs Sister City
Association
Council for International Visitors
to Iowa Cities
International Training, Education
& Business Services (ITEBS) &
Associates, LLC
International Writing Program at
the University of Iowa
Iowa Sister States*
Muscatine Sister Cities, Inc.
U.S. District Court for the Southern
District of Iowa

Kansas

International Visitors Council of
Greater Kansas City
League of Women Voters
Wichita - Metro
Rotary Club of West Wichita

Kentucky

Kentucky Community and Technical
College System
Kentucky World Trade Center
Sister Cities of Louisville, Inc.
University of Louisville School of
Music
World Affairs Council of Kentucky &
Southern Indiana*

Louisiana

Contemporary Arts Center,
New Orleans
Louisiana State University,
Department of History and
Social Sciences
New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy
Council*
Rotary Club of Harahan
U.S. District Court for the Western
District of Louisiana

Maine

Archangel Committee
Kotlas-Waterville Area Sister City
Connection
Maine/Arkhangelsk Rule of Law
Partnership Committee

Maryland

League of Women Voters of
Baltimore County
Maryland/Leningrad Oblast Rule of
Law Partnership Committee
Maryland Sister States Program
Maryland Sister States Program,
Maryland-Leningrad Region
Sister State Committee
Maryland State Department of
Education

Massachusetts

International Center of Worcester*
Massachusetts/Tomsk Rule of Law
Partnership Committee
Rotary Club of Scituate

Michigan

Colleagues International, Inc.
Detroit Metropolitan Bar
Association
Eastern Michigan University -
School of Social Work



Rotary Club of Downtown
Grand Rapids
U.S. District Court for the Eastern
District of Michigan
U.S. District Court for the Western
District of Michigan

Minnesota

Duluth/Petrozavodsk Committee,
Duluth Sister Cities
International, Inc.
Friends of Houston Nature Center
League of Women Voters of Duluth
League of Women Voters of Edina
League of Women Voters of
Minneapolis
Minnesota AIDS Project
Minnesota Supreme Court
North Country Health Services
World Services of La Crosse, Inc.

Mississippi

University of Mississippi

Missouri

International Visitors Council of
Greater Kansas City
League of Women Voters of
Sedalia-Pettis County
League of Women Voters of
Southwest Missouri
Supporters of Civil Society in
Russia, Inc.*

Nebraska

Applied Information Management
(AIM) Institute
Friendship Force of Lincoln*
Kiwanis Club of Omaha, Inc.

Nevada

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

New Hampshire

International Cultural Educational
Association
New Hampshire Superior Court
New Hampshire/Vologda Rule of
Law Partnership Committee

New Jersey

Rotary District 7470

New Mexico

Los Alamos-Sarov Sister Cities
Initiative

People to People International
New Mexico Chapter
Rotary Club of Las Cruces
Santa Fe Council on International
Relations
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the
District of New Mexico
U.S. District Court for the District
of New Mexico

New York

Albany/Tula Alliance
Buffalo - Tver Sister Cities, Inc.
CEC ArtsLink*
Doctors of the World-USA
Greater Rochester Area Branch
of the American Association
of University Women
International Center of Syracuse*
International Film Seminars, Inc.
International Institute of Buffalo
League of Women Voters Rochester
Metropolitan Area
Newcomb Central School District
New York State Unified Court
System, Office of Court
Administration
Saratoga Springs-Chekhov Sister
City Partnership
Saratoga Springs Public Library
Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg
Law Center
U.S. District Court for the Eastern
District of New York
Western New York/Novgorod Rule
of Law Partnership Committee

North Carolina

American Dance Festival
Forsyth Technical Community
College
Friendship Force of Western
North Carolina
International Affairs Council*
National Peace Foundation
University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill, Department of Slavic
Languages and Literatures
Western North Carolina Peace
Keepers

Ohio

Friendship Force of Dayton
International Visitors Council,
Columbus*
League of Women Voters of
Metropolitan Columbus
Supreme Court of Ohio

Oklahoma

University of Oklahoma
International Programs Center*

Oregon

Blooming Hill Vineyard
Oregon/Sakhalin Rule of Law
Partnership Committee
Umpqua Community College
Zonta Club of Roseburg Area

Pennsylvania

American Institute of Finance and
Technology
Keystone Human Services
International*
Magee Womancare International*
Pittsburgh Council for International
Visitors (now GlobalPittsburgh)
Rotary Club of Blue Bell
Rotary Club of Greenville
Rotary Club of Hermitage
Rotary Club of West Reading-
Wyomissing
Ukrainian Cultural and
Humanitarian Institute
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the
Eastern District of Pennsylvania
U.S. District Court for the Eastern
District of Pennsylvania

South Carolina

Hilton Head Island Rotary Club

Tennessee

Blount County Sister City
Organization*
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Southwest Tennessee Community
College*

Texas

Richland College
Rotary Club of Frisco Noon
Rotary Club of San Antonio North
Central

Utah

International Hosting*
Salt Lake Community College
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

American Association of University
Women, Reston-Herndon Area
Branch
League of Women Voters of South
Hampton Roads
National Peace Foundation*
Norfolk Sister City Association, Inc.
Rotary Club of James City County
Rotary Club of Lynchburg
Rotary Club of Richmond
Terrorism, Transnational Crime and
Corruption Center at George
Mason University
U.S. District Court for the Eastern
District of Virginia

Washington

Foundation for Russian American
Economic Cooperation
Pacific Northwest National
Laboratory
Rotary Club of Lewis River
U.S. District Court for the Western
District of Washington
World Affairs Council of Seattle*

West Virginia

Center for International
Understanding, Inc.*

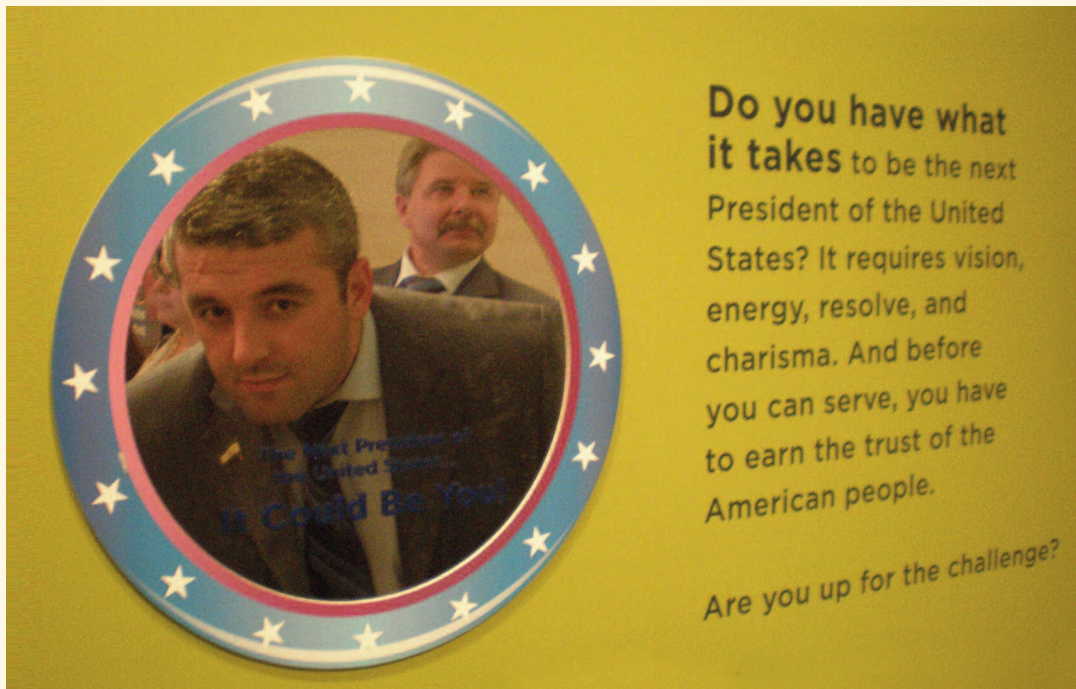
Wisconsin

American Association of University
Women, La Crosse, Wisconsin
Branch
Fox Cities-Kurgan Sister Cities
Program, Inc.
Fox Valley Technical College
Friendship Force of Greater
Milwaukee
Friends of Chernobyl Centers, U.S.
(FOCCUS)
Hedberg Public Library
League of Women Voters of the
La Crosse Area
Madison Area Technical College
Northcentral Technical College*
Sigurd Olson Environmental
Institute, Northland College
Stevens Point-Rostov Veliky Sister
City Project
World Services of La Crosse, Inc.*

Wyoming

Wyoming Global Leadership
Exchange

*This organization hosted two or
more local Open World exchanges
in 2008.



In Chicago, two Russian delegates—a regional legislator (front) and a city administrator—explore the Freedom Museum's interactive Vote4Me! presidential election exhibit during a fall 2008 elections exchange hosted by the International Visitors Center of Chicago.

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