



# Council of International Programs

## Chicago

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## Turkmen Program Creates New Memories and Rekindles Old Ones



CIP's April/May **Open World** delegation from Turkmenistan brought together an assortment of different people with different connections to the delegation and its program. In addition to CIP's staff, volunteers, board members and host families, the delegates had the chance to meet and learn from business professionals in Illinois and—in a first for CIP—Returned Peace Corps. Volunteers (RPCVs) who served in Turkmenistan! This exciting program introduced Turkmenistan and its culture to many Americans and reconnected the RPCVs and others to the country where they lived and made lifelong memories. See **page 4** to read more about this wonderful program which CIP enjoyed the privilege in hosting!

After reading about the delegation, check out what two business professionals have to say about the program! **Elizabeth Gardner** of the **Women's Business Development Center** and **Kaushik Shah** of the **Urban Partnership Bank** all share their thoughts on the importance of international exchange in business! You will find their stories on **pages 6-7**.

Next learn about ways to get involved with CIP! Become a **CIP member**, **host family**, **CIP Ambassador** or **CIP intern**! In this edition of the newsletter, CIP proudly introduces a new program: **Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX)**, which brings high school students from abroad to the United States. Just like CIP's professional participants, these students will stay with host families. Read ahead to learn more about ways you can get involved in this exciting new program!

Don't forget to 'Like' us on **Facebook**, follow us on **Twitter** and subscribe to us on **YouTube** to get instant updates on CIP! (Please click on the icons above or below)



# Join CIP Chicago!



## Membership Information

Bring the world closer one handshake at a time! Join the CIP family today! Make friendships throughout the world! CIP Chicago offers a fresh lineup of programs and a wide variety of membership benefits so there's something for everyone!

### Membership Benefits:

Complimentary subscriptions to the CIP Newsletter

Discounts on all CIP Chicago events

10% discount at [Sinhá Elegant Cuisine](#) Brazilian Restaurant (2018 W Adams St, Chicago, IL)

Exclusive invitation to members' only events including exhibition previews, programs, lectures and parties

Member e-newsletter of upcoming opportunities and events, so you get the most of your membership

\$50 discount on all educational & cultural tours organized in partnership with

the Center for Discovery Learning, [Discovery Journey](#)

Network with CIP alumni throughout the world – a good local resource when you or your family travel!

All memberships are 100% tax deductible

In addition to receiving these benefits, you'll be supporting the noble work CIP Chicago does to make the world a better place to live together!

### Membership Options

**Individual 1 year – \$50, Individual 2 years – \$95**

**Student/Senior Individual 1 year – \$35, Student/Senior Individual 2 years – \$55**

**Lifelong membership – \$200**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

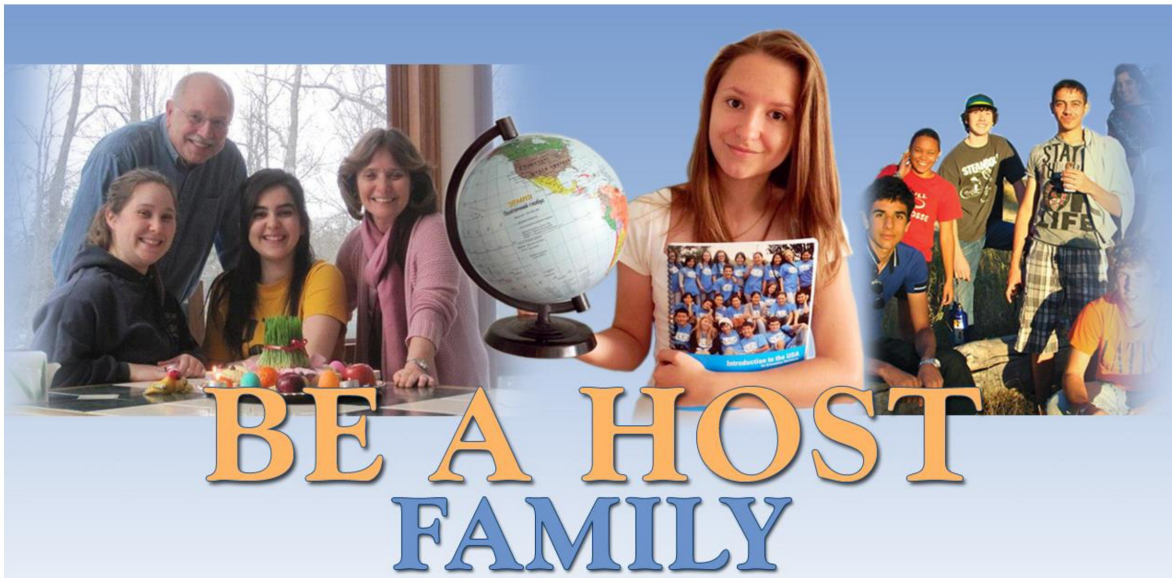
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please send this form with your enclosed check to Council of International Programs Chicago,  
4254 N Hazel St, Chicago, IL 60613.*



# BE A HOST FAMILY

**Three international students would like to attend one of our HIGH SCHOOLS  
in the fall of 2013 and we need a host family!**

**Hosting expands your cultural horizons and is FUN!**

Want to participate in the global community? How about in your own home?

**The Council of International Programs Chicago** is facilitating placement of these exchange students through the Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX) under the auspices of the **U.S. Department of State.**

These students may come from one of several countries including:

**Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,  
Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Moldova, Russia or Ukraine**

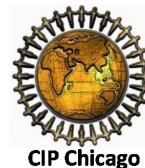
**Learn about a new culture, make lifelong connections, and provide  
a rewarding experience to the next generation!**

For more information contact:

George – [gp@cipchicago.org](mailto:gp@cipchicago.org), 630 359 3393

Vladimir - [primetracker@gmail.com](mailto:primetracker@gmail.com), 224 392 3612

\*Students shown in photos are not actual, prospective, or currently available to host.



## Open World Delegation from Turkmenistan: Small- and Medium-Sized Business Professionals



Above (from left to right): Orazdurdy Mammedov, Jahan Taganova, Open World Facilitator Gulbahar Abdurasulova and Dovletgeldi Yazlakov at O'Hare International Airport holding the flag of Turkmenistan.

From April 24 through May 2 CIP proudly hosted a delegation of **small- and medium-sized business professionals** from Turkmenistan, which was sponsored by the **Open World Leadership Center, an agency of the U.S. Congress**. The delegation included **Orazdurdy Mammedov, Jahan Taganova, Dovletgeldi Yazlakov and Open World Facilitator Gulbahar Abdurasulova**.

The delegates began their Chicago program with a welcoming party at the home of **CIP Executive Director Dr. George Palamattam**, where he and his family, CIP volunteers, board members, host families and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) all celebrated the delegation's arrival.

Throughout the week the delegation visited a variety of institutions throughout the Chicago area where they learned about topics like entrepreneurship, franchising and government support for small businesses. They

visited the **Coleman Entrepreneurship Center at DePaul University, 1871, a Dunkin' Donuts franchise and plant, Accion, the Money Museum at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE Chicago, the Women's Business Development Center and City Winery**.

Despite their busy program, the delegates still had time for fun. They enjoyed a tour of the city of Chicago, which included visits to Millennium Park and the Willis Tower Skydeck. Two of the delegates also visited the Field Museum. They spent their last day in Chicago shopping with the ever-so-helpful RPCVs, who were able to share the United States with the delegates, just as the Turkmen people shared their country with them during their service in the Peace Corps. "This was the first time CIP Chicago was collaborating with the Returned Peace Corps Volun-

teers and it proved to be extremely beneficial for the hosts and the guests," observed the Executive Director, **Dr. George Palamattam**. "For the RPCVs it provided them with the unique opportunity to implement the third goal of Peace Corps: helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans."

During their weeklong program, the delegates appreciated fine American hospitality by staying with host families. **Jim and Sophie Abenante and Michael Padavic and Ellen McMahon** warmly opened their homes to our Turkmen guests. Michael and Ellen were also generous enough to host the delegation's farewell party at their home. CIP thanks these host families, as well as the agencies, volunteers, interns and everyone else who helped to make this program a big success!

# Open World Delegation from Turkmenistan: Small- and Medium-Sized Business Professionals



(Left) At the welcome reception.

(Right) At a Dunkin' Donuts kitchen and plant, where the delegates had the chance to eat fresh doughnuts!



(Left) At the farewell reception

To see more pictures, please 'Like' us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CIPChicago](http://www.facebook.com/CIPChicago)

## International Exchange Gets Down to Business: Meet CIP’s Partners in the Business World

As you read above, the Turkmen delegates visited several businesses in the Chicagoland area. Here you will get the chance to hear about the delegates’ program from the point of view of CIP’s partners at these businesses as well as

their thoughts on the value of international exchange in the business sector.

First you will meet **Kaushik Shah** of the **Urban Partnership Bank** and how he shared his experience in franchising with the delegates.

Then you will meet **Elizabeth Gardner** of the **Women’s Business Development Center** and her organization’s commitment to intercultural dialogue in business.

Read ahead to learn more!

## Kaushik Shah of the Urban Partnership Bank Shares Franchising Experience with CIP Delegates



**Above: Kaushik Shah, Commercial Real Estate Loan Officer at the Urban Partnership Bank**

**Kaushik Shah** serves as a Commercial Real Estate Loan Officer for the **Urban Partnership Bank**, a community development bank. He works with various lenders and has twelve years of experience in banking. In addition, he has experience and connections in franchising, which led to his introduction to CIP. “Accion [another partner of CIP in the field of business] knew that I had experience in franchising, so they recommended me to CIP for the Turkmen delegation,” says Shah.

Together with Shah, the Turkmen delegation visited a Dunkin’ Donuts franchise in order to learn about franchising in the United States. The delegates also visited a Dunkin’ Donuts plant where they had the chance to eat hot and fresh doughnuts as



soon as they were ready!

Shah works with local communities in business in Chicago, but his meeting with the Turkmen delegation gave him the chance to learn about and contribute to the delegates’ communities and businesses back in their home country. “I wanted to teach them about franchising in the United States: why do banks and lenders work with franchises and like them, the pros and cons of franchising, the restrictions of franchising, the startup costs and other aspects as well.” In turn, he learned about the challenges which businesses face in Turkmenistan. “I learned that there are not too many

franchises [in Turkmenistan] and there are still more rules and restrictions concerning starting and running businesses.”

Overall, Shah was impressed with the enthusiasm and knowledge of the delegates. “They were very engaged and had a lot of questions,” he shares. His expertise has inspired one of the delegates, Jahan Taganova. She has proposed to pursue a plan to franchise a business that has been growing well for the last few years with good name recognition. We wish her all the best in this exciting new endeavor!

## Women's Business Development Center: Supporting Businesses At Home and Abroad

The staff at the **Women's Business Development Center (WBDC)** has shared their business expertise with CIP's two previous delegations from Serbia and Turkmenistan, but their international activities do not stop there. Besides hosting other groups from abroad, the WBDC frequently participates in international business partnerships. For example, **WBDC Co-President Hedy M. Ratner** traveled to Moldova in October 2010 at the request of the **U.S. State Department** to discuss women's entrepreneurship and leadership. She has traveled abroad nearly ten times for the State Department in order to share her knowledge and expertise in business and women's issues with the rest of the world.



Here in Chicago, the WBDC helps women business owners with services in financing and fundraising, workshops and classes and advocates for public policy which supports and strengthens the economic impact of women. These workshops and classes are available online in English at [www.wbdc.org](http://www.wbdc.org), so international participants are encouraged to enroll! With the WBDC's success and commitment to international issues, it is no surprise that it has become a perfect go-to organization for our most recent delegations in the field of business!



**Elizabeth Gardner (left)**, Director of Community Relations & Corporate Initiatives, took the time to share her thoughts and experiences with the recent CIP delegations. Just as Kaushik Shah, Gardner first learned about CIP from our mutual partner, Accion.

"I like CIP because [we at the WBDC] can learn about entrepreneurs in other countries, what sorts of opportunities there are for small business owners abroad and what sorts of government initiatives there are for small businesses," she shares. "The world is small so we are eager to open our doors and help business owners in other countries. We hope that business owners both here in America and abroad will exchange their talent, products and services."

So what can business owners around the world learn from the WBDC? Gardner explains, "We wanted to teach them about how to start a business and make it succeed: be prepared, understand the market for your product or service, whether there is a need for your product or service, be passionate because a business is a full-time commitment, understand marketing and your customer, have enough capital or access to capital. These are the topics which we discussed."

On the flip side, CIP delegates have taught Gardner a lot in turn. She shares, "I learned a lot! I learned that business owners [in Turkmenistan] face the same issues that we do here. I learned that they use resources like family to get their business going, which isn't as common in America. The delegation also broke down stereotypes of businesswomen in developing countries, because these women in fact were very educated and involved in their businesses."

In these ways, the WBDC helps CIP to fulfill its mission of celebrating the world's diversity while also promoting the idea that people all over the world are more alike than different. "Ultimately, I learned that we are all the same. We all want the same things like living fulfilling lives and providing for our families."

# Recent CIP Groups

In June, CIP hosted a delegation of judges and public prosecutors from **Turkey**, sponsored by the **Open World Leadership Center**, an agency of the **U.S. Congress**.



Stay tuned for the next issue of our newsletter to learn more about the delegates and their program! In the meantime, get the latest updates by following us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube! Below is a sampler of some pictures from the delegation!



## Interested in hosting a participant?

The best way to learn about another culture is to immerse yourself in it, so why not host a participant? Hosting can be an enriching and enjoyable experience for you. CIP is looking for homes for upcoming participants for as little as one week to as much as two months.



If you are interested or just curious, please contact Dr. George Palamattam, CIP Executive Director, by phone at (630) 359-3393 or (312) 545-6682 or by email at [gp@cipchicago.org](mailto:gp@cipchicago.org). You can also fill out a host family application on our website at [cipchicago.org](http://cipchicago.org) under the 'Host Family' tab.





## Calling Former CIP Participants: Become a CIP Ambassador!



# CIP ALUMNI AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Did you have an enriching experience participating in a CIP program? Are you interested in sharing your experience with others?

### Then become a CIP Ambassador!!

CIP is now seeking international Ambassadors to represent our organization around the world!

### What you will do as an Ambassador:

Promote the mission of CIP by

- Seeking out opportunities to further CIP's presence in your country (reaching out to organizations, companies and universities to give a presentation about CIP and what we do, speaking to friends, family, co-workers about CIP)
- Identifying individuals who are well-qualified and would benefit from the professional training opportunities CIP provides by using your professional and personal network and social media (Linked In, Facebook, Twitter) to discover and encourage professionals to apply
- Looking for potential partners who would be interested in benefiting from a cross-cultural experience working with Discovery Journey in arranging future study trips (social work organizations, educational institutions, etc.)
- Identifying possible partner organizations who would be interested in implementing a reoccurring professional development exchange program with CIP or an American organization/company
- Any other ways you can think of promoting CIP!

### What are the benefits of participation?

- Play a critical role in the promotion of cross-cultural exchange and international understanding
- Expand your professional network by developing relationships with people and organizations in your country
- Develop skills in leadership, communication and management

*If you are interested in becoming a CIP Alumni Ambassador, please email CIP Executive Director  
**Dr. George Palamattam** at [gp@cipchicago.org](mailto:gp@cipchicago.org).*



## Council of International Programs at Chicago

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Follow us on Facebook,

Twitter and YouTube:



## Volunteer and Internship Opportunities

CIP is currently looking for volunteers and interns interested in any of the following areas: *marketing, PR, international recruitment, host family training, web design, fundraising and grant writing.*

Nonprofit and international training are fields in which the volunteer or intern will gain enhanced knowledge and skills regardless of the area in which the intern will work. This opportunity would be a great chance to develop skills and gain experience for a resume or portfolio.

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Dr. George Palamattam, CIP Executive Director, by phone at (630) 359-3393 or (312) 545-6882 or by email at [gp@cipchicago.org](mailto:gp@cipchicago.org).

More information is provided on the CIP homepage at

[www.cipchicago.org](http://www.cipchicago.org).

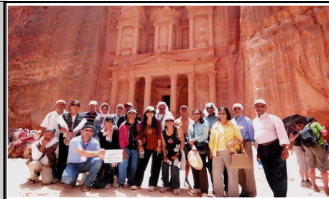


## DISCOVERY JOURNEY



CIP Chicago, in partnership with Discovery Journey, organizes five to six international trips each year that enable members to visit some of the exotic and culturally-rich places of the world.

People connection is one of the special features of Discovery Journey, which includes not only visits to popular and historic sights and monuments but also meetings with local communities and former CIP participants.



Upcoming trips include:

- **China: October 18-27, 2013**
- **Cambodia and Vietnam November 13-24, 2013 (Optional Thailand and Indonesia extension)**
- **India: December 26, 2013-January 5, 2014**
- **Australia and New Zealand: February 24-March 10, 2014**

For additional information, please visit [www.discoveryjourney.org](http://www.discoveryjourney.org), email [gp@discoveryjourney.org](mailto:gp@discoveryjourney.org) or follow Discovery Journey on Facebook and Twitter:

