

# **REPORTS ON REGIONAL OFFICE ACTIVITIES**



## REGIONAL OFFICES REPORT

### **Azerbaijan Regional Office (Baku)**

Having just opened for business in January, the Baku office immediately began making contacts throughout the Azeri S&T community. Reaching beyond the Academy of Sciences and Government offices, the Regional Officer expanded his outreach efforts to encompass private firms (e.g., the Azeri Oil Company and Denizneftgaz) and NGOs (the Ecological Innovation Center and the Azerbaijan National Science Foundation).

The key event this first year was the hosting of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Board (GBM) in June. In addition to holding the Advisory Committee Meeting in advance of the GBM, the Regional Officer arranged for institute visits, a press event at the opening of the Office and social activities. A Bio-Chem Redirect delegation visited several institutes in Baku in connection with the GBM and Advisory Committee meetings. The American Ambassador hosted a reception for the GBM.

In March, STCU co-sponsored a commercialization workshop with the U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation. Held at the British Petroleum Business Center, the Regional Officer arranged for several Azeri, Georgian and Uzbek scientists to attend. In the autumn, the Regional Officer led a delegation of 20 scientists to the Grant-Writing Workshop in Tashkent.

Approximately 22 scientists stop by the Regional Office each month. Azerbaijan has registered 36 proposals, 15 of which have received Host Government Concurrence; one proposal was funded at the 18<sup>th</sup> GBM. Twenty-five of the 36 proposals are joint efforts with Ukrainian scientists. The first STCU-funded internet café (at the Institute of Geology) has been completed and is currently operating.

### **Uzbekistan Regional Office (Tashkent)**

Activities this year came to a focal point in the first ten days of October:

- The Grant-Writing Workshop. Held October 7 – 8 at the Radisson Hotel, the goal of the Workshop was to engage scientists who were new to STCU or who had not been successful in securing our financial support because of the poor quality of their proposals. Attendance included 20 Azeris, 20 Georgians and 70 Uzbeks (including, 10 from outside Tashkent). The Workshop broke into parallel sessions which while covering the same material, did so in different languages. The appropriate Regional Officers were co-presenters alongside Project Coordinators from Kyiv. Dr. Kris Surano spoke to each delegation about what S&T reviewers look for in a proposal and Mr. Jason Witow answered questions on Funding Party policies. The Science Attached from the French Embassy gave a presentation on their exchange programs in the sciences.
- CASRI Kick-Off Meeting. Led by Dr. Eileen Vergino, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, a meeting was held October 5 – 6, to initiate the CASRI program. Scientists involved in administering the program came from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to participate in the meeting.
- Ribbon-cutting Ceremony. Taking place at the Institute of Nuclear Physics on October 6, the ceremony inaugurated Project Uzb-109, a radioanalytic center. The American Ambassador attended the event.

- Uzbek-Tajik health project. On October 7 – 8, the Program Managers from Tashkent and Dushanbe met with key US supporters from Washington, DC and Bangkok, Thailand, to discuss how to proceed in setting up this joint project and how best to coordinate the effort through STCU and ISTC.
- Bio-Chem Redirect Delegation. In conjunction with other activities that week, a small delegation from the U.S. visited institutes in Tashkent and Samarqand, focusing on biological and veterinary facilities.
- New PM Meeting. Taking advantage of the presence of Alex Sich and Eugene Pashkovsky in Tashkent on other business, we arranged for them to meet with new Uzbek Program Managers to explain how to work effectively with STCU on their first grants.

The Regional Office hosted a number of delegations, including two visits by the U.K. Department of Trade and Industry, our newest Government Partner. The DTI visited nuclear facilities in Tashkent and Samarqand seeking candidate projects to support under the “Closed Nuclear Cities Partnership” program.

Several noteworthy activities were undertaken throughout the year. The Office continued work to establish internet cafes at three facilities: the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry and Genetics, the Institute of Genetics and Plant Experimental Biology and the Institute of Polymer Chemistry and Physics. They hope to have the internet set-up at the bioorganic chemistry institute completed early in the new year. The officers in the RO managed 18 projects and had a monthly average of 35 scientists visiting the office. In addition, outreach efforts to several organizations (e.g., UNDP, WHO and Farmer-to-Farmer) continued. Dr. Sattarova represented STCU at non-proliferation conferences in London and Budapest and, in addition, participated in seismic workshops in Vermont and Almaty.

### **Georgian Regional Office (Tbilisi)**

The problem of low number of registered and awarded proposals from Georgia was fully solved. The carried out big job with Georgian scientists and Institutes, the correct analyzes of situation and correspondent activity essentially improved the situation in Georgia. At the end of October 46 Georgian (joint and independent) proposals were registered at the STCU's website: 3383 (GEO-Az-UA) 3389, 3390, 3395, 3387,3502, 3473 (GEO-UA), 3498, 3485, 3496, 3495, 3488, 3491, 3509, 3508 , 3503, 3502. 3525, 3524, 3531, 3519, 3442, 3529, 3537, 3544, 3571, 3573, 3586, 3596 (GEO-UA), 3597, 3582 (GEO-UA), 3601, 3604,3609, 3611, 3614, 3622, 3639, 3641 (Az-GEO) , 3651, 3669, 3670, 3677, 3678 P-196, Chiginidze (UZ-GEO). Additionally 5 proposals are supposed to be registered in November.

The total number of planned registered and prepared proposals at the end of 2004 is 55.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> GBM meeting in June 2004 8 independent and joint Georgian projects were approved. The current status of these projects is:

- Gr-105, # 3259 - Work plan under approving.
- Gr-87, Gr-122, Gr-77, Gr-133, # 3127 – Project Agreement under preparing
- P-196- started

During the IO and FO's meeting in April 2004, Georgian Information Officer participated in sustainability planning seminar and obtained the necessary knowledge. Some Georgian project proposals (e.g. #3611, 3622, 3544) were critically reviewed and necessary recommendations were given to project managers.

Two seminars were approved by the STCU in Tbilisi in STCU IO in August-September, 2004. The Tbilisi IO was ready for seminars. Unfortunately according to the decision from the STCU main office the seminars were shifted to spring 2005.

During the current year collaboration with FO, IO and CO colleagues essentially improved and different types of joint proposals were registered at the STCU, e.g.: 3383 – GE/AZ/UA; 3387-UZ/GE, 3641-AZ/GEO; 3363-AZ/GEO; 3529 UA/GEO; 3596GE/UA, etc.

The international workshop entitled: “The Prospective of Development and Practical Application SHS in South Caucasus” is planned to be organized in December 2004 with participation of scientists from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia and participating of 5 scientists from Europe and the USA. The workshop is financially supported by GRDF in the amount of 8,000.00 US\$. STCU has been asked for a partial support in the amount 2,500.00 US\$.

### **Report on Ukraine’s Regional Offices**

90% of project applications to the STCU originate from within Ukraine.

It is noteworthy that no region has dominance in a given technology area. Within Ukraine, the STCU’s regional offices are located in Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv.

#### **Lviv (1 person)**

The Lviv office is responsible for the coordination and delivery of the STCU programme and activities within Western Ukraine. Approximately 13% of Ukraine’s scientific institutions are located within the region, with 90% of these institutions located in the city of Lviv. The STCU Regional Office is thus well positioned to undertake the activities of the STCU. To date, 59 regular and 5 partner projects, totaling >\$7 million, have been supported in the region. 77% of the projects have been in Lviv and 15% in Chernivtsy. Approximately 40% of former weapon scientists located in the region have been supported through the STCU. Historically 20% of project submitted within the region have received financial support. Currently, there are 22 active projects in the region.

#### **Dnipropetrovsk (1 person)**

The Dnipropetrovsk office is responsible for the coordination and delivery of the STCU programme and activities in the South Eastern region of Ukraine. 16% (542) of Ukraine’s project applications to the STCU originate from the Dnipropetrovsk region. The region includes the cities of Dnipropetrovsk (70% of proposals from region) Zaporizhzhie (9%), Odessa (8%), Sevastopol (3%) and Nikolaev (2.5%). Of the 808 Ukrainian project applications that have received STCUs financial support, 14% (117) originated from the Dnipropetrovsk region.

#### **Kharkiv (2 people)**

The Kharkiv Regional Office coordinates the delivery of the STCU programme and activities within Eastern Ukraine. Of the total applications (3,342) from Ukraine, a total of 998 (30%) came from the Kharkiv region. Of these 94% came from Kharkiv (935 applications, 185 funded), 4.5% (46 and 11) from Donetsk and 1.5% (14 and 4) from Sumy. The low % of project applications from cities such as Donetsk, Sumy, Lugansk and Poltava is a cause for concern.

The existing responsibilities of the Regional coordinators, include:

- Information and support to scientists & institutes within their region re. the STCU programmes, policies and procedures
- Facilitate preparation of project proposals and STCU project agreements
- Assistance to project managers after successful STCU applications
- Monitoring and administration of projects within their region
- Preparation and assistance for the visit of foreign companies and experts (e.g. auditors)

- Act as the primary point of contact between local government, academic and institutional leaders and the management of the STCU
- Working with STCU management to ensure effective training of former weapon scientists as we move towards sustainability

In conclusion, the Regional Offices have performed well. There is, however, room for improvement in the quality of project proposals as well as increased engagement of former weapon scientists especially from regions outside the cities of Kiev, Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv. Moreover, given the recognized strengths of the Kharkiv region in life sciences we need to increase our efforts with Institutes involved in this field of research. Action has been taken to address these concerns. For example, seminars e.g. *“Participation of Ukrainian scientists in the STCU projects”* were organized and presented in Sumy and the Kharkiv Medical University. As a result of such an initiative, new project applications from Sumy and the Medical University are in development.

The DED will work closely with the Regional Coordinators to ensure more outreach and engagement of former weapon scientists. More specifically in identifying, organizing and implementing multidisciplinary and multi-institutional projects that integrate expertise / capabilities, across regions, with external interests.