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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Fall ’14/Winter ’15 issue of the CNS Brief. This newsletter provides a forum for news and information exchange between the CNS training programs alumni and other nonproliferation experts worldwide. The CNS Brief is aimed at introducing new members to our expanding network and informing the international nonproliferation community about various nonproliferation related initiatives and events.

To better help our global alumni stay connected, we have created the Global Network of Nonproliferation Specialists, a Facebook group, to help alumni stay better connected. We now have over 50 members, many of whom are our former visiting fellows. Please join us and use this group as a forum for communication and exchange.

We would also like to welcome your submissions to our newsletter, including information about you and your organization’s activities in the nonproliferation field, your publications, upcoming events, etc.

Note: In January 2015, the Monterey Institute of International Studies officially changed its name to the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. As it is stated on the MIIS website: “This change will only affect the Institute’s name and visual identity; its mission, academic philosophy, and curriculum will remain the same. The Institute will continue to be an internationally-focused professional graduate school with world-class programs and research centers across multiple disciplines.” The acronym will remain the same: MIIS.

Sincerely,
Margarita Sevcik

NEWS FROM THE NONPROLIFERATION COMMUNITY IN KAZAKHSTAN

Regional Educational Seminar “Nuclear Security, Radiation Safety and Nonproliferation” in Novouralsk, Russia

On October 30-31, 2014, Novouralsk Technical Institute (NTI) and the National Research Nuclear University (NRNU) “MEPhI,” in cooperation with Ural Electrochemical Integrated Plant (UEIP) and with the financial support from the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority, conducted the regional educational seminar “Nuclear Security, Radiation Safety and Nonproliferation.”

The main goal of the seminar was to foster nuclear security culture in closed Russian “nuclear” cities through education and outreach activities in the field of nuclear security and radiation safety. These educational activities targeted faculty members, students, young scientists, and professionals from these cities. The seminar gathered about 40 participants from NRNU “MEPhI” branches in the cities of Lesnoy, Snejhinsk, Ozersk, Tryokhgornyi, as well as the Ural Federal University in Yekaterinburg.

The seminar’s agenda included presentations by NTI NRNU “MEPhI” representatives and experts from Ural Electrochemical Integrated Plant on a wide range of topics including physical protection, the evolution of the concept of the nuclear security and nuclear security culture, radiation safety, and other topics.

Information provided by Dr. Grigory Zinovyev, NTI Deputy Director (CNS Visiting Fellow Program alumni).

Nonproliferation Course at Semey State University in Kazakhstan

In early November 2014, a CNS team, including Ferenc Dalnoki-Veress, Bryan Lee, Margarita Sevcik, and Masako Toki, traveled to Kazakhstan to teach a course on nuclear nonproliferation at Shakarim State University of Semey. The city of Semey, formerly known as Semipalatinsk, is located approximately 100 miles from Ground Zero, the site of 456 nuclear tests conducted by the Soviet Union from 1949 to 1989.

There, they joined Kazakhstani colleagues Mr. Dauren Aben (MAIPS ’03) and Mr. Zhanibek Yessimbekov (CNS Visiting Fellow, Spring 2014) in teaching an intensive course entitled, “Introduction to Nuclear Nonproliferation and Nuclear Security”, to students at Shakarim State University of Semey (SSU), a leading multidisciplinary educational and scientific center in North-Eastern Kazakhstan.
More than 30 students majoring in physics, engineering, history, political science and other disciplines attended the two-week course. The course included over 20 lectures on subjects covering the history of the nonproliferation regime; technical, political and legal aspects of nonproliferation; nuclear security, regional threats, humanitarian impact, and the environmental consequences of nuclear testing. In addition to students, several staff members from the SSU Scientific Center of Radiological Research took part in the course.

In addition, the CNS representatives had a series of meetings with SSU administration and faculty during which they identified opportunities for cooperation and agreed on the need to include a nonproliferation course in the university curriculum on a regular basis.

While in Kazakhstan, the CNS delegation also visited Nazarbayev University, a new university in the capital Astana. During their visit to Nazarbayev University, the CNS staff had a series of meetings and briefings with the university senior administration and deans of School of Science and Technology and Graduate School of Public Policy.

Kazakhstan has endured the consequences of nuclear testing and still faces problems stemming from the Soviet weapons of mass destruction programs and their legacy. After gaining its independence in 1991, Kazakhstan showed a strong commitment to nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation by removing and dismantling all nuclear weapons remaining on its territory after the demise of the Soviet Union. Today, Kazakhstan has developed an advanced nuclear industry and is home to the world’s largest deposits of uranium. It is pursuing plans to build a nuclear power plant and host an international nuclear fuel bank.

CNS hopes to continue its engagement with Kazakhstan universities in promoting nonproliferation education and outreach activities utilizing a train-the-trainers approach by training faculty through its Visiting Fellows Program and encouraging students to consider enrolling in the master’s program in Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies at MIIS.

CNS partnered with the National Technical University of Ukraine (NTUU) “Kyiv Polytechnic Institute” (hereinafter, KPI) to introduce the topic of WMD Nonproliferation to KPI students. Dr. Kseniia Ilchenko of KPI, who was a visiting fellow at CNS during the Fall’14 semester, assisted in organizing the online lecture “WMD Proliferation and Terrorism Nexus” by CNS Interim Deputy Director Mr. Bryan Lee for KPI students. The lecture was broadcast live to students on November 18th. During his presentation, Bryan covered the basic definitions of WMD and terrorism. His lecture covered the case study of the Japanese cult group Aum Shinrikyo with regard to their terrorist activities and mind-set. Over 45 students attended the lecture, which was followed by a lively Q&A session.

NTUU “KPI” is the largest and most prestigious university in Ukraine, which has educated several generations of scientists and researchers in the nuclear, chemical, and engineering fields. However, WMD nonproliferation and terrorism studies are relatively new to KPI students. This was a first step in promoting nonproliferation education at KPI. CNS plans to continue these efforts in the future in cooperation with KPI and its students.
KPI students in Kyiv listening to Bryan Lee’s lecture delivered from Monterey, CA.

CNS NEWS

CNS Fall’14 Visiting Fellows

From August – December 2014, CNS hosted the largest group of visiting fellows. The Fall 2014 group of fellows included nine junior and mid-level experts representing eight countries: China, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russia, South Africa, Ukraine, and Yemen.

In addition to their intensive training and participation in graduate-level nonproliferation courses, the fellows had an opportunity to meet and interact with Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), during his visit to CNS.

CNS Visiting Faculty Program

In 2014, CNS continued training university professors by hosting two university faculty members from Pakistan, including Mr. Sadiq Raza from Quaid-I-Azam University, and Mr. Jawad Hashmi from University of Gujrat. Both of them participated in the Visiting Fellows Program at CNS in 2012 and 2013 respectively, where they received comprehensive training in nonproliferation and related issues in the field. Sadiq and Jawad returned in 2014 to work with CNS experts and MIIS faculty to develop a nuclear nonproliferation curriculum at their home institutions. This training, as visiting faculty, became possible through the support provided by CRDF Global.

For the entire semester both visiting faculty members worked on developing syllabi for their courses in consultation and mentorship by CNS faculty and CNS experts at MIIS professors who teach courses for M.A. degree in Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies.

At the end of their term, both visitors presented syllabi for the courses they developed to a panel of CNS/MIIS experts and students. Mr. Jawad Hashmi, who is an instructor at the Department of Political Studies and International Relations at University of Gujrat presented his course, “Nuclear Weapons and Terrorism.” Mr. Sadiq Raza, a lecturer at the Department of Defense and Strategic Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University, presented the
course, “Nuclear Non-Proliferation.” Both courses are 3-hour credit courses, which will be offered to masters students at their respective universities.

Mr. Sadiq Raza (top) and Mr. Jawad Hashmi (bottom) received completion awards from Dr. Ferenc Dalnoki-Veress after presenting their course syllabi.

In addition to Pakistani faculty, CNS Fall 2014 visiting fellows, Dr. Kanat Dukenbayev from Nazarbeyev University in Kazakhstan, spent his fellowship developing a pilot course, “WMD Non-proliferation and Arms Control”, which he intended to present at his university’s Academic Council upon his return. If approved, this course would be offered as a pilot elective course at Nazarbeyev University in 2015-2016 academic year.

Dr. Dalnoki-Veress congratulates Dr. Kanat Dukenbayev on the successful presentation of his pilot course.

CIF Online Teachers Workshop

The 2014-2015 academic year of the Critical Issues Forum (CIF) kicked off with an online teacher’s workshop that was held during the first and second week of December. CIF is a unique nonproliferation and disarmament education project for high school teachers and students around the world to promote awareness of the importance of these issues. This is the second year that CIF teachers convened for their workshop online.

This year’s topic “Nuclear Disarmament: Humanitarian Approach,” is especially timely in the light of the Third International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact on Nuclear Weapons, which was held in Vienna around the same time as the CIF teachers workshop. The CIF project members hope that high school students, our future world leaders, will think about nuclear disarmament issues from the humanitarian perspective. It is our goal that this initiative fosters progress towards peace and security in a world without nuclear weapons.

Teachers from Japan, Russia’s closed nuclear cities, and U.S. schools participated in the online workshop. Participants engaged in live online workshops, and through prerecorded sessions, given time differences. All workshop sessions were recorded and remain available on the CIF website for future viewing.

The humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons has drawn increasing attention as a fundamental global threat, although the number of nuclear weapons in global stockpiles is declining, the risk of their use, by accident or design, appears to be growing. Any such use would have catastrophic humanitarian consequences.

While international and national leaders are tackling this fundamentally important issue, it is also essential for the younger generations to learn to think critically about this issue in order to understand the threat of nuclear weapons.

2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, while the states party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) will meet to review the treaty at the quinquennial Review Conference at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Most importantly, the CIF Spring Conference will be held in Hiroshima immediately preceding the Review Conference.

For more information visit the CIF website: http://sites.miis.edu/criticalissuesforum/