



## REGIONAL OFFICES REPORT

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

Our Regional Officer, Dr. Adalat Hasanov, gave a presentation about STCU to a major conference in April which the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences organized to acquaint the S&T community with foreign grant-making institutions. Dr. Hasanov also represented STCU at a meeting hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Azerbaijan and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative." In addition, we have begun work to open a new internet café, this one at the Institute of Medical Prophylaxis.

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

In April, the Tashkent Office assisted in arranging a workshop to bring together key stakeholders in a future International Pest Management Center for Central Asia which Michigan State University – a new STCU Partner – hopes to establish in Tashkent in the near future. Dr. Sattarova hosted a visiting delegation from the U.K. Department of Trade and Industry which worked with their Uzbek colleagues at the Institute of Nuclear Physics to develop a proposal under the Closed Nuclear Cities Program. Mr. Leahy set up an STCU booth at a conference in early May sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture; Mr. Alexey Kim, the newest member of the Tashkent Office, gave a presentation on STCU.

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

Since last STCU Governing Board meeting, Tbilisi Regional Office has participated in organizing several events in Georgia:

- 3 days "Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Program (STEP)" workshop arranged jointly by CRDF and STCU, with partial financial support of STCU (in amount \$25.000). It was held in March 14-17, 2005.
- Official meeting of STCU delegation from (DED Landis Henry and Alex Sich) with Georgian officials Mr. Levan Tsintsadze (Head of Department of Science and Technology of Georgia) and Mr. Tamaz Gamkrelidze (President of Academy of Science of Georgia) in April 2005. The aim of the meeting was to explore additional areas of cooperation between STCU and Georgia. More specifically, the launch of a Targeted Initiative Program.
- Preparation of the 20-th GBM in Georgia required preliminary work of Regional Office Manager in March, 2005. With the help of Ms. Tatiana Teryakhina, logistical and events organization issues were addressed, including cultural program for the Governing Board delegations. The GBM invitations were delivered to Embassies, Ministries, and other officials in Tbilisi.

In addition, improvements have been made to the Regional Office's furniture and equipment, and its walls and windows were newly painted. An additional small water tank is also installed in the rest room to ensure water supply in case of shortages that can happen in Tbilisi during summer time. The Regional Office is located in the building of Institute of Mining and Technology.

## **Ukrainian Regional Offices (Lviv, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk)**

A restructuring of the Regional Offices in Ukraine, led by DED (Technology Advancement) Landis Henry, was carried out to improve efficiency, effectiveness and teamwork and thereby to enhance the quality of services to scientists and institutions (client). A new operational structure was established wherein Senior Specialists are expected to work more closely in their area of expertise and provide more value-added activities to the client. There is closer co-ordination and more interaction with Head Office (weekly tele-conferencing). The Offices are expected to;

- Support regional activities that enhance STCU profile in the Region e.g. providing logistic support for various types of regional activities, regional conferences, technical meetings, working groups etc
- Organize regional conferences, training sessions, coaching of individual institutes, soliciting project submissions, providing logistic support to help scientists
- Actively promote the activities of STCU including the delivery of seminars and the distribution of STCU publications
- Promote cooperation with national and international organizations whose mandate supports the goals and activities of the STCU

Working with the Regional Offices, DED Henry met with key scientists and institutions in the cities of Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnepropetrovsk, Lviv and Kyiv. The meetings provided the opportunity to establish the framework for implementing STCU's new direction on developing self-sustainability and successful value-adding science research. Furthermore, they enabled us to identify the tools and skills that are needed in advancing STCU programme as well as in the development of technologies with the ultimate goal of commercialization.

A number of other activities have been undertaken by the STCU through these Ukrainian Regional Offices:

- Organization of a number of training sessions focusing on areas of consideration in technology development and exploitation, e.g. the impact of regulatory issues on development of medical technologies.
- Preliminary planning for an Environmental Workshop aimed at prioritizing research and development in environmental sciences (a possible new Targeted Initiative in 2006)
- Engagement of Bio-Institutes, in particular the Anti-Plague Institute in Odessa (a key institute in the U.S. Party's focused engagement on biological institutes)
- Enhancement of the quality of project proposals submitted to STCU, in an improve (by example) the scientists skill in writing a competitive, technically valuable research proposal
- Working closely with CIDA to establish linkages between Canadian companies and Ukrainian technical teams