



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT

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UKRAINE

USAID Commemorates 15 Years of Partnership with Ukraine

USAID commemorated its 15th anniversary in Ukraine with a jubilee event on July 21, which included remarks by Ukrainian politicians and government officials, as well as the launch of a traveling photo retrospective, entitled "15 Years of Partnership."



US Ambassador William Taylor (right) makes a point

The 300 guests who attended also had an opportunity to view giant screen video displays highlighting USAID's work in Ukraine over the last decade and a half, including a montage of old public service announcements. The event was held at the Ukrainian House of Culture and Exhibition Hall in central Kyiv.

Ambassador William B. Taylor kicked-off the event, explaining that the 15 years of cooperation was continuing to have a tangible effect.

"In the last two weeks the World Bank, which is a well-known international agency, recognized that recently Ukraine had seen increased incomes and prosperity of its citizens, and therefore moved it from the category of low-income countries to a higher bracket," explained Ambassador Taylor.

Ambassador Taylor added that the U.S. remains committed to supporting the country as it continues to build democracy and a free market economy.



Minister of Housing and Communal Sector Olexander Popov congratulates the Mission during his remarks

Mission Director Earl Gast explained that when the first USAID employees arrived in Ukraine in 1992, they found a country that was on the verge of collapse.



USAID Mission Director Earl Gast after receiving a plaque from Minister Popov

Thanks to USAID support, dozens of independent media outlets in Ukraine received support; thousands of political party activists learned to work in election commissions, and millions of rural

Ukrainians received government-issued titles to their land plots. In 15 years of partnership, USAID has provided \$1.6 billion in technical assistance to Ukraine.

Today, Ukraine is one of the most democratic nations in the region and a leader in the reform processes in the post-Soviet region, explained Mr. Gast.



Enjoying the moment

Also on hand to greet USAID on its jubilee were Minister of Housing and Communal Sector Olexander Popov, who as a city mayor worked with USAID on past projects, and former Prime Minister of Ukraine Yuri Yekhanurov, who was the head of the Anti-Monopoly Committee when USAID supported the privatization of large-scale Ukrainian enterprises. Mr. Yekhanurov thanked USAID for teaching thousands of Ukrainians about "systems with which they were not familiar."



A guest reviews information at the Ukraine Market Reform Program Info Booth

Minister Popov presented the Mission with a plaque in commemoration of "extended fruitful partnership, effective assistance in solving problems in restructuring of housing and communal sector in Ukraine." It was one of

three that Mission Director Gast accepted on this day.



A couple looks through literature at the Together for Health Info Booth

Photo Exhibit to Tour Ukraine

The highlight of USAID's 15 year anniversary was a photo retrospective, entitled "15 Years of Partnership," which consisted of 42 photographs depicting the various assistance projects USAID has developed over the years and the successes they have achieved.



Yuri Yekhanurov smiles while looking at an old photo of himself

The photos, chosen for their artistic construction as much as their depiction of USAID activities in Ukraine, covered the three major areas in which USAID/Ukraine has worked -- economic development, health and social transition, and democracy and governance. The majority of the photos were taken by USAID implementing partners. Photo content ranged widely.

One photo showed a private goat farmer bottle-feeding a kid goat. Another one caught a husband kissing his spouse, who had just given birth to their child. While a third one portrayed an elderly

woman gazing with satisfaction on a title to land she had just received.

The photo exhibit is now slated to tour eight major cities of Ukraine beginning with a stop in Odesa on August 31.



One of the 42 photos, this one submitted by USAID's U-Media project

The road show will end on November 30 in Vinnytsya. USAID will utilize local facilities and the U.S. Embassy-supported American Centers located in the various regional towns as venues.



Reading a USAID Newsletter

Partners Also Involved

USAID's implementing partners in Ukraine also took an active role in the 15th anniversary commemoration. While all 47 projects were represented at the jubilee event, twenty-four of the organizations put together information booths that offered video presentations and informational literature. And whereas the photo exhibition gave a snap shot of past efforts and accomplishments, the information booths provided an opportunity to

discover the development work that is currently taking place.



The youngest guest

Upcoming Events

August 8, Ukrainian Standardized External Testing Initiative (USETI), Roundtable "Setting Criteria for Public Monitoring," Kyiv.

August 8 - 26, Reducing the Stigma and Discrimination Associated with HIV-infection and AIDS, Musical "Understand! Help! Support!," Crimea.

August 9, UCAN, Seminar on "NGOs and Media – to Defense of Human Rights," Kherson.

August 10 - 11, Rule of Law Initiative, Training on "Legal Aid during 2007 Parliamentary Elections: Recent Legal Developments; Legal Consultations; Adjudication of the Election-related Violations," Kyiv.

August 17 - 31, Strengthening Election Administration in Ukraine Project II, District Election Commissioners Training Programs, all oblasts.

August 27 - 29, Eurasia Foundation Program, a Series of Master Classes on Craft-Making Techniques (for unemployed in Izamil, Bolhrad and Kiliya rayons), Odesa oblast.

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