



Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation



2018 International Observer Program - Kazakhstan *Muslims in America: Community, Pluralism and Inclusiveness*

Summary Report

April 20 - May 11, 2018

Maryland – New York – Delaware – Virginia – Washington, DC

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Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation (CECF)

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International Observer Program (IOP)

Building partnerships between people, countries and civilizations is critical in the world we live in today. Establishing these relationships begins by fostering mutual understanding and appreciation of one another's culture, history, religion and way of life. We can do this in a number of ways, but personal and professional dialogue and face-to face interaction helps to break down barriers more quickly, in order to achieve this lofty goal. We all must become "Global Citizens" and realize that what happens in one society impacts societies globally. Clergy, scholars, and teachers are key players in this endeavor. They have the ability to reach to the hearts, souls and minds of those with whom they engage. We must make opportunities for these leaders to venture out and begin this process themselves. Throughout this report, you will read about and view a sampling of meetings, activities and the one-day conference in which the delegation was involved.

IOPs are two or three-week journeys of intensive thought and experience designed for clerics, scholars, religious educators and community leaders. Participants are invited through U.S. Embassies to take part in and observe communities around the U.S. and for training in specialized areas.

As societies around the world become increasingly religiously and culturally diverse, dialogue and cooperation has become a global necessity in order to achieve common goals in a mutually respectful manner. Authentic moderate religious education is critical and should be emphasized in the 21st century in order to inspire people to engage in collaborative efforts that positively impact every aspect of society, ranging from their community's most basic needs to political involvement.

The United States offers countless examples of the importance of both individual and collective success in the areas of interfaith, community, democracy and inclusiveness. It is only when everyone feels their voices are being heard and their contributions are welcome, will you have the necessary elements for a sense of safety, a secure foundation and a future full of hope.

2018 IOP-Kazakhstan Journey

The *2018 IOP-Kazakhstan* uniquely combined a group of ten men from diverse backgrounds who serve as religious and community leaders, government professionals and Imams. This trip was marked with numerous enriching and engaging moments. For many participants this was a journey of self-exploration, challenging their preconceived notions and moving them towards being not just Kazakhs, but citizens of a global society and leaders in the world. The 21-day experience marked for many the first exposure to Western culture and interaction with people of many different faith and cultural traditions. It challenged their preconceptions of what it is to be a Muslim in a multicultural and multi-religious society such as the U.S. where Muslims are the minority.





IOP Delegates:

- 1 Yessenkeldi Azhmakhan
- 2 Almas Imanbayev
- 3 Akmetzhan Kerimbek
- 4 Kairat Mamanbayev
- 5 Gilimbek Mazhiyev
- 6 Kenzhali Murzabayev
- 7 Amantay Sadiyev
- 8 Nauryzbay Utpinov
- 9 Kabylbek Zhumabekov
- 10 Meiram Imanbayev

This final report highlights the key events their journey which the delegation experienced while traveling in America. The examples selected for this report show experiences from which the scholars can apply to their work and lives in their countries. These examples exemplify key objectives of the program that include, but are not limited to:

- Understand that the culture of pluralism plays a huge role in the way a community treats its members
- Become acquainted with the social, religious, cultural and political affairs of the Muslim American community.
- Realizing the need for training on religious and cultural pluralism.

2018 PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

April 19- 29 (MD)

- Orientation by CECF and Al-Basheer
- Meeting with Maryland Delegate Bilal Ali
- Meeting at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) – Partner of CECF for the *English Language and Culture Program*
- Muslim Community Cultural Center – Baltimore City
- Muslim Community Center (MCC) – Silver Spring
- Muslim Community Center Clinic (MCC Clinic)
- Baltimore City Police Department (BCPD)
- 2018 BUBW-Baltimore Conference
- Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church
- Oseh Shalom Synagogue
- Diyanet Center
- Shrine of the Sacred Heart

April 30 – May 1 (NY)

- Islamic Cultural Center of New York (ICC-NY)
- Women’s Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality (WISE)
- United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)
- United Nations (UN)

May 2 (DE)

- St. Andrew’s Private Episcopal Boarding School

May 3- May 9 (DC)

- Religious Freedom Institute (RFI)
- United States Institute of Peace (USIP)
- U.S. Department of State
- Al Basheer Seminary
- Home Visit - Hamza Khan
- Supreme Court
- Library of Congress
- Pew Research Center
- Private Guided Sight-Seeing Tour of Washington, DC
- Georgetown University

May 8 (VA)

- ADAMS Center

May 9 - 10 (MD)

- Reflection Session/Pre-Departure Meeting

Baltimore, MD

The day after their arrival to the United States, the delegates received a two-day orientation with Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat, Hakeem Buuza, CECF Program Officer, Dominic Dorse, CECF Program Assistant, Robert Stucky, Al Basheer Faculty, Father Bill Au, Pastor of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Al Basheer Faculty, Julianne Norman, CECF BUBW Coordinator, and Peter Kovach, CECF Advisor. During the orientation, the delegates were given an overview of CECF's activities, learned about the history and progress of interfaith in the America, and discussed the importance of cultural diversity programs for clergy in the Abrahamic faiths. They were also oriented about the international youth leadership, interfaith and intercultural conference called ***Better Understanding for a Better World (BUBW)***, which they attended five days after their arrival to America. The orientation also enabled the delegates to witness the successful working relationship and friendship between a Muslim imam and members of various sectors of the society.

Orientation Presentations

- Imam Bashar presented on: "Religion and Culture in a Pluralistic World: The History of Interfaith in America"
- Robert Stucky, Al-Basheer Faculty, presented on: "Religion and Spirituality in the U.S."
- Father Bill Au, Al-Basheer Faculty, presented on "Interfaith Efforts in the U.S. and the Sultan and the Saint Christian Perspectives"
- Peter Kovach, CECF Advisor, presented on "Introduction to Religion and Diplomacy in the U.S."

Meeting with Maryland Delegate Bilal Ali

His presentation focused on the importance of the political participation among Muslims in America and especially among the African American Muslim community. He elaborated on the involvement of the Maryland Muslim community in the public life and in the city of Baltimore.

The delegates were impressed with his presentation, ideas and community engagement. The Chepan that they awarded him made him extremely happy and appreciative of the people of Kazakhstan.

University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)

UMBC's English Language Faculty are partners for CECF's programs such as "English Language and Culture for Imams – Religious Terminology" and "BUBW Summer Institute". They spoke to the delegates about their world renowned English Language Program. UMBC hosts international delegations for English language trainings and the need for these types of intensive training sessions, especially for religious leaders trying to engage the global community, cannot be stressed enough.



Muslim Community Cultural Center – Baltimore City

This was the first IOP to include an important component: The African American Muslim experience. The delegates met with Imam Earl El Amin to discuss the topic and get a better understand of the community, their history and their activities.



Muslim Community Center (MCC) and MCC Clinic

Next, we visited The Muslim Community Center (MCC) of Silver Spring, MD, where we were received by Imam Abdullahi, who spoke with the delegates in regard to the efforts of the community. We were given a tour of the complex- including their mosque and their remarkable community health clinic, where Dr. Rashid Chotani, a Pakistani-born physician trained at the world-renowned Johns Hopkins Hospital, shared the wide range of medical services they provide on sliding fee scale, based on patients' ability to pay. The delegates were impressed that their medical services are not only available to Muslims but to non-Muslims in the community as well. A poster on the lawn outside the mosque caught the attention of all the delegates: it stated in bold letters and multiple languages, including English, Arabic, Hebrew, Spanish, Chinese and Korean,

“There is No Place for Hate Here”.



Baltimore City Police Department

The delegation met with the Baltimore Police Department, with whom CECF and Al Basheer Institute have been working for years as consultants to the Police Department's outreach and interface with the Muslim Community. We were able to have a very informative and interesting meeting with a police lieutenant and Tholyn Twyman, the Social Program Administrator for the Community Collaboration Division. It was inspiring for the delegates to see what active collaboration might look like in the prevention of radicalization and the use of violence as a political tool.

Chief Russell spoke of a Police-run Summer camp for children from Kindergarten through 8th grade as integral to building faith and trust between the police and the communities they serve, rather than the adversarial relationship too often found in poor and disadvantaged communities. Chief Russell has been a strong advocate for returning to a policing model in which officers and community residents were personally known to each other. This has proven to reduce the incidence of crime and increase the safety of local neighborhoods. Ms. Twyman also pointed out a shift toward recognizing domestic violence as a public health issue, and that by developing better relationships between police and the public, the general health and well-being of the community is enhanced. This was yet another illustration of how public diplomacy, education, and relationship building all interface between the secular and religious communities for the collective good and well-being of all.



2018 BUBW-Baltimore Conference

One of the highlights of the IOP-Kazakhstan was the possibility to attend the 32nd youth leadership and interfaith conference, *Better Understanding for a Better World (BUBW)*. The BUBW-Baltimore brought together 92 participants from 32 countries to attend the 5-day conference and discuss the opportunities and obstacles for peace, harmony and the prevention of wars and conflict. The delegates witnessed how youth from around the world came together without knowing one another and quickly engaged in discussions with one another. They were able to see the following objectives of the conference unfolding before their eyes:

- To facilitate dialogue that fosters mutual understanding and cooperation between participants from diverse economic, social, religious, cultural and ethnic backgrounds
- To expose youth to the beauty of diverse faith practices in a pluralistic world with emphasis on respect, common values and our shared humanity
- To discuss the dangers and solutions for discrimination, radicalism, ethnic nationalism and religious extremism, which have historically been recipes for war and conflict for many civilizations
- To introduce various aspects of leadership including those central to entrepreneurship, innovation and social business
- To cultivate ties of friendship and encourage future leaders of tomorrow to foster and seek out a better world and a better future for all

Cultural Diversity and Sensitivity Training

The World Today: The Family of Adam and Eve: The Need for Crossing the Cultural Divide as We Discuss Current Realities in Our World led by Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat



2018 BUBW-Baltimore Interfaith Visits

The Kazak delegation accompanied the youth to the third memorable day of the conference, the Interfaith Day. The first house of worship visited was the Catholic church:

Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church:



Fr. Leo Larrivee welcomed everyone and started his presentation by explaining the tenants of Christianity, the culture, the differences that exist within various Christian denominations today.

Fr. Leo asked Mr. Nauryzbay Utpinov, The Deputy Mufti, to speak. It was Mr. Nauryzbay's first time to speak in a church in America.

Oseh Shalom Synagogue:

The visit to the Synagogue was a very unique experience for the delegation. It was apparent that this was the first time for many of them to enter a synagogue and speak with a Rabbi. Everyone was welcomed by Rabbi Daria Jacobs-Veide. Her presentation focused on the religious tenants and culture of the Jewish people and included a short Q&A opportunity. We were then led to an area in the synagogue where our group could enjoy refreshments (fresh fruit and a kosher pastry before traveling to the masjid).

Diyanet Center

One of the delegates' tastes of Islam in America was a visit to the Diyanet Center of America- the recently completed and very impressive Turkish Mosque and Islamic Center complex in Lanham, MD.

The Imam Mehmet Ali Araci, lead the delegates on a tour of the complex, lead them in prayer, and participated in an important panel discussion with the BUBW participants. This was the first of several visits to local Islamic centers of varying sizes, styles, demographic compositions, and levels of social outreach, in order to give our delegates a first-hand glimpse of the range of Muslim life in America, and the engagement of the Muslim community in the social, economic and political life of the wider community- on the municipal, state and even national levels.



The final BUBW-Baltimore Conference activity that the delegation attended was the **Banquet and Certificate Ceremony** on Saturday evening.

Shrine of the Sacred Heart

Before departing for New York, the delegates observed a Sunday morning Catholic Mass led by Fr. William Au, who they previously met during the arrival orientation. Afterward, the community served refreshments and mingled with the delegation to learn more about them and why they were in the U.S.



New York City, NY

Islamic Cultural Center of New York (ICCNY)

Sheikh Jalloh and Sr. Latifah welcomed the delegation to the main masjid in New York City. The goal of this meeting was to learn about pluralism and inclusivity in American Muslim communities, as well as Islamic education in the U.S. This center also has a private school serving children from preschool through 8th grade. We were given a tour of ICCNY and engaged in a deep discussion on the founding of the center, how it is currently run and the fact that now, it is self-funded. In the middle of our catered lunch, the delegates were happily surprised to be able to witness someone take their shahada (declaration of faith). According to Sheikh Mashhour, 1-2 people convert each day. The ICCNY is a wonderful example of a diverse Muslim community that keeps its members involved in many efforts. The center offers many classes for new Muslims, runs charity events, and operates many other activities.



Women's Islamic Initiatives in Spirituality and Equality (WISE)

While in New York, the delegates met with the influential founder of the WISE and the Executive Director of the American Society for Muslim Advancement (ASMA), Ms. Daisy Khan.



Ms. Khan has created a number of important intra- and interfaith programs and has led numerous interfaith events. To strengthen the collective voices of Muslim women, she created WISE and through WISE, develops ways to eradicate misunderstandings about Islam in America and the West. Daisy shared the inspiration for her new book ***Community Guide Development- Sharing Islam***, which she has split into three simple sections: Islam in America, Islam versus radical ideologies, and preventing extremist recruitment. Everyone was amazed by the book when they had a chance to flip through it. There was talk of having the translation center translate her book into multiple languages which the delegates saw value in. They were delighted to meet with Daisy. This was a very important meeting related to their work in Egypt and they benefited a great deal from hearing about her various initiatives and technique of handling misconceptions about Islam. The delegates very much respected the success of her efforts and felt inspired by her passionate leadership.

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

This was IOP's first program with UNAOC and it was truly a unique visit for the delegates in New York. The staff gave us an excellent presentation about their mission and their programs around the world. This visit that enabled the Imams to see the value the culture, the history of civilizations of the world and how they could lead to interfaith and inter-cultural programs that benefit, youth, women and humanity. The Kazak delegation were represented well through a very good speech given by Mr. Gilimbek Mazhiyev.



Middletown, DE

St. Andrew's Boarding School



Visiting *St. Andrew's Episcopal Boarding School* in Middletown, Delaware was one of the highlights of this year's program. The evidence of St. Andrew's commitment to excellence could be found all around: from the beautiful landscape and English architecture to the high standards the school holds in academics, athletics, and behavior for its diverse student body. The school prides itself on its commitment to creating and maintaining a more diverse and inclusive community among its faculty and students, and they offer many students substantial financial support.

Upon arrival, the delegates received a warm welcome by Headmaster, Daniel Roach and Chaplin, Rev. Jay Hutchinson and were given a tour of the campus by one of their top students. The delegates were given ample opportunity to ask our student guide questions about his experience at an American boarding school and how his schooling in the U.S. differs from his experience in his country of origin, Spain. In the afternoon, the delegates observed classes in the Department of World Religions and noted that the teaching method employed was more student-centered and followed a Socratic approach. They also saw evidence of project-based learning in the assignments.

Throughout the remainder of the evening, the delegates continued to receive 5-star treatment by their hosts. They participated in a private discussion with selected faculty and ethnically diverse students who were quite interested in learning more about Kazakhstan from the delegates. The delegates attended dinner and were each given a student host to sit with and engage in conversation with others at their table. At dessert, the present students and faculty listened to an excellent address by one of the delegates, which was well-received by the St. Andrew's community. After thanking St. Andrew's for their hospitality, they presented the headmaster with traditional Chapan clothing.

The delegates expressed their sincerest gratitude to CECF for organizing this special visit for them. They were extremely impressed by what they saw on the campus, how they were treated, and felt inspired to employ some of the teaching techniques they witnessed in the classes. It was truly a special and joyous day.

Washington, DC

Religious Freedom Institute (RFI)

The delegation met with Dr. Jennifer Bryson, Head of Islamic and Religious Action Team and her colleagues and listened to a very well-constructed presentation about the role of Religious Freedom in the world today.

The RFI was an important stop due to the sensitivity of the topic for all religions. Listening to the various speakers about the activities of the Institute was very useful. The discussion included atrocities that are committed today around the world due to the lack of Religious Freedom.



United States Institute of Peace (USIP)



CECF arranged a special visit to the *United States Institute of Peace (USIP)* through Melissa Nozell, Senior Program Specialist, Religion & Inclusive Societies at the **USIP**.

Ms. Nozell met with the delegation in one of the private conference rooms to discuss the various initiatives and programs USIP has been and is conducting in the field of *Peacebuilding*. For example, the delegates learned about USIP's peace curricula for religious institutions, which involves teaching peace from a religious lens. Following the discussion with various USIP program officers, the delegates watched the film, *Imam and the Pastor*, and discussed its relevance in using religion as resource to help alleviate conflict in the world.



In response to questions from the delegates on how to start an interfaith dialogue, the program officers emphasized the importance of first, starting a relationship with a clergy member from the other faith or finding a 'counterpart' and then engaging each other's communities in a project that helps both sides. Working together builds trust and confidence in one another, which leads to friendship and greater understanding.

U.S. Department of State

This meeting at the State Department was an opportunity to hear about how religion fits into government. The delegates were briefed on the separation between church and state, but in this meeting, they got to hear about how the government engages religious authority figures.

Additionally, each of the State Department officials noted the importance of working towards the promotion of greater ties in the world and increasing cooperation. The delegates engaged in deep discussion with Mr. Connolly on this subject especially.



Al Basheer Seminary

The Radicalization and Extremist Ideologies Workshop took place at the Training Center of Al Basheer & CECF in Columbia, Maryland.

Describing how IOPs are constructed and demonstrating how each of the program elements, activities and themes can help to prevent radicalization and counter extremist ideologies from a variety of avenues was very important.

This workshop was essential for the delegates to realize the meaning of terms being used throughout the program such as "Global Imams vs. Local Imams". It emphasized on the need that exists for Imams training in Central Asia.



Home Visit – Hamza Khan



The home visit with **Hamza Khan** and his family was an interesting event for the delegates. It allowed the delegates to get a glimpse of an American Muslim family inside their home.

Mr. Khan, who ran for the local elections in April of 2018, shared extensive details with the delegation the statistics of Montgomery County and the Muslims Community's unique role as one of the most expensive counties in America to live in.

Supreme Court

After visiting the Supreme Court, the delegates were surprised to discover that the role of the Court is not as a criminal court in the usual sense, but rather as the final arbiter on the legality of rulings of lower courts on criminal and civil law cases. Following our visit of the actual courtroom, we were met by Supreme Court Fellow, Parker Douglas, who further explained the duties and practices of the Court, and fielded questions from the delegates. Each of the delegates had already received a copy of the U.S. Constitution, along with the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights, so many were able to ask more pointed and helpful questions of the Fellow. They were very interested to see there were more similarities than differences between Constitutional Law and Sharia. This helped refute and de-mythologize the misperception that the two systems are incompatible, or even mutually contradictory. The Supreme Court Fellow confirmed what both Imam Abdullahi of the MCC and Imam Bashar had stressed, that living by Islamic principles is in fact not inconsistent with American jurisprudence.



Library of Congress

While in DC, the delegates were scheduled to go on a tour of the Library of Congress with Joan Weeks and Giulia Adelfio, Director of Visitors Programs (National and International Outreach). While inside, the delegates decided that they all were in favor of skipping the tour and immediately returning to the hotel.



Pew Research Center

Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank based in DC that conducts research, analyzes data, and published reports on an array of issues. During our visit, we were introduced to the mission and efforts of the Pew Research Center, followed by a discussion on U.S. Muslims and the Future of World Religions. One interesting prediction that the delegates left with was that in 70 years, the number of Muslims on Earth is expected to exceed the number of Christians, who currently hold the position of largest religious group in the world.



Georgetown University

During the Washington, D.C. portion of the trip we stopped at Georgetown University for a very informative presentation about the difference between teaching religion, and teaching about religion- the first being the realm of sectarian catechesis for adherents to a particular faith tradition; and the second being the realm of becoming a well-informed and well-rounded person. It is of great importance that more people be educated about religion- with no “conversion agenda”, because of the widespread ignorance of both the fundamental beliefs and the practices of the world’s religious traditions, and the enmity and violence that ignorance too often provokes.



Sterling, VA

All Dulles Area Muslim Society Center (ADAMS)

The All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) Center plays an important role in the Sterling, Virginia community as it provides the local Muslim community, both Shi'a and Sunni, a space to pray and worship at either its main branch or one of its satellite locations. ADAMS is the second largest mosque in the United States and organizes a variety of educational and social activities that provide wonderful opportunities to learn and grow. The ADAMS Center also believes in interfaith collaboration and hosts and participates in several interdenominational programs and activities throughout the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.



The Imam spoke with the delegates about their local interfaith efforts, how the mosque promotes inclusivity and democracy in its work, as well as the history of interfaith activities in the world going back to the time of the Prophet, PBUH*. In the reflection session following the visit, several of the delegates remarked on how impressed they were with the organization of ADAMS and how the mosque represents certain ideals found in America: democracy, inclusivity, and gender equality.



*Peace be upon him.

Educational and Entertaining Excursions in Baltimore, New York and Washington

Interspersed throughout the weeks of meetings was free time to sightsee in Baltimore, MD, New York, NY, and Washington, DC. Providing time for the delegates to explore each city's offerings and streets enabled them to experience first-hand the diversity of America's citizens, its pluralistic nature, and pieces of its history.

In Baltimore, MD - the delegates spent time at the Baltimore Inner Harbor enjoying the diverse cuisine. They had an opportunity to explore the Chesapeake Bay on one of the historic ships and visit the National Aquarium, which is also a truly unique experience that even Americans travel cross-country to get.

In Washington, DC - the delegates found Afghani and Turkish restaurants for lunch and dinner, as well as had a private guided tour of DC of sites such as:

- U.S. Navy Memorial
- U.S. Capitol Building
- White House
- World War II Memorial
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
- Korean War Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial
- Vietnam Memorial

In New York, NY, the delegates experienced innumerable choices for food each day and at night ventured into Times Square for gift shopping. While shopping, they were also witnessing the melting pot of people who visit from all over the world. They also experienced a variety of cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds who claim New York as their home.

We went on a Landmarks River Cruise where many delegates took pictures in front of the Statue of Liberty. We also made sure that the delegates had a chance to visit the United Nations to learn more about their mission and objectives, as well as enjoy a private tour of the building.



Reflections on the Impact of the 2018 IOP-Kazakhstan

Throughout the delegates' three-week trip, CECF organized time to reflect. The sessions provided the delegates with an opportunity to reflect and be debriefed on their program experiences. The delegates were able to share with CECF staff their thoughts, ideas, comments, and concerns from their IOP experience, as well as discuss their next steps once they return to Kazakhstan. The delegates expressed to CECF how much their perspectives of the United States had shifted over the course of the program. They were pleasantly surprised to find the American people kind and friendly and admired how people from other faiths and minority groups are included and accepted here. One delegate mentioned how he had worried that there was no Islam in America and was concerned about coming here as a Muslim. Much to her relief and surprise, she felt she had been treated very well and that she fit right in, especially in the metropolitan areas.

There were many other important insights shared over the course of the program, including:

- It is important to visit different places of worship to enhance understanding and develop relationships with other faiths.
- It is important that Imams help their congregation to learn the context of the Qur'an and its verses.
- That through observing the friendship and respect between Imam Bashar and his Catholic counterpart, Father Bill Au, interfaith collaboration is possible, if it is built on trust, friendship and a shared vision.
- It is important to listen to understand, not only to defend.
- Interfaith exists and is alive in America. So many faiths and minorities live in love and cooperation here. This experience could and should be shared with others.

Since returning to Kazakhstan, the program continues to influence the delegates. Many of them still engage regularly with Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat and CECF staff seeking continued guidance, support and opportunities for cooperation as they see issues with a new perspective and knowledge learned during the 2018 IOP- Kazakhstan. They have had the benefit of experiencing the practice of Islam in America in a very diverse society. They have and will continue to serve as ambassadors of positive change passing this knowledge and experience on to their communities and encouraging dialogue and exchange rather than isolation and conflict between the faiths and cultures that exist in our world today.



Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation

CECF would like to thank the U.S. Embassy – Astana for its support without which this program would not have been possible. The IOP and programs like it seek to develop cultural and religious understanding and improve perspectives thereby preventing conflicts and alleviating unnecessary tension between people of varying backgrounds.

CECF appreciates and is proud that exchange programs play an important part in achieving the United States' goals of improving and strengthening relationships among cultures, America & the Muslim world.



