



Kansas State University—Manhattan Kansas

# SeminarNews

Special Posting – August 2007

## **A Dialog on Civic Discourse and Sustainability: Environmental Stewardship in the Altai Republic, Russian Federation**

Grain Science Conference Center Auditorium, Kimball Avenue  
Wednesday, August 15, 2007, 2-4PM

### *Presenters*

Rector Yuri Tabakaev • Dr. Nikolai Malkov • Dr. Victor Lukyanenko • Maria Ostanina  
Dr. Cynthia Annett • Wendy Griswold

The Altai Republic is an independent Russian Republic located in southwestern Siberia north of where the borders of China, Mongolia and Kazakhstan intersect. It is the homeland of the indigenous Altaian people. It is considered by many, both in Russia and around the world, as one of the most beautiful and pristine environments on the planet. KSU has been involved in university exchanges in the area since 1999. Faculty and students from KSU have traveled to the area and been involved in projects related to water quality, journalism and education.

The Republic is situated in a mountainous ecosystem with a highly varied terrain, ranging from rocky alpine outcrops to densely forested taiga. Herding is one of the main economic activities in the republic and many indigenous Altaians maintain their traditional semi-nomadic lifestyle. In the past few years, tourism has increased and is viewed as a potential area for economic development. This dialog will focus on civic discourse on environmental stewardship in the Altai and the historic and current efforts to preserve the Republic's nature and natural resources while providing opportunities for economic growth.

**Yuri Tabakaev** is Rector of Gorno-Altai State University (GASU). He has a graduate degree from Moscow State University and has over seventy scholarly publications on sociology, paying attention to current sociological issues in Western Siberia.

**Viktor Lukyanenko** did his graduate work at Moscow State Pedagogical University and Oxford University in England. Since 1996, he has served as head of International Programs at GASU and as head of the foreign languages department from 1991-2006.

**Nikolai Malkov** holds a graduate degree in ornithology from Moscow State University. He is the head of the Natural History Museum and teaches ecology and zoology at GASU.

**Maria Ostanina** is a 2002 graduate of GASU and is currently a teacher in the English Language Program.

This event is co-sponsored by CESAS (Consortium for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability); ICDD (Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy); USAID/HED – US Agency for International Development/Higher Education for Development.

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