



Mongolia Exchange Program Renewed with Luce Foundation Support

The Henry Luce Foundation, Inc., has awarded IREX a three-year grant of \$180,000 in support of its scholarly exchange program in the humanities and social sciences with Mongolia. The grant was announced by Henry Luce III, the Foundation's Chairman and C.E.O. For over half a century, the Henry Luce Foundation has contributed to the understanding between the people of the United States and East Asia and provided opportunities for scholarly exploration and development in the region. The Foundation, established in 1936 by the late Henry R. Luce, cofounder and editor-in-chief of Time, Inc., provides grants for specific projects in the areas of Asian affairs, higher education, theology, American arts, women in science and engineering, and public affairs.

Previous Links

In 1988 IREX signed the first cultural agreement between the United States and Mongolia instituting a reciprocal exchange with the Mongolian Academy of Sciences. This agreement allowed American scholars to work in institutes of the Academy and gave Mongolian specialists access to US colleagues. With the receipt of the Luce grant, the exchange program will be broadened to include other Mongolian institutions and universities.

Since 1992 IREX has been conducting open competitions in the Newly Independent States to select scholars for the USIA Regional Scholars Exchange program. Beginning with the 1995-1996 grant year, a merit-based open competition will also be held in Mongolia, with applications evaluated by members of the US academic community. Scholars in the social sciences and humanities holding the equivalent of a doctoral degree or candidate status will be eligible to apply. The deadline for the receipt of applications is April 15, 1996 for grants beginning after September 1, 1996.

A Rich History

Mongolia has a rich history as a geographic and cultural crossroads between China in the east, the societies of Central Asia, and the great Russian landmass to the north and west. At one extraordinary moment in history at the beginning

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Albania Slowly Joining the Info Highway

By Ian Watson, Albnet-L Moderator

Until recently Albania was the only European country without an indigenous connection to the Internet. But international efforts to redress this have slowly borne fruit. For the past 18 months IREX has sponsored "Albnet-L," an Internet mailing list which serves as a forum for information exchange between organizations and people working to bring electronic mail to Albania. The list has witnessed the efforts of an international polyglot of organizations and specialists interested in developing sustainable network connections to the region.

Lagging Behind

Albanian networking has lagged behind because of the country's bureaucratic, technical, and economic problems, which are overwhelming even by Balkan standards. For example, an e-mail link was briefly established between the University of Tirana and the University of Pisa (Italy) as early as 1992, but quickly went down, as thieves tapped the phone line to make free international calls. This kind of theft is common in Albania and untraceable, since the phone system cannot provide itemized monthly bills. And the economic situation is such that universities have had to deny

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