



For Immediate Release  
October 30, 2013

**TITLE: UN Day at Tashkent International School**

**SUBTITLE: Students and Community at Tashkent International School Celebrate UN Day**

**Tashkent, Uzbekistan** - Students, faculty, staff, parents and members of the Tashkent diplomatic community joined together at Tashkent International School on Saturday, October 26 to celebrate United Nations Day.

Despite the cold and rainy weather that descended upon Tashkent that morning, the event was wonderfully successful with one of the largest community turnouts the school has recorded at UN Day.

The theme of this year's celebration matched the overall UN theme in Uzbekistan - "Celebrating 20 Years of Cooperation with Uzbekistan." The day began with a festive opening ceremony that featured Uzbek trumpets and drums welcoming guests at the front of the TIS gym, where the ceremony was held. Inside, the celebration continued with traditional Uzbek dancers, performances from the Armenian Cultural Center, the Indian Cultural Center, a dance troupe from South Korea, a guitar solo and dance from Poland, and an acappella song from grade 7 TIS students and their teacher, Sione Taupeaape, sung in Maori, the traditional language of New Zealand, Taupeaape's home country.

The highlight of the ceremony was the parade of nations, which included more than 250 TIS students and parents representing 49 countries. The parade was especially moving as the children proudly crossed the stage with their country flag waving.

Following the parade, Stefan Priesner, UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan, gave a short presentation about the significance of UN Day and then concluded with a candle lighting ceremony with 10 TIS students. Each student recited one of the UN Rights of the Child as they lit their candle and stood on stage next to Priesner.

UN Day at TIS also included a Model United Nations assembly and committee meetings with TIS secondary students, a craft bazaar, an international food festival, and country displays where visitors could learn more about various countries represented at the school.

United Nations Day is celebrated every October at TIS.

Tashkent International School, an International Baccalaureate World School, is a not-for-profit, independent, co-educational day school located in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in the heart of Central Asia. The school has more than 490 students from 45 countries in preschool through grade 12. TIS is the only school in Uzbekistan authorized to offer all three IB programmes.

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