Monterey Institute Hosts Russian Nuclear Scientists for Unique Cross-Disciplinary Language and Nonproliferation Program

Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Language Faculty Created Customized Curriculum

Monterey, CA—Five nuclear scientists and three English language faculty members from Tomsk Polytechnic University (TPU) in Tomsk, Russia, have taken on the roles of students at the Monterey Institute of International Studies this summer, taking part in a unique, customized program curriculum intended to enhance communication between nonproliferation officials in the U.S. and Russia.

The English Language and Nonproliferation Program (ELAN) for Nuclear Security was developed specifically to meet the needs of the TPU group, scientific faculty with expertise in nuclear physics and nuclear materials protection, control, and accounting. Their Monterey program, developed jointly by faculty at the Institute’s James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies and Graduate School of Translation, Interpretation, and Language Education (GSTILE), is designed to develop English language proficiency in order to enhance communication with their U.S. partners and counterparts in international organizations, including the U.S. Department of Energy and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The project grew out of a proposal developed about two years ago by ELAN project manager Lisa Donohoe Luscombe and GSTILE Professor Peter A. Shaw. Tomsk Polytechnic University graduates go on to work in the control and accounting of fissile materials and physical protection of nuclear facilities in Russia, as well as in international organizations in nuclear energy and require English language skills to be able to follow international regulations, participate in scientific forums, and communicate with colleagues from other countries. After the Monterey proposal was approved by the U.S. Department of Energy, the ELAN project manager conducted a needs assessment at TPU (November 2009) and diagnostic testing (April 2010) which served as the basis and baseline, respectively, for the summer 2010 program, now under way.

During July, the TPU scientists in Monterey not only focused on language proficiency in the area of nuclear science and security, but also heightened their awareness of nuclear safeguards issues and potential threats to nuclear facilities. The August program, with both scientists and English language faculty, is a unique cross-disciplinary effort between CNS and GSTILE. In that program, led by Professor Shaw, teams of CNS content experts and GSTILE language faculty and instructors are collaborating on the development and delivery of several nonproliferation-targeted content-based instruction
lessons for nuclear nonproliferation. During the team-teaching training, the TPU teams of scientific and language faculty are developing curricular goals, lesson plans, and assessment tools for use in English language courses for nuclear security at TPU. The team-teaching training is also intended to provide a train-the-trainers strategy for further content-based English language instruction initiatives at TPU.

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_The Monterey Institute of International Studies has been preparing graduate professionals for global careers in the private, public, nonprofit and educational sectors since 1955. Located in Monterey, California, the Institute offers advanced degrees in international policy studies, translation and interpretation, international environmental policy, language teaching, and international business, as well as a variety of specialized certificates and programs. The Institute, whose approximately 800 students come from more than 60 countries, is also home to the renowned James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies. In July 2010, the Monterey Institute became a graduate school of Middlebury College. For more information about the Monterey Institute, visit www.miis.edu._