

RPX hosts Belarussian Diplomat in Delhi

Chief Counselor delivers lectures at SUNY Delhi

Delhi, NY – April 29, 2006 - Sponsored by Delhi based nonprofit organization, The Resource & Policy Exchange (RPX) and the Embassy of Belarus, Belarussian Diplomat Pavel Shidlovsky spoke to SUNY Delhi students on April 27 and 28.

"I enjoyed visiting SUNY Delhi and meeting with students and professors. I was impressed by the level of knowledge of students and thoughtfulness of their questions", said Shidlovsky.

As Belarus' Counselor to the United States, Mr. Shidlovsky is charged with promoting cooperation between educational institutions of Belarus and the US. Shidlovsky visited Delhi at the invitation of RPX and spoke to students in classes ranging from International Marketing to Management and Psychology. Student questions touched on national business practices, cultural trends, and current events in Belarus.

April 26 marked the twenty-year anniversary of the nuclear accident at Chernobyl, which struck the people of Belarus harder than any other country. Political relations between the US and Belarus are strained, following the March re-election of Belarussian President, Aleksandr Lukashenko, an outspoken critic of US foreign policy.

"I believe this type of interaction is useful for both sides," said Shidlovsky. "It was a good opportunity for the Embassy to spread information about the country, economy, foreign policy, and for the students to get additional information about a foreign country and international relations and to get answers to their questions".

Shidlovsky also expressed his gratitude to Matthew Krzyston, Executive Director of RPX, for his assistance in arranging the trip. Mr. Shidlovsky, who has traveled to twenty-six states during his two years in the US, commented on the beauty of the Catskill region and expressed his willingness to revisit the area.

"This was part two of a cultural exchange program that we launched in Belarus a year ago" said Krzyston. "Last year we sent a U.S. professor to speak at Belarus Sate University. These exchanges go a long way toward building relations and breaking down stereotypes that politicians and media tend to focus on", said Krzyston. RPX also coordinated the recent visit of a medical doctor from the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to hospitals in Delhi in Walton.



RPX was founded as a nonprofit organization in 2003 to equalize standards of health care, information access and participation in government around the world. RPX addresses its mission by providing material and technical support to other nonprofit organizations in developing regions.