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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EMBASSY OF REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
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Bilateral Political Consultations Slovenia – U.S.

On May 17 and 18, Mr. Tomaž Lovrenčič, Political Director/Director General for Common Foreign and Security Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia paid a working visit to Washington to participate in bilateral political consultations with the U.S. counterparts.

Among others PD/DG Lovrenčič met with the Director of the Office of Central European Affairs, Aubrey Carlson, and during the discussion recalled the recent visit of Prime Minister Miro Cerar to the U.S. along with a business delegation. In addition to economic cooperation, which could be further strengthened, he also expressed



hope that the U.S. will continue to support the International Trust Fund for Demining. PD/DG Lovrenčič also met with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robin Dunningan with whom he talked about the importance of diversification of energy sources.

The Slovenian delegation also met with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Pennington, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Alexo Miller and Head of the Sector for Syria Theresa Grenick to discuss the current security situation in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria. In the meeting with Deputy Assistant

Secretary Catherine Wiesner, PD/DG Lovrenčič explained the challenges Slovenia faced last fall due to the a large and sudden migration wave following the Western Balkan migration route. He also met with the Head of the Department for Ukraine Alexander Kasanof with whom he spoke about various challenges facing Slovenia and possible further Slovenian assistance in the region. In addition to the above, PD/DG Lovrenčič met representatives of several universities and various think-tanks, where they exchanged views on pressing issues facing the international community.

9th Annual Roll Call of Nations Event to Remember the Victims of Communism



On June 10, Ambassador Dr. Cerar attended the 9th annual Roll Call of Nations commemorative event organized by the Victims of

Communism Memorial Foundation. Along with some 20 other embassies as well as 27 ethnic and human rights groups he participated in the ceremony

and, on behalf of the Republic of Slovenia, laid a wreath at the Victims of Communism Memorial in Washington in memory of all victims of communism.

EDUCATION

Slovenian Language Class at the Embassy

On May 31 and June 1, the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington organized free interactive lectures of the Slovenian language. The class was conducted by Mr. Luka Zibelnik, lecturer from University of Ljubljana, currently working at Cleveland State University at the Center for Slovenian studies, and his wife and

assistant Ms. Erika Zibelnik. Around 60 people joined the »survival« Slovenian language class both evenings and the listeners learned several phrases that they could use in both informal and formal situations when meeting a Slovenian speaker. Mr. Zibelnik also presented the new online classes he developed in the

recent years for people who cannot attend regular classes due to time or space restrictions. An internet-based series of classes, which can be accessed from anywhere in the U.S., has therefore been constructed. More information on classes and how to enroll are available at:

www.onlineslovenian.com.



Taste of Slovenia at the Nationals Park



On Saturday, May 28, the embassy along with other D.C. international community members took part in the “Taste of the World” culinary event organized by the Washington Nationals at the Washington Park. Over a dozen countries participated, namely: Afghanistan, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Morocco,

Qatar, Slovenia, South Korea and Uzbekistan. The food festival took place before the game between Washington Nationals and St. Louis Cardinals.

As the embassy staff offered to the baseball enthusiasts traditional foods and drinks, the ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar took part at the pregame ceremonies. Along with other flags, the Slovenian flag was

displayed on the field when around 30,000 folks had to answer the question as to what anniversary the country is commemorating this year. All fans were also invited to enjoy other international-themed activities around the ballpark and to visit tourist booths set up by respective countries.



Embassy Adoption Program: Soccer Match with Mann ES



As a part of the Embassy Adoption Program, the fifth-graders of the Horace Mann Elementary School on June 2 welcomed in their classroom Ambassador Dr. Cerar and the Slovenian embassy staff. The final presentation and a friendly soccer match concluded the one-year partnership between the embassy and the school under the umbrella of the Embassy Adoption Program.

This was the seventh year that the Slovenian embassy participated in the Embassy Adoption program, which annually matches a Washington-based embassy and a DC public school with the purpose to interactively present a new country to fifth graders. Ms. Zakrajšek, Cultural, Press and Public

Diplomacy Officer and the teacher, Mr. Howes, worked together with the class throughout the school year, trying to introduce to them a unique, inside look at Slovenia, its history, geography, cuisine, traditions, culture, and language.

Among many activities, in October the children enjoyed a puppet show by Zapik Theatre from the capital, Ljubljana, and in November got a taste of a traditional Slovenian breakfast. In January they learned several phrases in the Slovene language and in February they read poetry by the national poet France Prešeren as well as learned to sing the Slovenian national anthem. In March they visited the embassy premises and danced traditional dances. In May they prepared several typical Slovenian

dishes within the scope of the Cooking Kids project.

The final presentation highlighted their knowledge of Slovenia. They demonstrated some basic Slovenian, sang the national anthem, and presented the ambassador with a collection of artwork which showcased the country as well as a painting that depicts Slovenian national flag merged with the logo of the Horace Mann Elementary School.

After an admirable and impressive performance, the ambassador presented the children with gifts provided by the Slovenian Soccer Association. In conclusion, the students and the embassy staff played a soccer match in the school's sports field.



Slovenian Universities Presented at NAFSA Fair in Denver

On May 29 to June 3, the 2016 NAFSA (National Association of Foreign Student Advisers) Annual Conference and Expo took place in Denver, Colorado. As part of the program, NAFSA Country Fair was carried out on Thursday, June 2, 2016. The event was an opportunity for Slovenia to share information on

education and culture with hundreds of NAFSA members attending the conference, among them university and government representatives.

Honorary Consul of Slovenia in Colorado Mr. Lucky Vidmar introduced the education opportunities in Slovenia to the visitors at this largest international

higher education event. Several thousand people stopped at the Slovenian booth, displaying brochures and other promotional material about Slovenia in general, however with the focus on the University of Ljubljana, University of Primorska, and University of Nova Gorica and their programs.



Activities and Practices of Slovenian Economic Diplomacy

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently published a booklet on Activities and Practices of Slovenian Economic Diplomacy. Business diplomacy is a major tool of the Slovenian diplomatic network, as the government endeavors to enhance internationalization of Slovenian companies and investment in innovation and competitiveness. This review of the activities and practices of Slovenian economic diplomacy includes some examples of the model concrete activities of Slovenian economic diplomacy, demonstrating that the approaches and activities of economic diplomacy

differ according to the geographical location and characteristics of the regions and countries where they are pursued.

In some locations, visits by business delegations have proven effective, while in others, workshops or support from mixed economic commissions give good results. In any event, all providers of economic diplomacy services take the approach of agreeing on the means and methods with the company seeking assistance. In some markets, the goal is to find investment opportunities, and in some locations, to inform potential investors of what Slovenia

has to offer; however, the aim is always to promote trade between the two countries. Economic diplomacy, with other actors, promotes Slovenia as an attractive tourist destination, as well as a country seeking to become exemplary in pursuing joint projects in culture, science and technology.

You can find the full report on the activities and practices of Slovenian economic diplomacy at: http://www.mzz.gov.si/fileadmin/pageuploads/foto/1604/Aktivnosti_in_prakse_slovenske_gospodarske_diplomacije__zadnja_-_ENG.pdf