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CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT

SUPPORTING CHANGE THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

The CEP International Student Conferenc

More than 130 students from CEP classrooms throughout the region gathered in Budapest on April 13–18 for the 1999 CEP International Student Conference, *Ten Years After: Moving Forward ...Looking Back*. The students, representing nineteen countries and a wide range of disciplines, were challenged to consider whether the transition toward democratic government and market economies has met the expectations of the people and whether the reforms should continue to proceed along a similar course. The students presented their original academic papers during twenty-five panel sessions over the course of the five-day event. Topics such as nationalism, cultural change, regional security, political participation and human rights sparked lively discussions that often continued well beyond the formal sessions. Students were excited to discover that, despite their diverse backgrounds and experiences, they face a number of common challenges and problems. In addition

*Angelle Postolle – Visiting Lecturer
Almaty, giving a presentation
on a Human Rights panel*



to the panels, students also had ample opportunity to get to know one another and to see Budapest. The conference agenda included an opening ceremony at the Budapest City Hall, tours of the Central European University, an information fair, and social and cultural events. Each year CEP Fellows and staff hear students say that the conference has been an eye-opening experience and one of the most important events of their lives. The 1999 conference was no exception as it provided the students a collegial and dynamic forum for exchanging ideas about the challenges they face as well as an opportunity to better understand their peers in the region.

Students about the conference:

“Learning about other countries’ problems helps to solve those of my country.”

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Students about the conference:

“Young generations should be taught how to discuss, not to quarrel.”

Participants on the Human Rights Panel



“The best way to solve the problems of economies in transition is participating by expressing personal opinions.”

Students about the conference:

Students from Central Asia



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