

ALTAI  
MIR  
UNIVERSITY

2007 annual report



## mission

Altai Mir University supports the unique indigenous culture of peace of the Altai Republic of Russia by assisting a multi-regional coalition of educational institutions, governments, businesses, and NGOs to implement cultural and technological tools for sustainability in inclusive, capacity-enhancing ways.

## objectives

- Practical educational and technological tool sets are in use by key sectors (inclusive of gender and indigenous culture) to support sustainable and peace-enhancing development in rural southern central Siberian region, focused on the Altai Republic.
- Whole-system planning is integrated across sectors and regions, optimizing strengths and remediating weaknesses.
- Urgent needs for healthcare and civil society-building are addressed through targeted multi-stakeholder planning, and implementation of seminars and distance-learning programs concurrently with projects necessary to build a functioning technical infrastructure.
- The valuable culture and ecology of the Altai region are internationally nurtured according to local indigenous leadership, so that the legacy is available to meet global needs, especially the health and spiritual resources for which the region is renowned.
- Internationally collaborative research for “best practices” accelerates development innovations.

## from the president

**2007 was an wonderfully productive year for Altai Mir University**, thanks largely to our generous and effective Russian colleagues, who opened doors for us that we simply could not open ourselves. They volunteered crucial information, networking contacts, extraordinary hospitality, translation and technical skills, and on-going encouragement.

Marina Tyasto, Director of International Relations at Siberian Academy for Public Administration, and Lyuda Komkova, President of the Russian NGO “Connect,” provided logistical support in Novosibirsk that was fundamental to the implementation of our program.

Alex “Sparky” Klimenko and Victoria Yacovleva shepherded our foreign visitors through the labyrinth of the Moscow airports. Additionally, Alex provided substantial logistical and translation support for the youth leadership camp. And Alex and his brother Nick recorded and produced two videos – one documenting the international expedition to Mt. Belukha in 2006, and another for this year’s 1st International “Earth Children” youth leadership camp in Altai.

Nina Goncharova, with her “Planet 3000” organization, partnered with us on the youth camp, pulling in the whole team of volunteers that she has spent years developing. Nina’s colleague Svetlana Katinova provided the camp facilities as well as arranging the exhibition of my paintings at the Altai Republic National Museum in May/June.

And Leonid and Tais Bolgov made their “Belukha Retreat Center” the permanent museum for those paintings, as well as a home for me when I’m in Altai.

Danil Mamyev continued his selfless leadership to sustain at-risk traditional and sacred Altai lands, and coached us on how to help.

Our gratitude is deep for these wonderful Russian friends!



Carol Hiltner, President



# milestones



Our provisional 501(c)3 nonprofit status is now official. After review by the IRS in 2010, we will be eligible for permanent 501(c)3 nonprofit status.

Our action items for 2007 fell into two broad categories that support local development efforts in Altai Republic, based on hundreds of meetings with diverse people from Altai, as well as two Open Space strategic planning conferences in late 2006:

- Leadership development
- Communication infrastructure

Detailed written reports on all our activities, with photographs, are available on-line at [www.AltaiMir.org/events.htm](http://www.AltaiMir.org/events.htm).

***Objective: Practical educational and technological tool sets are in use by key sectors (inclusive of gender and indigenous culture) to support sustainable and peace-enhancing development in rural southern central Siberian region, focused on the Altai Republic.***

During 2007, our first full year of existence, we focused on laying groundwork through youth leadership training projects:

- Our biggest initiative in 2007 was the organization of the First “Earth Children” International Youth Leadership Festival in collaboration with the “Planet 3000” Project, especially the sponsorship of nine international participants: four youths and a chaperone from Israel, including an Israeli/Palestinian youth; and two Native American youths with two chaperones.
- In collaboration with National Peace Foundation and the Cherokee Nation, we facilitated a delegation of four emerging Altai leaders to visit Native American Tribes, funded by “Open World,” a US Library of Congress program.
- A grant proposal was submitted to “UN Decade for Indigenous People” program for Louie Hena, Tesuque Pueblo permaculture expert to visit Altai in summer 2009, with the “Open World” team as collaborators.
- Two videos were made by Alex and Nick Klimenko – for the 2006 International Expedition to Mt. Belukha and the 2007 Youth Camp.



# milestones

**Objective: Whole-system planning is integrated across sectors and regions, optimizing strengths and remediating weaknesses.**

- In 2007, whole-system planning was implemented through extensive face-to-face meetings to move forward on the initiatives set forth at the two “Open Space Technology” conferences we convened at the end of 2006.
- Carol chaired the plenary session “Global Leadership for Local Development” at the 9th Annual Global Leadership Forum in Novosibirsk in May.

**Objective: Urgent needs for healthcare and civil society-building are addressed through targeted multi-stakeholder planning, and implementation of seminars and distance-learning programs concurrently with projects necessary to build a functioning technical infrastructure.**

- Through an end-of-year internet giving campaign, about \$2500 was donated to support the surveying and registration of at-risk traditional and sacred indigenous lands in Altai Republic.
- Through extensive on-line research and countless meetings, we are tracking down already-existing, Russian-language, distance-learning curricula (frequently developed for grant-funded projects that have been concluded), on topics that apply directly to Altai Republic’s urgent needs. In 2008, we plan to design the on-line format to make these curricula accessible.
- We also continued to facilitate the development of communication infrastructure in Altai Republic, working specifically with Adar Sumin of the Altai Republic Finance Ministry:
  - Carol and Adar met with the Russian representatives of the Intel ITeach and Microsoft Idea Center programs at Project Harmony offices in Moscow to initiate implementation in Altai Republic.
  - We also explored the possibilities and resources for establishing a self-sustainable center in Altai to train computer technicians by refurbishing computers donated by Russian banks and businesses. These computers would then be distributed to provide a critical component Altai Republic’s communication infrastructure.



# milestones

**Objective:** The valuable culture and ecology of the Altai region are internationally nurtured according to local indigenous leadership, so that the legacy is available to meet global needs, especially the health and spiritual resources for which the region is renowned.

- We edited the English translation of Shodoyev's groundbreaking book on Altai cosmology, *The Altai Bilik*, and found a publisher. However, Shodoyev's partner withdrew the request to publish the information in English, so this project is on hold.
- We supported the international resurgence of interest in the transmission of oral history through throat-singing with two initiatives:
  - As requested by the Altai Republic Culture Ministry, we sought the support of international ethnographers to digitize tape-recorded archives of great throat-singers. We subsequently discovered that funding had been procured elsewhere.
  - We facilitated the successful New York visit of Urmat Yntaev, leader of the throat-singing ensemble Alta Kai, to participate in an international cultural showcase. In the process, we organized a Russian-language cable radio interview with Urmat, including a throat-singing demonstration.
- We continued investigating how to implement the request of Altai horsemen to import American Mustang genetic material to enhance the local Altai breed, making connection with an Oxford-trained Altai veterinarian, and participating in feasibility meetings with Agriculture Ministries in both the Altai Republic and at the federal level.
- Carol's Altai-inspired paintings were exhibited at the National Museum of Altai Republic in May, and then placed in permanent exhibition at the Belukha Retreat Center in Ust-Koksa.
- A second agreement was made with local people to construct pit toilets at the congested pilgrimage site at the foot of Mt. Belukha.

**Objective:** Internationally collaborative research for “best practices” accelerates development innovations.

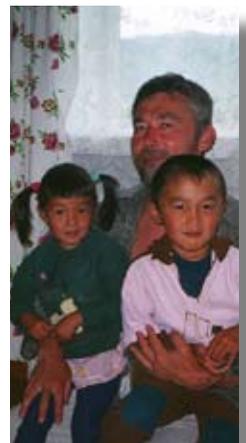
- All of our initiatives meet this objective, through discussion with local and international experts and through extensive internet research.



# looking ahead

In 2008, we will build on the successes of 2007, and continue to work interactively with our growing network of Altai activists.

- We will focus on supporting indigenous Altai people to survey and register communal lands. We will continue internet fundraising efforts for this.
- In 2008, we expect to design the on-line format to make accessible specific, already-existing, Russian-language, distance-learning curricula by such organizations as World Bank, Intel, MicroSoft, and UNESCO on topics that apply directly to Altai Republic's urgent needs.
- We will facilitate the use of Russian language "Leave No Trace" conservation materials and the tour guide handbook developed by "Fund for Sustainable Altai," and a Belukha clean-up by local and Russian youths.
- We will continue to facilitate web and e-mail connectivity for Altai Republic through the efforts of Adar Sumin in the Altai Republic Finance Ministry.
- We hope to facilitate or sponsor exhibition of Altai children's artwork at American venues.
- If the opportunity arises, we will facilitate or sponsor West Coast concerts by Altai Kai.
- Carol will participate and provide English-language support for the 10th Annual Global Leadership Forum in Novosibirsk.
- Fundraising and grant proposals will continue, as consistent with our objectives, for any project that fits within our objectives.
- We will work with local activists to facilitate the development of cultural centers in Altai Republic:
  - With Svetlana Katinova to develop an international ethnocultural/meditation center and youth camp near Tyungur at the base of Mt. Belukha.
  - With Leonid and Tais Bolgov, a comfortable international meditation center and museum in Ust Koksa, near Mt. Belukha.





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Leonid and Tais Bolgov, “Belukha Retreat Center,” Altai Republic

### **[www.AltaiMir.org](http://www.AltaiMir.org)**

Comprehensive reports, with photos, of our initiatives are available on  
our website, in English and/or Russian.

Financial report available on request.

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