

Inci Bowman

Subject: New Year Brings Changes

Sent Jan 2, 2009

Happy New Year, Everyone!

On behalf of the International Committee for Crimea and Crimea-L Moderators, I wish all of you a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. As we begin the New Year, our thoughts go to Crimean Tatars and other national and ethnic groups who have been victimized by oppressive governmental policies. As we approach the 65th anniversary of the deportation of Crimean Tatars, one wishes for a better economic and political climate in Ukraine. One wishes that their resettlement in Crimea would be facilitated with greater cooperation from the government and people of Crimea, and without any animosity, prejudice and violation of their basic rights. May the New Year bring peace and goodwill to all.

I would like take this opportunity to announce my "retirement" as a Moderator of Crimea-L and thank all those who have contributed and supported Crimea-L. I have been actively involved in the administration of the communications list since its inception on 24 November 1998. It seems as if I have aged with Crimea-L. To date we have distributed 5,514 messages, and there are currently 937 names on the mailing list. While three other Moderators have assisted in the administration of Crimea-L, in recent years I have assumed the greater responsibility for the group and been the "public face" of Crimea-L.

I am also pleased to announce that Ms. Ayla Bakkalli, a member of the Crimean Tatar community in New York, has graciously agreed to become the Moderator. She will be responsible for the day-to-day administration of Crimea-L. Ayla grew up in New York and received her early education there. After getting a B.A. in Business Administration, she received an M.A. degree in international relations from New York University, where she is also pursuing her studies toward a doctoral degree. She has worked in non-profit organizations, including Global Housing Foundation, a United Nations accredited NGO to address housing issues in developing countries. She is familiar with the developments in Crimea and has worked on projects relating to Crimean Tatars. We are grateful to Ayla Bakkalli for agreeing to work with us and to share her experience and knowledge with us.

We look forward to your continuing support and increased participation in 2009. Crimea-L is not intended as a news service, and the success of a virtual group like this depends on the active participation of its members. As you know, the scope of this communications list remains Crimea and Crimean Tatars. Any topic relating to social, economic and political issues in Crimea, and the history, language and culture of Crimean Tatars would be of interest to us.

Best wishes to all,

Inci Bowman
International Committee for Crimea
Washington, DC