# NEWSLETTER



The International Commission

for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania

#### Meeting – discussion at the Embassy of Japan in Vilnius

10 June, trilateral meeting was held at the Embassy of Japan in Vilnius. The meeting was attended by the Embassy of Japan advisor Keiko Nakata, a group of educators from Florida, USA, and the Coordinator of Education Programs at the International Commission Ingrida Vilkiene and a coordinator of Tolerance Education Centre from Kaunas Dalia Urzaite.

The main topic of the meeting was the Holocaust education and the projects implemented by educators both in Lithuania and in the USA.

The personality of Japanese Consul-General Chiune Sugihara and his heroism saving Jews in 1940 in Kaunas by issuing transit visas were also discussed at the meeting.

The participants of the meeting talked about the project on Chiune Sugihara implemented in 2013-2014 in Lithuania, the USA and Japan and decided that the idea should be amplified and much more educational institutions should be involved into the project implementation. It was solidly agreed that different positive deeds should be discussed with young generation and Japanese Consul-General Chiune Sugihara is a perfect example of humanism.



# International seminar for educators "How to teach about the Holocaust in Schools?"

11 June one-day seminar for educators on teaching about the Holocaust in Lithuania and in Florida, USA was held in Vilnius. The seminar was attended by 3 American teachers 2 representatives of the Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education, Florida, USA, representatives of the International Commission and 13 teachers from Tolerance Education Centres in Lithuania.

The seminar participants shared their experience on organizing different activities for their students. Different issues on the Holocaust and Human Rights education faced by the educators in both countries were discussed. It was agreed that despite some differences in teacher experience, there are many universal things.

The seminar was organized on the incentive of Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education, Florida, USA and the Secretariat of the International Commission.





## Preparatory seminar for teachers and educators getting ready for the traineeship at Yad Vashem in July

18 June the seminar initiated by the Secretariat of the International Commission for teachers and educators who are ready to attend an international seminar at Yad Vashem the International School for Holocaust Studies, 12–22 July.

The seminar participants were honoured by meeting Lina Saulenaite an advisor from the Government Chancellery's Department of Foreign and European Union Affairs. The guest expressed her delight that such a large group of educators work on the topic of the Holocaust and pointed out that in many cases the teachers determine what human values are infixed into youth, what attitudes are nurtured in their consciousness on the way to self-sufficient life after graduation.

This year an international seminar at Yad Vashem the International School for Holocaust Studies will be attended by the 13 th group of educators from Lithuania. The seminars in Israel have been organised since 2003 on the basis of mutual cooperation agreement between the Secretariat of the International Commission and Yad Vashem the International School for Holocaust Studies.

### Conference in Prague following the history of soviet Czechoslovakia

Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes

26 June in Prague (the Czech Republic) at the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes in Czech Republic an international conference was held. The conference aimed to discuss the international project which is being implemented (2014-2015) on the history of soviet Czechoslovakia.

The conference was attended by the representatives of 3 counties, which are involved in this project. The project is initiated by the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes in Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Lithuania as the partners of the project. Lithuania was represented by the Coordinator of Education Programs at the International Commission Ingrida Vilkiene. Lithuanian representative introduced the project activities in Lithuania. Project material – short videos on the life in Czechoslovakia in the 6–7 decade – was tried by 6 Tolerance Education Centres' teachers. Some extra possibilities to us the project material in more attractive way were also discussed with the Czech and Slovak colleagues.