



Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

INSIDE

Out of the World of Darkness: World AIDS Day

Posters Celebrate Life

"The world has come out the darkness caused by HIV/AIDS and is looking ahead for a bright future," said 12-year-old Elias Alemayehu. Elias, the winner of a youth poster competition, expressed his view of the present world saying, "With the introduction of HIV treatment people, who seemed once to be doomed to dying of HIV/AIDS related complications are now leading a normal and happy life." Forty-four top student artists, ages 10-14, from nine private and public



Contest winner Elias Alemayehu explains his poster concept after accepting first prize from Mrs. Margaret Yamamoto (center) and Public Affairs Counselor Michael McClellan (right).

schools joined Elias to share their visions of life through art at a World AIDS Day poster compe-

tition held on December 1, 2008 at the residence of U.S. Ambassador to

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USAID Contribution Strengthens WFP Urban HIV/AIDS Program

Nutritional support helps people living with HIV celebrate life

DECEMBER 2, 2008 Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) celebrated their partnership today by highlighting a \$22 million dollar contribution over the next three years from USAID to support WFP's Urban HIV/AIDS Program. The program will address the food and nutritional needs of thousands of malnourished people living with HIV and their vulnerable children living in urban and per-urban areas.



USAID Mission Director Gleen Anders and WFP Representative and Country Director Mohammed Diab at the handover ceremony.

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USAID Contribution Strengthens WFP Urban HIV/AIDS . . .

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USAID/Ethiopia Mission Director Glenn Anders officially handed over the donation to Mohammed Diab, WFP Representative and Country Director in Ethiopia at one of the distribution centers in Addis Ababa.

“This is an historic event that further strengthens the collaboration between USAID and WFP and, most importantly, will improve the lives of tens of thousands of people living with HIV and their vulnerable children,” explained USAID Mission Director Anders. “Thanks to PEP-

FAR support, the food we are providing is a source of substance and hope to people living with HIV.”

Diab added, “WFP is indebted to USAID for this hugely generous and significant donation. It will allow WFP to continue the important

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Out of the World of Darkness: . . .

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Ethiopia Donald Yamamoto. The competition, organized around the theme “Celebrate Life,” provided an opportunity for the youth participants to share their perceptions about HIV/AIDS in a country



Students hard at work on their posters.

where, three years ago, treatment was provided to less than 6,000 people living with the virus, but since the launch of free ART ser-

vices sponsored by the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the medications have become available to more than 110,000 patients.

Speaking at the World AIDS Day poster contest, U.S. Ambassador Donald Yamamoto encouraged the students to be responsible citizens and work hard for a brighter HIV-free future.

The Ambassador gave the students a tour of his residence, which houses American and Ethiopian artwork.

Local Ethiopian and American artists were invited to select the winners of the poster competition, which they said was a difficult task since all the posters were all artistic and meaningful.

The top three winning posters will be sent to Washington to be displayed in an exhibition with works of other winners from different PEPFAR-partner countries.

The U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is the largest commitment to combat a

single disease in history. Through PEPFAR, the U.S. Government has provided \$18.8 billion in HIV/AIDS funding worldwide, with a reauthorization of up to U.S.\$48 billion for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria over the next five years, 2008-2013. Since 2004 PEPFAR has provided more than U.S.\$850 million for care, treatment and prevention to Ethiopia. Ethiopia receives the fourth-largest share of PEPFAR funds.

Congratulations to all of the excellent student artists who took place in the poster contest.

Abebe Belay
Abel Melaku
Abenezer Mezgebu
Betelehem Lakew
Betelehem NEgash
Betlehem K/wold
Bilen Tsegaye
Biniam Melaku
Biruk Tadele
Bruktawit H/Mariam
Dereje Daniel
Elias Alemayehu (1st place)
Fanuel Tadesse
Fasil Dubab
Fitsum Kidu

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President-elect Obama's Opening Remarks at Press Conference

Remarks of President-elect Barack Obama
Announcement of National Security Team
December 1st, 2008
Chicago, IL

Good morning. Last week, we announced our economic team, which is working as we speak to craft an Economic Recovery Program to create jobs and grow our struggling

economy. Today, Vice President-elect Biden and I are pleased to announce our national security team.

The national security challenges we face are just as grave -- and just as urgent -- as our economic crisis. We are fighting two wars. Old conflicts remain unresolved, and newly assertive powers have put strains on the international system. The spread of nuclear weapons raises

the peril that the world's deadliest technology could fall into dangerous hands. Our dependence on foreign oil empowers authoritarian governments and endangers our planet.

America must also be strong at home to be strong abroad. We need to provide education and opportunity for our citizens, so every American can compete with anyone, anywhere. And our economic power must sustain our military strength, our diplomatic leverage, and our global leadership.

The common thread linking these challenges is the fundamental reality that in the 21st century, our destiny is shared with the world's. From our markets to our security; from our public health to our climate -- we must act with the understanding that, now more than ever, we have a stake in what happens across the globe. And as we learned so painfully on 9/11, terror cannot be contained by borders, nor safety provided by oceans alone.

Last week, we were reminded of this threat once again when terrorists took the lives of six American

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President-Elect Obama's First Press Conference

Out of the World of Darkness: . . .

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Fitum Tessema
Henok Asfaw
Hermela Berihun
Israel Getachew
Kaleb Assefa
Kaleb Tsegaye
Kalkidan Mulugeta
Kidist Berhanu
Kidus Worku

Merdokios Wendwossen
Meron Awol (3rd place)
Mesfin Kefyalew
Mesfin Legesse
Mulugeta Mekoya
Nahom Yohannes
Nebiyu Lakew
Selamawit Yesmaw
Sergut Guale
Serkalem Melaku
Tamrat Feyesa

Teklemariam Hegu
Tewodros Eshete
Tomas Abera
Weknesh Abegaz
Yohannes Afework (2nd place)
Yohannes Getahun
Yohannes Mekonnen
Yohannes Mezgebu
Zelalem Asfaw

Hillary Clinton Is Obama's Pick to Head State Department

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — Vigorous diplomacy is needed to address the security and policy interests of the United States, according to Secretary of State-designate Hillary Clinton. She said Barack Obama's election as president signifies "a new effort to renew America's standing in the world as a force for positive change."

Speaking in Chicago December 1, Clinton told Obama, "If confirmed, I will give this assignment, your administration and our country my all."

Clinton, currently a U.S. senator from New York, was first lady during Bill Clinton's 1993-2001 presidency. She was also President-elect Obama's principal challenger in the battle for the Democratic Party presidential nomination in 2008.

In announcing he had selected Senator Clinton to become the 67th secretary of state, Obama described her as "an American of tremendous stature who will have my complete confidence, who knows many of the world's leaders, who will command respect in every capital, and who will clearly have the ability to advance our interests around the world."

If confirmed, Clinton will face an "ambitious foreign policy agenda," such as preventing the spread of nuclear weapons to Iran and North Korea, seeking peace between Is-

rael and the Palestinians, and strengthening international institutions, Obama said. (See "National Security Team Selected by Obama" (<http://www.america.gov/st/elections08-english/2008/December/20081201143005esnamfuak0>).



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172619.html?CP.rss=true).")

Clinton had a long legal career before campaigning for her husband in his elections as attorney general in Arkansas (1976), governor of Arkansas (1978) and president of the United States in 1992. In 1974, she worked on the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, where she was a member of an inquiry staff researching the possibility of impeaching then-President Richard Nixon for his involvement in the Watergate scandal.

As first lady, Clinton traveled to 79 countries, She was a strong advocate of women's rights around the world and a vocal opponent of the Taliban's treatment of women in Afghanistan. She also helped create the Vital Voices initiative, designed to promote women's political par-

ticipation across the globe.

In November 2000, Clinton was elected to the Senate and has served on several committees including Budget, Armed Services, and Environment and Public Works. She has served as commissioner on the Senate Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. In her December 1 remarks, Senator Clinton said she is proud to be joining Obama "on what will be a difficult and exciting adventure in this new century." Along with defending its freedoms and liberties, the

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President-elect Obama's Opening Remarks at Press . . .

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among nearly 200 victims in Mumbai. In the world we seek, there is no place for those who kill innocent civilians to advance hateful extremism. This weekend, I told Prime Minister Singh that Americans stand with the people of India in this dark time. And I am confident that India's great democracy is more resilient than killers who would tear it down.

And so, in this uncertain world, the time has come for a new beginning -- a new dawn of American leadership to overcome the challenges of the 21st century, and to seize the opportunities embedded in those challenges. We will strengthen our capacity to defeat our enemies and support our friends. We will renew old alliances and forge new and enduring partnerships. We will show the world once more that America is relentless in defense of our people, steady in advancing our interests, and committed to the ideals that shine as a beacon to the world: democracy and justice; opportunity and unyielding hope -- because American values are America's greatest export to the world.

To succeed, we must pursue a new strategy that skillfully uses, balances, and integrates all elements of American power: our military and diplomacy; our intelligence and law enforcement; our economy and the power of our moral example. The team that we have assembled here today is uniquely suited to do just that.

In their past service and plans for the future, these men and women represent all of those elements of American power, and the very best of the American example. They

have served in uniform and as diplomats; they have worked as legislators, law enforcement officials, and executives. They share my pragmatism about the use of power, and my sense of purpose about America's role as a leader in the world.

I have known Hillary Clinton as a friend, a colleague, a source of counsel, and as a campaign opponent. She possesses an extraordinary intelligence and toughness, and a remarkable work ethic. I am proud that she will be our next Secretary of State. She is an American of tremendous stature who will have my complete confidence; who knows many of the world's leaders; who will command respect in every capitol; and who will clearly have the ability to advance our interests around the world.

Hillary's appointment is a sign to friend and foe of the seriousness of my commitment to renew American diplomacy and restore our alliances. There is much to do -- from preventing the spread of nuclear weapons to Iran and North Korea, to seeking a lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians, to strengthening international institutions. I have no doubt that Hillary Clinton is the right person to lead our State Department, and to work with me in tackling this ambitious foreign policy agenda.

At a time when we face an unprecedented transition amidst two wars, I have asked Robert Gates to continue as Secretary of Defense, and I'm pleased that he's accepted. Two years ago, he took over the Pentagon at a difficult time. He restored accountability. He won the confidence of military commanders, and the trust of our brave men and women in uniform, and their fami-

lies. He earned the respect of members of Congress on both sides of the aisle for his pragmatism and competence. He knows that we need a sustainable national security strategy -- and that includes a bipartisan consensus at home.

As I said throughout the campaign, I will be giving Secretary Gates and our military a new mission as soon as I take office: responsibly ending the war in Iraq through a successful transition to Iraqi control. We will also ensure that we have the strategy -- and resources -- to succeed against al Qaeda and the Taliban. As Bob said not too long ago, Afghanistan is where the war on terror began, and it is where it must end. And going forward, we will continue to make the investments necessary to strengthen our military and increase our ground forces to defeat the threats of the 21st century.

Eric Holder has the talent and commitment to succeed as Attorney General from his first day on the job, which is even more important in a transition that demands vigilance. He has distinguished himself as a prosecutor, a Judge, and a senior official, and he is deeply familiar with the law enforcement challenges we face-- from terrorism to counter-intelligence; from white collar crime to public corruption.

Eric also has the combination of toughness and independence that we need at the Justice Department. Let me be clear: the Attorney General serves the American people. And I have every expectation that Eric will protect our people, uphold the public trust, and adhere to our Constitution.

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Shoe4Africa Promoting Sport, Raising Awareness of HIV in Africa

By Kathryn McConnell
Staff Writer

Washington — In 1995, elite runner Toby Tanser was living and training in Kenya. While he was using up-to-date training equipment provided by a sportswear company sponsor, he noticed that throughout Kenya, many runners were training and racing without shoes. He began to give away his own used athletic shoes to runners who needed them.

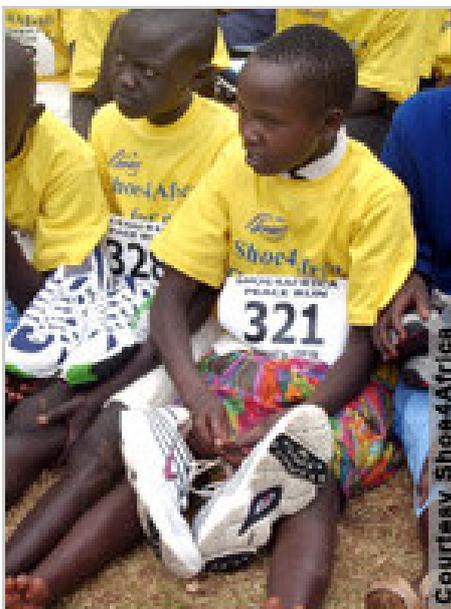
When some of those runners began to win major races in Kenya and other countries, Tanser realized that something as simple as a pair of shoes could change a person's life.

Giving away his own shoes led Tanser to establish Shoe4Africa, a New York-based nonprofit organization that collects usable shoes, ships them to Africa using donated funds, and distributes them to people who need them through partner athletes and coaches in Africa. At the 2008 New York Marathon, runners and spectators donated 10,000 pairs of slightly used shoes to Shoe4Africa, Tanser told [America.gov](http://america.gov).

The group also sponsors free races across Africa. When Tanser saw that these races were bringing together families and neighbors to cheer runners and to sing and dance, he and some of his colleagues decided to use the large gatherings to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, basic hygiene and other health issues. They prepared health materials printed in local languages and distributed them at races, and recruited health workers to provide on-site HIV testing.

So far, Shoe4Africa has worked in Kenya, Tanzania and Morocco. It has plans to begin operating in other countries, Tanser said. The group sponsors several running teams, a football (soccer) team and a running training camp and provides scholarships for women runners.

Currently, Tanser is in Kenya, where running is a celebrated sport, putting the final touches on plans



Shoe4Africa races also draw boy runners and entire communities to support the races. Each runner receives a pair of donated shoes.

for Shoe4Africa's latest race, a free five-kilometer "peace run" in Kibera, a large slum community with an estimated population of more than 1.2 million. More than 5,000 people are expected to run in the December 13 race.

Joining Tanser for the race and a following celebrity football match will be American Golden Globe-winning actor Anthony Edwards,

who starred for several years on the popular American television drama series ER.

Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga and New York City Marathon organizer George Hirsch are also expected to take part in the day's events.

Support from Edwards and other celebrity volunteers is important because of the worldwide attention the personalities draw, Tanser said. Edwards, whose ER character, a hospital emergency room doctor, has been known to tens of millions of viewers in many countries for several years, has appeared on national American television interview programs telling viewers about the need for donations of shoes and funds for shipping costs and about the link between footwear and disease prevention.

Now Shoe4Africa is on a venture — to raise \$15 million to build a 250-bed children's hospital in Eldoret, Kenya, where a major health issue is hookworm, a parasite that enters the body through bare feet and can lead to mental disabilities and malfunctioning immune systems.

More information about Shoe4Africa (<http://shoe4africa.org/>) is available on the organization's Web site.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)◆

President-elect Obama's Opening Remarks at Press . . .

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Janet Napolitano offers the experience and executive skill that we need in the next Secretary of Homeland Security. She has spent her career protecting people -- as a US Attorney, an Attorney General, and as Governor of Arizona. She understands the need for a Department of Homeland Security that has the capacity to help prevent terrorist attacks and respond to catastrophe -- be it manmade or natural.

Janet assumes this critical role having learned the lessons -- some of them painful -- of the last several years, from 9/11 to Katrina. She insists on competence and accountability. She knows firsthand the need to have a partner in Washington that works well with state and local governments. She understands as well as anyone the danger of an unsecure border. And she will be a leader who can reform a sprawling Department while safeguarding our homeland.

Susan Rice will take on the crucial task of serving as Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations. Susan has been a close and trusted advisor. As in previous Administrations, the UN Ambassador will serve as a member of my cabinet and integral member of my team. Her background as a scholar, on the National Security Council, and Assistant Secretary of State will serve our nation well at the United Nations.

Susan knows that the global challenges we face demand global institutions that work. She shares my belief that the UN is an indispensable -- and imperfect -- forum. She will carry the message that our commitment to multilateral action

must be coupled with a commitment to reform. We need the UN to be more effective as a venue for collective action -- against terror and proliferation; climate change and genocide; poverty and disease.

Finally, I am convinced that General James Jones is uniquely suited to be a strong and skilled National Security Advisor. Generations of Joneses have served heroically on the battlefield -- from the beaches of Tarawa in World War II, to Fox-trot Ridge in Vietnam. Jim's Silver Star is a proud part of that legacy. He will bring to the job the dual experience of serving in uniform and as a diplomat. He has commanded a platoon in battle, served as Supreme Allied Commander in a time of war, and worked on behalf of peace in the Middle East.

Jim is focused on the threats of today and the future. He understands the connection between energy and national security, and has worked on the frontlines of global instability -- from Kosovo to northern Iraq to Afghanistan. He will advise me and work effectively to integrate our efforts across the government, so that we are effectively using all elements of American power to defeat unconventional threats and promote our values.

I am confident that this is the team that we need to make a new beginning for American national security. This morning, we met to discuss the situation in Mumbai and some of the challenges that we face in the months and years ahead. In the coming weeks, I will be in close contact with these advisors, who will be working with their counterparts in the Bush Administration to make sure that we are ready to hit the ground running on January 20.

Given the range of threats that we face -- and the vulnerability that can be a part of every presidential transition -- I hope that we can proceed swiftly for those national security officials who demand confirmation.

We move forward with the humility that comes with knowing that there are brave men and women protecting us on the front lines. Troops serving their second, third, or fourth tours. Diplomats and intelligence officers in dangerous corners of the world. FBI agents in the field, cops on the beat, prosecutors in our courts, and cargo inspectors at our ports. These selfless Americans whose names are unknown to most of us will form the backbone of our effort. If we serve as well as they do, we will protect our country and promote our values.

And we move forward with respect for America's tradition of a bipartisan national security policy, and a commitment to national unity. When it comes to keeping our nation and our people safe, we are not Republicans and we are not Democrats: we are Americans. There is no monopoly of power or wisdom in either party. Together, as one nation, as one people, we can shape our times instead of being shaped by them. Together, we will meet the challenges of the 21st century not with fear, but with hope.

Now, before I take questions, I'd like to invite my team to say a few words, starting with my friend Hillary Clinton. Thank you.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)◆

Remarks by the President on World Aids Day

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Today is World AIDS Day, a day we reaffirm our commitment to fight HIV/AIDS at home and abroad. Thirty-three million people around the world are living with HIV, including more than one million Americans. Once again this year, to observe World AIDS Day, there is a red ribbon on the North Portico of the White House. The ribbon is a symbol of our resolve to confront HIV/AIDS and to affirm the matchless value of every life.

One of the most important initiatives of my administration has been the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, known as PEPFAR. It's the largest international health initiative dedicated to a single disease. When we launched PEPFAR, our goal was to support treatment for two million people in five years. Today, I'm pleased to announce that we have exceeded that goal -- early.

The American people, through PEPFAR, are supporting lifesaving treatment for more than two million people around the world. And when PEPFAR began, only 50,000 people living with HIV in all of sub-Saharan Africa were receiving antiretroviral treatment.



President George Bush makes a statement with first lady Laura Bush on World AIDS Day, at the White House, 01 Dec 2008

Around the world, we've also supported care for more than 10 million people affected by HIV, including more than four million orphans and vulnerable children. More than 237,000 babies have been born HIV-free, thanks to the support of the American people for programs to prevent mothers from passing the virus on to their children.

PEPFAR is bringing hope and healing to people around the world. On

our trips to Africa, Laura and I have witnessed firsthand the gratitude of the African people.

We look forward to discussing our efforts to combat global HIV/AIDS with Rick Warren at the Saddleback Civil Forum on Global Health this morning. In the meantime, we thank our fellow citizens for being so compassionate and so caring and so decent. God bless.♦

World AIDS Day, 2008

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
December 1, 2008

Fact Sheet

President And Mrs. Bush Have Taken Unprecedented Action In The Fight Against Global HIV/AIDS,

With PEPFAR Supporting Lifesaving Antiretroviral Treatment For More Than 2.1 Million People

Today, President and Mrs. Bush marked World AIDS Day 2008 with Pastor Rick Warren at the Newseum and discussed the success of this Administration's global

HIV/AIDS initiative. President and Mrs. Bush have made a historic commitment to the fight against global HIV/AIDS. Since 2001, the Administration has delivered more than \$148 billion to fight HIV/AIDS both at home and abroad. Once again, this year, the White House

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Hillary Clinton Is Obama's Pick to Head State . . .

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United States will "reach out to the world again, seeking common cause and higher ground," she pledged.

"We know our security, our values, and our interests cannot be protected and advanced by force alone, nor, indeed, by Americans alone. We must pursue vigorous diplomacy using all the tools we can muster to build a future with more partners and fewer adversaries, more opportunities and fewer dangers, for all who seek freedom, peace and prosperity."

SUSAN RICE CHOSEN AS U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Obama also selected Susan E. Rice to be U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. The president-elect said he plans to restore the post to a Cabinet-level position, as it had been during the Clinton administration.

Rice "knows the global challenges we face demand global institutions that work," Obama said, adding she shares his view that the United Nations is both "indispensable" as a multilateral institution as well as "imperfect" and in need of reform.

"We need the United Nations to be more effective as a venue for collective action against terror and proliferation, climate change and genocide, poverty and disease," the president-elect said.

A former Rhodes Scholar, Rice was a senior foreign policy adviser to Obama during his campaign and is a member of the Obama-Biden Transition Project's advisory board. In the Clinton administration, she was assistant secretary of state for African affairs between 1997 and 2001, and served on the National Security Council between 1993 and 1997.



President-elect Barack Obama listens as Susan Rice, his choice for U.N. ambassador, speaks at a press conference in Chicago on Monday.

By Scott Olson, Getty Images

Speaking in Chicago, Rice said that with Obama's election, U.S. voters signaled to the world that the coun-

try is "on the path to change."

"Now we must fulfill that promise by joining with others to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities of the 21st century — to prevent conflict, to promote peace, combat terrorism, prevent the spread and use of nuclear weapons, tackle climate change, end genocide, fight poverty and disease," she said.

The United States cannot accomplish these goals on its own, she said. "To enhance our common security, we must invest in our common humanity. And to do so, we need capable partners and far more effective international institutions."

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)♦

Media Awards Put Spotlight on Human Rights

By Jane Morse
Staff Writer

Washington — Nearly 500 journalists writing about 108 countries vie to create the most compelling human rights stories in a competition celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The “Every Human Has Rights” media awards were inspired by The Elders, a group of respected leaders convened by Nelson Mandela, a Nobel Peace Prize winner known the world over for his fight against apartheid in South Africa, and Graça Machel, an international advocate for women’s and children’s rights. Their partner is Internews, an international media development organization which has trained more than 70,000 people in media skills in more than 70 countries.

“Local journalists around the world play a key role in advancing human rights,” Annette Makino, Internews senior vice president for communications and external affairs, told America.gov. Local journalists, she said, “ask the hard questions of those in power. They give a voice to those who have been victims of human rights violations, and they inform and engage the public in working for human rights.”

The news media entries fell into categories including television, radio, print, Web journalism, citizen journalism/blog items and investiga-

tive reporting. There was even an online media report using Second Life simulation.

The winning entries included reports on topics such as forced labor at a Nike shoe factory in Malaysia, a hospital in Malawi that transfused HIV-tainted blood to a 2-year-old child, immigrant crossings of the U.S.-Mexico border, refugee camps in Darfur, and Internet censorship.

The 30 winners were selected by an independent, international jury made up of experienced journalists and human rights activists and chaired by Jimmie Briggs, author of *Innocents Lost: When Child Soldiers Go to War* and a U.N. goodwill ambassador.

Among the jury members was Mariane Pearl, widow of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, who was murdered in Pakistan in 2002 by Islamic extremists. A journalist and author herself, she said, “It was very inspiring to see how courageous journalists around the world are bringing human rights abuses to the light of day.”

The winners are flying to Paris to receive their awards December 6. Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former Irish President Mary Robinson, who served as the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997 to 2002, will speak at the event.

Seven of the winners will receive special prizes, to be announced in Paris, that include an award for the best piece as determined by an online public vote, which attracted responses from more than 2,000 people. (Entries can be viewed at the media awards Web site (<http://media-awards.everyhumanhasrights.org/>).)

Of the 482 journalists who participated in the competition, Makino said, “We hope that they continue over the coming years, and that others are inspired by their example.”

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)◆

World AIDS Day, 2008

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will display the red ribbon on the North Portico to represent the continued battle against HIV/AIDS and to affirm the matchless value of every human life.

The United States Is Helping To Turn The Tide Against Global HIV/AIDS

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease in human history. When the President launched this initiative in 2003, approximately 50,000 people in all of sub-Saharan Africa were receiving anti-retroviral treatment.

Ahead of schedule, the United States has fulfilled the President's commitment to support treatment for two million people. As of September 30, 2008, PEPFAR supported life-saving anti-retroviral treatment for more than 2.1 million men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS around the world, including more than 2 million people in sub-Saharan Africa.

As of September 30, 2008, nearly 9.7 million people affected by HIV/AIDS in PEPFAR's focus countries had received compassionate care, including nearly 4 million orphans and vulnerable children. Globally, the United States is supporting care for more than 10.1 million people, including more than 4 million orphans and vulnerable children.

Nearly 240,000 babies have been born HIV-free due to the support of the American people for programs to prevent mothers from passing the virus on to their children.

In July, President Bush signed into law H.R. 5501, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthoriza-



President George W. Bush speaks with Pastor Rick Warren Monday, Dec. 1, 2008, during President Bush's participation at the Saddleback Civil Forum on Global Health at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. White House photo by Eric Draper

tion Act. This legislation will expand access to lifesaving antiretroviral drugs, prevent millions of new HIV infections, and provide compassionate care to millions of people

affected by HIV/AIDS. Under this legislation, the next phase of the American people's generous commitment to those suffering from HIV/AIDS will support:

Treatment for at least 3 million people;

Prevention of 12 million new infections; and

Care for 12 million people, including 5 million orphans and vulnerable children.

Faith-based and community organizations are important partners in the implementation of PEPFAR, the President's Malaria Initiative, and other U.S.-funded efforts. President Bush's Faith-based and Community Initiative empowers these organizations so that they can help create an effective, multi-sectoral response to need. Faith-based and community organizations are uniquely positioned to promote HIV/AIDS stigma-reduction and prevention messages and provide counseling and testing, home care, clinical services, and antiretroviral treatment, particularly in some of the hardest-to-reach communities.

Last year, 87 percent of PEPFAR partners were indigenous organizations, and nearly a quarter were faith-based.

PEPFAR supports a comprehensive prevention portfolio. In addition to the balanced, evidenced-based ABC (Abstain, Be faithful, and correct and consistent use of Condoms) approach, the United States also

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Rice Urges India-Pakistan Cooperation in Mumbai Attack Probe

By David McKeeby
Staff Writer

Washington — The terrorist strike on India's financial capital, Mumbai, underscores the importance of building strong international counterterrorism partnerships to bring perpetrators to justice and prevent future attacks, says U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"Americans, perhaps as well as any, understand the feelings that run so deep at a time like this, having experienced the attacks of September 11th," Rice told reporters in New Delhi on December 3 in a joint press conference with Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Kumar Mukherjee. "I came to pledge the cooperation of the United States in both those tasks."

Dozens of Indian citizens were killed by a team of gunmen that launched coordinated attacks November 26 that claimed more than 170 lives and have been likened by many in India to the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

The terrorists targeted several of Mumbai's popular tourist sites, as well as a cinema and a hospital, police headquarters, a train station and a community center. Six Americans were among the victims, along with others from Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Singapore, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

Rice's visit follows the deployment of a team of top U.S. security experts, including FBI forensics investigators, to assist in the investigation. "What is important now is, of course, to go to the source and to know what happened, to follow every lead, wherever it may lead, and to bring those to justice who

sharing, in forensic help, to try and make those links," Rice said. She cited Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari's pledge to take action should investigations yield evidence that the gunmen received support from groups within Pakistan.

"The fact is that nonstate actors sometimes operate within the confines of a state, on the territory of a state, and when that is the case, then there has to be very direct and tough action against them," Rice said. "That is really the issue here. I think we need to let the facts lead where they may."



Demonstrators demanded better security in Mumbai on Wednesday.

did this," Rice said.

Rice declined to comment on Indian charges that the gunmen were linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba — designated by the U.S. State Department as a foreign terrorist organization for more than a decade of attacks launched from the Pakistani-controlled side of the disputed Kashmir region. The attacks have led to rising tensions between the two nuclear-armed South Asian neighbors and threaten to unravel progress toward India-Pakistan peace under the U.S.-supported "composite dialogue" process.

"We are not going to jump to any conclusions about who is responsible for this, although the United States is prepared and is already actively engaged in information

As Rice met with Mukherjee, India Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and other top officials, America's top military official, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen, arrived in Pakistan for talks with President Zardari and his top security advisers in a bid to defuse tensions in the region and confront extremist groups that pose a threat to India, Pakistan and the wider global community.

"We expect all responsible nations to participate and cooperate in bringing these perpetrators to justice," Rice said. "Pakistan has a special responsibility to do so, and to do so transparently, fully, urgently."

Both India and Pakistan have been targeted extensively by terrorists in recent years, including a 2001 at-

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World AIDS Day, 2008

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supports programs that address mother-to-child transmission, blood safety and safe medical injections, male circumcision, injecting drug users, HIV-discordant couples, alcohol abuse, and other key issues.

In 2008, President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Africa, where they witnessed the effectiveness of PEPFAR firsthand. At the Amana District Hospital in Tanzania, met with patients and saw the hope this program has given them, in addition to visiting with doctors, nurses, and caregivers of many faiths and backgrounds working to make a difference in the lives of their fellow citizens.

In 2007 G-8 leaders made a commitment to complement U.S. efforts so that together G-8 nations will support treatment for a total of five million people, prevent 24 million new infections, and care for 24 million people, including 10 million orphans and vulnerable children.

The United States is also working through multilateral organizations in the global fight against HIV/AIDS. The United States is the largest contributor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, providing more than \$3.3 billion since 2001.

Mrs. Bush has focused domestic and international attention on PEPFAR. Mrs. Bush has visited 10 of the 15 PEPFAR focus countries. In addition, she emphasizes the link between improved education and disease prevention in nations around the world.

Here At Home, The Administration

Is Dedicated To Helping The More Than One Million Americans Living With HIV/AIDS

The Administration has worked to address the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and to prevent new HIV infections within the United States. Approximately one in five people living with HIV – 21 percent – are unaware of their infection.

Since 2001, the Administration has devoted more than \$99 billion to treatment and care for people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States, increasing annual treatment funding by 40 percent. In addition, the Administration has devoted more than \$20 billion to domestic HIV/AIDS research to help develop new methods of treatment and prevention, increasing research funding by 21 percent during this same time period.

The Administration has successfully implemented the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act, in order to help ensure that AIDS patients can receive treatment, including lifesaving drugs. Since the 2006 reauthorization of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is better targeting Federal resources to assist areas with the greatest needs.

The Ryan White AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) provided lifesaving HIV/AIDS medications to more than 157,000 people and helped provide more than two million outpatient health care visits in 2006.

President Bush supported voluntary HIV tests becoming a routine part

of care so all Americans could know their status. The President's 2009 budget requested \$93 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) HIV Testing Initiative that focuses on areas of populations with the highest burden of disease.

President Bush has encouraged State and local HIV prevention efforts and outreach to high-risk populations. The number of HIV/AIDS cases is especially high in the African American, Hispanic, and gay communities, as well as among injecting drug users and prisoners. The Targeted Capacity Expansion Program for Substance Abuse Treatment and HIV/AIDS Services grants support providers across the United States in traditionally underserved communities.

The CDC continues to work in partnership with State and local health departments, national and regional organizations, and community-based organizations, supporting a wide range of science-based activities to monitor the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States and increase effective HIV prevention programs for persons living with HIV and at risk for HIV infection.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)◆

World Economy Turns on U.S. Consumer Behavior, and It Is Changing

By Katherine Lewis
Special Correspondent

Washington — Goods and services purchased by Americans make up one-fifth of the global economy, but the third quarter of 2008 saw the largest drop in consumer spending since 1980.

As the financial-market turbulence prompts U.S. households to cut back spending, economies around the globe feel repercussions.

“The U.S. consumer is a voracious consumer of goods and services,” said Scott Talbott, a senior vice president at the Financial Services Roundtable, which represents large financial institutions. “We [are] at the heart of the recession. That’s why we’re going to have to be at the heart of the recovery.”

Historically, Americans have spent a greater share of gross domestic product (GDP) — a measure of a nation’s economic size — than citizens of other countries have. Those expenditures translate into jobs and economic growth around the world.

Over the last 15 years, U.S. household spending climbed dramatically and savings declined, raising concern among policy makers and economists that the situation was unsustainable — even as the world was becoming more dependent on U.S. pocketbooks.

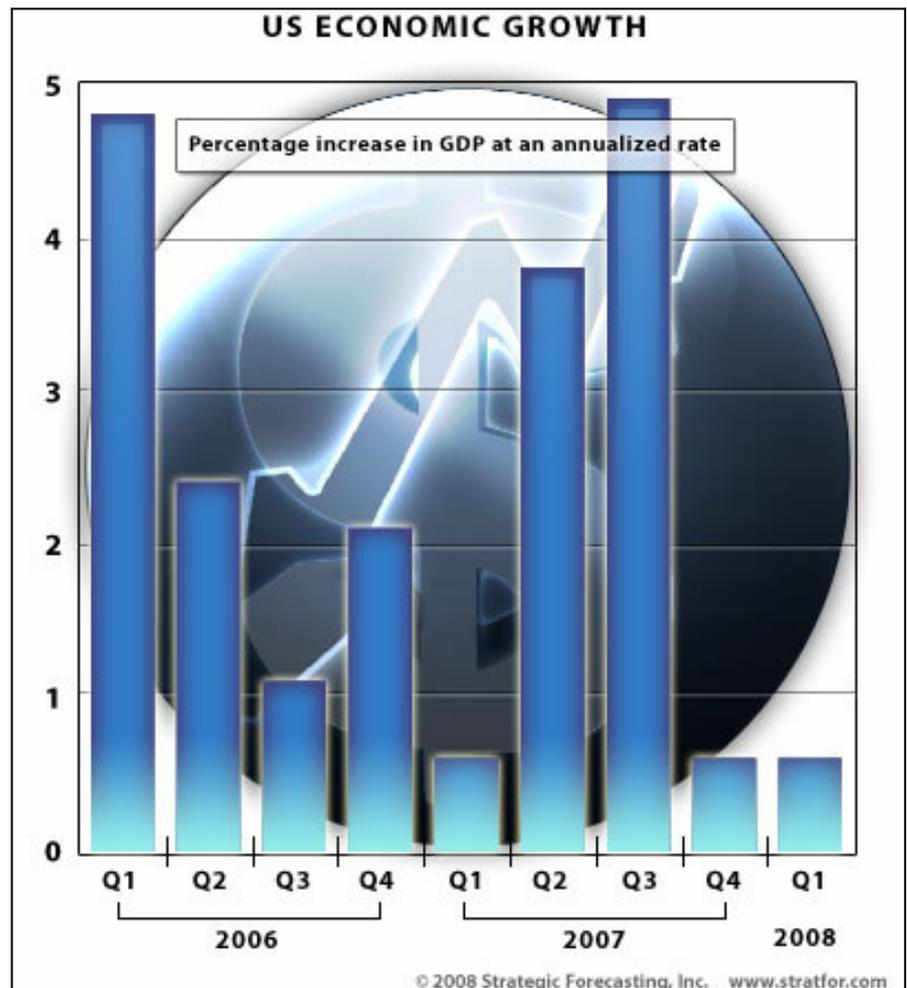
U.S. consumer spending grew to \$9.7 trillion in 2007, a whopping 70 percent of U.S. GDP, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

(OECD). That amounts to 18 percent of the gross world product, which was \$54.6 trillion in 2007 according to the CIA’s World Fact Book.

The problem with the recent dramatic growth in consumer spending

“Two-thirds of that borrowing, at least, came out of homes,” financial analyst Charles Morris told America.gov. “It was the number one supporter of consumer spending. That’s just over now.”

American consumption should probably ratchet back to 63 percent



is that people borrowed against their houses, which were climbing in value by 14 percent each year earlier this decade. The real estate collapse ended that run of easy money.

of U.S. GDP, in order for household savings to build to a healthy level, according to Morris, who authored *The Trillion Dollar Meltdown: Easy Money, High Rollers, and the Great Credit Crash*.

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World Economy Turns on U.S. Consumer Behavior, . . .

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The U.S. economy has been in recession since December 2007, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research.

“This will probably be the worst recession in the post-World War II period,” said Gus Faucher, director of macroeconomics at Moody’s Economy.com in West Chester, Pennsylvania. “Recessions result from imbalances in the economy, and then we correct those imbalances and we come back out. . . . We are going to see the savings rate increase as consumers more closely balance their income and spending.”

At 0.4 percent for 2007, the U.S. savings rate is the lowest in the world. It compares to 2.9 percent in the United Kingdom, 3.1 percent in Japan, 6.8 percent in Italy, 10.9 percent in Germany, 12.7 percent in France, 24 percent in China and 28 percent in India, according to a Financial Services Roundtable analysis of OECD data.

Americans consume more than citizens of other countries for a number of reasons.

“It’s partly cultural, but it’s also a reflection of tax policy,” said David Cross, president of business consultant Market Outlook. “You have much higher marginal tax rates in Germany, which discourages spend-

ing. There are issues of how much you can consume given the size of your home.”

The U.S. government gives a tax deduction for interest payments on home mortgages, which encourages people to buy larger houses and fill them with more possessions. The lower cost of gasoline in the United States boosts car sales, especially large cars, trucks and sport utility vehicles.

Americans also spend more on medical services than in Europe, where health care is heavily subsidized, Cross told America.gov.

Moreover, the U.S. market simply contains more products and services. For instance, the Chinese don’t have access to insurance products, so they tend to self-insure — one reason the savings rate is so high.

“Consumer attitudes toward spending and saving are very difficult to change,” Cross said.

Indeed, U.S. policy makers don’t want consumer spending to drop too quickly. They want to avoid the kind of economic stagnation Japan experienced during the 1990s, when people were overly reluctant to spend.

“This is uncharted territory,” the roundtable’s Talbott said. “If consumers don’t spend at all, then we

go into a worse recession. . . . We have to start saving a little more but continue to spend.”

To that end, the U.S. government in November committed as much as \$800 billion to revitalize the banking system and encourage loans for education, cars and real estate.

President-elect Barack Obama has set a goal of creating or preserving 2.5 million jobs over three years, and Democratic lawmakers are pushing an economic recovery package that could exceed \$500 billion.

At the recent financial summit in Washington, leaders of the G20 nations agreed to take steps to stimulate consumer spending in their home countries. The world’s largest economies plan to work together to stave off a global recession and to reform the world financial system.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)♦

International Partners Reduce Methane Greenhouse Gas Emissions

By Cheryl Pellerin
Staff Writer

Washington — A new report from an international public-private partnership formed in 2004 to reduce industrial and agricultural emissions of the potent greenhouse gas meth-



Methane gas released from mining coal, such as this chunk of anthracite, can be captured and used as a clean energy source.

ane details the success of U.S.-supported projects among partnership accomplishments.

According to the third annual report, The U.S. Government's Methane to Markets Partnership Accomplishments, released December 1, such projects, when fully implemented, will reduce annual methane emissions by a level equal to 24 million metric tons of carbon dioxide.

The report was developed jointly by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); the departments of State, Energy and Agriculture; the U.S. Agency for International Development; and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency.

"The emission reductions that are associated with the partnership and the number of partner countries and public- and private-sector organizations that participate in Methane to Markets continues to grow," Paul Gunning, a branch chief in EPA's Climate Change Division, told America.gov. "We now have 27 partner countries and about 800 public- and private-sector organizations in our project network."

The public-private partnership, which began four years ago with 14 countries, focuses on using available, cost-effective technologies for capturing and using methane as a fuel, and on identifying and addressing financial, institutional and regulatory barriers.

To date, the United States has provided \$28.5 million for a range of projects; attracted more than \$271 million in private- and public-sector contributions; and initiated direct-assistance agreements for projects to recover and use methane in Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Russia and Ukraine.

ON THE GROUND

Methane is a clean-burning fuel that is the main component of natural gas and an important energy source. Methane is more than 20

times more effective than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere, and it accounts for 16 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions from human sources.

According to EPA, reducing methane emissions is one of the most cost-effective ways to realize immediate environmental benefits because of methane's potency as a greenhouse gas and the number of reduction options.

Since 2004, the partnership has tracked the development of more than 140 methane-emission-reduction projects in partner countries, held 41 technical and other events in 13 countries, developed an array of computer-based tools and information services, and organized the first Partnership Expo in Beijing in 2007, which brought together more than 700 members of the international methane community.

In India, EPA launched a partnership with that nation's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). In September, the ONGC chairman directed his managers to implement cost-effective practices that could reduce ONGC methane emissions by an estimated 10 million cubic meters per year.

The declaration was the direct result of a yearlong EPA-ONGC collaboration in which EPA supported measurement of major emission sources that could be paired with established mitigation methods. ONGC plans to form an internal measurement team to institutionalize the leak-evaluation strategies.

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Portland, Oregon, Adjusts as Experiment with Smart Growth Goes On

By Andrzej Zwanecki
Staff Writer

Portland, Oregon — For almost three decades, Portland has pursued a “smart growth” strategy designed to arrest suburban sprawl and its consequences — air pollution from cars and the loss of farmland and open spaces. But the compact, walkable, transit-oriented and self-contained neighborhoods the strategy produced were more of a curi-

central city surged as a result of zoning laws, demographics and an influx of educated, creative high-earners. Traffic congestion increased as the share of people using public transport fell in the 1990s. (Use of buses and light-rail has picked up this decade.) And despite all the efforts, Portland’s outskirts remain dominated by car-dependent communities of single-family houses and strip malls.

input. For example, the proposal to add a south-north route to the city’s light-rail network was rejected by popular vote in one of the counties involved. Other ideas have been adjusted once their implementation produced unintended outcomes.

For example, when the conversion of Pearl District, an area of warehouses, workshops and rail yards, into a neighborhood of condomini-



Panorama of downtown Portland and the Hawthorne Bridge viewed from a dock on the Willamette River near the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

osity than a model other cities followed.

Recent concerns about climate change and oil-price shocks have changed that.

City and regional officials are happy to share their experience with others. Twice a week, the city organizes tours for U.S. and international visitors who want to learn about its experience with smart growth. But they caution that Portland’s growth is an experiment in progress with all this entails — opposition to change by some residents, unintended outcomes and necessary adjustments. For example, housing prices in the

Portland’s policies have raised some skepticism. Economist and former resident Randal O’Toole has made exposing smart growth’s faults his lifetime mission. Ken Dueker, professor of urban studies and planning at Portland State University, said smart growth may work better in older central cities than in new suburban developments and that setting strict population density limits does not necessarily promote a shift to alternative modes of transportation or a quality development pattern.

Officials are quick to say that a city’s development is an iterative process that involves much public

ums and lofts caused property prices in the area to surge, the city decided to encourage developers through tax and other financial incentives to build more affordable, family-oriented housing units in North Pearl. But nothing has created more tensions and controversies than attempts to “densify” the existing neighborhoods of single-family homes by adding apartment blocks. There even was an attempt by Oregonians in Action, a civic group, to strip Metro, the regional government, of its power to set density standards. A 2002 ballot initiative intended to achieve this lost, but gained enough support to

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DETERMINING POTENTIAL

Pre-feasibility and feasibility studies are key project-development steps. Pre-feasibility studies help developers determine whether a project can succeed. Feasibility studies give developers information about costs, challenges and results.



Methane gas burns off a stack in Vermont. Reducing methane emissions from oil and gas systems can enhance energy security.

In China in 2007, EPA launched initiatives to work with coal mines by conducting three full-scale feasibility studies at the Liuzhuang mine in Anhui province, a group of six mines in the Songzao coal basin in Chongqing, and six mines in the Hebi region of Henan province. EPA also funded a feasibility study for a new technology that mitigates di-

luted methane from coal mine ventilation shafts at the Tiefa mine in Liaoning province.

In Nigeria, EPA supported a pre-feasibility study at the Okpara mine, where mining is expected to start again in 2010 after several years of inactivity. The mine has the potential to produce up to 363,000 metric tons of coal per year.

With the World Bank, EPA has supported livestock waste-management projects in Southeast Asia since 2004. The World Bank provided \$21 million to develop affordable pollution-control methods for livestock waste management in China, Thailand and Vietnam, and EPA provided technical assistance needed to implement the projects.

MOVING FORWARD

In October, EPA announced it was funding, through the Methane to Markets Partnership, 20 projects that would help 12 countries increase their capture and use of methane from the landfill, coal, agriculture, and oil and natural gas sectors. The projects will receive more than \$4.5 million in grants from EPA.

In December 2008 and January 2009, Gunning said, EPA will solicit proposals for another round of grants that will total up to \$7 million for projects in developing countries or countries with economies in transition.

The next major meeting of partnership members will be held January 27-29, 2009, at the Centro Interna-

cional de Negocios Monterrey in Mexico, hosted by the Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources) and the state government of Nuevo Leon.

Ashley King, co-director of the Methane to Markets administrative support group, told America.gov the meeting will include tours of active projects in all four sectors and technical workshops in all sectors. The steering committee will meet January 27-28, 2009, and the technical subcommittees will meet January 29, 2009.

In late 2009 or early 2010, Gunning said, a report will be available that details the efforts of all Methane to Markets participating countries.

More information about Methane to Markets (<http://www.methanetomarkets.org/index.htm>) is available at the organization's Web site.

The full text of the U.S. Government Accomplishments in Support of the Methane to Markets Partnership (http://www.epa.gov/methanetomarkets/pdf/2008-accomplish-report/m2m08_usg_report_08_scrnrez.pdf) report (PDF, 3 megabytes) is available at the EPA Web site.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)♦

Portland, Oregon, Adjusts as Experiment with Smart Growth . . .

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give credence to the group's claim that the region and city are overregulated and their planning system unnecessarily complex and heavy-handed.

Tom Miller, the chief of staff for Mayor-elect Sam Adams, does not believe it is true.

"If Portland [were] overregulated and people [found] it a difficult place to live in, they would leave," he told *America.gov*. In reality, the opposite is happening, he said.

Nevertheless, Miller acknowledges that state land-use laws and city regulations could be more "nimble, agile and customer-friendly," something that both the state and city are pursuing. A 2007 state law brings some predictability to the land-use planning process for all involved parties, and a bill expected to be introduced in 2009 would give localities more say over land-use issues and "nonregulatory tools" to achieve their goals.

Critics say that, by focusing single-mindedly on containing the sprawl, the city has neglected economic development. With a 5.6 percent unemployment rate in October, Portland was below the national average but ranked low on the employment scale among municipalities of similar sizes.

Portland has a thriving business community. Nike Inc., the sports apparel and footwear maker and the largest local employer, as well as

manufacturers of high-quality bicycle frames and breweries grew organically from interests and activities that are consistent with life-style preferences of Portland's residents — sports, recreation and fresh, local food. But this may not be enough, especially in tough economic times, critics say.

That is why the Portland Development Commission (PDC) is shifting



In 2001, country roads were filled with heavy traffic in an area west of Portland where housing subdivisions meet farmlands.

its priorities. Traditionally focused on making Portland's streets and buildings more appealing, it now looks for ways to create jobs. It is a tough challenge for the commission, which can tie subsidies to economic-development goals but does not have much control over where employers locate.

Erin Flynn was brought from Boston in 2007 to find creative solutions to this challenge as the economic de-

velopment director at PDC. She told *America.gov* she believes that industries and firms built on indigenous values or interests, or those that share them, have stronger growth potential than "imported" businesses that do not connect to the local culture.

She sees particularly strong growth potential in an industry based on sustainability and green building experience. A recent study identified 11 potential green product and service industry areas as potentially producing jobs.

Whatever other possibilities emerge, Flynn said, "we need a robust economy."

See also "[A Model U.S. City Restricts Suburban Sprawl](#)." ♦

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SECTION
AMERICAN EMBASSY**

P.O.Box 1014
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Phone: 251-11-5174007
251-11-5174000
Fax: 251-11-1242454
Email: pasaddis@state.gov



See also

<http://www.america.gov/>

Telling America's story

USAID Contribution Strengthens WFP Urban HIV/AIDS . . .

(Continued from page 2)

work of providing nutritional support to individuals living with, and affected by HIV-AIDS, and trying to lead positive and meaningful lives. Food is often cited as their greatest and most urgent need."

Support for the contribution is from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR. President Bush promised to lead the fight against HIV/AIDS in 2003 and the United States has followed through on this commitment by leading the world in its level of support for HIV/AIDS relief while working in partnership with the people of many host nations.

The event comes the day after World AIDS Day, when millions around the world commemorated the day of action on HIV/AIDS. The theme for this year is "Celebrate Life" as lifesaving treatments have

restored many people living with HIV/AIDS have. Today, PEPFAR supports lifesaving treatments for 1.7 million people worldwide, and for 120,000 in Ethiopia as of October this year.

PEPFAR is the largest commitment in history to combat a single disease. Through PEPFAR, the U.S. Government has provided \$18.8 billion in HIV/AIDS funding worldwide, with a reauthorization of up to \$48 billion for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria over the next five years, 2008-2013. Ethiopia receives the fourth-largest amount of PEPFAR funds worldwide.

In Ethiopia, WFP's second largest operation in Africa assists households facing chronic food insecurity and affected by natural disasters, refugees, pregnant and nursing mothers, school children and individuals infected or affected by HIV-AIDS. WFP also helps communities through land rehabilitation programs,

Rice Urges India-Pakistan Cooperation in Mumbai . . .

(Continued from page 12)

tack on India's parliament, the December 2007 assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, blasts in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province and Baluchistan, as well as a recent string of bombings in the Indian cities of New Delhi and Jaipur.

More than 3,100 people in Pakistan and 1,460 in India have been killed or injured in terrorist attacks during 2008, according to the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center.

As investigations continue, Rice also stressed the importance of expanding existing intelligence exchanges and security cooperation

between Washington and New Delhi to prevent future attacks — a key lesson learned by U.S. policymakers since 2001. "The United States also has a good deal of experience in the counterterrorism fight and how one has to organize differently for that counterterrorism fight," she said.

"I know that this is a very difficult time for the people of India, for the people of Mumbai, but I hope that it is a time also when you can feel the sense of solidarity and support that is there in the international community from your friends," Rice said. "And I hope that you know, more than anything, that you are not alone in this fight. There are many of us who have

experienced this terror, and we stand united in our determination to defeat them."

A transcript of Rice's remarks (<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2008/12/112606.htm>) is available on the State Department Web site.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)