



Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

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US Embassy Offers Internet Basic and Search Techniques Training to Members of the Ethiopian Parliament

The Public Affairs Section organized training in Internet based research for several leaders of Standing Committees of the House of Peoples' Representatives at the U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center on March 26 and March 28, 2007.



U.S. Ambassador Yamamoto greets the parliamentarians who attended the training.

The training sought to strengthen online search skills of busy parliamentarians by enhancing their ability to use the Internet as a tool for information and communication. The training covered Internet basics, search techniques, useful resources and tips for evaluating information obtained via Internet.

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PEPFAR Project Shares Experience, Improves HIV/AIDS Response

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Family Health International (FHI) on Wednesday, March 28 shared lessons learned from the Implementing AIDS Prevention and Care Project, called IMPACT, which sought to build an expanded and comprehensive response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Ethiopia. The half-day meeting, which included Gov-

ernment of Ethiopia partners and local non government and community based organizations, highlighted the challenges and successes of the IMPACT project. The meeting was held at the United Nations Conference Center.

Since 2001, the IMPACT project helped decrease HIV prevalence and improve the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS by strengthening

prevention, care, support and treatment services. The project focused on Addis Ababa and three regional states: Amhara, Oromia and Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Region (SNNPR). This five-year, U.S. \$20 million program was funded through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, and implemented by FHI. The pro-

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US Embassy Offers Internet Basic and Search Techniques Training . . .

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U.S. Ambassador Don Yamamoto and Deputy Chief of Mission Janet Wilgus met with the Parliamentarians during their training, and discussed the importance of the Internet for knowledge and communication. In the United States, Member of Congress obtain information on a huge variety of topics via the Internet – everything from congressional proceedings and information on the status of draft legislation, to official government records, up-to-date news, and scientific articles on a myriad of topics – all of which support their decision making ability. In the fast-growing world of information technology, the Internet has also made it possible for government officials to communicate more effectively and efficiently with their constituents. The Public Affairs Section plans to continue delivering training for similar groups in the future. ♦



Ambassador Yamamoto chats with the MPs at coffee break

PEPFAR Project Shares Experience, Improves HIV/AIDS Response . . .

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ject ended in September 2006.

IMPACT assisted Regional Health Bureaus and Regional HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Offices (HAPCOs) in their official mandate to coordinate a regional-level response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The project consulted with and engaged many stakeholders and many sectors to work together for a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS. Primary partners under the IMPACT program included national and regional HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Offices (HAPCOs) and Regional Health Bureaus. A range of local non government and community based organizations were also involved. IMPACT's activities ranged from HIV prevention programs for taxi drivers in Addis to ensuring quality HIV counseling and testing in 484 public health centers around the country.

Some of the major accomplishments of the project include the

implementation of home and community based care programs in 14 cities with the involvement of Idir (approximately 46,000 chronically ill and bedridden patients received

integrating them into the standard package of services provided at government health centers (between 2001 and 2006, the number of counseling and testing sites



IMPACT meeting brought together participants from various organizations

care provided by 11,000 trained volunteers); the development of Behavior Change Communication (BCC) strategies and campaigns to combat HIV-related stigma and discrimination and to promote Volunteer Counseling and Testing in target regions; the expansion of HIV counseling and testing services by

in the four regions increased from 157 to 750). IMPACT also created a national network of youth groups, called the Ethiopian Youth Network to coordinate the efforts of youth groups in all regions to engage effectively in the response to HIV/AIDS. ♦

U.S. Muslims Increasing Their Political Involvement

By Elizabeth Kelleher
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington – Houston City Councilman M.J. Khan, a Muslim American originally from Pakistan, answered questions sent from journalists and students in Morocco, India, Sri Lanka and Liberia about his political career and about Muslims' growing political involvement in the United States.

"My election was significant in the fact that I come from a different culture, a different background, a different religion, and yet people voted for me," he said during the recorded interview hosted March 5 by the U.S. State Department.

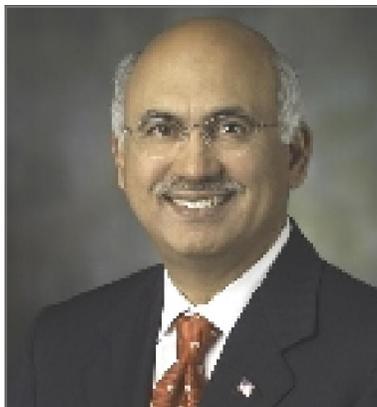
Houston is the fourth largest city in the United States, with a Muslim population of roughly 250,000, Khan said. The district he represents, which does not have a significant Muslim population, is overwhelmingly Christian. The ethnic-racial makeup of his district is largely Hispanic and also includes African Americans, whites and Asians.

Khan, a Republican, was first elected to city council in 2003 and has been re-elected once since. He will seek re-election again in 2007.

In addition to his position on the council, Khan is president of a real estate development company and has served as president of the Pakistan American Association of Greater Houston and as vice president of the Islamic Society of Greater Houston. He came to the United States in the 1970s and

earned degrees from Rice University in Texas.

Khan told USINFO that questions about Islam or about his being a Muslim "never came up in elections. Constituents want to talk to me about local issues like barking dogs, garbage pickups, loud clubs, traffic congestion and crime."



Houston City Councilman M.J. Khan, a Muslim American.

Yet he said his faith does influence his work: "If I do well, hopefully, it will ... open doors for other Muslims to follow in [my] footsteps in going into public office and serving the society." He tries to be "the best public servant" and serve all of his constituents "indiscriminately."

"I don't wear my religion on my sleeve, but I don't hide it either," Khan said. "When we open the council sessions on Fridays, we invite someone to pray. When it has been my turn to invite, I have asked a Christian minister, a rabbi, a Catholic priest, as well as Islamic scholars to lead the prayers."

Khan answered several questions during the interview about Muslims' roles in U.S. politics. He said until recently, the Muslim community had not been active in the political process. The first large wave of Muslim immigration to the United States began in the 1960s. Like other immigrant groups, they fo-

cused on finding economic security before thinking about politics, Khan said. They cared about education and developing their communities. "For example, the Muslim community was very active in building the mosques, building Islamic schools, things of that nature," he said.

But Khan sees growing political involvement. In Houston, the two major political parties choose a chairman to run party business in voting areas called precincts. Until 2002, he said, few of those precinct chairs were Muslim, but today there are more than 70 Muslim precinct chairs in eastern Houston alone.

"If people just take an interest in politics, the chance of success is there for them," he said.

Referring to national politics, Khan said the election of Keith Ellison -- a Muslim from Minnesota -- to Congress "is a significant step toward political empowerment of the Muslim community." Khan said the "9/11 disaster" has focused every community, including Muslim communities, on political activism. "I think American society in general is a lot more interested in world affairs ... and getting to know the religions, different cultures after 9/11 than it was before."

Conversely, Khan said, Muslims historically have been interested in foreign policy. However, he said, they should "diversify and get involved in every facet of American life," including local politics.

Muslims are doing more "lobbying," a process by which interest groups in the United States educate and

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Congressional Agency Seeks Better Coordination of U.S. Food Aid

By Kathryn McConnell
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Officials from the major U.S. food-donating agencies say they are working to improve the delivery of food assistance following a new government report criticizing the agencies' coordination of aid.

"Our primary focus is to get food aid quickly to sudden emergencies to save lives," make better funding decisions and improve the predictability of nonemergency food aid resources, William Hammink told the Senate Finance Committee March 21. Hammink is the director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Food for Peace office.

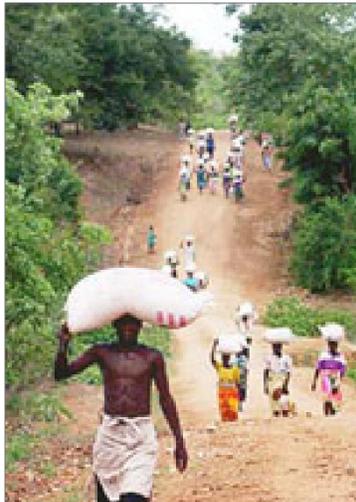
The Government Accountability Office (GAO), an independent and nonpartisan arm of the U.S. Congress, raised concerns in a report issued March 21 about effective coordination between USAID, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) in the logistical planning, delivery and monitoring of food aid.

USDA and USAID both administer food aid programs; DOT's Maritime Administration supports the ocean transport of aid on U.S. vessels.

Since 2002, the United States has appropriated an average of \$2 billion annually for food aid. In 2006, the United States delivered food aid to more than 50 countries. Several recommendations being advanced to Congress by the Bush

administration and GAO are aimed at making U.S. food aid programs more efficient and effective as global demand for aid is increasing because of conflicts and natural disasters.

One recommendation is to increase the amount of U.S. food aid pre-positioned in warehouses at both U.S. and foreign ports to meet unanticipated emergency needs, Hammink said.



More than 150 countries have received U.S. food aid over the years. (AP/WWP)

But the amount of money for pre-positioning is limited by the current farm bill, which is set to expire at the end of the 2007 production year, he said.

GAO's Thomas Melito told the committee that more coordination is needed among agencies to systematically track and respond to de-

livery problems.

Costly delays may result when food aid is not ready for loading onto a ship or when a destination port is not ready to receive a shipment, he said.

Inadequate coordination also might result in food spoilage, GAO reports.

Another area that needs improvement is the procurement process, which now often results in unnecessarily high costs for food purchases and transportation and can result in delivery delays, Melito said.

Ensuring that food reaches the most vulnerable people, such as children

and pregnant women, in a timely manner is "critical," he said.

Hammink said USAID is working to improve monitoring of the system of selling U.S. food aid commodities in recipient countries, where proceeds are used to help defray food distribution costs and to support economic development projects.

The system, known as monetization, should continue, Michal Yost, administrator of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, told the committee.

USAID also is working to improve food aid effectiveness by coordinating with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and with partner private voluntary organizations to strengthen systems for assessing and responding to emergency food needs, Hammink said.

Congress is considering the Bush administration's proposals for a new multiyear farm bill, including a proposal to make more U.S. food-aid funds available for purchases from developing countries in regions experiencing an emergency.

That proposal is endorsed by some aid partners, who say local and regional purchases would reduce costs and delivery delays while providing economic opportunities for farmers in countries where purchases are made.

But the idea is opposed by farmers and shippers, who benefit financially from sending U.S. commodities overseas to meet needs for food.

Agencies also should cooperate more on establishing a coordinated system to track and resolve food quality complaints, Melito said. ♦

Historian Stresses Importance of Women's Suffrage

Washington -- Prejudice against women has been a problem throughout history and still undermines efforts to achieve equality between men and women, says historian Robert Cooney.

This prejudice "is the challenge the suffragists faced, and they attacked it both politically and culturally," Cooney, author of *Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement*, said in a March 15 USINFO webchat with participants in Iran, Madagascar and Egypt.

Suffragists knew that without the right to vote, without political power, women "didn't have a chance" to change their position in society, he said. However, he observed, "those in power rarely give up their power easily."

Additionally, "many men at the time believed that women were not capable of participating in politics, that it would degrade them and lead to the disintegration of the family," he said.

Lobbying, campaigning, demonstrating and persuading were all necessary -- sometimes for decades -- to persuade men to give women the right to vote in the United States, Cooney said. The suffragists appealed to men and women, persuading male voters and politicians state by state to see the justice of their appeal, according to Cooney.

International affairs also played a role in securing for American women the right to vote by helping

"to spread the word and encourage women in many countries to work for full equality," Cooney said, noting that a number of countries approved equal suffrage for women before the United States did in 1920.

STRATEGIES OF PERSUASION

Those who fought for the right of American women to vote succeeded because of the strategies they used: start locally; use non-violent means, whether legal or illegal; play the game of politics; and be prepared to persevere.



The Women's Suffrage Movement

The women began to seek the right to vote in individual state and territorial legislatures, Cooney said. This expanded to a demand for a national constitutional amendment guaranteeing women this right, since such an amendment requires just three-fourths of state legislatures to approve.

Besides availing themselves of legal avenues such as lobbying legislators, suffragists also took direct but

nonviolent -- if occasionally illegal -- actions: casting votes without the right to do so; picketing the White House; holding massive parades to win public support and other tactics to make their cause exciting and popular.

One other vital quality was the suffragists' ability to persevere in their quest for equality through three generations -- a total of 70 years, according to Cooney. Speaking to USINFO after the webchat, Cooney said that it must have been difficult for those women, who believed so deeply in their cause, to die not having seen their goal achieved, while inculcating their daughters to soldier on.

CHANGING ATTITUDES

Cooney said women were as difficult -- or even more difficult -- to persuade as men of the importance of expanding women's roles.

Responding to a questioner who said that in Muslim societies women are relegated only to domestic roles and believe such limitations are "essential for their happiness for their feminine nature,"

Cooney said: "Suffragists had to fight hardest against such an attitude ... convincing women of the need for personal involvement in larger concerns outside the home since so much affecting the home is decided in the halls of government."

Many women in the United States today still do not choose to look beyond traditional domestic roles, Cooney added.

However, Susan B. Anthony, one of the movement's most famous pro-

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Women's Giving Circles Combine Socializing with Philanthropy

By Carolee Walker
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington – Small -- and large -- groups of women in the United States are changing the way some Americans give to worthy causes. As members of giving circles, women are finding that by meeting together socially and pooling any amount of money, even loose change, they can make a difference in their communities and beyond.

"Ordinary women ... extraordinary impact." If this sounds like a slogan, it is. Impact Austin, co-founded in 2003 by retired IBM sales representative Rebecca Powers, who was moved by the efforts of a women's giving circle she read about in Cincinnati when her brother was dying of cancer, now has 416 members. Powers' group has raised more than \$1 million, supporting culture, education, the environment, and family and health projects in Austin, Texas.

"I loved the idea of getting women to pool their financial resources to make a significant impact in the community," Powers said in an interview with USINFO. "I decided that focusing on a positive project like this would help me cope with my grief and, at the same time, provide an outlet for women to get involved in our community in a meaningful way."

A giving circle is a group of individuals who pool their money and decide, collectively, where to donate the money. They vary from small, casual groups to large organizations with staff and committees. The circles are often described as social investment clubs, according to the New Ventures in Philanthropy initiative at the Forum of

Regional Associations of Grantmakers, and can be organized around a particular issue or area of interest. The participatory process, especially, has strong appeal for many members, who also gain an understanding of philanthropy, finance, grant making and community issues.

"The appeal of giving circles is that anyone can start one or join one, and you don't have to be wealthy. All you need is the desire to give and a passion to make the world a better place," she said.

"The best part about the giving circle is that it brings a diverse group



LifeWorks clients learn life and job skills behind the counter at Ben & Jerry's.

The number of giving circles in the United States has doubled in only two years, according to Daria Teutonico, director of the New Ventures in Philanthropy initiative, which recognizes 400 giving circles today. Although some giving circles involve a mix of men and women, most only include women. The mixed circles tend to have younger members, Teutonico told USINFO, and they often target their giving to address social issues. As of 2004, more than 5,700 donors had given more than \$44 million through giving circles, according to the initiative, which plans to publish updated figures in May.

of women together around substantive issues – becoming more knowledgeable about finances and supporting other women," said Ana Gloria Rivas-Vázquez, vice president of Hispanics in Philanthropy and co-founder of Smart Women with Spare Change, a women's giving circle in Key Biscayne, Florida, that collects coins, bills (and now checks) in a jar at the beginning of monthly get-togethers.

The giving circle invites financial professionals and community leaders, including Key Biscayne's police chief, to keep the women up-to-date on important issues so their

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Women's Giving Circles Combine Socializing with Philanthropy . . .

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financial support can have an impact on the local community, Rivas-Vázquez told USINFO.

Today, some women's giving circles, like Impact Austin, are formalized with minimum donations and grant-making guidelines, but most are informal and require low minimum contributions from members, according to Teutonico. In general, giving circles are hosted by established nonprofit, charitable organizations, but some, like Impact Austin, have their own nonprofit status.

Because food is a universally popular way to bring people together, Dining for Women, with chapters around the United States, is one of the best-known women's giving circles, Teutonico said. Members contribute a dish for all to share at a dinner and donate what they think they would spend for a meal at a restaurant. Some Dining for Women chapters, including the original Dining for Women giving circle in Greenville, South Carolina, founded

in 2003, support international projects. Marsha Wallace, founder, told USINFO in an interview that more than 800 members belong to 70 registered chapters of Dining for Women. In 2006, Dining for Women raised more than \$50,000.

"Dining for Women has developed a unique approach for identifying issues and organizations to fund," according to a report by the Forum of Regional Associations of Grant-makers. "They pick a world region and examine the issues affecting women and the potential solutions." The giving circle has supported projects in India, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Tibet, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Vietnam and is currently doing research in East Africa before earmarking grants to the region.

Giving circles that support a single cause, such as preventing domestic violence, are becoming more common, according to Sondra Shaw-Hardy, co-founder of the Women's Philanthropy Institute, a program of the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, and a giving circle

pioneer.

It is the connection and collaboration with others to make changes and make a difference that is the heart of the women's giving circle concept, Shaw-Hardy said in an interview with USINFO. Because so many giving circles operate casually, Shaw-Hardy said there could be as many as 800 in the United States.

More information about Dining for Women (<http://www.diningforwomen.org/>) and Impact Austin (<http://www.impact-austin.org/>) is available on the giving circles' Web sites.

For more information on U.S. society, see Women in the United States (http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history_geography_and_population/population_and_diversity/women_in_the_us.html).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

U.S. Muslims Increasing Their Political Involvement . . .

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influence members of Congress, Khan said. Both the Democratic and Republican parties are recruiting voters among Muslims, Khan said, and well-educated, financially stable Muslims are attractive to candidates not only for votes, but for campaign donations. In the most recent presidential election, more Muslims than ever before attended the political parties' nominating conventions and organized political action commit-

tees to pool donations to candidates.

When asked about the possibility of a Muslim president, Khan did not hesitate: "For sure, there will be a president who will be from the Islamic community in the future of America ... you can be assured that there will be a Muslim sitting in the White House." He outlined early campaigning for the 2008 presidential election, in which a woman [Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton of

New York] and an African American [Senator Barack Obama of Illinois] are getting serious attention.

"American society is ready for diversity in its highest offices," he said.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

In Dual-Earner Couples, Family Roles Are Changing in U.S.

By Elizabeth Kelleher
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington – Dual-earner couples, in which both the wife and husband hold paying jobs, make up more than half of married couples in the United States, and their share of all couples is expected to increase in the next decade. Although dual-earner couples have bolstered family incomes, they also have had to find creative ways to nurture family life.

The U.S. Labor Department reports that, in 57 percent of married couples, husbands and wives work. Coping with two jobs and rearing children leaves many couples, such as Michael Goldstein and Joanne Pratt, hard-pressed to find time together.

Goldstein and Pratt are married professors with a 6-year-old daughter. Each parent works full-time at adjacent schools in Massachusetts: Goldstein teaches finance at Babson College, and Pratt, biology at Olin College. The couple juggles class schedules to care for their daughter, but work affects their relationship too because Pratt always has had to spend many hours in the lab. "It's been a long-time frustration that I have no clue what she does," Goldstein said.

So in January, Pratt organized a weeklong biology course for faculty and included her husband. It was a way to spend time together, she said, and she learned that Goldstein has a "natural aptitude for sciences."

Experts argue the share of dual-earner couples will increase. Wives' incomes help maintain living standards, said David Cross, direc-

tor of Market Outlook, an economic adviser to manufacturers and retailers. Although surveys of college women point to their desire to stay home when they eventually have children, "the economics won't work for the vast majority," he said.

In 1979, women who worked full-time earned 63 percent as much as



Biology professor Joanne Pratt taught a mini-course in her lab to improve her husband's understanding of her work. (Joanne C. Pratt)

their male counterparts. By 2006, they earned 81 percent of what men earned. The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reports that since the early 1980s, the largest narrowing in this "wage gap" among member countries occurred in the United States. The 30-member OECD represents most of the world's industrialized nations.

Wives' earnings contribute 35 percent of family income in the United States, and in one-third of dual-earning couples, the wife brings home the bigger paycheck.

MEN ARE CHANGING ... DIAPERS

As women's earnings have bolstered family income, men's behavior has changed.

According to the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, men do seven hours of housework per week, double what they did in 1968. (Women still put in many more hours of housework than do men.)

Since the mid-1960s, there has been a tripling of time fathers devote to child care, said Suzanne Bianchi, a University of Maryland sociologist and author of *Changing Rhythms of American Family Life*. "Men married to employed wives really are doing basics – feeding, bathing, taking [children] to the doctor," she said.

When Sarah Crawford, a Washington attorney, had a baby, she took four months of unpaid leave before returning to work. Then her husband, David Uy, took leave to watch the baby. He found he could do some work at home while caring for his son, so he quit his full-time job and spent a year caring for the baby while starting a home-based advertising consultancy.

But as Uy gained clients, he needed help. He used the "DC Urban Moms" Internet site to find a babysitter. "I really enjoyed being home with the baby. Handing him over to a nanny was not easy," Uy said.

Today, he takes his toddler two blocks to the nanny. "My daily commute is a red-wagon ride," he said.

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In Dual-Earner Couples, Family Roles Are Changing in U.S. . . .

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FAMILY LEAVE PROGRAMS

The U.S. Labor Department reports that men are more likely to use flexible work schedules than women. Many men are "feeling a crunch," Bianchi said, and broadening the interest in family-friendly policies among workers.

A 2005 Fortune magazine survey shows that 84 percent of male executives at the largest U.S. companies want more time for things outside of work. "The first [men] with this interest are the dual-earners," Bianchi said.

Federal law allows up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for certain workers to take care of a sick family member or a new baby. It covers a little more than half the work force. When compared to other countries, "we have a reputation that we work a lot," said Bianchi.



David Uy quit a full-time job to care for his son, James, at home for a year before starting his own home-based firm. (David Uy)

Heather Boushey, an economist for the Center for Economic and Policy Research, said the employer-paid leave for which some groups advocate could result in job discrimina-

tion against women of child-bearing age. She prefers a program enacted in 2004 in California, under which all workers (not just parents) are eligible for six weeks' partial pay leave. The program is paid for by workers.

In the near term, state and local experiments are more likely than new federal legislation. But the market also reacts to workers' needs, said Jeanie Duck, vice president for Boston Consulting Group: More companies are helping employees face "life situations." They give workers unpaid sabbaticals, temporary transfers to less-stressful jobs, and telecommuting options as well as assistance for spouses seeking jobs, she said.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Historian Stresses Importance of Women's Suffrage . . .

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tagonists, "felt that individual women should pursue everything they wanted," Cooney said, "because then they would personally encounter the prejudices that she was talking about in the larger society and would have to act."

Although winning the vote was an important step for women's rights, it did not guarantee full equality, Cooney said. After the suffrage amendment to the Constitution was ratified in 1920, activist Alice Paul wrote the Equal Rights Amendment to address other ways that women faced discrimination. "This bill has

been debated for 80 years and still has not been passed," he said.

The right to vote was only the first step in the effort to expand the role of women in the political process, according to Cooney. "I've always drawn a distinction between women winning the right to vote and what happened afterwards," he said. "Winning equal voting rights paved the way for other changes and for women's political power, but it didn't guarantee women's acceptance by voters."

In the United States, it has taken generations for women to have an impact on electoral politics, but women now are making their mark

in universities, corporations, foundations and governments with leadership roles similar to those of men, according to Cooney.

Cooney stressed the importance of having women in leadership positions.

"I think that by elevating women anywhere we enhance women's role[s] at the international level," he said. "When women show their ability -- as a representative, prime minister, secretary of state or whatever -- they show those who doubt them that women are capable and prepared to meet modern challenges." ♦

New Sanctions a “Significant Rebuke”; to Iran, State's Burns Says

By Judy Aita
USINFO United Nations Correspondent

United Nations -- The unanimous Security Council vote to impose new, substantial sanctions on Iran is "a significant international rebuke" and represents a tightening of international pressure on the country for its failure to suspend its uranium enrichment program and begin negotiations, a senior U.S. official says.

The new resolution "is going to leave Iran even more isolated than it has been" and makes it one of only 11 countries out of the 192 U.N. member states under Chapter 7 sanctions, Under Secretary for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns said in a telephone interview after the March 24 U.N. Security Council vote.

"International patience with Iran is wearing thin," Burns said. "You're seeing the expression of frustration" at Iran's refusal to negotiate over the last two years.

Prior to the vote, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadi-Nejad had said he wanted to address the Security Council, and the United States provided the more than 75 visas he and his entourage needed. However, the president did not attend the session. Iran's Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki represented his country instead.

The unanimous vote of the 15-nation Security Council on U.N. Resolution 1747 included those of Indonesia, the world's largest predominantly Muslim country; Iran's gulf neighbor Qatar; and South Africa, a leader in the nonaligned movement, he noted.

The permanent members of the U.N. Security Council are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Current non-permanent members are Belgium, Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Slovakia and South Africa.



The UN Security Council votes unanimously to expand sanctions against Iran March 24. (AP Images)

Russia was "a very, very good partner" in getting the new sanctions, Burns said. He also noted Russia's decision to delay construction of and the delivery of fuel to the Bushehr reactor in Iran.

"The Iranians thought they could kind of take Russia or try to divide Russia and China from the U.S. and Europeans. That strategy has clearly failed," Burns said.

According to Burns, the inclusion of the provision prohibiting Iran from providing weapons to any individual or organization and calling on nations to exercise "vigilance and restraint" in exporting arms to Iran was a primary objective for the United States during negotiations on the measure.

The United States sees Iran "as a problem not just in the nuclear sphere but also as a purveyor of arms to major Middle East terrorist groups and ... of money to them,"

Burns said.

"We see [Iran] trying to become the most dominant military state in the region. They're using their arms supply relationship with Hezbollah and Hamas, with the PFLPGC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command], with Palestinian Islamic Jihad ... to really negative ends and negative results," he continued.

The resolution also recommends nations and international financial institutions refrain from providing financial assistance, grants or concessional loans to Iran, except for humanitarian and development purposes. This provision "opens up the door" for future action on the issue of export credits, the under secretary said.

"We've already seen Italy, France, Germany, and Japan significantly reduce their export credits to Iran over the last four to five months," he noted.

According to Burns, India, Brazil, and Egypt already are implementing the initial sanctions imposed in December 2006 by U.N. Resolution 1737, which requires nations to freeze the assets of individuals and entities identified as having a key role in Iran's nuclear program, prohibits countries from supplying Iran with dual-use equipment and bars Iran from exporting any nuclear weapons-related equipment or technology to other countries.

The only nations that "speak up" for Iran are Syria, Belarus, Venezuela and Cuba -- "quite a gang of four," the under secretary said. "Everybody else is part of this international effort that is slowly strangulating [Iran's] ability to seek investment and to export." ♦

Israeli, Palestinian Leaders Commit to Biweekly Meetings

By Stephen Kaufman
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Following discussions with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas have agreed to meet on a regular bi-weekly basis to discuss immediate concerns and a long-term political horizon that would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Speaking in Jerusalem March 27, Rice said that although the parties are not at the stage to hold negotiations on final status, the biweekly meetings will serve as initial discussions to help build confidence between the two sides for the future.

"Palestinians must know that their state will be viable. Israelis must know that a future state of Palestine will be a source of security, not a threat to it. Both sides must have confidence that economic and trade relations between them will promote the welfare of their populations," Rice said.

The secretary said she would meet with Abbas and Olmert periodically to support their dialogue and help accelerate progress.

"The Israelis and Palestinians are taking the initial step on the path to peace, and the American role will include helping them to overcome obstacles, develop new ideas, and rally international support for their efforts," she said.

To help address immediate concerns on the ground, U.S. General Keith Dayton will work with both parties to establish benchmarks to help measure progress on issues such as ending Qassam missile attacks against Israel and maintaining a cease-fire, as well as allowing movement and access for Palestinians.



Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas shake hands at their trilateral meeting in Jerusalem February 19. (AP photo)

Secretary Rice said the nature of the newly formed Palestinian national unity government makes peace efforts "more complex" because Hamas remains unwilling to renounce violence, to recognize Israel's right to exist or to adhere to previous Palestinian agreements and obligations.

"A Palestinian Authority that accepts those principles could contribute significantly to the fulfillment of their people's longing for a better life and a state of their own," Rice said.

She also called on Hamas to abandon the use of terrorism and to secure the release of captured Israeli Corporal Gilad Shalit, who has been held by militants in Gaza since June 2006.

The international community and neighboring states in the region should be active participants in the diplomatic efforts to achieve peace, and can help with current efforts to build the Palestinian economy through "generous assistance delivered in a manner to assure its proper application," Rice said.

She added that Israel's Arab neighbors can hasten peace efforts and the establishment of a Palestinian state by reaching out to and clarifying their own political horizon for Israel.

The Arab states can "reassure Israel that its place in the region

will be more, not less secure, by an end to the occupation and the establishment of a Palestinian state; to show Israel that they accept its place in the Middle East; and to demonstrate that the peace they seek is greater than just the absence of war," she said.

She praised Saudi King Abdullah's 2002 peace initiative, which was endorsed by the Arab League, and said, "Now, at this critical moment, we look for our friends and partners of long-standing to build on this important initiative." ♦

United Nations Launches Road Safety Awareness Week

By Jane Morse
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- The United Nations will observe the first Global Road Safety Week April 23-29 in an attempt to raise awareness about the societal impact of road traffic deaths and injuries, and to promote injury prevention measures such as wearing helmets, using seatbelts, preventing drunk driving and speeding, and improving infrastructure.

The event will focus on "young road users," because young people constitute a major group at risk of death, injury and disability on the road.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that more than a million people are killed each year worldwide and another 20 million to 50 million injured or disabled in road accidents. About 85 percent of the deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. Many of the victims are pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and users of public transportation.

Traffic fatalities per capita are highest in Africa, according to a report issued by the WHO and the World Bank. The mortality rate in Africa due to road traffic injuries was 28.3 per 100,000 people, according to the study, the most recent available, which was released in 2002. In contrast, the mortality rate due to traffic accidents reported for the United States was 15.2 per 100,000.

The World Bank estimates that road crashes cost Africa \$3.7 billion annually. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) estimates the losses to be even higher -- \$10 billion, or 2 percent of gross national product (GNP). According to the

ECA, road crashes in Africa are the second leading cause of death in the 5 to 44 age group.

AFRICA ACTING TO MITIGATE THREAT

African nations, recognizing the growing threat road fatalities pose to their societies, have pledged to reduce accident fatalities by half by the year 2015.



A contractor uses a metal detector to search for mines planted along a road to increase road safety in Juba, Sudan. (AP Images)

Meeting in Accra, Ghana, February 5-7, ministers representing 37 African countries agreed to work together to stop the growing epidemic of death and injuries on roads. In a declaration issued at the end of their meeting, they reaffirmed road safety as priority issue for development.

In recommendations stemming from the meeting in Accra, the African ministers resolved to "make the necessary effort to improve road safety management on the continent" and "encourage African countries to enforce road safety legislation." They also committed to educate the general public on road safety.

U.S. EXTENDING BILATERAL, MULTILATERAL SUPPORT

The U.S. government is working with its bilateral and multilateral partners, governments, industry groups and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) worldwide to raise awareness about road safety. It also is engaging with partners in the private and public sectors to promote education and infrastructure development to increase road safety for drivers and pedestrians alike.

Along with other Group of Eight (G8) countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and Russia), the United States is working with African nations to improve their infrastructure -- and that includes building or improving roads.

In Sudan, for example, the United States has helped fund Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), an international NGO that is working to clear mines and unexploded ordnance from the roads in southern Sudan. The United States also is working with international organizations to ensure the safe travel and transport of goods on the road from Yei to Juba, the capital of southern Sudan.

It is expected that approximately 180 kilometers of the Juba-Mundri-Marida road soon will be open for use, which especially will benefit agricultural and residential areas in the town of Lui in southern Sudan. These efforts are not only making safe the restoration of the vital road network of southern Sudan, but also are reducing casualties among refugees and internally displaced persons returning home. The efforts also lower transportation costs by eliminating the need to deliver

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United States Has Global Approach To Aiding Trafficking Victims

By Michelle Austein
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) recognizes that trafficking victims have rights and require services and temporary immigration relief, Gabriel Garcia, chief of ICE's human smuggling and trafficking unit, said March 20.

ICE, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security, "has the unique organizational ability to investigate trafficking in persons with a global reach and provide short-term immigration relief to trafficking victims," Garcia said in testimony before the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border, Maritime and Global Counterterrorism.

Of the approximately 600,000 to 800,000 people coerced or forced into crossing international borders each year, about 14,500 to 17,500 end up in the United States, according to U.S. government estimates.

ICE is one of several U.S. agencies working to stop trafficking through training to help better identify victims, improving services provided to victims and by public awareness campaigns.

Trafficking victims rescued in the United States are granted "continued presence," which is a short-term immigration protection that allows certified victims of trafficking to remain in the United States for up to one year to enable them to apply for a "T visa." Those who receive T visas are able to stay

in the United States and bring their families over as well. They have access to federal benefits and services and can accept employment in the United States for up to three years and then apply for lawful permanent residence, Garcia said.

ICE officials conduct their work worldwide. Fifty-six ICE attaché offices help foster strong international relationships, Garcia said. The attaches work with local law enforcement for better coordination of investigations. ICE officials target recruiters, brokers, document providers, travel agencies, corrupt officials, smugglers and businesses engaged in criminal activities at both source and transit countries. ICE also cooperates with foreign law enforcement authorities to target bank accounts, wire transfers and other funding mechanisms that fuel trafficking enterprises, Garcia said.

These partnerships with foreign law enforcement have led to the rescue of many victims. In one case, an attaché in Moscow was told by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yekaterinburg, Russia, that a mother was concerned about her daughter being held in a home in Florida. ICE agents located the girl, who had been held against her will, beaten and forced into prostitution. The ICE attaché in Moscow asked a Russian anti-trafficking nongovernmental organization to contact and counsel the victim. The trafficker was arrested and pled guilty.

ICE officials "are engaged in an aggressive outreach" campaign to educate local, state and federal law

enforcement and nongovernmental organizations on how to identify human trafficking and what services are available to trafficking victims, Garcia said. DVDs and brochures about trafficking are given to law enforcement officers. ICE trains its own staff regularly as well, by requiring agents to complete a Web-based human trafficking course.

Garcia said ICE has hosted and participated in training sessions overseas as well, and has developed training programs that are used in Thailand, Hungary and El Salvador. "We will continue to expand our outreach and training efforts to share our expertise in employing the victim-centered approach as we continue to build coalitions."

In fiscal years 2005 and 2006, ICE initiated 647 investigations into human trafficking organizations that resulted in 370 arrests and 193 criminal convictions, according to a February ICE fact sheet.

The full texts (<http://homeland.house.gov/hearings/index.asp?ID=23>) of prepared testimony presented at the hearing are available on the Web site of the Committee on Homeland Security.

For more information, see Human Smuggling and Trafficking (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking.html).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Little Rock Nine Member and Daughter Relive Struggle, Victory

By Elizabeth Kelleher
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Fifty years ago, Minnijean Brown defied death threats, hostile mobs and even the Arkansas National Guard to attend all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Since then she has been honored for her courage.

At a March 21 ceremony in Washington, sponsored by the National Women's History Project, Representative Vic Snyder of Arkansas recalled the Minnijean of 1957, describing her as "a powerful, amazing 16 year old who challenged every type of racist stereotype."

He also told the audience that if they visit the historic site at Central High today, they will meet another amazing woman: park ranger Spirit Trickey, Minnijean's daughter and an expert on the pivotal role her mother played in the civil rights struggle.

Minnijean Brown Trickey, now 65, was beginning junior year in secondary school when she became history. She and eight others -- the "Little Rock Nine" -- would be the first blacks to enroll at Central, under a local plan to comply with a Supreme Court ruling making school segregation illegal.

Central was a premier school, named "America's Most Beautiful High School" by the American Institute of Architects. As Minnijean looked forward to her junior year, she did not anticipate learning about deep-seated racism, nor did she expect to trigger a crisis between the state and federal governments.

"I just thought: 'It's a big school. It's in my neighborhood. It's there. I should go,'" she told USINFO in a telephone interview the day of the ceremony. "We all felt good. We knew that Central High School had so many more courses, and dramatics and speech and tennis courts and a big, beautiful stadium."



Minnijean Brown Trickey of the Little Rock 9 and daughter Spirit, a park ranger at the Central High School site. (Spirit Trickey photo)

But Minnijean learned unexpected and painful lessons that have stayed with her over the decades, as she went to college, married, raised children and worked as a teacher and social worker.

In 1957, Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus, up for reelection and looking to gain votes among racists, undercut the integration plan by ordering state National Guard troops to bar the blacks from Central High. On September 4, the Little Rock Nine went to school to face an unruly mob that called them names, shoved them and spat upon them.

Minnijean recalls being "horrified" that military troops were there to keep her out of school, rather than

to protect her from the mob. She thought back to daily recitals of the pledge of allegiance and emergency drills -- "hiding under the desk from the Russians" -- at her all-black school. Those routines had led her to believe that anyone in a U.S. military uniform would help her. "The idea of who had the power and how they would use it had never crossed my mind," she said. "There were uncomfortable things I found out the first day."

On subsequent days, the black students were met by larger mobs and rebuffed by troopers. When she thinks about it now, Minnijean said, she is fascinated by how unprotected they really were.

By late September, the governor's defiance had set off a constitutional crisis, and President Dwight Eisenhower dispatched U.S. Army troops to Little Rock to ensure attendance of the black students.

Although troops stayed during the school year to keep the peace, white students harassed the Little Rock Nine. In February 1958, a blow from a white girl's purse caused Minnijean to snap. She called the girl a name. It was Minnijean who was expelled. (She finished high school in New York.)

World media recorded the black students' difficulties, giving momentum to a burgeoning civil rights movement in the United States. Spirit, 27, gives interpretive tours and is amazed at foreigners who remember the Little Rock Nine from television. She said: "I knew about it, was proud of my mother, but never realized the magnitude. ... Indonesia, Jamaica, all over the world."

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U.S. Increases Funds for Combating Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis

By Cheryl Pellerin
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington – The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is increasing its contribution to the global fight against tuberculosis (TB), the airborne infectious disease that is especially deadly to people whose immune systems are compromised by HIV/AIDS.

The rate at which people developed TB in 2005 was level or even declined slightly compared to 2004, according to the biannual World Health Organization (WHO) Global Tuberculosis Control Report released March 22, but the actual number of TB cases continued to rise slowly because the world population is expanding.

A serious barrier to TB control worldwide is a form of the disease called extensively drug-resistant TB, which can develop when some treatment drugs are misused or mismanaged.

"PEPFAR takes the issue of extensively drug-resistant TB very seriously," U.S. Global Aids Coordinator Ambassador Mark Dybul told members of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health March 21. "In response, we have increased the fiscal year 2007 commitment for TB/HIV efforts by providing \$50 million more than originally planned."

"Almost 60 percent of TB cases worldwide are now detected and out of those the vast majority is cured," said U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a March 22 statement. "Over the past decade, 26 million patients have been placed on effective TB treatment thanks to the efforts of governments and a

wide range of partners. But the disease still kills 4,400 people every day."

More than 8.7 million people had TB in 2005. WHO estimates that 1.6 million people died of TB that year, and 195,000 of them were co-infected with HIV.



Tuberculosis Patient (AP photo)

THE DISEASE

TB spreads from person to person like a common cold, usually through coughing. According to WHO, one in three people in the world is infected with dormant Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the TB bacterium. The bacteria become active when something reduces a person's immunity – advancing age, or medical conditions such as HIV.

TB that is not resistant to drugs can be treated with six months to nine months of doses of the most effective, or first-line, drugs, like isoniazid and rifampin. Such treatment cures more than 95 percent of patients. But, because people in many resource-poor countries do not have access to treatment, nearly 9 mil-

lion people develop TB each year.

"TB that is resistant to at least isoniazid and rifampin is called multidrug-resistant [MDR] TB," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in testimony before the subcommittee. "MDR-TB requires treatment for 18 to 24 months with second-line drugs that are much less effective, poorly tolerated by the patient and far more costly."

Many countries with a high TB burden find it impossible to treat MDR-TB patients because of the cost of drugs and the sophisticated laboratory services and intensive support required to administer them. Extensively drug-resistant TB is a subset of MDR-TB caused by bacteria strains that are resistant to first- and second-line drugs.

U.S. CONTRIBUTION

"The United States is on the front lines of the battle against TB," Kent Hill, assistant administrator for global health at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), told the subcommittee. "Between 2000 and 2006, USAID provided about \$500 million for TB programs worldwide. Our ... 2006 funding level was about \$90 million, which supported bilateral TB programs in 37 countries."

USAID TB efforts are coordinated closely with those of other U.S. government agencies, particularly the CDC and Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator.

"On research," Hill said, "we also work closely with CDC and the National Institutes of Health [NIH], particularly in operations research

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United States Marks World Tuberculosis Day, March 24

By Howard Cincotta
USINFO Special Correspondent

Washington – The United States is at the forefront of the world's continuing battle against tuberculosis (TB), which despite having a cure that has existed for decades, continues its deadly grip on communities throughout the world, said Ambassador Randall Tobias, marking World Tuberculosis Day 2007.

Tobias is the director of foreign assistance and administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

"On March 24th of each year," Tobias said, "we mark World TB Day to increase awareness of the disease and to strengthen our commitment to tackling this challenging public health problem."

This year's slogan is: "TB Anywhere is TB Everywhere."

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly nine million people will develop TB each year. In 2005, 1.6 million people died of TB.



A nurse practitioner applies vaccines to a patient at a health clinic in San Jose, California. (AP Images)

TB remains a serious health threat because certain strains have developed extensive drug resistance, making treatment more difficult, time consuming and expensive, according to Tobias. Moreover, TB is now the number one killer of people

living with HIV/AIDS. As a result, Tobias said, "the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief supports national programs that integrate HIV prevention, treatment, and care activities into TB services." (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Nov/30-290183.html>).)

Along with WHO, Tobias said, the United States is working closely with the STOP TB Partnership, a network of international organizations, countries, and governmental and nongovernmental organizations that was founded in 2000.

WHO and STOP TB nearly achieved their goals of 70 percent detection and 85 percent cure rates, according to Tobias.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

U.S. Increases Funds for Combating Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis . . .

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to improve program implementation, and in new drug development."

In September 2006, Gerberding said, CDC, WHO and other members of the Stop TB Partnership, a network of international organizations, countries, public- and private-sector donors, governmental and nongovernmental organizations and individuals, developed an action plan on extensively drug-resistant TB.

As an initial step, the U.S. Federal TB Task Force is discussing a do-

mestic and international response plan for U.S. government agencies on extensively drug-resistant TB and participated in the WHO Global TB Task Force that issued a global plan to respond to extensively resistant TB.

The White House will convene an interagency meeting in the next few weeks, she said, to ensure that U.S. government activities are integrated in a unified strategic approach.

"WHO is highly appreciative of the substantial financial support pro-

vided by the U.S. government annually for TB control since the late 1990s to affected countries, WHO, the Stop TB Partnership and technical partners, said Dr. Mario Raviglione, director of the WHO Stop TB Department. "In addition, the NIH is a major source of finance of TB research today."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Carbon Dioxide Controls, Clean Coal Can Help Curb Global Warming

By Andrzej Zwanecki
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington – Cleaner ways of generating electricity from coal can help curb global warming by mid-century if they are implemented on a large scale, a major report says.

The study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) concludes that, under the most optimistic scenario, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that contribute to global warming can be stabilized by 2050 at roughly year 2000 levels, with nuclear power and renewable sources replacing or augmenting some coal-fired generating capacity.

Coal is a major source of electricity in the United States and in many other major energy markets, such as China.

To stabilize GHG emissions while continuing to use vast coal resources around the world, the United States and other countries successfully must manage transition to clean coal technologies under policies that restrict carbon dioxide emissions, says the report released March 14.

The study, which examines the role of coal as a key energy source, assumes that carbon dioxide emission restrictions will be adopted in the United States.

But it is less optimistic about similar action in the developing world.

“We believe it’s going to be very difficult to get China, India and other emerging markets to make progress” on curbing emissions, said John Deutch, co-chairman of the study, who presented its findings in Washington.

The United States cannot do

enough to stabilize GHG emissions globally without participation of those nations, the study says.

Even if China and India fail to implement carbon dioxide control policies in the near term, this will not have a significant adverse impact on long-term global efforts, it says.

Under this scenario, it might be possible to negotiate a global agreement that allows developing countries a longer period than would apply to developed countries to implement limits on carbon dioxide emissions, the report says.

In any case, “as the world’s leading energy user and greenhouse gas emitter, the U.S. must take the lead in showing the world” that clean coal technology can work,” Deutch said.

Democratic Senator Jeff Bingaman, the chairman of the Senate Energy Committee, has said a U.S. move to regulate GHG emissions should precede any major U.S. engagement in the international arena. Bingaman is writing legislation that would introduce caps on U.S. carbon dioxide emissions in 2012.

COAL TO REMAIN A MAJOR FUEL

About half of the electricity in the United States and two-thirds of the electricity in China is generated by coal-fired plants, according to the Energy Department’s Energy Information Administration.

Coal use will increase worldwide under any foreseeable scenario because it is cheap and abundant in many countries, the report says.

U.S. utilities are planning to build 150 coal power plants in the near future. Although some of these plants would be more efficient,

none would be able to capture and store carbon dioxide.

A carbon dioxide tax or mandatory carbon dioxide emission limits could make clean energy technologies, including clean coal technology, competitive with traditional coal-fired and gas-fired plants.

A first step in this direction, the study says, would be for the United States to undertake three to five such demonstration projects, and other countries three to five more, to gauge the economics of the technology. The MIT study also states that governments will need to provide financial incentives to the utility industry for the first few plants.

It says the cost of electricity from CCS plants will be significantly higher but adds that technological progress can narrow the cost gap.

Deutch said the United States and China have enough underground space, mostly saline aquifers, to store carbon dioxide produced by CCS power plants.

But he and another MIT study co-chair, Ernest Moniz, said research and development (R&D) resources devoted so far by the administration to CCS are inadequate and called for doubling the funds.

At a March 8 hearing, the Energy Department Deputy Assistant Secretary Thomas Shope said CCS technology is unlikely to be commercially viable before 2025 under current funding levels for related R&D. He told a House energy subcommittee that doubling the budget request for the fiscal year that begins October 1, if approved, would accelerate progress. ♦

U.S. University Students Acting To Slow Climate Change

By Michelle Austein
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- In their classrooms, American college students are learning about environmental issues such as climate change. Outside their classrooms, many are taking actions to mitigate the effects of activities linked to climate change.

Understanding the Earth's environment and climate is part of many students' education. All students at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, are required to take a class on environmental issues. At Arizona State University, in Tempe, Arizona, where the first School of Sustainability was established in 2006, students can earn a degree in sustainability by taking classes that examine the scientific and economic impact of using sustainable resources.

Across the country, students work with faculty and community members to find ways to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and maintain more energy-efficient campuses. Researchers have shown that much of the global warming documented in recent decades has been caused by carbon dioxide emitted by the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas. In part because of student activism, universities are working to limit their dependence on energy sources that emit greenhouse gasses. Swarthmore College, in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, plans to meet 35 percent of its total energy needs

from wind-power sources. Carleton College's wind turbine produces enough electricity to supply 40 percent of the electricity to its Northfield, Minnesota, campus. Currently, at least eight universities say they receive 100 percent of their power from renewable sources: Bates College in Lewiston, Maine; Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine; Colby College in Waterville, Maine; Evergreen State College in

power fluorescent ceiling lights in a science laboratory. Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, provides interest-free loans for building projects that are designed to reduce pollution and energy consumption.

At some campuses, students have converted shuttle buses to run on biodiesel, which is made from waste vegetable oil found in dining halls.

These vehicles emit less carbon dioxide than gasoline-powered vehicles. Schools also are encouraging carpooling, improving their public transportation and adding bike lanes to minimize fuel use.

Colleges and universities understand that climate change is a defining challenge of the 21st century and without energy-use reforms, the ability to achieve other scientific, health, economic and

environmental goals will be compromised, according to Anthony Cortese, president of Second Nature, a nonprofit organization in Boston. Second Nature helped organize the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, a pact signed by leaders of more than 130 colleges in the United States who have pledged to achieve "climate neutrality" on their campuses and to encourage their communities to do the same. Climate neutrality is achieved by reducing greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible and taking steps, such as planting additional trees, to offset the emissions that cannot be eliminated. ♦



Laramie County Community College students construct an energy-efficient house in Laramie, Wyoming. (AP Images)

Olympia, Washington; New York University in New York City; Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington; University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, Oklahoma; and College of the Atlantic in Barb Harbor, Maine.

Universities also are designing new buildings and updating older buildings to be energy efficient. A new building at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida, includes water-saving mechanisms such as low-flow toilets and landscape plants that require less water. Students at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, campaigned for and helped install solar panels that will generate about 1.6 kilowatts to

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Little Rock Nine Member and Daughter . . .

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THE NEXT GENERATION

As Spirit was growing up, if she asked questions, her mother answered. She got the basic story when her mother came to her school to talk during Black History Month.

"I didn't talk to my children about my experiences in Little Rock," Minnijean said. "It was about irrationality and nonthinking people. I am never going to say it made sense. It didn't make sense to me then, and it doesn't now."

But Spirit remembers when she and her sister, both teenagers, rolled their eyes and complained when their mother took them to a folk festival. Minnijean got emotional and said, "You don't understand the privileges you have that I couldn't have dreamed of when I was your age." It is something any parent might say, but Spirit knew the reprimand

came from a deeper place.

Today, when Minnijean talks to groups and Spirit is present, Spirit listens carefully. "Piece by piece, I get more," she said. She reads old newspaper articles in scrapbooks she finds, even when her mother warns her off of them because they are "vicious."

"She knows more about it than I do," Minnijean said. "I really am learning from her. She has a different perspective."

Minnijean said she's heard that if Spirit has an inattentive tour group, she will say, "You know, I'm talking about my mother!"

"It is fabulous to be a historical figure because of my kids," Minnijean said. "Maybe I wouldn't care so much if I didn't have a family using its lessons in their life. I'm particularly proud of Spirit; she's doing a really good job." ♦

United Nations Launches Road Safety Awareness Week . . .

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vital goods, including medicines, by aircraft.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has produced a road safety plan for East and Central Africa that focuses on community participation in promoting road safety, along with educational brochures on road safety published in French and English.

USAID's road safety guide has been well received by Kenya's Transporters Association (KTA), which is exploring the possibility of a road safety campaign that would involve government and community groups. USAID also has aided in assessing infrastructure and facilities along the Mom-

basa-Nairobi highway.

The G8 agreed in 2005 to increase official development assistance to Africa substantially by the year 2010. About \$1.2 billion was earmarked for roads, with a safety component of \$20 million.

As part of promoting road safety for all, the United States also provides safety tips and training for its employees, and, through its consular information program, provides information on road safety conditions and risks to Americans traveling and residing abroad.

A WHO fact sheet (http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2004/infomaterials/world_report/en/main_messages_en.pdf) (PDF, 375KB) on traffic injuries and information on

the African Road Safety Conference (<http://www.who.int/roadsafety/events/4arsc/en/>) can be found on the organization's Web site.

Additional information (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/AFRICAEXT/EXTAFRREGTOPTRA/EXTAFRSUBSAHTRA/0,,contentMDK:20711827~menuPK:1532120~pagePK:64168445~piPK:64168309~theSitePK:1513930,00.html>) on the Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Program and road safety is available on the World Bank's Web site.

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