



Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

INSIDE

Through USAID, the American People Provide Additional \$60 Million in Food Aid for Ethiopia

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008 Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced today that it is providing an additional contribution of nearly \$60 million in food assistance to the Ethiopian people through the U.N. World Food Program. The contribution consists of nearly 72,000 metric tons (MT) of food

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Mike Hess, USAID's top official for humanitarian assistance, shows a map of hunger affected areas at a September 18 press conference in Addis Ababa.

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Launch of the Democracy Video Challenge

The U.S. Department of State will announce the launch of a worldwide competition aimed at enhancing the global dialogue on democracy. The launch will take place on the United Nations' first International Day of Democracy, September 15, 2008. The Democracy Video Challenge asks

budding filmmakers, democracy advocates, and the general public to create video shorts that complete the phrase, "Democracy is..." The winners will be selected by the online voting public. Six regional winners will be eligible to claim an all-expense paid trip to the United States that

includes screenings of their videos in New York, Hollywood and Washington, meetings with film directors, public officials and democracy advocates from nongovernmental organizations, and time on film and TV sets. Contestants who wish to compete anonymously

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Through USAID, the American People Provide Additional \$60 Million . . .

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commodities, including approximately 33,000 MT of sorghum, 33,000 MT of wheat, 5,000 MT of corn soya blend (CSB), and 1,000 MT of vegetable oil.

The United States is the largest donor of emergency food assistance to Ethiopia. Since October 2007, the American people have provided more than 804,000 MT of food assistance to Ethiopia. This assistance, given through USAID's Office of Food for Peace, is valued at nearly \$627 million, and includes more than \$324 million in emergency food commodities and more than \$302 million in contributions to the Productive Safety Net Program, a multi-donor effort led by the Ethiopian Government to address chronic food insecurity.

From September 15-19, 2008, Michael Hess, Assistant Administrator of the USAID's Bureau of Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian

Assistance, and Jeff Borns, Director of the Office of Food for Peace, are in Ethiopia to meet with govern-

ment officials and representatives from humanitarian organizations and analyze the effectiveness of U.S. Government humanitarian assistance in affected areas. Assis-



A journalist asking question at the press conference

tant Administrator Hess and Director Borns travelled to the Somali and Southern Nations, Nationalities,

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may also submit videos. One anonymous video will be selected as a winner; however, that contestant will not be eligible to claim the travel prize.

Partners include: the Center for International Private Enterprise, the Directors Guild of America, the In-

ternational Republican Institute, the International Youth Foundation, Motion Picture Association of America, NBC Universal, National Democratic Institution, New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, USC's School of Cinematic Arts, TakingIT-Global, and the U.S. Department of State. YouTube is providing the video platform.

For more information about the Democracy Video Challenge, contact: Laura Hesselton at 202/453- 8363 or via email at hesseltonle@state.gov ♦

Bush Praises Strong Leadership of Ghanaian President Kufuor

By Merle D. Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — President Bush praised Ghanaian President John Kufuor for his strong leadership and for active support in conflict resolution across Africa.

And Bush thanked Kufuor and the nation of Ghana for participation in 11 continuing U.N. peacekeeping operations, including efforts to bring about a resolution of the conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan. Kufuor was welcomed to the White House September 15 as part of a full state visit.

"One of the initiatives that we're working on together is the fight against neglected tropical diseases," Bush said at a joint press briefing. "And the president brought me up to date on the strategy to deal with that important issue and how we can help." Ghana has been working closely with the United States on a malaria initiative Bush launched in 2005.

Since its inception, the malaria program has reached an estimated 25 million people in sub-Saharan Africa. The initiative is providing \$1.2 billion over five years to reduce malaria deaths by 50 percent in 15 African nations.

"And the good news is that this is a government that's very capable of

taking American help and converting it into the kind of results that we all expect," Bush said.

Kufuor said Ghana once was dubbed "the white man's grave" because of the high number of



President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush welcome President John Agyekum Kufuor and Mrs. Theresa Kufuor of Ghana Monday, Sept. 15, 2008, upon their arrival to the North Portico of the White House for a State Dinner in their honor.

deaths among Europeans who traveled there. Malaria "continues to plague much of Africa and perhaps is the biggest killer, even bigger than HIV/AIDS, of our people on the continent. The hefty support we are getting from the United States and under your watch is very welcome, and we hope to take it even further, again employing technologies and more scientific research," Kufuor said.

Similarly, Kufuor said, the United States has invested heavily in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa by giving more than \$20 billion.

Bush said he and Kufuor also discussed education and economic

opportunities and that the United States supports vital educational partnerships with Ghana. "We're training teachers. We've issued 6,000 scholarships to girls," Bush said. "Under the president's leadership the education system is improving."

One of the Bush administration's most important economic development initiatives in Africa has been the Millennium Challenge Account. "It's an opportunity for the United States government to help countries that govern justly and invest in the health and education of their people and believe in market economies," Bush said. "Ghana is such a country. We're soon to begin spending \$547 million to renovate schools, increase agricultural productivity, expand infrastructure and support rural development," Bush said.

Kufuor acknowledged the closeness of U.S.-Ghanaian relations since Ghana attained independence in 1957, but also said he believed the relationship has grown stronger during his two terms as president. Both Bush and Kufuor leave office next year.

Bush visited Benin, Ghana, Liberia, Rwanda and Tanzania in February, announcing a series of economic, security, educational and health measures during the trip.

Kufuor said Millennium Challenge Account funding is significant because about 60 percent of the Gha-

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United States Supports Zimbabwean Political Agreement

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — The Bush administration has not yet reviewed the 50- to 60-page political deal signed September 11 between Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe and opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, but a State Department spokesman expressed general support for the agreement and urged that it be "faithfully implemented."

Under the agreement, mediated by South African President Thabo Mbeki, Mugabe reportedly will relinquish some of the powers he has held since becoming president in 1980 to Tsvangirai, who heads the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), which won a parliamentary majority in the country's March 29 election. Tsvangirai will be the new prime minister.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said September 16 that the MDC has said it supports the agreement and is comfortable with it. "Therefore we are supportive of it," he said.

"We would expect that it be implemented, that not only the letter of it but the spirit of it be implemented, and that that end result reflects the will of the Zimbabwean people, as

it was expressed during their recent election," McCormack said.

The spokesman said U.S. officials are still in the process of getting a copy of the agreement and plan to review it.



Supporters wave as Zimbabwe's main opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, leader of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), arrives at a campaign rally in Harare on March 23, 2008. Tsvangirai predicted victory over Mugabe, in power since independence in 1980.

"This is a reflection of Zimbabwean politics and an attempt to move those politics forward," he said, adding that it "speaks to some political evolution in Zimbabwe that we have gotten to this point."

McCormack credited the international community for staying focused on the country through the political crisis, which was marked by government-backed violence and intimidation against the opposition and those suspected of supporting it. (See "U.S. Sanctions Tightened Against Zimbabwe Regime" (<http://www.america.gov/st/democracy->

[english/2008/July/20080725161509esnamfuak0.5157282.html](http://www.america.gov/st/democracy-english/2008/July/20080725161509esnamfuak0.5157282.html)).")

But he said it is also "heartening" that Zimbabwean politics appear to have reached a point where the two sides have made a power-sharing deal and agreed to implement it.

"We'll see how this plays out, but certainly it is a good moment for Morgan Tsvangirai and the MDC, that they have gotten to the point where they can negotiate this kind of agreement," he said.

On September 15, Jendayi Frazer, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, said the Bush administration wants to see "real

change" in Zimbabwe. According to the Washington Post, Frazer said, "We will have to reserve our final judgment until we are able to study the agreement and learn more about the new government," but she added that the United States is "hopeful, and we certainly look forward to working with Morgan Tsvangirai as the new prime minister to try to see recovery for the economy."

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

Memorial to September 11 Victims Graces Pentagon Landscape

By Jacquelyn S. Porth
Staff Writer

Arlington, Virginia — There are 184 new stainless steel cantilevered benches on the southwest side of the Pentagon. Beneath each bench is a small reflecting pool offering the rippling sound of moving water with nearby paperbark maple trees providing shade.

Seven years after terrorists commandeered American Airlines Flight 77 and flew it into the Defense Department, these benches were unveiled as part of a permanent memorial to the 184 people who died in the September 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon. President Bush dedicated the Pentagon Memorial, which had been under construction since June 2006.

The memorial resides on the southwest side of the building where the crash occurred. All 59 passengers perished in the 560-kilometer-per-hour attack, and another 125 people died inside the building from the impact and associated jet fuel fire and falling debris. Another 2,829 victims died in a separate set of airliner attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and another 41 aboard a third aborted flight downed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Those who died in Arlington, when the aircraft cut through five concentric corridors of Pentagon concrete, were scientists, doctors, uniformed personnel, contrac-



American Airlines (AA) pilot Captain (CAPT) James C. Condes, shows his son Christopher, the inscribed pilot's name of the ill fated flight 77, CAPT Charles Burlingame, prior to a memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery for the 184 victims of the September 11th, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon. Location: ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, VIRGINIA (VA) UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA)

tors, teachers, pilots, administrative aides and flight crew.

During the dedication ceremony, Bush said the memorial will become "a place of learning" for future generations. "The day will come when most Americans have no living memory of the events of September the 11th," he said. "When they visit this memorial they will learn that the 21st century began with a great struggle between the forces of freedom and the forces of terror."

The newly unveiled memorial at the Pentagon was designed to be a place for family and friends to sit and remember and for the public to visit and reflect. Many individuals

contributed to its construction, including an Iraqi immigrant living in Illinois who helped give luster to the metal used for the benches.

The rows of granite-topped benches are arranged by the age of the victims, from youngest to oldest. To read the inscribed benches for those who died on the passenger jet, visitors look away from the Pentagon. To read inscriptions for those who died inside, visitors face the building's facade.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England said the nearly five-hectare acre site is for the families, the Pentagon community and for "everyone in America, because this

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[is] the first memorial to really remember those who were killed."

HALLOWED GROUND COMMEMORATES LOSS AND RESILIENCE

One of 184 cantilever benches at the Pentagon Memorial that will be dedicated on the seventh anniversary of the 2001 attacks. For family and colleagues, this is sacred ground — a quiet place for healing and solace. Some see it as an opportunity for closure. Others see it as a place to feel close to those whose lives were cut short in a crushing instant.

Jim Laychak, who leads the private fundraising effort for the \$32 million memorial, lost his brother in the attack on the Pentagon. Prior to the dedication ceremony, he told CNN: "This is hallowed ground for a lot of the family members, and the essence of this place will be about . . . those [whom] we lost."

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Michael Mullen, said the memorial reflects the resilience

of the United States. Mullen said it also serves as a constant reminder of renewal.

On the evening of September 11, the memorial opens to the public with a musical tribute by the U.S. Navy Band and the Sea Chanters Chorus. Like other memorials in the capital area, it will remain open around the clock, every day of the week. The site is expected to draw millions of visitors annually.

John Cogbill, chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission, said the devastation of September 11 "is forever burned into the hearts of Americans." He told America.gov the new memorial honors the memory of those who lost their lives there. "This uniquely symbolic memorial is a welcome addition to the capital's landscape," he added.

For the architects who designed the memorial, the unveiling is a culmination of years of work and accompanying life changes. Columbia University graduates Keith Kaseman and Julie Beckman were living together in New York working for separate architectural firms when

the September 11 attacks occurred. Their firsthand experience inspired collaboration on a personal submission to a 2002 international design competition for the memorial. Their design was selected in 2003.

They moved to Virginia to oversee the project's launch and later married. In 2006, they moved their company, Kaseman Beckman Advanced Strategies, to Philadelphia although they continued to commute to Washington on memorial-related business.

They said they always will be inspired by the strength and determination of the family members they met while refining their design over the past six years. Countless individuals contributed to the birth of the memorial, the two wrote in a recent statement about the memorial, "so that its contemplative integrity will persist into the distant future, and with its dedication the Pentagon Memorial will take on its own life, attracting meaning and contemplative interpretation from all who visit this special place."

For more about the Pentagon Memorial, see a special Defense De-

Bush Praises Strong Leadership of Ghanaian President Kufuor . . .

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naian population is rural and depends on agriculture both for subsistence and for economic growth. He said the MCA will help Ghana develop more scientific and technological farming methods, making agriculture more attractive to the nation's youth.

"We are suffering as an economy adrift, very serious drift of the youth from the rural parts to the urban areas, which have not been planned to accommodate the drifts," Kufuor said. "And so now in our streets in the big towns you have street children. We believe the success of the Millennium Challenge Account will help stem all [these] anti-social developments."

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

Parties Recruit Growing Numbers of Women to Vote, Fewer to Run

By Lea Terhune
Staff Writer

Washington — If the recent party conventions are any indication, women in American politics and the importance of women's votes today are acknowledged vigorously by Democrats and Republicans. Yet women remain numerically underrepresented in elected office.



Governor Janet Napolitano

More women hold public office in the United States than ever before, serving in both houses of Congress, and occupying important local- and state-level positions, including governorships.

Sixteen of the 100 U.S. senators and 71 of the 435 U.S. House members are women. Eight of the 50 governors are women, and the proportion of women in state legislatures is at 23.7 percent, according to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

Many winners can thank women's political action committees (PACs) for their success. These PACs fundraise and help campaign for women candidates. The most influential PACs are "pro-choice," backing candidates who support a woman's right to choose abortion. Democratic EMILY's List and Republican counterpart WISH List are two such

groups. Republican Susan B. Anthony List — named after a progressive, 19th-century women's suffragist — and Democrats for Life of America are PACs that fund anti-abortion, "pro-life" candidates.

They have had "a tremendous impact," said Barbara Palmer, from American University's Women in Politics Institute.

"For the past few election cycles, if you do the math, female congressional candidates, at least, actually raise more money, on average, than their male counterparts, so we have definitely closed the gender gap there. And that is due to the activism of women PACs," she told America.gov.

For the second time in history, a woman is a vice-presidential running mate of a major U.S. political party. The selection of Sarah Palin by John McCain for the Republican ticket is a first for that party. Democrat Geraldine Ferraro was Walter Mondale's running mate in 1984.

Women of both parties, not necessarily in agreement with Palin's politics, have lauded McCain's choice of a woman for the ticket.

Jennifer Lawless is a Brown University political science professor, former candidate for a Rhode Island congressional seat, and co-author of a Brookings Institution study, "Why Are Women Still Not Running for Public Office?"

Lawless told America.gov her research on hurdles facing women in politics "made me realize that women who know that those barriers exist have to be willing to overcome them." So at age 31, in 2006, Lawless challenged the three-term incumbent in her Rhode Island congressional district, James Langevin, because he was "out of sync with his constituents and me on issues that I cared most about."

Lawless did not win, but did get 40 percent of the vote. "It could have been better," she said.



Governor Kathleen Sebelius

Scholarly criteria to identify bias or the relevance of gender in elections do not necessarily measure "the kinds of things that actually happen day to day on the campaign trail. When women run for office, overall, they fare as well as their male counterparts, but that in no way gauges whether or not the playing field or the experiences for women are comparable to those of men," she said.

She said she encountered no "overt

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Next President Could Shape U.S. Judiciary More than Predecessors

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — An elected official's power to make judicial appointments, especially to the Supreme Court of the United States, is a factor many U.S. voters consider when they go to the polls.

The next president of the United States likely will make one or more appointments for life to the bench of the Supreme Court, the highest level of the third co-equal branch of government (with the executive branch and the legislative branch). Supreme Court decisions are the final authority on contentious issues, whether mundane or revolutionary.

At the Brookings Institution in Washington on September 4, judicial analysts speculated that, more so than in previous years, a President John McCain or a President Barack Obama would be assuming office at a time of looming retirements and newly created vacancies that could amplify their effect upon the federal judiciary beyond that of their predecessors.

Brookings research director Benjamin Wittes said at the Supreme Court level, the nine-member body is roughly divided between four liberal justices and four conservative justices with Justice Anthony Kennedy serving as a "fulcrum" in the middle.

But, because many of the older justices tend to be liberals, he said a President McCain would be able to decisively shift the court to the

right. Alternatively, a President Obama could reinforce the liberal side with younger justices.

U.S. courts affect the lives of ordinary Americans with rulings on contentious issues such as employee



Due to potential retirements, the balance of the nine-member Supreme Court could be effectively decided by the election.

discrimination, workplace safety, environmental protection, abortion and election redistricting.

THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

The Supreme Court, the highest court in the land, receives more than 7,000 petitions each year, but generally agrees to hear 100 or fewer. The vast majority of cases that go through the appeals process are decided at a lower level by the U.S. Court of Appeals, comprising 179 judges in 13 circuits across the United States. All those judges are presidential appointments.

"Collectively at the lower court level and individually at the Supreme Court level, those nominees do incrementally and sometimes quite dramatically affect the direction of the law," Wittes said. But voter concern should not get out of

hand. "The federal judiciary has a lot more continuity than sudden change."

Looking closely at the appellate court circuits, Russell Wheeler, a visiting fellow at Brookings, presented data on appointments by presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. He showed how President Clinton reduced representation on the bench by Republican appointees from 64 percent in 1993 to 41 percent in 2001 and increased the percentage of Democratic appointees from 21 percent to 44 percent during the same period. The remaining 16 percent in both cases were unfilled vacancies.

In his eight years as president, George W. Bush has not been able to shift the appellate courts as dramatically as Clinton. As of September 2008, 56 percent of appellate judges are Republican appointees and 36 percent were appointed by Democratic presidents.

The explanation, Wheeler said, is not congressional obstruction. (Both Clinton and Bush had an identical 73 percent confirmation rate of their nominees.) Instead, a combination of retirements and the creation of new judgeships during the Clinton years allowed the Democratic president to shift the balance more dramatically.

"So what that suggests is there are structural factors working ... in the federal judiciary that influence how much of an impact a president may have on changing the face of the

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Will Globalization Move to Center Stage in American Election?

By Andrzej Zwanecki
Staff Writer

Washington — International trade is likely to re-emerge as an election issue as the presidential race between Democratic candidate Barack Obama and Republican candidate John McCain heats up, according to trade specialists.

Trade deserves to be a primary election issue, according to Gary Gereffi, the director of the Center on Globalization, Governance and Competitiveness at Duke University. "We need a robust and honest debate about how to increase competitiveness of the U.S. economy and continue to lead the world on innovation to create high-end manufacturing jobs," he told America.gov.

So far, such a debate has not occurred, he said, as leading Republican candidates have defended the status quo and leading Democrats have vowed to make trade fairer to American workers, who they say have been losing jobs to low-wage countries.

Edward Gresser of the Progressive Policy Institute, which is associated with the Democratic Party, told America.gov that McCain's views on trade are somewhat different from those of President Bush. For example, in contrast to Bush, McCain has been reluctant to support protections for U.S. industries and farmers.

But neither Republican is interested in dealing with economic anxieties of workers and the general public, Gresser said.

More Americans believe that past

trade policies have been bad for the U.S. economy than believe those policies have been good, according to numerous polls. In two June polls, a majority of respondents blamed job losses on free-trade agreements.

These sentiments are not supported by evidence. Research suggests that many more U.S. manufacturing jobs have been lost in recent decades due to technological progress, such as plant automation, than due to U.S. companies moving operations to developing countries. Glob-



Workers in Guatemala City sew garments for export to the United States.

alization is responsible for low prices and the variety of manufactured goods in American stores.

But Gresser said he believes the general public has an accurate sense that, as the economy changes faster and faster, more workers are left without jobs, health insurance (which in the United States is largely employer-sponsored) and sufficient pensions. Both candidates promise to overhaul unemployment insurance and re-training programs for displaced workers. Obama, however, has broader and more proactive proposals than McCain, Gresser said.

Also, Obama wants to make labor and environmental standards part of any future trade agreements while McCain does not, according to McCain's top economic adviser, Douglas Holtz-Eakin.

Frederic Mayer, a political scientist from Duke University, said political leaders should realize that the virtues of free trade, including distribution of benefits among different countries and social groups, now are being re-examined worldwide. "It seems to me that the old formula for free trade plus side agreements on labor and environment may be quite insufficient," he told America.gov.

During primary elections, Democratic candidates Hillary Clinton and Obama indicated they wanted to go beyond refining new trade deals. They called for renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). This and an overall anti-globalization tone in Democratic speeches have made U.S. trade advocates and policymakers in other countries uneasy.

Michael Barone, a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative policy research organization, says Clinton and Obama have been under pressure from labor unions, which are pushing hard for restrictions on trade. Under the same pressure, the Democratic majority in Congress has blocked consideration of free-trade pacts with Colombia and South Korea concluded by the administration.

Barone, also a reporter at U.S. News and World Report magazine, told America.gov that Democratic

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Will Globalization Move to Center Stage in American Election? . . .

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nominee Obama increasingly will be whipsawed between two major forces in the Democratic Party: labor unions and major financial supporters who hail mostly from Wall Street and consider trade restrictions nonsense.

The Democratic nominee appears to have backtracked from his initial stance on NAFTA: He recently told reporters his comments on that agreement were misunderstood. Gereffi believes Obama might have toned down his rhetoric — Obama's campaign Web site says he will "work with the leaders of Canada

and Mexico to fix NAFTA so that it works for American workers" — in response to negative reactions in Ottawa and Mexico City.

In his August 28 speech accepting the Democratic nomination, Obama referred to globalization only once, saying he would propose incentives for U.S. companies to create jobs in the United States rather than overseas.

Most experts expect the debate about trade to be less politicized in the coming months because both campaigns realize they are now more closely watched for indications of future policies than they

were during primaries.

Gereffi said blaming globalization or other countries for perceived economic ills in the United States would not serve Obama well. It would miss "a whole boat in regard to what the real competitiveness challenge for the United States is."

He said both Democratic and Republican campaigns have an opportunity to redefine the trade debate and lay out plans to refocus on real issues, such as better education and training and innovation incentives. ♦

Parties Recruit Growing Numbers of Women to Vote, Fewer to Run . . .

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sexism," but was labeled by the media in ways her opponent was not.

She said PACs have played an "instrumental role in providing support and infrastructure to women who had already decided to run for office, and who were launching formidable campaigns." She was endorsed by 11 organizations, but not EMILY's List, probably because of early slow fundraising.

"I think that these organizations, traditionally, pick the battles that they thought they have the best shot at winning, which is obviously critical if we want to increase the number of women in Congress," Lawless said.

New, nonpartisan organizations are

emerging that are not limited to the divisive abortion issue, such as The White House Project and Women Under Forty PAC.

"I do think we are seeing an expansion in terms of the kinds of issues that are at stake," Lawless said.

"Political action committees are extending their reach and trying to bring more women into the process," she added, and that "is allowing more women access to the gatekeepers who ultimately might then recruit them to run."

PACs now educate women in how to run for office. Low confidence, lack of recruitment by powerful party "gatekeepers," and incursions on privacy and family life are chief inhibitors, Lawless found.

The high visibility of women at po-

litical conventions may belie their low numbers in office, but Lawless maintains that "because of these visible women, male candidates have to respond to their presence and have to respond to female constituents' demands, so that, in and of itself, is a good thing for policy in terms of representing women's interests."

Palmer adds: "Once you get more women into political office, they may not necessarily vote different from their male counterparts, but they change their agenda. They bring things to the table that men aren't necessarily against, it just isn't the highest priority for them."

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

U.S. Warns Against New Russian Troop Deployments to Georgia

By David McKeeby
Staff Writer

Washington — Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's proposal to position large troop garrisons in Georgia's separatist regions threatens to further undermine the fragile European Union-brokered truce in the ongoing crisis in the South Caucasus, a senior U.S. official says.

"President Medvedev's comments that around 7,600 Russian troops will be permanently deployed to Abkhazia and South Ossetia is in clear contravention to the ceasefire agreement," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said September 11, noting that Russian and Georgian forces are required to pull back to positions they held before hostilities broke out August 7.

While the bulk of Russia's invasion force left Georgia August 22, Moscow has maintained 32 military checkpoints deep inside undisputed Georgian territory. The Kremlin called them "security zones," but the international community recognizes them as fortified chokepoints, says U.S. Special Envoy Matthew Bryza. The cease-fire agreement, which both sides signed August 14, was brokered by the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

"The cease-fire accord does not establish a buffer zone," Bryza told the U.S. Helsinki Commission on September 10, "and it does not allow the Russians to have any forces whatsoever in places such as Poti, 200 kilometers from South Ossetia."

Russian forces at a checkpoint in Karaleti have turned back humanitarian aid shipments bound for com-



Russian soldiers stand guard on September 9, 2008 at Karaleti checkpoint, 7 km (4 miles) northwest of Gori. (AFP/File/Mustafa Ozer)

munities south of South Ossetia's capital, McCormack said, a violation of Russia's truce commitments to allow the free flow of humanitarian assistance to all areas of Georgia.

Russia has further compounded international criticism with a third violation of the cease-fire: the Kremlin's decision to officially recognize the two breakaway regions as independent nations. While only one other country, Nicaragua, has followed Russia's lead, dozens of others, including Russia's partners in the G8 and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization — which includes China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan — have criticized the move as an attempt to forcibly redraw a neighbor's borders, and also a reversal of U.N. Security Council resolutions previously supported by Russia.

Reports from the region suggest that Russian troops have at last started pulling back from positions outside Georgia's Black Sea port of Poti and its western city of Senaki,

pledged in a September 8 Moscow meeting between Medvedev and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who currently holds the European Union's rotating presidency.

Under the latest deal, all remaining Russian forces are expected to pull back as far as South Ossetia and Abkhazia by October 1, when 200 EU civilian cease-fire military monitoring observers will be deployed to the region to augment ongoing U.N. and OSCE observer missions. International talks on the future of Georgia's two Moscow-backed breakaway regions will follow in Geneva October 15.

Additional Russian troop deployments to South Ossetia and Abkhazia would be yet another violation of Russia's commitments, say officials, as would actions to prevent European monitors from entering the separatist regions.

"We insist that Russia uphold its commitments," McCormack said. ♦

United States Places Sanctions on Iran's Largest Maritime Company

By Merle D. Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — The United States has leveled financial sanctions against Iran's largest shipping line and 18 of its affiliates for shipping military-related arms and related cargo, according to senior U.S. officials.

The maritime company — the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines, also known as IRISL — shipped cargo for Iran's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, which has direct control of Iran's ballistic missile research, development and production activities, says Adam Szubin, director of the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control.

"The U.S. also has information that points to an alarming pattern of denial and deception techniques by IRISL," Szubin said.

The departments of State and Treasury made the announcement September 10.

"Because of the high risk of unwittingly facilitating Iran's [nuclear] proliferation activities, we call on banks, companies and insurers worldwide to reevaluate any ongoing business relationships with IRISL. IRISL's deceptive conduct makes it nearly impossible to determine whether its shipments are licit or illicit under the international standards put out by the U.N. Security Council in its resolutions," Szubin said.

Any bank accounts or other finan-

cial assets belonging to IRISL found in the United States will be frozen under the sanctions imposed by the Treasury Department. In addition, U.S. citizens are forbidden to do business with the company and its affiliates in Iran and at least nine other countries, including Britain,



Treasury Under Secretary Stuart Levey talks about Iran sanctions. (AFP/File/Samantha Sin)

Belgium, China, Egypt, Italy, Germany, Malta, Singapore and South Korea.

The departments also identified 123 known IRISL ships by type, tonnage and flag to help other maritime authorities spot the ships, which should be searched.

"Not only does IRISL facilitate the transport of cargo for U.N.-designated proliferators, it also falsifies documents and uses deceptive schemes to shroud its involvement in illicit commerce," said Stuart Levey, Treasury under secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence.

"IRISL's actions are part of a

broader pattern of deception and fabrication that Iran uses to advance its nuclear and missile programs."

The State Department said in a separate statement that these designations implement a March 2008

U.N. Security Council resolution, which calls upon all states to inspect IRISL cargoes to or from Iran, provided there are reasonable grounds to believe that a vessel is transporting prohibited goods cited in three previous sets of U.N. sanctions.

"We are concerned that IRISL is using its global transportation system to ship items of prolifera-

tion concern to Iran in circumvention of these United Nations Security Council resolutions," the State Department said.

See the text (<http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/hp1130.htm>) of the Treasury Department announcement on the department'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 Bush Sends U.S.-India Nuclear Accord to Congress

By Merle D. Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — President Bush asked the U.S. Congress to approve a civil nuclear agreement with India that would reverse more than three decades of U.S. policy, but would bring India's nuclear programs under international nonproliferation inspections.

"The proposed agreement provides a comprehensive framework for U.S. peaceful nuclear cooperation with India," Bush said in a letter to Congress September 10. "It permits the transfer of information, non-nuclear material, nuclear material, equipment (including reactors) and components for nuclear research and nuclear power production. It does not permit transfers of any restricted data."

Congress, by law, may take up to 30 working days after receiving the agreement from the White House to study, consider and vote on it. Passage in this session of Congress is uncertain because both houses are expected to adjourn at the end of September to return home to campaign for the November elections, though congressional leaders have been supportive of the civil nuclear agreement.

The agreement could make ample energy resources a more likely possibility with final approval. It would bring India into the nuclear nonproliferation mainstream; help India meet its growing energy needs while improving protection of the environment; and deepen the strategic partnership between many nations and India, Ambassador Gregory Schulte, the U.S. permanent

representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said recently.

The agreement would reverse three decades of U.S. policy by permitting the shipping of nuclear fuel to India in return for international inspections of India's civilian reactors.

123 Agreement, can be acted on only by the Congress. The United States and India completed negotiations on the agreement in 2007.

The nuclear accord would require India to open its civilian reactors to international inspections by the IAEA and give India access to the world market for nuclear fuel and technology, which it has been un-



President Bush, center, meets with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, right, and Secretary of State Rice.

The IAEA board of governors met August 1 in Vienna, Austria, to consider a draft safeguards agreement with India for its civilian nuclear energy development program. The safeguards agreement won final IAEA approval, and then a separate agreement was approved by the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group, which controls the trade of nuclear materials.

Congress had required both groups to approve the agreement before it considers final action. The U.S.-India nuclear initiative, known as a

able to do for more than 30 years. The three-step approval process was necessary because India is not a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Currently, India imports 75 percent of its oil, and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has argued that India needs a stronger investment in nuclear energy generation.

India has four operating nuclear power reactors under IAEA safeguards. Under the U.S.-India ac-

(Continued on page 21)

World to Observe First International Day of Democracy

By Eric Green
Staff Writer

Washington — Numerous events are being held worldwide and in the United States to mark the first International Day of Democracy September 15, an observance established by the U.N. General Assembly in 2007 and intended to be held annually.

The General Assembly said the day helps reinforce the need to promote democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a September 11 statement that "it is deeply significant that this Day was brought into being by countries which are themselves working hard every day to nurture and consolidate their young democratic foundations. When the International Conference of New and Restored Democracies, through its Chair, Qatar, put forward the General Assembly resolution proposing the Day, it sent a powerful signal to the rest of the world."

The secretary-general added that "democratization is not a spectator sport. And it is more akin to a marathon than a sprint. It is a long struggle that must be waged by individual citizens, myriad communities and entire nations."

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY IN THE UNITED STATES

The International Day of Democracy also marks the September 15 launching by the U.S. State Department of a worldwide competition aimed at promoting a global dialogue on democracy. The Democ-



Anders Johnsson, secretary-general of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, urges all countries to observe the International Day of Democracy.

racy Video Challenge asks budding filmmakers, democracy advocates and the general public to create video shorts on the meaning of democracy, with the winners selected by the online voting public.

To commemorate International Democracy Day in the United States, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and the House Democracy Assistance Commission are sponsoring, with the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), a panel discussion focusing on human rights abuses against parliamentarians around the world. The event, being held September 18, will include members of the U.S. Congress and legislators from Afghanistan, Haiti, Liberia and Timor-Leste. The IPU is an international organization consisting of the parliaments of countries worldwide. (See

"Congressional Caucuses Help Draw Attention to Specific Issues (<http://www.america.gov/st/washfile-english/2007/January/20070110151854HMnietsua03051264.html>).")

IPU Secretary-General Anders Johnsson, who will speak at the event at the U.S. Congress in Washington, told America.gov that he welcomes the International Day of Democracy in that "it provides an important opportunity to celebrate the advances and achievements of democracy and to reflect on how best we can overcome its current challenges."

"I believe all of us who are involved in political processes in parliament and elsewhere have much to contribute to this debate. That is also why the IPU urges all parliaments to commemorate this day," said Johnsson.

DEMOCRACY DAY EVENTS IN GENEVA AND ELSEWHERE

The IPU is holding a September 15 event in Geneva to address such issues as the main challenges facing democracy today, and how democracy is affected by globalization and the emergence of new forms of "social organizations, such as civil society organizations." Scheduled speakers for that event include former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Benjamin Barber, president of the New York-based CivWorld, which oversees projects aimed at finding solutions to global challenges.

Another speaker in Geneva will be Marta Lagos, executive director of

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World to Observe First International Day of Democracy . . .

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Latinobarómetro, a Chilean-based public opinion polling firm on Latin America. She told America.gov that countries following democratic principles give them a “way of belonging to the world,” and that the more the international community emphasizes the importance of democracy, “the more that countries feel the need” to follow that path.

“Freedom” is the most critical issue facing democracies today, Lagos said. That means, she added, that people are “asking for democracy because they want political freedom, they want the choice in the economic sphere, they want choice in their own life — the freedom to move, to be themselves.”

The IPU reports that International



Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter

Day of Democracy events are also being held in such countries as Al-

geria, which will hold a conference-debate about “The Role of Parliament and Parliamentarians” in that nation.

In addition, Indonesia’s parliament will launch a civic education program; the United Kingdom will release a new guide for the public called “Parliament and You”; Uruguay’s House of Representatives will send posters of the Universal Declaration on Democracy, adopted by the IPU’s policymaking body in 1997, to more than 2,400 schools and 450 secondary schools across the country; and members of the IPU national group in the Zambian parliament will explain the objectives of the International Day of Democracy in radio and television programs on the country’s national broadcasting network. ♦

Next President Could Shape U.S. Judiciary More than Predecessors . . .

(Continued from page 8)

courts of appeals,” Wheeler said.

SUBSTANTIAL SHIFT POSSIBLE

Looking ahead, he said President McCain or President Obama will be in a position to shift the balance even more than before.

“Overall, McCain would be able to increase the number of Republican appointees up to 74 percent — a very strong majority. If Obama wins ... he could reduce the number of Republican appointees from 56 percent down to 42 percent and create 58 percent Democratic appointees. So, a big shift there, depending upon who wins,” he said.

Wheeler predicts that, in the next administration, at least half of the judges currently eligible to retire now or by 2011 will decide to step down, Congress will pass legislation to create 14 new judgeships, and the president will fill all judicial vacancies.

He said a McCain victory would create a Republican-appointed judicial majority in all 13 federal court of appeals circuits, while Obama would create a Democratic majority in eight circuits, leaving three with a Republican majority and the remaining two evenly split.

“Aside from the Supreme Court, you could say this election could make a difference in terms of the composition of the courts of ap-

peals measured by judges appointed by president of the two different parties,” Wheeler said.

Lest voters of both sides lose sleep over the issue, he said the practical effect of having the judiciary dominated by either party is less than many would assume, given the nature of most cases.

“The case load of the court of appeals is in many ways fairly mundane with cases where the law is pretty clear and it is just a matter of finding it and announcing it,” he said.

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

Private Sector Should Resist Internet Censorship, Official Says

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — With government efforts to restrict free Internet access on the rise around the world, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky urged the private sector to resist pressure to limit access to the Web and instead join the United States and others in efforts to “open the doors to unfettered information.”

The right incentives from democratic governments can enable industry to “embrace the moral responsibility of resisting pressure” to restrict Web access in repressive countries, she said.

“With the partnership of fellow democracies, industry and nongovernmental organizations, efforts to regulate and restrict free speech will ultimately prove an unsuccessful attempt to hold back the rising tide of democratic change.”

Dobriansky spoke in Washington on September 10 at a workshop for journalists, representatives of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and U.S. officials called “Media vs. New Censorship: The Authoritarian Assault on Information.” The workshop was hosted by the Broadcasting Board of Governors. Panelists included the directors of Freedom House, the Global Internet Freedom Consortium and the China Internet Project, and the editor in chief of Washington Prism, a Persian-language online journal of culture, politics and public affairs.

Dobriansky said the United States has committed substantial re-



The State Department's Paula Dobriansky says the private sector has a "moral responsibility" to resist censorship efforts.

sources to expand the Internet.

Through this commitment and dramatic reductions in the cost of communication technology, “millions of new users can be empowered by Internet access.” The Bush administration is working

with the private sector to develop a set of voluntary principles to encourage the information technology

industry to protect the free flow of information.

In addition, “we strive to support journalists and press freedom organizations under threat through various grants and funding for initiatives such as providing secure Web sites for journalists under pressure from restrictive regimes,” she said.

GLOBAL INTERNET FREEDOM TASK FORCE

The under secretary said some of this work is being done by the State Department’s Global Internet Freedom Task Force, established by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in 2006. In cooperation with NGOs and the private sector, the group monitors Internet freedom across the world and seeks to expand online access.

She said the task force “provides a channel for responding to threats to Internet freedom, where nongovernmental organizations or Internet service providers can flag for us an abuse, upon which we can then

act.”

The United States raises concerns over Internet freedom both bilaterally and multilaterally, she said. In 2008, both the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development issued statements urging greater Web access to enhance democracy and economic development.

In 2007, she added, the Bamako Ministerial Consensus of the Community of Democracies also “expressed its commitment to the central importance of Internet freedom to democracy and development in three separate statements.”

Some governments that are restricting free Web access claim they are protecting their citizens from “dangerous or morally questionable ideas,” and others “do not even



seek a pretense,” she said. The world also has witnessed alleged government attacks upon the Internet servers of other governments.

Dobriansky said that in all of these cases, “the common denominator is deliberate ‘denial of the marketplace of ideas.’” ♦

“Heretic” Bloggers Risk Execution Under Iran’s New Restrictions

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington – In its latest pressure tactic against Iranian bloggers and text-messagers, Iran’s government has declared blogs, texting, social networking sites and, more generally, the Internet “destructive,” “tools of media warfare” and more dangerous to the public “than addiction.” It also is threatening to charge some bloggers with heresy, which could carry a death sentence.

Iran’s revolutionary government has been fighting its battle to control public information on the Web for years, according to an Iranian journalist and blogger who now lives in Canada after a brush with Iranian law and asked not to be identified.

“They have used several ways to create restrictions or to suppress bloggers and different Web sites; however, they have not succeeded,” the blogger told America.gov.

Suppression of free speech on the Internet by oppressive regimes scattered across the globe is a concern among democracies worldwide. Through its annual human rights reports, the State Department has criticized Internet censorship in Burma, China, Cuba, Iran and other countries. In 2006 it also established the Global Internet Freedom Task Force (GIFT) to address challenges to free expression and the free flow of information on the Web. Iran boasts one of the most active blogospheres in the world, with 700,000 blogs, approximately

100,000 of which are updated regularly. Data from the Telecommunication Company of Iran also show that Iranians sent about 21 million text messages every day in 2007.

Under the guise of protecting the Iranian people from “dangerous” online material such as pornography, the Majlis (Iranian parliament) has proposed legislation that associates bloggers with violent criminals and proposed a committee to “confront bloggers and those who have Internet sites, and control



Iranian bloggers are preparing for the latest round in their long struggle with the authorities over Internet freedom.

them -- if necessary to filter them, or otherwise open a case and turn them over to judicial authorities for arrest,” the blogger said.

“They in fact want to create a preventive measure within families. And on the other hand, they have brought up the subject of execution for bloggers – under the claim of heresy or publishing material that would lead and encourage corruption and prostitution,” the blogger said. The crime of heresy can be interpreted very broadly by the au-

thorities.

“If I don’t write anything except poetry in my Weblog, and [if] I write a poem like ‘I shall become God myself,’ the punishment for that would be execution. And in this way we will witness ... death sentences in the near future,” the blogger said.

IRAN’S RESILIENT BLOGOSPHERE RESISTS GOVERNMENT CONTROL

This is only the government’s latest move to control Iran’s active blogosphere. A string of failed attempts began in 1999 with filtering efforts.

After those initial efforts proved unsuccessful, the government began targeting the bloggers themselves in 2002, arresting first those who were also involved with cinema production, and then individuals (like this blogger) who also worked as journalists.

“In 2004-2005 they detained about 20 to 30 bloggers and Weblog owners, tortured them, and caused them trouble, so that others would be afraid and think twice,” the

blogger said. “However, this issue led to an increase in the number of Weblogs and bloggers.”

Stage 3, begun after Mahmoud Ahmadinejad became president in 2005, saw the Iranian government itself enter the fray with its own Web sites and massive funding for the sites of groups closely allied with its policies. “However, they don’t have anything new to say,” the blogger said. “[Y]ou come and run 10,000 Weblogs where all of

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Death of Russian Journalist “Disturbing,” United States Says

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — The Bush administration and press freedom advocacy groups want to know what caused the September 2 shooting death of Russian journalist Magomed Yevloyev while he was in police custody, and who will be held to account for that death.

Yevloyev was a long-standing critic of the government in the impoverished Muslim-majority province of Ingushetia, which has seen increasing unrest against soldiers and police forces. On arriving from his Moscow home to Ingushetia's main town, Nazran, he reportedly was arrested without incident but died after being shot in the head. Ingush police spokesmen claim he was killed while trying to seize a policeman's gun.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said September 2 that Yevloyev's death is “very disturbing,” and called for an investigation.

“Russians officials need to get to the bottom of it. And there needs to be people held to account for what happened,” McCormack told reporters.

Yevloyev owned the Ingushetiya.ru Web site, which is reportedly one of the most popular sources for news on the troubled province and which has come into conflict with authorities after reporting on alleged brutalities by Russian security forces. According to the U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ),



Magomed Yevloyev's death comes as Ingushetia surpasses neighboring Chechnya's level of insurgency against Russia.

the site also covers alleged cases of government corruption, economic troubles, unsolved disappearances and killings and other human rights abuses.



Yevloyev had been highly critical of Ingushetia's regional leader, Murat Zyazikov, on left with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

Ingushetiya.ru also has called for the resignation of Ingush President Murat Zyazikov, a former KGB agent backed by Russian officials, who had flown to Nazran on the same plane as Yevloyev.

According to Vladimir Markin, a spokesman with the investigative committee of Russia's prosecutor-general's office, a preliminary criminal investigation is being carried out into Yevloyev's death, which is currently categorized as “murder by negligence.”

However, opposition supporters and some media observers believe he was murdered to silence Ingushetia.ru.

“The circumstances of Yevloyev's death, along with local authorities' long record of hostility toward him, raise natural and substantial doubts about the official account,” said Nina Ognianova, CPJ's Europe and Central Asia program coordinator.

CPJ has described Ingushetia, which borders the troubled province of Chechnya, as “a lawless zone where enemies of the press can attack journalists with impunity.”

State's McCormack said that within Russia there has been “a sad recent history of violence against journalists who are merely seeking to do their job.”

He said U.S. officials have told Russian authorities that the “threats, intimidation, and violence” being employed against the press “have been unacceptable.”

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

New Grant Program Targets Chronic Diseases in Developing World

By Erika Gebel
Special Correspondent

Washington – A new research grant program that will award \$1.5 million annually to fight chronic diseases in developing nations has been launched by the Fogarty International Center of the United States' National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Developing countries, historically fertile breeding grounds for infectious diseases like malaria, AIDS and tuberculosis, increasingly are afflicted by noncontagious chronic ailments such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease. (See Disease and Disability (<http://science.america.gov/science/health/disease.html>).)

"The Fogarty International Center will encourage programs that prepare researchers and medical workers to address these new challenges, provide training across disciplines and bridge gaps among the biological, social and behavioral sciences," the center's director, Dr. Roger I. Glass, said in a press releases.

Founded in 1968, the Fogarty International Center promotes health facility development, research and training by funding some 5,000 scientists with its \$64 million annual budget. The new chronic disease initiative is part of a larger strategic plan, called Pathways to Global Health Research, that will direct the center's international activities until 2012.

"The strategic plan envisions investigators from any country applying



Researchers around the world are seeking ways to fight cancer, and new grants from a U.S. health agency will help advance their work.

for grants under the eight research and 14 training programs in Fogarty's portfolio," Ira Allen, public affairs specialist at Fogarty, told America.gov. "The Fogarty International Center has had collaborations with scientific institutions in more than 100 countries but instead of tailoring the programs to countries or regions, the funding targets diseases, training and research capacity building in low- and middle-income countries regardless of region."

According to Allen, international researchers find out about Fogarty's funding opportunities in a variety of ways. Electronic newsletters from the NIH –The NIH Guide – and the Fogarty International Center – Global Health Matters – contain grant information, and several

listservs target and deliver e-mails about Fogarty's programs to communities of interest. In addition, Fogarty staff members spread the word by attending and speaking at international conferences. Information also circulates by word of mouth through current and former grant recipients.

WORLDWIDE FOCUS ON CHRONIC DISEASES

The new global focus on chronic diseases comes in the wake of predictions about the changing face of mortality in low- and middle-income countries. Roughly 60 percent of all deaths are attributable to chronic diseases, and 80 percent of them occur in developing countries, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

In a 2008 report, WHO predicted that by 2030 the four leading causes of death worldwide will be ischemic heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary (lung) disease and lower-respiratory infections like pneumonia. The shift from the predominance of deaths via infectious disease agents to deaths from chronic diseases is thought to be in part the result of an aging world population; by the year 2030, it is predicted that one in eight people will be over the age of 65. (See "Global Causes of Death Move from Infectious to Chronic Diseases (<http://www.america.gov/st/health-english/2008/June/200806121414571cnirellep0.7136347.html>).")

Up to seven awards and two planning grants are being made available under the Millennium Promise

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New Grant Program Targets Chronic Diseases in Developing World . . .

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Awards: Non-communicable Chronic Diseases Research Training Program, the element of Fogarty's overall strategic plan that targets chronic diseases.

In addition to the chronic disease initiative, Fogarty's strategic plan remains committed to the infectious disease research and training for which it has a long history. The plan has five goals overall: addressing chronic diseases in low- and middle- income countries, bridging the "know-do" gap, increasing research training, fostering sustainable research practices and building beneficial alliances.

The "know-do" gap refers to the fact that even though science has proven the benefits of a particular health strategy, putting that knowledge into the practice of saving lives often remains an unmet challenge. To this end, the Fogarty strategic plan includes a new emphasis on "implementation research." This method includes finding better ways to communicate science to the public and to medical workers.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

As one example of collaboration efforts, the Fogarty International Center has joined the Oxford Health

Alliance's Grand Challenges Global Partnership, which aims to reduce the number of deaths from noncommunicable diseases in developing nations through prevention, diagnosis and training.

The Oxford Health Alliance is a joint effort by Oxford University and Novo Nordisk, which, according to its Web site, "enables experts and



Dr. Roger Glass, director of the Fogarty International Center

activists from different backgrounds to collaborate in order to raise awareness and change behaviours, policies and perspectives at every level of society."

Another way in which the Fogarty International Center fosters international relationships is through its Fogarty International Research Collaboration Award (FIRCA), a

\$50,000 grant to help connect NIH researchers with collaborators in developing countries.

Over this program's 10-year history, 460 grants have been awarded, leading to over 1,500 research articles in peer-reviewed journals. These collaborations do not necessarily end when the money runs out; over 30 percent of the FIRCA-funded researchers continue to collaborate with their international partners after the FIRCA grant ends.

More information about the Fogarty International Center (<http://www.fic.nih.gov/>) and the FIRCA grants (http://www.fic.nih.gov/programs/research_grants/firca/index.htm) is available on the center'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>) ♦

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See also

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Telling America's story

President Bush Sends U.S.-India Nuclear Accord . . .

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cord, India must separate its military and civilian activities and submit its entire civil program to international inspection.

India will place under voluntary safeguards a majority of its existing and planned nuclear power reactors — 14 of 22 — and all its future civil reactors. It is estimated that within a generation nearly 90 percent of India's reactors will be under IAEA safeguards.

And the agreement between the United States and India would remain in force for a period of 40 years and will continue in force for additional periods of 10 years each unless either country gives notice to terminate it six months before the end of a period. The agreement can be terminated before its expiration on a year's written notice.

"The agreement will reinforce the growing bilateral relationship between two vibrant democracies. The United States is committed to a strategic partnership with India, the agreement promises to be a major milestone in achieving and sustaining that goal," Bush said.

Bush will meet with Singh at the White House on September 25 to discuss the agreement and other areas of cooperation, such as agriculture, education, trade and defense, White House press secretary Dana Perino said September 11.

Singh praised the news of the approval from the Nuclear Suppliers Group, saying, "This is a forward-looking and momentous decision. It marks the end of India's decades-long isolation from the nuclear mainstream and of the technology denial regime," according to news media reports. ♦

"Heretic" Bloggers Risk Execution Under Iran's New Restrictions . . .

(Continued from page 17)

them say everything is fine, while the truth out there shows something else. Therefore, they failed on this stage as well."

In 2005, the Ministry of Islamic Guidance also announced a plan to register all blogs and Web sites, requiring full names, addresses and telephone numbers. But after only one month, the ministry admitted that only 5,000 of around 100,000 sites had complied and the official who had proposed the registration was forced to resign.

The blogger said Iran's government is motivated by the desire to ultimately convert the country's Internet into an Intranet not only to "disconnect communication between inside the country and abroad," but also to "channelize"

access in each region of the country to hinder news of political protests, workers strikes and other problems or developments in the provinces that could motivate others to take action.

"[T]he same is true for women, meaning for example if the women in Tehran are going to have a gathering, they want them to have the gathering and [then] they will suppress it, arrest them, etc. They don't want there to be a domino effect, and chain reaction" around the country.

But the Iranian blogger predicted that the government's actions against Internet freedom ultimately will fail, and pointed to unsuccessful efforts to stifle other news sources.

"Consider radio, consider televi-

sion, even video that they wanted to confront with in the 80s and they did not succeed," the blogger said. In 1995, a plan was submitted to the Majlis to confront the threat of satellite television. "Right now they go and collect satellite antennas from people's houses, but this plan has practically failed because people continue to have their satellites and their numbers are increasing daily."

In the meantime, the struggle between Iranian bloggers and their government will continue, and the increased pressure may end up motivating just as many or more to engage in blogging than the number who will be deterred.

"This game is going on like a cat-and-mouse game," the blogger said. ♦