



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

## INSIDE

### U.S. Grants Assist Community Development and Promote Democracy

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) – U.S. Ambassador Donald Yamamoto emphasized the United States’ commitment to improving Ethiopian livelihoods and strengthening bilateral economic ties when he presented 13 new grants to community organizations under the Ambassador’s Special Self-Help Program (SSHP) and Democracy and Human Rights Fund (DHRF).



Ambassador Yamamoto addresses the grantees at the presentation ceremony.

In a November 1, 2007 ceremony at the U.S. Embassy to present the grants, Ambassador Yamamoto said, “These projects will go a long way toward improving the quality of life for Ethiopians across the country. With the support of (Continued on page 4)

### Roundtable on Diversity Visas Aims to Make Program, Processes More Transparent

On October 25, the U.S. Embassy hosted a roundtable to inform local media about the Diversity Visa Program. Consular Chief Paul Cantrell and Vice Consul Chuka Asike explained the instructions for entering the popular visa lottery program (Please see <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov/>), and answered journalists’ questions. The consular officers stressed that there is no fee to



Consular Chief Paul Cantrell (far right) and Vice Consul Chuka Asike explaining the instructions for Diversity Visa Lottery Program.

enter the program. Winners of the lottery pay a non-refundable application fee at the time they apply for visas, after they (Continued on page 4)

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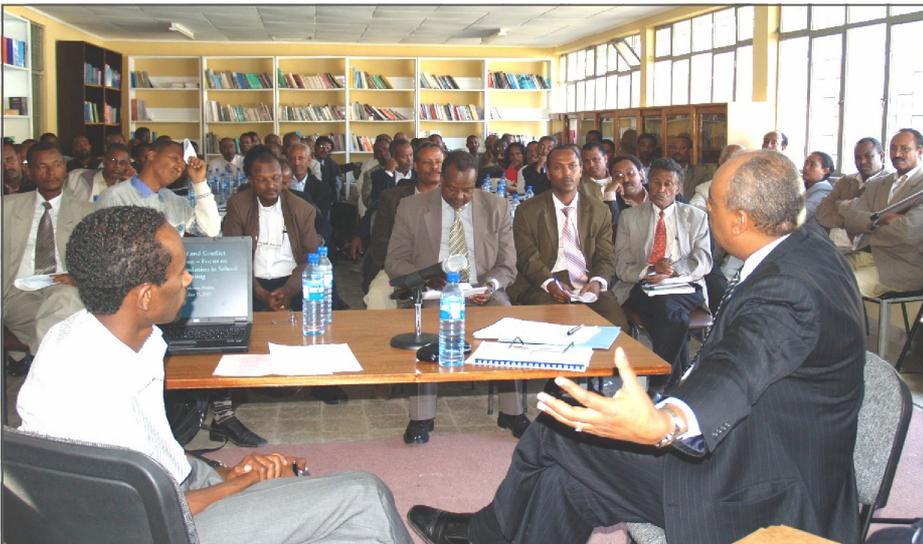
## Secondary Teachers' Seminar Focuses on Ethics and Conflict Resolution

The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy, in collaboration with the Addis Ababa Bureau of Education, sponsored a day-long seminar on "Ethics in Government and Democracy" and "Conflict and Conflict Resolution in the school setting"

with over 90 secondary school directors from the Addis Ababa government secondary schools on October 31, 2007 at the Addis Ababa Bureau of Education. Professor Mekonen Haddis, poet and educator, presented topics related to ethics in

government and democracy and how to create an environment in the schools which allows all students, regardless of gender, ethnicity and religion, equal access to educational opportunities. Professor Mekonen recited and discussed his poems "A Requirement for Progress," "The Secret" and "Amazing." The poems speak of his dreams for a just and free society which progresses because of its liberated citizens who practice democracy.

Cultural Affairs Section staff also presented the activities of their respective offices, explaining U.S. government-sponsored educational programs, educational advising and cultural exchange activities. Information Resource Center (IRC) Director also explained the services which IRC provides and invited the school directors, their students and their teachers to use the services.♦



*Secondary School teachers listen attentively to Professor Mekonen Haddis (right).*

## USAID Hands Over Jijiga, Hartishek, Togochole and Lafessa Livestock Markets in Somali Region

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2007** - Addis Ababa – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) inaugurated the Jijiga, Hartishek, Togochole and Lafessa Livestock Markets in Somali Region last week as part of its Pastoralist Livelihoods Initiative (PLI) to improve the lives of pastoralists. These markets represent the first strengthened link in a value chain to improve livestock sector performance and lead to economic benefits for pastoralists who produce livestock for sale.

The handing over signing ceremony, organized by ACIDI/VOCA (formerly VOCA-Ethiopia), was attended by Ato Ahmed Shade, Head of the Somali Regional Pastoral and Rural Development Coordination Bureau, as well as officials of respective municipalities and the DPPB.

In October 2005, USAID launched the PLI project in Somali, Afar and Oromia Regions of Ethiopia to help pastoralist communities build more sustainable livelihoods and become less vulnerable to drought and other



shocks. Overall, PLI has invested over \$12 million in Somali Region through NGO partners including the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Save the Children US, Save

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## **“A Sound Mind in a Strong Body” Focus of Embassy Donation for Ethiopian Youth**

On behalf of the U.S. Embassy, PAO Michael McClellan donated over 1500 “kits” comprised of soccer balls, notebooks, and ink pens, all emblazoned with the American and Ethiopian flags to the Ministry Of Youth And Sports for donation to young people throughout Ethiopia. The ceremony was held on October 31 2007 at the Ministry Of Youth and Sports and was carried

on nationwide television and newspapers. PAO McClellan presented the donation to Ato Getahun Gebre Giorgis, head of the Department of Training, Competition and Sports Federations. PAO’s opening remarks stressed the need for Ethiopian youth in this year of the Ethiopian Millennium to build strong minds in healthy bodies by having a good balance of academic and physical train-

ing, noting that the flags on the items symbolized the deep and abiding friendship between the Ethiopian and American people, a friendship that is now over a century old.

Other Officials from The Ministry of Youth And Sports and twenty students from the Minilik elementary school also attended the ceremony.♦



*U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Officer Michael McClellan hands soccer ball to Ato Getahun Gebre Giorgis, Head of the Department of Training, Competition and Sports Federation.*



*Minilik Elementary School students present at the ceremony.*

## **Bush and Ugandan President Museveni Hold Talks at White House**

President Bush October 30 reaffirmed U.S. support for Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni’s government in its fight against HIV/AIDS and malaria and in its work to achieve greater economic development under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

Both presidents spoke during a photo opportunity following their talks at the White House.

Speaking to reporters as President Museveni looked on, Bush said the leaders also discussed a broad range of other subjects as well.

“We talked about the security in the region,” Bush told his audience, while praising Museveni for “giving good advice and having good judgment” on the issues of Sudan and Somalia. “I assured him that we’re committed to peace and stability” there, Bush said.

Bush added that he and Museveni talked about Uganda’s eligibility for U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation programs.

(On March 29, 2007, Uganda entered into a \$10.4 million Threshold Program with the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation [MCC]. The program seeks to reduce public-sector corruption, particularly in public procurement. MCC’s Thresh-

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## U.S. Grants Assist Community Development and Promote . . .

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the American people, girls rescued from the streets of Addis Ababa will be able to learn income-generating skills, and single mothers in Gondar

community-based initiatives that might not otherwise meet the criteria for traditional development assistance. Among the projects made possible by this year's grants are initiatives to provide potable water, supply tri-

administrative regions. Grantees are selected from hundreds of proposals received by the Embassy and are required to meet rigorous standards. Projects funded under the Self-Help program must improve economic and social conditions at the community or village level, be community-initiated, show evidence of local support, and be self-sustaining. Projects supported through the Democracy and Human Rights Fund projects are required to strengthen democratic institutions, promote political pluralism or advance human rights. Initiatives funded under either program must be completed in one year's time, and support high-impact, quick-implementation activities benefiting a large number of people.



*Ambassador Yamamoto signing a grant with one of the beneficiaries*

will be able to establish a small-scale dairy and animal fattening project. Also, women-headed households in the Afar Region will be able to regain their livelihood security from the replenishment of livestock lost to drought."

Under the SSHP and DHRF, U.S. Ambassadors in Africa fund com-

lingual library books, construct bridges, promote religious tolerance, and protect the rights and reduce the exploitation of child weavers.

Together, the 13 projects are worth 160,000 USD (about 1.4 million Ethiopian Birr) and will reach more than 175,000 Ethiopians in eight

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Ambassador Yamamoto said, "On behalf of the American people, I am honored to support these Ethiopian groups who are working to improve the lives of their communities. Grassroots programs like this are one important part of U.S. efforts to strengthen bilateral economic relations, create jobs, and contribute to a more prosperous future for Ethiopians."♦

## Roundtable on Diversity Visas Aims to Make Program . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

are notified to come to the Consular Section for their interview.

Mr. Cantrell and Mr. Asike urged DV applicants to carefully read the criteria for entering the DV program, and to ensure that their information is accurately entered in the on-line entry process. Lottery winners can be disqualified because of inaccurate information, if they do not meet program require-

ments, or if they have submitted fraudulent information. The consular officers warned applicants to avoid fraudulent marriage schemes and false documents. Authentic school certificates from any year are acceptable. Finally, Mr. Cantrell reminded lottery winners not to abandon their studies or employment or to make travel preparations until the entire DV process has been completed and they have a visa in hand.

Mr. Cantrell and Mr. Asike noted that Ethiopian nationals are one of the largest groups of Diversity Visas recipients in Africa and that DV policy and fees are uniform for citizens of all countries participating in the DV program. They referred all Ethiopian citizens interested in the Diversity Visas to <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov/>, the only official source of information on the program.♦

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## Continuation of National Emergency with Respect to DRC

### THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release  
October 24, 2007

### NOTICE

#### CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN OR IN RELATION TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

On October 27, 2006, by Executive Order 13413, I declared a national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706), ordered related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in that country. I took this action to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States constituted by the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability and was addressed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1596 of April 18, 2005, Resolution 1649 of December 21, 2005, and Resolution 1698 of July 31, 2006.

Because this situation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the

United States, the national emergency declared on October 27, 2006, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond October 27, 2007. Therefore,

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



*President George W. Bush welcomes President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo to the Oval Office Friday, Oct. 26, 2007. Among the topics the leaders discussed during the visit were the successes of the newly elected Kabila government and the remaining challenges to a secure and prosperous Congo. White House photo by Eric Draper*

in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413.

This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

**GEORGE W. BUSH**

**THE WHITE HOUSE,  
October 24, 2007.**

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## AFRICOM on New Co-Deputies of U.S. Africa Command

***Diplomat, Admiral Become Co-Deputies of U.S. Africa Command***  
***U.S. Africa Command Public Affairs Office***

**STUTT GART Germany, Oct 29, 2007** -- An American ambassador



*Ambassador Mary Carlin Yates is Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Activities (DCMA) for U.S. AFRICOM. (DoD- AFRICOM photo)*

and a Navy admiral have begun serving as co-deputies of United States Africa Command (AFRICOM), a unique arrangement designed to enhance military support for U.S. government programs throughout Africa.

Ambassador Mary Carlin Yates, a senior U.S. diplomat, is Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Activities (DCMA) of United States Africa Command. Her counterpart, Navy Vice Admiral Robert T. Moeller, is Deputy to the Commander for Military Operations (DCMO).

Yates is the first senior government civilian official from outside the De-

fense Department to be integrated into the command structure of a U.S. regional military headquarters.

"The appointment of Ambassador Yates signals the Department of State's commitment to the success of AFRICOM," Deputy Secretary of State Ambassador John Negroponte said in a statement to Africa Command.

"This is a great opportunity to better integrate government agencies in a place where diplomacy and defense are so intertwined," Ambassador Eric S. Edelman, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, said in a statement. "Ambassador Yates has the ideal background and experience to support this initiative. The goal of AFRICOM is to provide the most effective support possible for those who seek African solutions for African security."

As DCMA, Yates has supervisory authority for U.S. military coordination with other U.S. government agencies working in Africa. Yates served twice as U.S. ambassador to Ghana and to Burundi, and as foreign policy advisor to U.S. European Command (EUCOM) from September 2005 to October 2007.

Moeller served as executive director of the U.S. Africa Command Transition Team from February to September 2007. From August 2004 to January 2007, Moeller served with the U.S. Central Command, first as the director for strategy, plans and policy, then as special assistant to the commander.

AFRICOM began initial operations October 1 in Stuttgart, Germany, as a sub-unified command under EUCOM. General William E. "Kip"

Ward, the first AFRICOM commander, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on September 28.

Unlike traditional unified commands, AFRICOM integrates personnel from



*U.S. Army General William E. Ward is first commander of the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM). (AP Images)*

other U.S. government agencies that play key roles in U.S. policy and development efforts in Africa. The current staff is approximately 175 military and civilian personnel, with several hundred more scheduled to arrive over the next year.

Yates, as Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Activities, will direct the command's civil-military plans and programs, with emphasis on aligning AFRICOM activities with those of other U.S. government agencies. Additionally, Yates will have lead responsibility for policy development, resourcing, and program assessment for the command's security cooperation program.

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## Bush and Ugandan President Museveni Hold Talks . . .

*(Continued from page 3)*

old Program is designed to assist countries that are on the "threshold" of Millennium Challenge Account eligibility for larger grant assistance called "compacts.")

In his remarks, President Museveni praised the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which has helped streamline African exports to the U.S. market from AGOA-eligible countries.

Museveni called AGOA "a very good stimulus for our economies. ... Uganda is already exporting processed fish from Lake Victoria to the U.S.," he told reporters.

Museveni said he also expressed thanks for the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation program and for continued U.S. assistance in his country's fight against malaria and HIV/AIDS.

More information is available in a fact sheet ( <http://usinfo.state.gov/>

xarchives/display.html?p=texttrans- development engagement with  
enlish&y=2007&m=October&x=2 Uganda.♦  
0071030164953ihecuor0.9348566  
&t=livefeeds/wf-  
latest.html&distid=ucs ) on U.S.



*Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni is welcomed to the White House by President George W. Bush, October 30. (White House photo)*

## AFRICOM on New Co-Deputies of U.S. Africa . . .

*(Continued from page 6)*

Moeller, as the Deputy to the Commander for Military Operations, will direct the command's military-to-military relationships and operations in support of U.S. government programs. Moeller will also exercise command authority in the Commander's absence.

"Both positions are three-star officer equivalents and peer equals," Ward told the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee on September

27, describing the two AFRICOM deputy positions.

"Because we wish to integrate activities and eliminate 'stovepipes', both deputies necessarily will collaborate and coordinate with each other on activities within their respective portfolios," Ward said.

Additional information is available on the U.S. Africa Command website: <http://www.africom.mil> ( <http://www.africom.mil/> ) or by contacting the U.S. Africa Com-

mand Public Affairs Office in Stuttgart, Germany, via email to [publicOutreach@africom.mil](mailto:publicOutreach@africom.mil) or by phone at +49-711-729-4714/4711.

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov/>)♦*

## Anti-AIDS Program Scores Successes in Africa

**By Phillip Kurata**  
**USINFO Staff Writer**

**Washington** -- When 30-year-old Daniel Chipeleka learned in 2005 that his wife, Miriam, was pregnant with their fifth child, he accompanied her to the Chembe Rural Health Center near the Congolese border and got tested, along with Miriam, for HIV.

"Coming to the health facility with my wife will help us know of our HIV status, and thereafter plan our future together," he said. At this U.S.-supported health center, nearly 70 women are tested and counseled each month, and three out of four women come with their husbands. Before President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) was launched in 2003, Chembe had no such services. Similar developments are reported in 12 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, where the PEPFAR initiative is concentrated.

PEPFAR, the largest international public health initiative ever, has scored some notable successes in turning the tide against the deadly epidemic on three fronts -- prevention, treatment and care.

PEPFAR has supported anti-retroviral drug treatment during more than 500,000 pregnancies, saving roughly 100,000 infants from being infected by the virus that destroys the body's immune system. The United States has supplied nearly 1.7 billion condoms, more than all other developed countries combined, and supports sexual

and reproductive education for males as well as females, Global AIDS Coordinator Mark Dybul told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in October.

Helping raise awareness of the menace, American film stars Matt Damon and Ben Affleck visited Tanzania in September. At the Sékou Touré Regional Hospital, the actors sat down with patients taking anti-retroviral medications, hearing of both their health improvements and continuing challenges.

"They give us free [anti-retroviral] drugs," said Mwamvua Rajabu, a

in caring for people living with or affected by HIV. These volunteers conduct home visits to ensure HIV-positive patients are doing well, confirm adherence to anti-retroviral therapy and provide emotional support through friendship and counseling.

"What stands out is how tangible the results are for the money being spent," Affleck said. "I've seen real, life-changing results." PEPFAR programs are carried out in close partnership with the government of Tanzania, and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) serves as the lead partner on two projects.



*Christopher Mwansa offers counseling on prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV virus to expectant parents Daniel and Mirriam Chipeleka, at Chembe Rural Health Center in Luapula Province, Zambia, on October 18, 2006.*

*File PHOTO: Catherine Mwale/ZPCT*

female patient who described how her family shunned her when she revealed her HIV-positive status, forcing her to move in with a friend and struggle to support herself and her child.

Staff members explained how the program has trained 54 volunteers to increase community involvement

Dybul said partnerships are key elements in the PEPFAR battle. "The success of PEPFAR is firmly rooted in these partnerships, in the American people supporting the people of the countries in which we are privileged to serve, including governments, non-governmental organizations -- including faith- and community-based organizations -- and the private sector, to build their systems and to empower individuals, communities and nations to tackle HIV/AIDS," he said.

Before PEPFAR was launched, only 50,000 people in all of sub-Saharan Africa were receiving anti-retroviral treatment, and the notion that the HIV/AIDS epidemic could be curtailed was thought by many to be quixotic.

But, as Dybul said, "PEPFAR is well  
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# Arab Americans Serve as Bridge Between United States, Mideast

**By Michelle Austein**  
**USINFO Staff Writer**

**Dearborn, Michigan** -- The presidential candidates who showed up at the Arab American Institute's (AAI) National Leadership Conference found an audience more interested in discussion than speeches.

Arab-American voters are not interested in just hearing from the candidates, Rebecca Abou-Chedid, AAI's national political director told US-



*Rebecca Abou-Chedid*  
*AAI's National Political*  
*Director*

INFO, "We want to talk to them, too."

The October 26-28 conference allowed Arab Americans to tell the candidates what they think about the issues most important to them, including the war in Iraq, Middle East peace, civil liberties and immigration.

"I hope that presidential candidates and other Americans will look at us as a resource," Abou-Chedid said.

"Arab Americans can and should be serving as a bridge between the United States and the Arab world."

Arab Americans have a love for the United States that drives them to "build a bridge between the country that we love and the nations that we come from," AAI President James Zogby told USINFO. "We can help the candidates and we can help our country, but they have to listen to us to get that help."

Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul and Democratic presidential candidates Mike Gravel, Dennis Kucinich and Bill Richardson addressed the conference. Video messages from Democratic candidates Hillary Clinton, John Edwards and Barack Obama were shared with conference participants as well. The three absent candidates also sent campaign staffers to speak and listen on their behalf.

The war in Iraq and Middle East peace are important topics for the candidates to discuss with Arab Americans, conference organizers said.

"We have people who come from Iraq and know the country well," Zogby said. "We have a community that comes from Lebanon, from Palestine. If America wants to know how it's doing, what its standing is in the Middle East, Arab Americans can tell them."

"We are connected to the Middle East, to the issues that are the most pressing issues in this election," Abou-Chedid said. "That's what we can bring to this debate and bring to fellow Americans. We have an experience and a perspective that is unique."

All of the candidates addressed Iraq and the Middle East in their messages.

Ohio Representative Kucinich said he did not need a teleprompter to give his speech because "when I speak about the Middle East, it is very easy to speak from my heart. My preparation has been a lifetime of work with my brothers and sisters across the Middle East."

Illinois Senator Obama said in his video message that he is committed to ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict because "it is important to Arab Americans, it is important to Jewish Americans and it is important to me."

Candidates also described their stances on domestic issues important to Arab Americans, including education, health care, immigration and civil liberties.

If elected president, New York Senator Clinton said in her video message, "I will renew the nation's commitment to civil rights and civil liberties." She also called for strengthening hate-crime laws.

Immigration and civil liberties are issues Arab Americans understand well, Zogby said.

"We are a community of immigrants who know the promise of America and know the freedoms of America," he said. "We have a lot to say about making America stronger, making America better, about making America true to its values, about keeping America open but at the same time making it secure."

Like their community as a whole, conference participants were split among whom they support. Traditionally Arab American support has been about evenly split among Republicans, Democrats and Independents. However, in recent years Republicans have been losing Arab-American votes.

Many of the participants still were undecided. Suzan El-Rayess, a 22-year-old from Cambridge, Massachusetts, said she has strong views on the Middle East, health care and

*(Continued on page 13)*

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## Muslim Employees Find “Welcome” Sign in U.S. Companies

*By Louise Fenner  
USINFO Staff Writer*

**Washington** -- Many U.S. companies are trying to accommodate the religious beliefs of Muslim employees by setting aside rooms for prayer and meditation, supporting the wearing of traditional head coverings, adjusting work hours and honoring leave requests for major Islamic holidays.

These companies see a link between a culture of inclusion and business success, say diversity experts. Respecting religious differences is one way to attract and retain talented employees and appeal to a larger customer base.

“You see more and more Muslims entering the work force, bringing valuable skills and talents,” says diversity consultant Myrna Marofsky, “and those employees want to bring their entire self to the workplace. Part of that is their religion, traditions and beliefs.”

Marofsky, a former co-owner and president of ProGroup, a Minneapolis-based diversity training and consulting firm, said that “as companies move to be more global and more multicultural -- because they see that as a business advantage -- they are going to have a diverse work force.”

DiversityInc, a monthly business magazine, says that among the Top 50 Companies for Diversity -- a list it issues annually -- 70 percent allow employees to take holiday leave in accordance with their religious beliefs “and 16 percent make special religious accommodations, such as prayer rooms.” The Top 50 “set the trends as national diversity leaders,” according a DiversityInc article.

In a separate article, DiversityInc said that Ramadan, the Muslim holy month that ended in 2007 on October 13, “used to pass unacknowledged by most U.S. employers. But the \$580 million Muslim market and increasing religious diversity in the workplace have convinced progressive companies to pay attention.”

Some managers refrain from scheduling “working lunches” that would interfere with the Ramadan fast, and it is becoming more common for businesses to host iftar dinners to celebrate the breaking of the fast. Ford Motor Company, for instance, has hosted iftars for the past seven years.

In a 2006 article titled “Honoring Your Muslim Colleagues,” Marofsky gave advice to clients “asking if they should do something special for Ramadan.” She said it was “the first year in 20 years of diversity consulting that I have seen this level of interest.”

Although U.S. law requires employers to make “reasonable accommodations” for their “employees’ sincerely held religious practices,” Marofsky said she believes the legal requirement is not the main motivation for many companies’ religious diversity policies.

“The first thing that is driving it is the fact that the workplace has changed, the demographics of the workplace have changed, and they need employees for the skills and talents that they bring,” she said in an interview. “It’s all about retaining talent.”

Terry Howard, director of diversity and inclusion at Texas Instruments (TI), the high-tech giant based in Dallas, agrees.

“For TI, it’s in our best interest for people to feel comfortable to come here to help us be successful,” he told USINFO.

The company has established “serenity rooms” that can be used for daily prayers. For about six years, Muslim employees have maintained a networking group -- one of 17 such “affinity” groups at the company -- called the Muslim Employees Initiative.

Howard recalled a young Muslim engineer whom TI had worked hard to recruit. “He made a decision, for whatever reason, to leave and join a competitor. But, ultimately, he didn’t think the competitor was as welcoming to him and his faith -- they didn’t have an affinity group, they didn’t have serenity rooms -- so he came back to TI. We welcomed him back.”

The Muslim Employees Initiative was a result of TI’s culture of inclusion, Howard told USINFO. “After [the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001] we wanted to make really sure there were no barriers in the workplace for Middle Eastern or Muslim employees,” he said. “We started to engage them in dialogue. We asked them how the environment was for them.”

Siraj Akhtar, a TI senior design engineer and leader of the Muslim Employees Initiative, says in an article recently published by DiversityWealth that having a Muslim affinity group “was a necessity” after the 2001 terrorist attacks. “Muslim Employees had to explain what Islam really is and what we stand for. We needed to make our co-workers aware of our faith and our practices and remove the prevalent stereotypes,” he says.

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## Rice's Opening Statement before House Committee on the Middle East

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
*Office of the Spokesman*  
October 25, 2007

As Delivered  
Remarks

*Opening Remarks by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice Before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform*

**October 25, 2007**  
**Washington, D.C.**

SECRETARY RICE: Chairman Waxman, Representative Davis, members of the Committee, thank you very much. And I hope, Chairman Waxman, I won't need the entire five minutes because I am really here to answer your questions. I want to just make a few opening contextual points nonetheless, and that is to underscore the importance of success in Iraq for American foreign policy and indeed for our security and for that of the world as a whole.

I also want to associate myself with something that you have said, which is that the success of our political efforts in Iraq, the success of what civilians bring to the fight, is absolutely crucial. And I want to acknowledge the hard work of men and women of the State Department, our Foreign Service, our Civil Service, our Foreign Service Nationals and our contractors for playing an essential role in carrying out our policies in Iraq -- and people who, frankly, are in great danger. They are away from home, they are away from friends, they are away from families, as our

military is as well. And yet, they serve shoulder to shoulder with our military, some of them actually embedded with brigade command teams, dodging IEDs, just as our military people do. They serve in an embassy in which they are subject to indirect fire. They are operating in perhaps the most complex circumstances that we have faced as a Department of State, and they do it with valor, they do it with



*Dr. Condoleezza Rice*  
*Secretary of State*

dedication, they do it with great patriotism. And everything that we say today should remember that because these are people for whom we want to give the very best support because they are giving it all to their nation.

I want to note, too, that it is a complex and difficult operating environment in Iraq. This is a country that is returning -- that is recovering

from decades of tyranny. It is recovering from United Nations sanctions under the Oil-for-Food program that, frankly, warped the economy and warped the society. It is a country that didn't even have a functioning banking system, something that we are still trying to help them establish.

We are trying through our programs to help them find skilled labor, skilled personnel, so that they can establish the institutions of governance, the institutions of management that, frankly, after our long experience we simply take for granted.

These are difficult tasks in the best of circumstances. I think if you read World Bank reports or other reports about trying to bring governance and management capability to young states, you will find that it is always hard. It is extremely hard when you are working in what is essentially a wartime environment.

And so I just want to acknowledge the very hard work and the dedication of our people. And I am now prepared to take your questions, Mr. Chairman.

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

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# United States Sets Sanctions Against Iranian Revolutionary Guard

By David McKeeby  
USINFO Staff Writer

**Washington** -- Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is the target of a new set of U.S. sanctions against its support for international terrorism and role in proliferating weapons of mass destruction.

"These actions will help to protect the international financial system from the illicit activities of the Iranian government and they will provide a powerful deterrent to every international bank and company that thinks of doing business with the Iranian government," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said October 25.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, who accompanied Rice, said the Iranian regime's ability to develop nuclear and ballistic missile programs relies on access to money from international commercial and financial systems.

"Iran also funnels hundreds of millions of dollars each year through the international financial system to terrorists. Iran's banks aid this conduct using a range of deceptive financial practices intended to evade even the most stringent risk management controls," Paulson said.

The sanctions represent the first time the United States has used financial pressure against another country's military. The action is regarded as the strongest set of sanctions the United States has implemented against the Iranian regime since it came to power in 1979.

Under presidential orders developed after September 11, 2001, the United States is freezing Revolutionary Guard Corps assets due to its role as a weapons proliferator, and assets of the corps' foreign operations arm, the Quds Force, for its support of terrorist attacks in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, the Pales-

Mellat, Bank Saderat, and all companies and entities of the IRGC." The announcement comes as the U.N. Security Council deliberated a third set of sanctions against Iran. The United Kingdom, France and Japan are considering additional measures to convince the Iranian regime to accept a May 26 offer for improved relations with the United States and support for an internationally supervised civil nuclear energy program in exchange for its abandonment of its current enrichment program.

"If the Iranian government fulfills its international obligation to suspend its uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities, I will join my British, French, Russian, Chinese, and German colleagues

and I will meet with my Iranian counterpart anytime, anywhere," Rice said.

"If Iran's rulers choose to continue down a path of confrontation, the United States will act with the international community to resist these threats of the Iranian regime," she added.

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*Iran's Revolutionary Guard parades in Tehran in September. The corps is among the targets of new U.S. financial sanctions on Iran because of that nation's support of global terrorism. The sanctions also focus on Iran's Ministry of Defense, three large Iranian banks and Iranian individuals and groups. The sanctions mark the first U.S. use of financial pressure against another nation's military. (AP Images)*

tinian Territories and elsewhere. Iran's Ministry of Defense and three of Iran's largest banks -- Bank Melli, Bank Mellat, and Bank Saderat -- also are subject to sanctions, as are individuals engaged in the regime's proliferation and terrorist support activities, Rice and Paulson said.

"The IRGC is so deeply entrenched in Iran's economy and commercial enterprises, it is increasingly likely that if you are doing business with Iran, you are doing business with the IRGC," Paulson said. "We call on responsible banks and companies around the world to terminate any business with Bank Melli, Bank

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## Arab Americans Serve as Bridge Between United . . .

*(Continued from page 9)*

education. She is most interested in learning about the candidates' solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Ala'a Wafa, a 23-year-old law student from Saginaw, Michigan, is also interested in campaign issues but especially concerned with the candidates' character. She wants to feel that a president "says what they mean and means what they say."

AAI is nonpartisan and sees the importance of encouraging Arab-American Democrats and Arab-

American Republicans to come together and discuss and debate on what is best for the community, not just their respective parties, Abou-Chedid said.

AAI also organizes voter education training and get-out-the-vote efforts to encourage the community to be involved politically.

Throughout the campaign season, Arab Americans will continue to talk about the issues that face all Americans, Zogby said. "But we'll talk about them with a unique perspective and a heightened sensitivity that we have toward those is-

sues that makes us a community worth watching in this election."

See also "Arab Americans Learn Importance of Political Involvement" (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2007&m=October&x=20071029175508hmnietsua0.5179407>)."

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## Muslim Employees Find "Welcome" Sign in U.S. . . .

*(Continued from page 10)*

Akhtar stresses that Muslim employees share with other affinity groups "the common mission of full engagement" in working for Texas Instruments. His group and the Christian Values Initiative, another affinity group, have held several joint events. "We clearly recognize our differences, no one will compromise his or her faith; at the same time, we have furthered the respect of each other," he says.

Tasnim Benhalim, founder of DiversityWealth, a Dallas-based consulting firm that has worked frequently with Texas Instruments, recalled that "right after [September 11, 2001] one TI employee, a Muslim, said 'when I drive to work I feel very concerned, but once I'm inside TI, I feel very safe.' That's really

the kind of atmosphere they have built."

Benhalim, a sixth-generation Texan who converted to Islam about 30 years ago and is married to a Libyan, said her own experience as a Muslim "has been very, very positive."

When asked about the increase in complaints about religious discrimination filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission since the September 11, 2001, attacks, Benhalim responded, "I think that part of that is because people are recognizing that they have the right to express their religious beliefs and they have the right to complain if they're not allowed to."

See also "U.S. Laws Protect Right To Wear Religious Garb at

Work." (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2007&m=August&x=20070806141303ajesrom0.6975214> )

More information about religious discrimination laws (<http://www.eeoc.gov/types/religion.html> ) and the workplace rights (<http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/backlash-employee.html> ) of Muslims, Arabs, South Asians and Sikhs is available on the Web site of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the federal agency that enforces workplace anti-discrimination laws.

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## U.S.-Russian Statement on Missile Treaty

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
*Office of the Spokesman*  
October 25, 2007

### **MEDIA NOTE**

Joint U.S.-Russian Statement on the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles at the 62nd Session of the UN General Assembly

*Following is the text of a joint statement by the United States and the Russian Federation issued on October 25, 2007 in New York.*

December 8, 2007 marks the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles which banned ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers. It is hard to overestimate the historic significance of this



*Ballistic missile*

act: it marked an important, practical step in meeting our NPT Article VI obligation to pursue negotiations in good faith on nuclear disarmament.

By late May 1991 the USSR and the U.S. destroyed all missiles of these two classes along with all supporting infrastructure under strict verification procedures.

We would like to underscore the contribution of this Treaty to decreased international tensions, particularly in Europe. The Russian Federation and the United States take this occasion to reaffirm our joint support for the INF Treaty.

We are concerned with the proliferation of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. An ever-greater number of countries are acquiring missile production technologies and adding such missiles to their arsenals. At the same time, the Treaty, being of unlimited duration, is limiting the actions only of a few states, primarily Russia and the United States.

The Russian Federation and the United States call on all interested countries to discuss the possibility of imparting a global character to this important regime through the renunciation of ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers, leading to the destruction of any such missiles, and the cessation of associated programs. Such a renunciation would serve to strengthen the international nuclear missile nonproliferation effort.

Today the Treaty retains its longstanding importance. We believe that renunciation of ground-launched intermediate- and shorter-

range missiles and their complete elimination in the world would increase the role of the Treaty as a model for strengthening international security.



*Russian Missile*

The Russian Federation and the United States will work with all interested countries and continue to make every effort to prevent the proliferation of such missiles and strengthen peace in the world.

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## Six-Party Process Builds North Korea's Relations with World

**Washington** -- Several positive and significant steps have been achieved under the Six-Party Talks, and those steps are beginning to bring North Korea into a different relationship with other nations, says Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Christopher Hill.

In testimony before two House Foreign Affairs Committee panels October 25, Hill described recent developments in U.S. efforts to achieve the verifiable removal of nuclear programs from the Korean Peninsula through the Six-Party Talks, which involve North Korea, South Korea, China, Japan, Russia and the United States.

In July, Hill said, North Korea shut down and sealed the core nuclear facilities at Yongbyon and invited back the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the key international body charged with nuclear issues, to conduct monitoring and verification activities. The IAEA later verified the shutdown status of a nuclear reactor, a fuel fabrication facility and two uncompleted reactors. The IAEA continues to monitor those sites, and has reported excellent cooperation from North Korean authorities.

In addition to the IAEA monitoring, the United States, China and Russia sent experts to North Korea in September to survey the facilities at Yongbyon. Another U.S. technical team visited from October 11 to 18, he said, again demonstrating new levels of cooperation and accessibility.

Hill said that, in return for stopping its nuclear activities, North Korea is to receive energy assistance in the form of heavy fuel oil (HFO) or its

equivalent in alternative economic, energy and humanitarian assistance from the other parties. Once North Korea implemented its initial commitments, it received 50,000 tons of heavy fuel oil. The other parties, he said, have begun implementing their commitment to provide an additional 950,000 tons of HFO or the equivalent. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2007&m=October&x=20071003132632frnedloh0.439357>



*Christopher Hill  
Assistant Secretary of State for East  
Asian and Pacific Affairs*

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On October 3, North Korea reaffirmed its commitment "not to transfer nuclear materials, technology, or know-how." The United States, Hill said, has discussed this issue with the North Koreans many times and will remain vigilant about proliferation concerns.

For its part, the United States has started moving toward normalizing relations with North Korea, and has committed to begin the process of removing the designation of North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism and terminating the application of the Trading with the Enemy Act. Changes in this status, Hill said, will greatly improve opportunities for further advances in the bilateral relationship.

"The United States recognizes that some issues remain unresolved, including remaining questions about Japanese abductees, and we continue to urge North Korea at every opportunity to address Japan's concerns," Hill said.

### NEXT STEPS

Hill said he believes that, as the October 3 agreement is implemented and moves forward into the next phase of actions toward complete removal of nuclear programs in early 2008, the six parties can begin to make real progress on transforming North Korea's relations with the international community, and indeed transforming Northeast Asia.

Hill said the United States and North Korea have committed to improving bilateral relations and working toward full diplomatic relations.

"One way this will be done," he said, "is to increase bilateral exchanges between the United States and DPRK [North Korea] aimed at enhancing mutual trust. The goal through this process will remain improving the lives of the people of North Korea."

Hill also pointed out that, on a separate track to address humanitarian assistance needs, the United States announced in August a plan to provide substantial food aid to North Korea.

"We have also made clear to the DPRK that discussion of outstanding issues of concern, including the DPRK's human rights record, would be part of the normalization process," he said.

*(Continued on page 17)*

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## Foundation Honors Courageous Women Journalists

*By Stephen Kaufman*  
*USINFO Staff Writer*

**Washington** -- Reporting the news from Zimbabwe is a dangerous endeavor causing "a constant state of sadness," veteran journalist Peta Thornycroft said. But despite the constant risk to her personal safety as one of the country's few remaining independent journalists, and her despair at the results of the government's policies and human rights abuses, she pushes herself to continue because "it's a story that has to be told."

Thornycroft, Mexican journalist Lydia Cacho, Ethiopia's Serkalem Fasil, and six Iraqi women journalists from the McClatchy News Baghdad bureau all were recognized for 2007 by the International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) for their dedication to their profession and their personal bravery.

IWMF Executive Director Jane Ransom told USINFO her organization has been recognizing brave and dedicated women journalists for 18 years, also honoring individuals such as CNN's Christiane Amanpour, South Africa's Gwen Lister, the late Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya and the Christian Science Monitor's Jill Carroll.

"The award itself is to honor and celebrate women who have exhibited exceptional bravery in the line of their reporting duties in bringing the truth to people," Ransom said, adding that the attention gained through the award can provide the winners with added protection from hostile governments.

"Many of the awardees have told us that they've gotten a lot of visi-

bility in their own countries as a result of receiving the award, which they feel makes it harder for their governments to attack them, just because it can't be done quietly when you're a well-known person," Ransom said. "We're letting them know that people in the United States are watching what's going on here."

### SHINING A BRIGHT LIGHT ON ABUSES IN ZIMBABWE

Along with Thornycroft's many years of intrepid reporting from Zimbabwe, her dedication to training younger journalists in southern Af-



*Mexican journalist Lydia Cacho was jailed after accusing a prominent businessman of pedophilia. (AP Images)*

rica, including women, earned her the IWMF's Lifetime Achievement Award.

At a panel discussion in Washington October 25, Thornycroft said that in order to deal with the threats she faces from the authorities, "I make a plan every day." She described disguising herself while traveling through the country to do her job and risking severe consequences such as imprisonment in one of Zimbabwe's notorious jails if she is discovered.

Thornycroft has spent decades covering the country's decline under

President Robert Mugabe, even renouncing her British citizenship after the government outlawed the presence of foreign journalists so she could continue documenting human rights abuses under the oppressive regime. She related her anger at witnessing the country's complete reversal from being one of Africa's best-educated countries and a food exporter with falling rates of HIV infection. Her professional demand to report the news freely, fairly and accurately has kept her going, she said.

"I don't think I make any difference. I'm sorry about that," she told the audience. "I'm constantly hacking on about the appalling way people are treated, the appalling abuses in the police cells. ... [but] the government seems to be completely impervious to the suffering that they have to be able to see. ... They are just wasting away this clever, talented nation."

"I just carry on because it's there and it's a story that has to be told," she said. "I don't really know any other kind of life."

### GIVING A VOICE TO MEXICO'S POOR

Similarly, Mexican journalist Lydia Cacho, who won one of the IWMF's Courage in Journalism awards, said she perseveres in behalf of the millions of Mexicans who live without the means to find work or feed their families. She said approximately 430,000 of Mexico's poor attempt to enter the United States every year. "I try to tell their stories because I have a voice and they don't," Cacho said.

*(Continued on page 17)*

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## Six-Party Process Builds North Korea's Relations . . .

*(Continued from page 15)*

The United States, Hill continued, remains committed to replacing the 1953 Armistice with a permanent peace arrangement on the Korean Peninsula and believes that discussions of a Korean Peninsula peace regime could begin once North Korea fully discloses and abandons its nuclear weapons programs.

The United States further hopes to move forward on developing a Northeast Asia Peace and Security

Mechanism, "which would help transform the cooperative relationships built through the Six-Party process into an enduring security framework for Northeast Asia," Hill said.

The full text (<http://www.state.gov/p/eap/rls/rm/2007/94204.htm>) and a video ([http://video.state.gov/?fr\\_story=fd3cb104ca9e40b78374a3ef1c042a4ceae7bb10](http://video.state.gov/?fr_story=fd3cb104ca9e40b78374a3ef1c042a4ceae7bb10)) of Hill's testimony are available on the State Department Web site.

For additional information, see The U.S. and the Korean Peninsula ([http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/east\\_asia\\_pacific/north\\_korea.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/east_asia_pacific/north_korea.html)).

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## Foundation Honors Courageous Women . . .

*(Continued from page 16)*

Cacho exposed a prominent businessman who she charged was behind a pedophile ring that targets girls from Cancun's poor community. After she went public with her findings, she was abducted by Mexican police at the apparent behest of a Mexican state governor. During her ordeal, she feared that her abductors planned to rape her.

Mexico's Supreme Court has intervened to investigate Cacho's accusations, and she said she remains hopeful that the judicial system will strip the Mexican governor's legal immunity so that he can also face charges.

The IWMF also recognized Ethiopia's Serkalem Fasil, who was jailed and, under deplorable conditions, delivered a child prematurely. She was incarcerated because of articles her publications carried that were critical of the government during the May 2005 elections. According to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, only China and Cuba have a worse

ranking than Ethiopia for their treatment of journalists.

The third courage award was shared by six Iraqi women journalists who work for the McClatchy News bureau in Baghdad. All six tell the story of life amidst Iraq's continuing violence despite risks to themselves and their families if they are ever discovered.

"I have been in several situations where I have said my last prayer, for certainty that I was going to be killed," one of the McClatchy journalists said. "It was on the way to work, on the way back from work, terrifying situations are in our path every day. We have learned to live with that fear. Otherwise we would sit in our homes, close our doors, and even then we're not safe," she said.

Ransom said her staff received 50 nominations in 2007 for her organization's annual Lifetime Achievement and Courage in Journalism awards. They decided to honor Thornycroft, Cacho, Fasil and the McClatchy journalists after carefully

considering the significance of their risks and the press restrictions under which they operate.

"We tend to take people out who have had, maybe, one brush with danger and ... look at people who have been reporting over a long period of time in dangerous circumstances or were imprisoned for a long period of time," Ransom said.

More information (<http://www.iwmf.org/>) on the 2007 award winners is available on the IWMF Web site.

For additional information on U.S. policy, see Freedom of the Press ([http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/rule\\_of\\_law/press\\_freedom.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/rule_of_law/press_freedom.html)).

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## Breast Cancer a Health Risk for Women Worldwide

*By Lea Terhune*  
*USINFO Staff Writer*

**Washington** -- U.S. first lady Laura Bush, encouraging women to undergo early screening for breast cancer, announced collaborations on testing and treatment programs during her five-day tour of the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Jordan.

While visiting the King Hussein Cancer Center in Amman, Jordan, October 25, Bush announced that similar programs will begin in Morocco, the Palestinian Territories and Egypt next year, with the help of \$1.5 million in funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Middle East Partnership for Breast Cancer Awareness and Research, launched in 2006, links U.S. research institutions with Middle Eastern counterparts. (See related article ( <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng-lish&y=2007&m=August&x=20070813161302xlrennef0.8404962> ).)

The institutions will "share discoveries and data that can lead to world-class research -- helping women in the Middle East and in the United States get better treatment for breast cancer," she told the Dubai Chamber of Commerce October 22. She also commended United Arab Emirates' workplace-based cancer awareness programs. (See related article ( <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=November&x=20061101171410berehellek0.9478571> ).

"Breast cancer does not respect national boundaries, which is why people from every country must share their knowledge, resources and experience to protect women from this disease," she said at King Fahd Medical City, a hospital complex in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, October 23.

In Riyadh she announced a new collaboration, the U.S.-Saudi Arabia Partnership on Breast Cancer Awareness, in which the Saudi Cancer Society will partner with the Susan G. Komen Foundation in a breast cancer education program coordinated by the U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI).

King Fahd Medical City will work with the University of Texas' M.D. Anderson Cancer Center to enhance treatment expertise.

Earlier in the day, at the Abdullatif Cancer Screening Center in Riyadh, Bush said that for reasons yet unknown, breast cancer strikes women at a younger age in the Middle East than in the United States, "so even younger women who aren't yet thinking about possibly having cancer should drop by the cancer screening and learn how to do self-exams."

"Early detection," Bush said, "is the closest thing we have to a cure." The Abdullatif Center, which has an entire floor for women only, and

provides screening for several kinds of cancer, is the first medical facility of its kind in Saudi Arabia.

At all her stops on the tour, the first lady emphasized that a few decades ago American women lacked knowledge about breast cancer and were reluctant to discuss it. But then two former first ladies, Betty Ford and Nancy Reagan, went pub-



*Laura Bush with Dr. Huda Abdulkareem at the Abdullatif Cancer Screening Center, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. (White House photo)*

lic about their own battles with the disease.

"Their willingness to speak out gave American women the courage to discuss their own breast cancer," she said. Advocacy organizations such as the Komen Foundation helped raise awareness. Now, deaths from breast cancer are going down. "Today in the United States, when breast cancer is caught early, the five-year survival rate is 98 percent," Bush said.

She acknowledged the courage of a number of Arab women who have come forward, among them Samia al-Almoudi, a Saudi doctor who diagnosed her own breast cancer and

*(Continued on page 20)*

# Fight Against Malaria Making Progress

By Jeffrey Thomas  
USINFO Staff Writer

**Washington** -- Less than a year after President Bush and first lady Laura Bush hosted the White House Summit on Malaria, the worldwide effort to halt the disease is making significant progress, according to *Malaria and Children*, a new report prepared by UNICEF on behalf of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership (RBM).

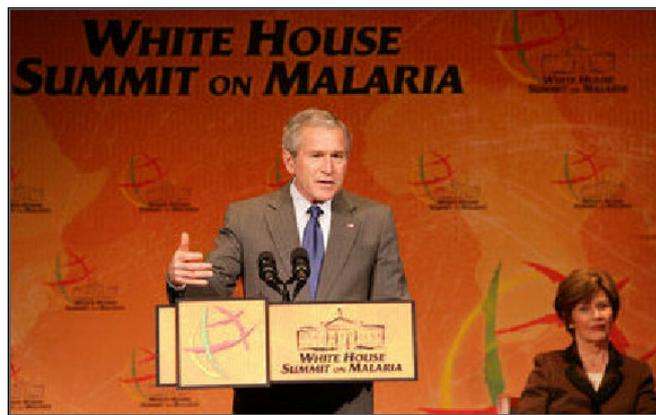
In Zanzibar, the percentage of tested children who test positive for malaria fell from 20 percent in 2005 to less than 1 percent in 2007 after two rounds of indoor residual spraying and the distribution of 233,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets. The spraying and net distribution were funded by the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), a U.S. government effort aimed at cutting malaria deaths in half in 15 of the most affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

President Bush, pledging to increase U.S. funding for malaria prevention and treatment in sub-Saharan Africa by more than \$1.2 billion over five years, announced PMI on June 30, 2005. Work has begun in the first seven countries targeted by PMI: Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda. By the end of 2007, PMI will have efforts under way in eight more countries: Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali and Zambia.

More than 1 million people die each year from malaria. The World Health Organization (WHO) has calculated that the disease costs Africa more than \$12 billion annually.

By August in Uganda, Tanzania and Angola, PMI had distributed more than 1 million bed nets to protect pregnant women and caregivers of children under age 5, conducted indoor residual spraying campaigns to shield more than 2 million people and distributed more than 1 million treatments of anti-malarial drugs, according to Rear Admiral Timothy

Development in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of State, the White House and others. The net distribution project, for example, involves entities as diverse as the Coca-Cola Company, Johnson & Johnson, the Case Foundation and the National Basketball Association (NBA). The NBACares foundation is a partner in Nothing But Nets, a grassroots campaign to prevent malaria deaths in Africa.



*President George W. Bush, joined by Laura Bush, addresses participants at the first-ever White House Summit on Malaria, Thursday, Dec. 14, 2006, at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. President Bush's Malaria Initiative is a five-year \$1.2 billion program to eradicate malaria in 15 countries.*  
*White House photo by Shealah Craighead*

Ziemer, U.S. malaria coordinator for PMI.

"The results are impressive," he said. "Since 2006, household insecticide-treated net ownership in Uganda is estimated to have risen from 14.5 percent to around 50 percent because of contributions by this initiative and other partners."

An additional 30 million Africans are expected to benefit from PMI's expansion in 2007, and U.S. efforts extend beyond the 15 targeted nations. A USAID initiative in Nigeria will distribute 60,000 long-lasting insecticide treated nets to reduce malaria in that country.

PMI is a collaborative private-sector, U.S. government effort led by the U.S. Agency for International

## PARTNERSHIPS PLAY KEY ROLE IN U.S. STRATEGY

In Uganda, PMI, Malaria No More and the Ugandan Ministry of Health recently announced a partnership to distribute 570,000 long-lasting, insecticide-treated mosquito nets (LLINs) to pregnant women, children under age 5 and other vulnerable populations in 26 districts plagued by malaria.

The U.S. government and the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria announced a partnership to distribute more than 500,000 LLINs to some of the most vulnerable households in Zambia. In September, the U.S. Embassy in Lusaka gave Zambia's Ministry of Health insecticides worth \$1.3 million to launch that country's 2007/2008 indoor residual spraying campaign, which will protect about 4 million people from the disease.

In Madagascar, the U.S. government, the American Red Cross and Malaria No More announced a partnership to add net distribution to a

*(Continued on page 20)*

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## Breast Cancer a Health Risk for Women . . .

*(Continued from page 18)*

spoke out about it. "She's worked hard to increase women's awareness and improve medical care, even during her own treatment," Bush said.

Saudi Channel 1 TV host and breast cancer survivor Fadia Altaweel also shared her story with Saudi women, urging them to have regular screenings.

At the King Hussein Cancer Center in Amman, Bush lauded Maha Kalaji, whose long fight against breast cancer is an inspiration: "Maha has broken the silence, discussing her experience on Jordanian TV, and in newspapers and maga-

zines from around the world. She knows that her own story of survival has helped other women to confront their own diagnosis. 'After 15 years of battling cancer,' she says, 'here I am.'"

The new screening unit at King Hussein Cancer Center and an outreach program were implemented in cooperation with the Komen Foundation.

Laura Bush has a personal interest in breast cancer treatment -- her mother and grandmother had the disease.

"The cure for breast cancer can come from a researcher in Washington or a young doctor in Riyadh.

Wherever the cure is discovered, it will help women all over the world," Bush said.

Although her trip focused on showcasing public-private cooperation in breast cancer outreach, the first lady also met with women political leaders and attended an event that highlighted a MEPI-funded scholarship program in Kuwait.

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## Fight Against Malaria Making . . .

*(Continued from page 19)*

planned integrated measles campaign and to provide community-based education for malaria prevention and proper use of nets. The campaign aims to protect nearly 1.4 million children under age 5.

The Malaria Communities Program also was announced at the White House Summit on Malaria in December 2006. That program seeks to provide \$30 million over four years to new partners to support the efforts of communities and indigenous organizations to combat malaria at the local level and build sustainable malaria-control programs. The first grants, announced in October, were awarded to Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, Lutheran World Relief, Episcopal Relief and Development, Minnesota International Health Volunteers and Christian Social Sciences Commission.

More good news has come on the scientific front with the successful small trial of a new malaria vaccine for children developed by pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline. Study results were released October 17 in a paper published online in *The Lancet*.

The study's key finding was that the new vaccine could be administered safely to the age group most vulnerable to severe disease and death from malaria. In addition, the vaccine was found to be 35 percent effective in preventing new infections over a six-month period in infants and 45 percent effective among children ages 1 to 4.

The fight against malaria remains high on President Bush's agenda. After meeting with Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf October 18 in Washington, the president said he and the Liberian president

discussed their mutual desire to put in place a malaria initiative that will save lives in Liberia.

"Laura and I care deeply about the fact that young babies die on the continent of Africa and elsewhere needlessly. They die simply because of a mosquito bite," Bush said. (See transcript ( <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=texttrans-english&y=2007&m=October&x=20071018142018xjsnommis0.6192285> ).)

More information ( <http://www.fightingmalaria.gov/index.html> ) about the President's Malaria Initiative is available on the PMI Web site.

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# Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage Tests Move Forward

*By Cheryl Pellerin  
USINFO Staff Writer*

**Washington** -- After 10 years of research into the technology and processes for capturing and storing underground the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), the Department of Energy (DOE), working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is moving ahead with the first large-scale U.S. demonstration projects.

Three projects in the United States and Canada will conduct large-volume tests for storing 1 million or more tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in deep saline aquifers -- porous rock formations deep in the earth whose pores contain salty water and can be filled with CO<sub>2</sub>.

On October 11, DOE announced that it plans to invest \$197 million over 10 years, subject to approval from Congress, and its project partners will contribute \$121 million, according to an October 9 announcement. On October 9, EPA announced plans to develop regulations for geologic CO<sub>2</sub> storage, a process that is not yet regulated in the United States. (See related article ( <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenlish&y=2006&m=December&x=20070511142328lcnirellep0.639599> ).

"EPA is looking to us for our research and development experience, and we're looking to them for their regulatory experience," Robert Kane, technical adviser for carbon management in the DOE Office of

Fossil Energy, told USINFO. "When one is based on the other, that makes an awful lot of sense."

Twenty-seven states and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba will participate in the projects. They will demonstrate the entire CO<sub>2</sub> injection process at large volumes to determine the capacity of different geologic settings to permanently store CO<sub>2</sub>.

"We believe the time is right to begin creating the regulatory framework for commercial-scale carbon sequestration technology," Jason Burnett, EPA associate deputy administrator, told USINFO.

"Currently, about 35 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> are sequestered in the United States," Burnett added, "primarily for enhanced oil recovery. We expect that to increase, by some estimates, by 400-fold by 2100."

## REDUCING EMISSIONS

Carbon dioxide is one of the greenhouse gases whose presence in excess in the atmosphere is warming the planet and driving global climate change. Many efforts are under way worldwide to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but one whose use is growing is called carbon (dioxide) capture and storage, or carbon (dioxide) sequestration. (See related article ( <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenlish&y=2007&m=May&x=20070530134219lcnirellep0.6537592> ).

In CO<sub>2</sub> capture, carbon dioxide is collected from gaseous emissions that arise from fossil-fueled power plants, refineries, fertilizer production plants and other industrial facilities.

In CO<sub>2</sub> storage, captured carbon dioxide, among other methods, can be injected into geologic formations like sandstone or limestone saline aquifers, old oil and gas fields, and coal beds that cannot be mined. The end result is a reduction in the total amount of excess CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.

CO<sub>2</sub> will stay underground for geologic timescales -- centuries or longer -- but geologists still are investigating what happens to the gas once it is underground.

In the United States and around the world, engineers have been capturing CO<sub>2</sub> from industrial flue streams for about 70 years and injecting it underground for about 30 years to enhance oil recovery.

Injecting CO<sub>2</sub> into the ground in an oil field reduces the oil's viscosity, expands its volume and changes its "wettability," or stickiness -- all of which allow drillers to get more oil out of the ground.

But CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration efforts -- those that combine carbon dioxide capture and storage by injecting anthropogenic (people-generated) CO<sub>2</sub> streams underground -- have been taking place only since about 1997.

*(Continued on page 22)*

## Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage Tests Move . . .

(Continued from page 21)

### SCALING UP SEQUESTRATION

Commercial-scale CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage projects have been under way around the world since 1996 -- at the Sleipner West natural gas field in the North Sea (1996); the Weyburn CO<sub>2</sub> Flood Project in southern Saskatchewan, Canada (1997); and the In Salah gas field in the Algerian desert (2004).

The United States has learned from these international operations, Kane said. "We've contributed small amounts of money," he added, "so we could participate in [CO<sub>2</sub>] monitoring at Sleipner, Weyburn and In Salah, and we've learned by doing."

DOE has run small-scale CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration research and development projects since 1997, but the three projects announced October 9 are the first large-scale U.S. field tests.

All are part of the Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership, which is working to determine the best technologies, regulations and infrastructure needs for CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage in different regions of the United States and Canada. The projects are:

The Plains CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction Partnership will conduct geologic CO<sub>2</sub> storage projects in the Alberta and Williston basins. Partners are North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin, and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The Southeast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership will dem-

onstrate CO<sub>2</sub> storage in the lower Tuscaloosa Formation Massive Sand Unit, which stretches from Texas to Florida. Partners are Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North

safety and the environment. EPA plans to issue its regulations in summer 2008, after reviewing comments from other federal agencies, industry and the public.

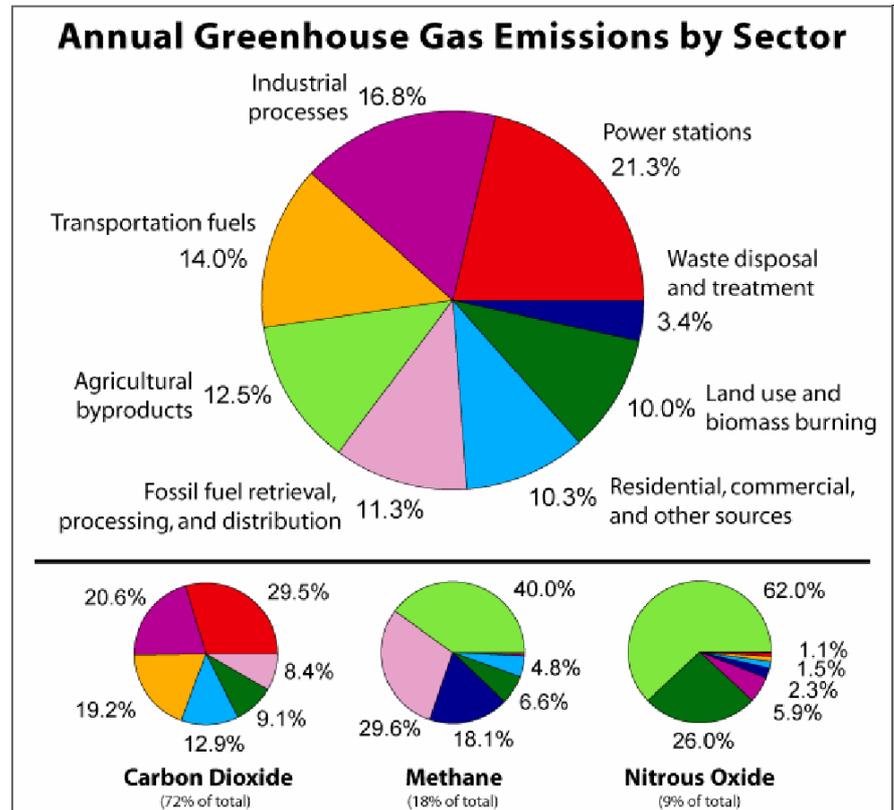


Image from Global Warming Art

Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and southeast Texas.

The Southwest Regional Partnership for Carbon Sequestration will inject several million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> into the Jurassic-age Entrada Sandstone Formation in the southwestern United States. Partners are New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and Utah, and portions of Texas, Wyoming, and Arizona.

EPA is working with DOE to evaluate the potential impacts of CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage on health,

More information about carbon dioxide sequestration is available at the DOE National Energy Technology Laboratory ( [http://www.netl.doe.gov/technologies/carbon\\_seq/index.html](http://www.netl.doe.gov/technologies/carbon_seq/index.html) ) Web site and at the EPA ( <http://www.epa.gov/sequestration/index.html> ) Web site.

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

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# Concern Grows About Health Risks Posed by Climate Change

*By Cheryl Pellerin*  
*USINFO Staff Writer*

**Washington** -- Risks to international public health from floods, heat waves and droughts arising from climate change are becoming the focus of global health organizations and officials around the world.

A range of health problems is expected to accompany rising temperatures worldwide, especially in developing countries, according to *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, part two of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) fourth assessment report.

"The health of all individuals is influenced by the health of people, animals and the environment around us," Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said October 23 in testimony before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. "Many trends within this larger, interdependent ecologic system influence public health on a global scale, including climate change."

On the same day in Geneva, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that its theme for World Health Day on April 7, 2008, would be "protecting health from climate change."

"We need to put public health at the heart of the climate change agenda," WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan said in a statement. "This includes mobilizing govern-

ments and stakeholders to collaborate on strengthening surveillance and control of infectious diseases, safer use of diminishing water supplies and health action in emergencies."



*Dr. Julie Gerberding*  
*Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*

## **WARMING WORLD**

"Warming of the climate system is unequivocal," read the IPCC Summary for Policymakers, released February 1. Most of the warming over the past 50 years "is likely to have been due to the increase in greenhouse gas concentrations," and human activity "very likely" is the source of these gases, it said.

The report concludes, with what it says is about 90 percent certainty, that recent, rapid climate change is

the result of increased global atmospheric concentrations of the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, likely generated by emissions from human use of fossil fuels.

In response to the warming, a growing body of evidence shows discernible, physically consistent changes. These include increases in global average air temperature and atmospheric temperatures above the surface, increases in surface and subsurface ocean water temperature, widespread melting of snow, decreases in the extent and thickness of Arctic sea ice, decreases in the extent of glacier and small ice caps, and a rise in global mean sea level.

On the ground, such climate variability and change can increase the occurrence and intensity of natural events like heat waves, floods, droughts and storms, directly affecting the health of millions of people.

## **CLIMATE AND HEALTH**

According to the IPCC, health is at risk from a range of climate-related causes, including increases in malnutrition and consequent disorders; deaths, disease and injury due to heat waves, floods, storms, fires and droughts; diarrheal diseases; and a change in the distribution of some infectious-disease carriers (mosquitoes, ticks).

"WHO has carried out both qualitative reviews and quantitative as-

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**USAID Hands Over Jijiga, Hartishek, Togochole and Lafessa . . .**

*(Continued from page 2)*

the Children UK and ACDI/VOCA. The livestock marketing component of PLI, implemented by ACDI/VOCA, seeks to strengthen Ethiopia's livestock marketing system by increasing sales to high value domestic and export markets. An essential activity toward achieving this goal is to construct key livestock market facilities to reduce costs and improve pastoralists' access to markets.

The Somali region markets are part of a series of market sites to be constructed to boost pastoralists' livelihoods with integrated services such as water, feed and veterinary care. In the short term, pastoralists will be able to boost their bargaining power by providing the option of holding their animals until the next market day to obtain a higher price. In the

medium and long term, these market improvements will increase Ethiopia's competitiveness at an international level.

"These new livestock markets built with USAID support are making a tremendous difference in the lives of pastoralists," said Brutawit Dawit Abdi, ACDI/VOCA Country Representative and Chief of Party for the project. ACDI/VOCA is an international development organization which has been working in Ethiopia since 1994 to improve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers and pastoralists through enhanced market opportunities.♦

**Anti-AIDS Program Scores Successes . . .**

*(Continued from page 8)*

on the way to achieving its ambitious five-year targets of supporting treatment for 2 million people, prevention of 7 million new infections, and care for 10 million people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, including orphans and vulnerable children."

To build on this success, the Bush administration has called for doubling its initial fiscal commitment to \$30 billion and setting new, higher goals -- increasing prevention to 12 million, treatment to 2.5 million and care to 12 million, including, for the first time, 5 million orphans and vulnerable children.

Of the three fronts on which PEPFAR is battling the epidemic, pre-

vention is the most difficult. "The vast majority of HIV is transmitted through sexual contact," Dybul said. "Changing human behavior is very difficult -- far more difficult than determining the right prescription of anti-retroviral drugs, building a health system or creating a better life for orphans and vulnerable children."

In South Africa, PEPFAR has embraced Soul Buddyz clubs, established in 2,400 primary schools as a groundbreaking way of teaching children about their health and rights, in the belief that it is easier to teach safe behavior to children than it is to change unsafe behavior in adults.

The crux of the behavior change drive is summed up in the letters

"ABC," which stand for "abstain," "be faithful" and "correct and consistent use of condoms." Difficult though it is, the prevention campaign in Uganda has brought down the HIV prevalence rate from 18 percent in the 1980s to 6.5 percent now, according to Dr. Alex Coutinho, the executive director of TASO, the largest HIV care and treatment organization in Africa.

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