



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

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### "Unleaded Gas in Sub-Saharan Africa: The good news"

By Ambassador Yamamoto

(This op-ed was published in the Sunday, June 3 issue of Capital Newspaper in Addis Ababa)

(begin text)

Everyone knows that air quality in Addis Ababa isn't perfect. The streets are full of cars and vans that belch sulfurous black smoke. While pollution in Addis Ababa is a concern, the good news is that a very unhealthy additive



Ambassador Yamamoto

has been removed from gasoline in Ethiopia. We

should celebrate the fact that in Sub-Saharan Africa today, leaded gasoline is a thing of the past.

Since 2004 when the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other donors to remove lead from gasoline in sub-Saharan Africa, all of the gasoline imported into Ethiopia has been unleaded. This is ex-

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### President Bush Announces Five-Year, \$30 Billion HIV/AIDS Plan

By Cheryl Pellerin  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- President George Bush announced May 30 that he would work with Congress to double the U.S. commitment to fight HIV/AIDS around the world -- to \$30 billion -- and reauthorize the legislation that established the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).



President Bush holds Baron Mosima Loyiso Tantoh of South Africa after his statement on PEPFAR funding May 30. (White House)

If Congress meets the president's budget request for fiscal year 2008, and with the new \$30 billion proposal, the American people will have committed \$48.3 billion over 10 years to fight HIV/AIDS. The U.S. contribution is already the largest international health initiative dedicated to a specific disease.

PEPFAR, Bush said

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## Internet Basic and Search Techniques Training to Members of the Ethiopian Parliament

Following the Internet Basic & Search Techniques Training held in March 2007, the Information Resource Center (IRC) at the Public Affairs Section gave similar training on May 30 for ten leaders and members of Standing Committees of the House of Peoples' Representatives at the Public Affairs Section. Currently, the House of Peoples' Representatives has 14 standing committees and the IRC staff worked with the Parliament Librarian to arrange this training to the committee chairmen and their deputies.



Members of the Ethiopian Parliament at the training

The training sought to strengthen research skills of busy parliamentarians by enhancing their ability to use the Internet as a tool. The training covered Internet basics, search techniques, useful resources and tips for evaluating information obtained via Internet. In addition to the training, a documentary film from the Framework of Democracy series "US Congress – Government by Committee" was shown and

selected IIP print materials were also distributed to the participants.

U.S. Ambassador Don Yamamoto, PAO Dr. Anthony Fisher and IO Bettina Malone met with the Parliamentarians during their training, and discussed the importance of the Internet for knowledge and communication. In the United

States, Members of Congress obtain information on a huge variety of topics via the Internet – everything from congressional proceedings and information on the status of draft legislation, to official government records, up-to-date news, and scientific articles on a myriad of topics – all of which support their decision making ability. ♦

## "Unleaded Gas in Sub-Saharan Africa: The good news" . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

pected to have significant health benefits for the people of Ethiopia, particularly children. It also has the potential to save millions in health care costs as people's health improves.

But taking the lead out of gasoline is only half the story. Even unleaded gas produces unhealthy exhaust fumes. These emissions contain odorless and colorless gases that can cause lung damage and respiratory illnesses, decrease concentration and interfere with an individual's ability to learn.

Children are particularly at risk when exposed to these gases. Fortunately, catalytic converters, a vehicle component common on many newer model vehicles, can scrub these gases out of the exhaust.

In the past, car owners removed these devices from their vehicles because they didn't work well with leaded gasoline. Now that unleaded gas is widely available, it's safe for cars to use catalytic converters. Not only safe, but ideal. To take full advantage of the boon of unleaded gas, cata-

lytic converters should be left on vehicles that are imported into the country.

As for the thick black smoke coming out of the vehicle in front of you...UNEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are working together to reduce the sulfur content of diesel fuel in sub-Saharan Africa. It will be some time before this is achieved, but in the meantime, Ethiopians can concentrate on the less visible, but just as real dangers of gasoline emissions. (end text) ♦

## President Bush Announces Five-Year, \$30 Billion HIV/AIDS Plan . . .

(Continued from page 1)

during a White House press briefing, is "a promising start, yet without further action, the legislation that funded this emergency plan is set to expire in 2008. Today, I ask Congress to demonstrate America's continuing commitment to fighting the scourge of HIV/AIDS by reauthorizing this legislation now."

The added \$15 billion, he said, "will be spent wisely through the establishment of partnership compacts with host nations. These compacts would ensure that U.S. funds support programs that have the greatest possible impact and are sustainable for the future."

Joining Bush were Mark Dybul, U.S. global AIDS coordinator; Rajat Gupta, chairman of the board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Michael Leavitt, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and John Negroponte, deputy secretary of state.

If the plan is approved, the United States will work with governments, the private sector, and faith- and community-based organizations worldwide, Bush said, to support treatment for nearly 2.5 million people, to prevent more than 12 million new infections, and to support care for 12 million people, including more than 5 million orphans and vulnerable children.

The president also announced that through March 31 -- after three years of PEPFAR implementation -- the United States has supported treatment for 1.1 million people in the 15 focus countries, including more than 1 million in Africa.

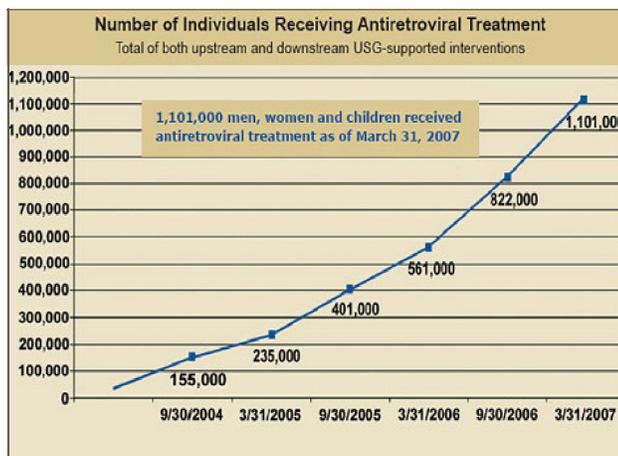
The focus countries are Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia.

### NEW PARTNERSHIP PLAN

Bush's new plan for PEPFAR would continue HIV/AIDS treatment, prevention and care, and expand efforts to strengthen health systems and leverage programs that address malaria, tuberculosis, child and maternal health, clean water, food and

In this way, the plan would transition from an emergency response to a sustainable response for treatment, prevention and care.

The new proposal would maintain 2 million people on lifesaving treatment and support treatment for another 500,000, avert 5 million more HIV infections beyond the 7 million averted in the initial phase and maintain care for 10 million people, including 4 million orphans and vulnerable children, and support care for another 2.3 million people, including more than 1 million orphans and vulnerable children.



Graph showing number of individuals receiving antiretroviral treatment.

"The statistics and dollar amounts I've cited in the fight against HIV/AIDS are significant," Bush said, "but the scale of this effort is not measured in numbers. This is really a story of the human spirit and the goodness of human hearts. Once again, the generosity of the American people is one of the great untold stories of our time."

Bush thanked Congress for its strong bipartisan support for the original PEPFAR program and called for passage of reauthorizing legislation consistent with the program's successful principles.

Laura Bush will travel to Senegal, Mozambique, Zambia and Mali June 25-29 to underscore the U.S. commitment to Africa and highlight advances being made in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment.

For more information, see HIV/AIDS ( [http://usinfo.state.gov/global\\_issues/hiv\\_aids.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/global_issues/hiv_aids.html) ). ♦

## President Outlines New U.S. Steps Toward Peace, Prosperity

A medical lab scientist checks blood samples submitted for HIV/AIDS testing in Abuja, Nigeria.

Washington – During the week of May 29, the United States began a series of major new initiatives, ranging from stronger sanctions against Sudan for continued violence in Darfur to a doubling of the nation's commitment to HIV/AIDS prevention over the next five years, President Bush said in his weekly radio address to the nation on June 2.

The president has proposed a \$30 billion to combat HIV/AIDS and called for new, tougher U.N. sanctions against Sudan.

On Darfur, Bush said, "We will not avert our eyes from a crisis that challenges the conscience of the world."

Bush also described three new programs to assist the developing world, particularly Africa. One will provide technical aid to attract \$1 billion in new private investment. The second will support basic education for as many as four million children in poor nations, and the third calls for setting a global goal for reducing greenhouse gases and sharing clean energy technologies with other nations.

Following is the transcript of President Bush's radio address for June 2:

(begin transcript)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary  
Saturday, June 2, 2007

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.

Next week, I will travel to Europe to attend the G-8 summit. At this meeting, the leaders of industrialized nations will discuss ways we can work together to advance trade, fight disease, promote development that works, increase access to education, and address the long-term challenge of global climate change.

It is in America's interests to help these efforts succeed. When we help lift societies out of poverty, we create new markets for American goods and new jobs for American workers. When we help reduce



A medical lab scientist checks blood samples submitted for HIV/AIDS testing in Abuja, Nigeria. (File photo AP Images)

chaos and suffering, we make America safer, because prosperous nations are less likely to breed violence and export terror. And this week, my Administration took several important steps to advance peace and opportunity across the world.

On Tuesday, America took new actions to address the ongoing genocide in Darfur. On my orders, the Department of Treasury tightened our existing economic sanctions against Sudan and imposed additional ones. I also directed Secretary Rice to work with our allies on a new U.N. Security Council Reso-

lution that will seek to impose new sanctions, expand the arms embargo, and prohibit Sudan's government from conducting offensive military flights over this troubled region. The people of Darfur have suffered long enough. We will not avert our eyes from a crisis that challenges the conscience of the world.

On Wednesday, the United States demonstrated leadership on another crisis affecting Africa: HIV/AIDS. In 2003, my Administration launched a \$15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS relief, and that plan has supported treatment for more than one million people. This is a good start, but only a start. So I've asked Congress to double our initial commitment for HIV/AIDS prevention to \$30 billion over the next five years. By making this commitment now, we will help deliver lifesaving treatment, prevent new infections, and support care for millions of people across Africa.

As we fight violence and disease, America is also using its influence to help struggling countries transform themselves into free and hopeful societies. And on Thursday, I announced three new initiatives that will help the developing world.

The first initiative is a new project called the Africa Financial Sector Initiative. This initiative will help bring African nations the technical assistance they need to strengthen their financial markets. And it will encourage the international financial community to create several new private equity funds that will mobilize up to \$1 billion of new private investment in Africa. By taking these steps, we can help African entrepreneurs access capital, so they can grow their businesses and

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## OPIC Support for Investments in Sub-Saharan Africa, CAFTA and Housing

(begin fact sheet)

OPIC (Overseas Private Investment Corporation)

[Washington, D.C.]

May 31, 2007

Fact Sheet: OPIC Housing Investments and OPIC Supported Investment Funds in Africa and CAFTA

OPIC Housing

OPIC has made support for low and moderate income housing development a high priority. Beyond the obvious benefit of providing shelter, housing provides a multitude of other benefits. It helps deepen the financial services sector, increases employment for high as well as low skilled workers, strengthens legal institutions, and provides families an asset that can be used as collateral to fund entrepreneurial endeavors. OPIC is involved in every aspect of housing development, including construction, mortgage finance, mortgage-backed securitization, the manufacture of building materials, and the provision of property-registration and brokerage services.

Since 2001:

OPIC has provided more than \$1 billion in financing and insurance,

to leverage more than \$7 billion in additional capital,

to make possible more than 50 housing investments,

to build or mortgage more than 450,000 housing units.

While prudently managing the risks inherent in financing development in



the housing sector, OPIC is addressing the challenges confronting housing investment in emerging markets. In particular, OPIC is:

encouraging private bank lending to under-funded construction firms;

introducing building technologies that reduce housing costs;

offering debt financing for the development of primary infrastructure;

providing funding to encourage the availability of long-term, fixed-rate mortgage finance;

enabling homeownership for low-income families by supporting lease-purchase arrangements and by lending to banks for low-income mortgages;

expanding access to credit for the informally employed through housing microfinance;

deepening housing finance markets through the development of mortgage-backed securitization; and

developing housing resale markets by introducing U.S.-style brokerage services.

In addition to the \$1 billion in housing finance and insurance already committed, there is more than \$1.5 billion in prospective housing investment in OPIC's project pipeline.

These projects are expected to bring innovation in housing investment, including:

securitization of local currency-based mortgages, capped in U.S. dollars;

employer-supported homeownership;

remittance-based housing finance; and

private mortgage insurance.

OPIC Support for Investments in Sub-Saharan Africa and CAFTA

OPIC is currently providing almost \$2 billion in financing and political-risk insurance to 74 projects and investment funds in sub-Saharan Africa, and over \$670 million to 42 projects and investment funds in the CAFTA region.

OPIC Supported Investment Funds in Africa

OPIC has committed a total of \$270 million in guaranties for three investment funds that will focus on sub-Saharan Africa: The EMP Africa Fund II, the Ethos Fund V, and Helios Sub-Saharan Africa Fund. Each of these funds fulfills an OPIC mandate contained in the AGOA legislation to establish equity funds in support of investment in sub-Saharan Africa.

EMP Africa Fund II targets investments in infrastructure-oriented industries in sub-Saharan Africa, including telecommunications, oil and gas, power, transportation and agribusiness. The fund is also investing investments in the media, financial services and manufacturing sectors.

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## OPIC Support for Investments in Sub-Saharan Africa, CAFTA and Housing . . .

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Ethos Fund V promotes the expansion of medium-sized enterprises in South Africa, with an emphasis on the manufacturing and services sectors. The fund also supports the country's effort to encourage black economic empowerment, as well as promote opportunities for women and low-income individuals through an arrangement with an investment firm, Sphere, which supports rural development and women-owned businesses.

Helios Sub-Saharan Africa Fund makes investments in African-based subsidiaries of multi-national corporations and newly formed businesses with high growth potential serving supply-short product and service markets -- two segments of Africa's investment portfolio typically avoided by private equity firms. The fund focuses on West Africa, with an emphasis on Nigeria, but also on opportunities within countries of the Southern Africa Development Community.

### OPIC Supported Investment Funds in CAFTA

OPIC's Board of Directors has approved a total of \$510 million in guaranties for eight investment funds that can invest in CAFTA countries.

Since Mr. Mosbacher's visit to the region in May 2006, five funds with OPIC support of \$360 have been announced:

Darby Probanco II Fund was the result of IFD's Caribbean & Central America Call for Proposals issued in February 2006 and will focus on making investments in the financial services sector in the Central American countries, in particular providing financing to expand small-to-medium financing loans to entrepreneurs in the local countries.

AIC Caribbean Fund was also a result of the Caribbean & Central America Call, and will catalyze capital into new/expanding companies, and companies being privatized in the Caribbean region. Fund investments will focus on tourism, telecommunications, health care, energy and financial services.

Paladin Realty Latin America Housing Finance Fund will seek to stimulate new housing by originating and investing in residential mortgages in Latin America, and will expand and advance local capital markets by securitizing mortgage pools targeted at both domestic and international investors.

Paladin Realty Global Investors III will target development opportunities within the real estate sector, with a primary focus on affordable housing. This will be a global fund, but with a Latin American primary focus.

Alsis Latin American Mortgage Fund will originate mortgages that range from \$10,000 to \$40,000 and securitize mortgage pools targeting domestic and international

investors in Central and South America, with a particular focus in Mexico, Brazil, and the Andean region.

In addition, three funds with \$150 million of OPIC support have remaining capacity for CAFTA investments:

Darby-BBVA Latin American Holdings is generating long term capital appreciation through direct investment in equity and quasi equity securities of companies that are new, expanding, or in the process of being privatized in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Latin Power III Investments, managed by Conduit Capital Partners, will invest in mid-sized independent electrical generation projects in Latin America focusing on renewable energy. The fund is expected to dedicate between 30 percent of 50 percent of its total capital to CAFTA-DR countries.

Paladin Realty Latin America Investors II will target development opportunities within the real estate sector in Latin America, with a primary focus on affordable housing and middle-income housing.

(end fact sheet)

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

## VOA Launches African Music Mix

Washington, D.C., June 1, 2007 - The Voice of America (VOA) has launched African Music Mix, a continuous stream of African music favorites, available to African listeners, every day of the week.

From N'dombolo to Beng a to African hip-hop, African Music Mix offers the best in African music by artists from East, West, North, South, and Central Africa, as well as the islands. Broadcast daily, the new African-oriented music stream draws from VOA's archive of some 12,000 African songs to provide millions of music fans across the continent with a desired mix of local and pan-African favorites.

"VOA is the only radio station that offers such a rich blend of African music from around the continent, every day of the week," said VOA's English to Africa Service Chief Sonya Laurence Green. "You can't



get this anywhere else," she added. African Music Mix airs Monday-Sunday from 0000 UTC-0300 UTC and Monday-Friday from 1100 UTC - 1400 UTC. For more information about the program and a complete listing of English to Africa broadcasts, visit our website at <http://www.voaafrica.com> or <http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/programs.cfm>.

VOA's English to Africa Service broadcasts 24 hours a day, 7 days

a week to Anglophone Africa through shortwave, medium wave, television, the Internet, and a growing list of more than 40 affiliates, as well as two dedicated VOA 24-hour FM stations in Accra, Ghana and Nairobi, Kenya.

The Voice of America, which first went on the air in 1942, is a multimedia international broadcasting service funded by the U.S. government through the Broadcasting Board of Governors. VOA broadcasts more than 1,000 hours of news, information, educational, and cultural programming every week to an estimated worldwide audience of more than 115 million people. Programs are produced in 45 languages.

For more information, call the Office of Public Affairs at (202)203-4959 or e-mail [publicaffairs@voa.gov](mailto:publicaffairs@voa.gov). ♦

## President Outlines New U.S. Steps Toward Peace, Prosperity . . .

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create jobs across the continent.

The second initiative is a new effort to help more of the world's poorest children get an education. In 2002, my Administration launched the Africa Education Initiative, which has provided about \$300 million to improve educational opportunities throughout that continent. Now, with the support of Congress, we will devote an additional \$525 million over the next five years to help provide a quality basic education for up to four million children in poor nations. With this initiative, we will help young people get the skills they need to succeed and a chance to achieve their dreams.

The third initiative is a proposal to help developing nations meet their growing energy needs while protecting the environment and addressing the challenge of global climate change. Under my proposal, by the end of next year America and other nations will set a long-term global goal for reducing greenhouse gases. And to meet this goal, we must help developing countries harness the power of technology. The United States is investing billions of dollars in clean energy technologies and coming up with new ways to share these technologies with other nations. Through the spirit of innovation, we will help developing nations grow their economies and be responsible stew-

ards of the environment.

In all these endeavors, the American people can be proud of our global leadership and generosity. Our Nation is delivering aid and comfort to those in need. We're helping expand opportunity across the world. We're laying the foundation for a more peaceful and hopeful future for all our citizens.

Thank you for listening.

(end transcript)

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

## Bush Nominates Robert Zoellick as World Bank President

Washington – If approved by the board of the World Bank to serve as the organization's president, Robert Zoellick would bring a wealth of experience in dealing with thorny trade, finance and development issues, President Bush says.

Zoellick, nominated May 30 by Bush to replace Paul Wolfowitz, has spent much of the last two decades working with his counterparts in other countries to broker deals on such difficult issues as trade reform, debt relief and U.S. relations with China and Sudan.

In announcing the nomination, Bush noted that Zoellick had launched the World Trade Organization's global trade negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda; increased the number of U.S. free-trade agreements; worked on such issues as German unification, Latin American debt relief and transition in the post-Soviet economies; and served on the board of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a relatively new mechanism for delivering U.S. assistance to countries making institutional and economic reforms.

Asked to come back to a public-service position just nine months after landing a top job at the New York financial firm Goldman Sachs, Zoellick most recently had worked to advance peace in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Zoellick hailed the bank as a cornerstone of the international financial architecture created after World War II that "is just as important to-

day as it was then."

Speaking to reporters following Bush's remarks, Zoellick outlined the huge task ahead.

"Too many lands, particularly in Africa, are denied opportunity because of disease, weak health care and child mortality, hunger and poor



US President George W. Bush(L) shakes hands with Robert Zoellick in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, DC. Bush nominated former diplomat and trade chief Zoellick on Wednesday to head the World Bank after a favoritism scandal forced out Paul Wolfowitz. (AFP/Mandel Ngan)

agricultural infrastructure, lack of good schools, discrimination against girls and women, unsound governance and corruption, the want of property rights and the rule of law, and endangered environment," he said.

Zoellick said the work of the World Bank is "not about charity" but about helping countries and their citizens obtain the necessary support to address problems that at times seem "staggering."

"Fortunately, there's a new generation of leaders in many developing countries that is assuming responsibility for showing that poverty can be surmounted," Zoellick said.

Traditionally, the United States has chosen the president of the World Bank while the managing director of the International Monetary Fund has been a European. This practice has been called into question more recently because of controversy surrounding Wolfowitz's departure.

Many countries would like to see the position filled solely on merit.

In that regard, Zoellick likely will have many supporters within the 185-member World Bank. As U.S. trade representative from 2001-2004, and later as deputy secretary of state from 2005 to 2006, Zoellick traveled throughout the world meeting with ministers of trade, state and finance.

A transcript ( <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/05/20070530-4.html> ) of Bush's and Zoellick's remarks is available on the White House Web site.

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

## Prize-winning Book Recounts Press Role in Civil Rights Era

By Jeffrey Thomas  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington - The success of the U.S. civil rights movement depended largely on national media coverage, the presence of a vibrant black press and a small band of liberal white Southern editors, say Gene Roberts and Hank Klibanoff, both veteran journalists.

Their book, *The Race Beat*, won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for history for its account of the civil rights struggle in the United States from the point of view of the journalists and editors who covered the events as they unfolded, often risking their lives to do so.

In *The Race Beat*, Roberts and Klibanoff describe how the glare of publicity in the 1950s and 1960s awakened the nation's conscience to the injustice of state-sanctioned discrimination in the American South, leading eventually to the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

The book begins by citing the classic 1944 study of race in the United States, *An American Dilemma*, by Swedish economist Gunnar Myrdal. Myrdal predicted that the future of race relations depended on the American press. He suggested that, even though Americans were bound by common values such as equal opportunity and fair play, whites outside the South largely were unaware of the evils of institutionalized racial discrimination. "Myrdal said all you have to do is tell people what's going on – tell Northerners what's going on, he was saying more specifically - and they will be shocked and shaken. And that's exactly what happened," Klibanoff said.

When the Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954 that separate schools for different races were inherently unequal and that schools must desegregate, most Americans knew little about conditions in the South because race was not considered newsworthy. Jackie Robinson,



Hank Klibanoff

who in 1947 became the first black baseball player to play in the major leagues, was the first continuing race story that was not about crime, Klibanoff told USINFO. Each co-author brought his own interests to bear on the book. Roberts, the Southern correspondent for *The New York Times* in the mid-1960s and later the paper's managing editor, long had been interested in the role played by the progressive editors in the South. Klibanoff, who is currently managing editor of *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, was interested in what was going on in the minds of the segregationist editors.

The authors examine coverage of and commentary about the civil

rights period by black reporters from the minority press, white reporters and photographers from the national press, liberal Southern editors, segregationist Southern editors and the national broadcast media. They discuss a number of critical events in detail such as the Emmet Till murder trial; the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott; the court-ordered integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas; sit-ins at lunch counters in North Carolina; and the Freedom Riders, who sought to desegregate bus seating and facilities at bus terminals.

The problem during the civil rights era was not simply racism; it was state-sanctioned racism written into the laws in such a way as to require discrimination against blacks, said Klibanoff. "That much has changed, and you cannot overestimate how important that change is."

"What made the civil rights struggle so dramatic for people was that there truly was a right and a wrong when it came to whether or not people were going to have their human rights," he said.

Among the many heroes in the book, the liberal southern editors stand out. "It was their job to express their opinion, and because they did, the nation at large felt there was opportunity in the South for a progressive voice to survive," Klibanoff said. The black press also played both a critical advocacy role and offered a "sort of front row view on the civil rights struggle that led them to get great stories that the white press didn't get."

Reporters for the mainstream press of the time made their greatest impact when they hewed to profes-

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## Charity Walks in United States Promote Cancer Awareness, Fitness

By Carolee Walker  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Charity walks raise millions of dollars to fight breast cancer and other diseases, but in the United States and, increasingly, around the world, they also raise awareness about the importance of early disease detection and physical fitness.

The events are great opportunities for women to empower themselves and become physically active, said Sloane Burke, team leader for the Susan G. Komen National Race for the Cure, which celebrates its 25th anniversary on June 2 with a five-kilometer race in Washington. President and Mrs. Bush are the honorary chairpersons of the event.

Worldwide, breast cancer causes 502,000 deaths a year, according to the World Health Organization. It is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women, says the Avon Foundation, and because there is no cure, education and early detection are the best defenses against it, says the American Cancer Society.

"When we're walking 3,000 strong -- many of us survivors, who need to get out and walk -- and there's pink everywhere and news cameras everywhere, if our message gets one person to have a mammogram for the first time, then we're that much closer to increasing survival," said Judith Cherry, a team leader for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer.

A mammogram is an X-ray photograph that helps doctors diagnose breast cancer. Women in the United States have worn pink for years to indicate that they have sur-

vived breast cancer or that they support breast cancer causes.

Exercise significantly improves the quality of life for breast cancer survivors, and physical activity may

nongovernmental source of funding for breast cancer research. It reports that less than 30 percent of women had mammograms prior to 1982; now the figure tops 75 percent.



Breast cancer survivors join in the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's annual National Race for the Cure. (AP Images)

reduce the risk of developing the disease, several studies indicate.

Burke expects 50,000 participants in the all-day Komen race, including 35 international teams hosted by embassies. A Muslim team sponsored by the Council on American-Islamic Relations will take part, wearing pink hijabs.

"It is important to engage the international community to end breast cancer globally," said Burke. The foundation also sponsors annual races in Italy and Germany.

The Komen Foundation, which pioneered breast cancer charity walks in 1982 and first distributed pink ribbons in 1990, is now the largest

Like the Komen race, the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer raises funds to support medical research, treatment and education. Avon sponsors annual walks -- many of them marathon two-day events -- in eight U.S. cities.

Some of the larger charity walks, including Komen and Avon, require participants to obtain at least \$1,800 in donations, and many walkers solicit sponsorship in their communities. Other events, including the American Cancer Society's all-night Relay for Life, popular on university campuses, charge teams a nominal \$10 registration fee, and local businesses and civic organiza-

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## Charity Walks in United States Promote Cancer Awareness, Fitness . . .

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tions raise money through auctions, raffles and bake sales.

In 2006, the Avon Foundation -- founded by Avon Products Inc., known globally for its cosmetics -- raised more than \$43 million from its U.S. walks, and the Avon Walk Around the World for Breast Cancer mobilized people in 39 countries. In May, Cherry and her team -- a diverse group that included Iranian Americans, Asian Americans, African Americans and Indian Americans -- were among 3,100 walkers in Washington who raised \$7.4 million.

The Chronicle of Philanthropy reports that charity walks produce an increasingly large share of the revenue raised by health-related non-governmental organizations (NGOs). USA Track and Field, a national governing body, reports that charity walks raised \$656 million in 2005, a 14 percent increase over 2004.

Cherry, 60, told USINFO that when she was diagnosed with breast cancer eight years ago, she thought she would be dead in two years.

For once in her busy life -- and thinking she was at the end of her life -- she wanted to make a difference in the world.

By the time she had endured chemotherapy and multiple surgeries, five years had passed and she was very much alive.

"I became a cancer survivor," Cherry said. "I decided what I needed to do was work to raise awareness and money." The tough part, for her, was the walking.

Cherry did her first Avon marathon in 2004, walking 42 kilometers over two days, with a friend.

"I had an enormous feeling of accomplishment," she said.

Now Cherry participates in all eight Avon walks every year. By 2006, she had invented the "walk family" -- either single walkers or small groups of people walking together; she now has 250 people on her teams.

Cherry said she is not unlike other cancer survivors who need to be pushed to become fit. After the

fatigue and discomfort of treatments, they often see exercising as the last thing they want to do, especially if it takes them away from their families.

Avon and Komen provide onsite medical care, and Avon puts up overnight shelters -- called Wellness Villages -- for participants. Komen's Kids for the Cure tent recognizes that breast cancer affects entire families, Burke said, and "co-survivors" need a place to play after the race.

To help participants prepare, Komen offers injury-prevention workouts on its Web site. This year, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's certified personal trainer, Tommy Tomlo, will lead participants in warm-ups.

"We've trained hard, and the walk is our reward," Cherry said. "It's the journey that is important, not how fast we reach the end."

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

## Prize-winning Book Recounts Press Role in Civil Rights Era . . .

*(Continued from page 9)*

sional standards of objectivity and fairness. "It was straightforward stenographic reporting that moved the nation," he said. "The same thing with television: there was no doctoring television film to make it look dramatic; it was dramatic."

Klibanoff said that, as a contemporary editor, writing the book offered "lots of lessons," including confirmation of the fact that "a free and

independent press is essential not just to a well-functioning government but a government that operates with integrity and with the interests of its people at heart."

"Some people would say newspapers shouldn't crusade. I do think newspapers have a responsibility in this democratic society to play that role," he said.

"If you look through the stories in The Race Beat, and you go from

town to town and city to city and look where there was and was not trouble, you will find the difference between those [towns] that had trouble and those that didn't was whether they had a strong newspaper and strong political leadership."

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

## “Muslims Care” Campaign Improves American Health, Communities

By Carolee Walker  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Summer in the United States is often a time to slow down the pace of everyday life, and for many, including some American Muslims, to get to know neighbors and solve shared problems.

The Muslims Care campaign is a summer volunteer program launched three years ago to encourage Muslims to help their communities. Monthlong themes offer ideas of ways for Muslims to contribute to American society, said Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), which spearheads the campaign. CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil liberties group, with 33 chapters in the United States and Canada. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

To kick off the third annual campaign, a team of 40 Muslims raised money and awareness to fight breast cancer by walking in the Susan G. Komen National Race for the Cure in Washington on June 5.

"We were proud to be part of the race and hope that the combined efforts of all those involved will bring us that much closer to a cure for breast cancer," said CAIR's Rabiah Ahmed.

"Oftentimes we get so caught up with our own issues and affairs that we forget to help someone in need or to do a good deed, which is so important to Islam," Ahmed told USINFO.

Muslims in America have busy professional lives, Ahmed said, but it is their duty to be good neighbors concerned with issues that affect many, including disease and hunger.

a "Muslims Care" banner, and many of the Muslim women participants wore pink hijabs, Islamic head scarves, symbolizing breast cancer awareness, said Ahmed, the CAIR team leader.



"Muslims Care" participants approach the finish line in the Komen National Race for the Cure. (Council on American-Islamic Relations)

### MUSLIMS WEAR PINK

Nearly 45,000 people participated in the five-kilometer race/walk to benefit the work of the Komen Foundation, a nongovernmental organization devoted to breast cancer research and awareness. Many participants, including the Muslim team sponsored by CAIR, walked together in families and groups, including 35 international teams hosted by embassies, Sloane Burke, coordinator of the Komen race, told USINFO. The Muslim team carried

Despite the fact that the race provided shortcuts for people who could not walk the distance, Ahmed said, "we didn't take any shortcuts -- it felt great for our entire team to make it to the end."

Worldwide, breast cancer causes 502,000 deaths a year, according to the World Health Organization, and it is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women. Because there is no cure, education and early detection are the best de-

*(Continued on page 16)*

## U.S. Commitment to International Development

(begin fact sheet)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
 Office of the Press Secretary  
 May 31, 2007

### Commitment to International Development

Today, President Bush spoke about the Administration's commitment to international development. The President discussed expanded education for the world's poorest children and Africa Financial Sector Initiative, and called on Congress to fully fund his foreign assistance budget request in FY2008.

-- President Bush committed to expand assistance for education in the world's poorest countries. Our investment in disadvantaged children will help foster the development of stable and productive environments where social justice, economic development, and democratic principles thrive.

-- President Bush announced the Africa Financial Sector Initiative (AFSI) to strengthen financial markets, mobilize domestic and foreign investment, and help spur job creation and economic growth. This initiative is expected to mobilize up to \$1.0 billion in privately-managed investment funds for Africa and provide expert technical assistance specifically tailored to help address structural impediments in Africa's financial sector.

Expanding education and developing the private sector are two essential long-term investments that can help break the cycle of poverty in the world's poorest countries.

President Announces Expanded Education for the World's Poorest Children

Today, President Bush committed to expand assistance for education in the world's poorest countries. The U.S. will establish a new after-school skills development program, Communities of Opportunity, for young girls and boys. The U.S. will also expand support for other new basic education activities to ensure that children have access to quality schooling. Additional U.S. funding will total \$525 million over five years.

- The President will work closely with Congress to implement this new transformational approach to promoting education in poor countries.
- A new Coordinator for Education, based at the U.S. Agency for International Development, will direct a strategic use of resources that builds on America's current support for basic education, child health, and nutrition overseas. Resources will be targeted to countries that demonstrate a strong commitment - including Fast Track Initiative endorsed education plans, financial transparency, and increased government spending on education.

• Education promotes progress, reduces poverty, and helps girls and boys become productive and active citizens. It allows women to fully use their talents to build just and innovative societies. Moreover, education offers opportunity and counters the forces of extremism and violence.

### A Transformational Approach To Education

The approach will build upon the Administration's existing efforts by:

- Providing up to 4 million more

children with access to quality basic education through comprehensive programs in a select number of initial target countries;

- Giving 100,000 at-risk youth extra training in English, computer skills, science, math and finance, and critical thinking through "Communities of Opportunity";
- Coordinating with child health interventions -- including school feeding and vaccinations -- in support of broader basic education and training activities; and
- Establishing partnerships in support of targeted interventions with local communities, parents, and the private sector -- including business and non-government organization leaders.

### The Africa Financial Sector Initiative Strengthens And Mobilizes Funding And Markets

To strengthen and deepen African capital markets, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) will support the creation of several new private equity funds that may mobilize up to \$800 million of additional investment in Africa. This investment will address critical gaps in the sources of financing available to African businesses. The financial community submitted 25 proposals to OPIC for consideration pursuant to its recently completed Africa Capital Markets Call for Proposals. By September 2007, OPIC will select funds to support based on its assessment of developmental impact and potential for success. These dedicated funds will:

- Offer new financial instruments and services to African businesses, such as long-term debt, local cur-

*(Continued on page 14)*

## U.S. Commitment to International Development . . .

*(Continued from page 13)*

rency debt, mezzanine financing, securities underwriting, and corporate bond issuance.

In addition, on June 6, OPIC will issue an innovative call for proposals seeking private equity funds to provide capital to businesses serving important social needs in Africa and contributing to the grass roots development of its private sector. These dedicated funds will:

- Provide capital to businesses in sectors with a high developmental impact, such as water, healthcare, small and medium enterprise development, and education.
- Attract investors that prioritize both financial and social returns.

To date, OPIC has supported four Sub-Saharan Africa investment funds that will mobilize roughly \$1.9 billion in private investment over time.

AFSI technical assistance will help to improve financial sector climates with the goal of facilitating increased domestic and international investment. Activities will:

- Strengthen country and regional debt markets by providing up to 10 Treasury Department advisors over the FY08-10 period.
- Launch remittance programs in Nigeria and West Africa through

USAID to increase private sector competition, lower the cost of remittance transfers, and bring the un-banked into the formal financial system.

- Provide training through FDIC for banking regulators in order to improve the security and stability of the region's financial systems.
- Develop payment systems and credit bureaus through USAID to support local retail and commercial banking.

### Keeping Pledges On Development

At the Monterrey U.N. Conference for Financing for Development in 2002, the President proposed a 50-percent increase in our core official development assistance over the next three budget years. Starting from a base of \$10.0 billion in 2000, the United States surpassed its Monterrey commitment in 2003 when official development assistance levels increased to \$16.3 billion.

The 2006 preliminary estimate from the OECD Development Assistance Committee of \$22.7 billion in official development assistance is the second highest annual expenditure ever provided by any donor country after the U.S. level of \$27.6 billion in 2005. Preliminary 2006 ODA statistics on bilateral U.S. aid show:

- Aid to the Least Developed Countries was a record \$5.5 billion.

- Aid to Sub-Saharan Africa increased by \$1.4 billion, or 33%, to a record \$5.6 billion.

- Aid to Latin America increased from \$1.3 billion in 2005 to \$1.6 billion

- Aid to South/Central Asia increased to \$2.8 billion from \$2.6 billion.

At the Gleneagles G8 Summit in 2005, President Bush announced that the United States would double assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa between 2004 and 2010 to \$8.67 billion. The United States is on track to meet that goal with a preliminary estimate of \$6.5 billion of bilateral and multilateral assistance in 2006.

In 2002, the President announced the Millennium Challenge Account, devoted to projects in nations that govern justly, invest in their people and encourage economic freedom. Since then, the MCA has put this pledge into practice signing compacts and threshold programs worth over \$3 billion.

(end fact sheet)

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

## U.S. Aid Programs Reach Out to Vulnerable Global Communities

By Kathryn McConnell  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- In a sweeping outline of U.S. development assistance prior to traveling to the G8 leaders meeting, President Bush May 31 announced new programs to boost educational and financial market opportunities in the world's poorest countries.

Development assistance, particularly in Africa, will be on the agenda when the leaders of the United States, Canada, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom and Russia gather in Germany June 6-7.

The United States "is pursuing a clear strategy to bring progress and prosperity to struggling nations all across the world," Bush said in his speech at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Prior to the speech, the White House released a series of fact sheets that review U.S. foreign assistance.

### FIGHTING DISEASE

U.S. foreign aid programs each year help save the lives of millions around the world and offer children and adults hope for the future.

Through its global health programs, the United States supports immunizations to prevent life-threatening childhood infections such as measles, tetanus and polio; treatments for people with diseases like diarrhea, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS; help for pregnant women facing high-mortality complications of pregnancy; and efforts to drastically reduce child malnutrition by boosting nutrients in U.S. food aid.

In 2006, the first year of the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), 6 million people received prevention or treatment services. An additional 30 million are expected to receive services in 2007. PMI is targeting its resources in 15 of the most-affected countries in Africa.

Through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), approximately 1.1 billion people in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean received anti-retroviral treatment. A five-year, \$15 billion effort, PEPFAR is the largest international health initiative by one country to address a single disease.

President Bush May 30 asked Congress to double that commitment to \$30 billion and reauthorize the program through 2013. Funding authority for the program now expires in September 2008.

The largest contributor to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, PEPFAR includes support for research, prevention, counseling, testing and care for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

### BOOSTING SKILLS

U.S. investments to expand access to quality education help prepare children and adults in developing countries to gain the skills they need to participate in their societies and economies.

For instance, the multiyear Africa Education Initiative is providing \$300 million in support for teachers and students. In Zambia, for example, it trains teachers in girls' education, HIV/AIDS prevention, and nutrition and provides scholarships for disadvantaged girls.

Bush said he wants to increase the commitment to the program to \$500 million.

He said the United States will establish a new after-school skills development program called Communities of Opportunity for young girls and boys and expand support for other new basic education activities.

In Rwanda, a U.S. public-private partnership involving U.S. universities is boosting management skills in coffee cooperatives.

And USAID is working in Kosovo, Rwanda, Haiti, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Indonesia -- countries that have endured years of civil conflict and other crises -- to rebuild national education systems.

### PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

The United States is supporting programs that provide protection for women and children who often are subjected to violence and exploitation and in many places have no inheritance or property rights.

USAID-funded programs in Malawi and Ghana are helping teachers, school administrators and community members learn how to protect children from abuse, including helping schools improve teacher codes of conduct.

The U.S. government also is implementing pilot shelter programs in Ecuador and Cambodia to help victims of trafficking and working to improve criminal justice systems so perpetrators of crimes against women and children are penalized and the short- and long-term needs of abuse survivors are addressed.

*(Continued on page 16)*

## U.S. Aid Programs Reach Out to Vulnerable Global Communities . . .

(Continued from page 15)

In Albania, the United States is providing funding to combat the exploitation of ethnic minority children.

### LINKING AID TO REFORMS

Since its creation in 2004, the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has encouraged policy reforms that will enhance development by linking assistance to such reforms.

The MCC has approved nearly \$3 billion to help 11 countries that meet its selection criteria. The funds go to country-developed projects aimed at reducing poverty and expanding economic growth.

An additional 13 countries have been awarded \$310 million in MCC

support to improve specific areas of policy weakness.

### OTHER ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR THE POOR

Bush said the United States is launching a new Africa Financial Sector Initiative to provide technical assistance to help African countries strengthen their financial markets.

The initiative, which will be administered by the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), will work with the financial community to create several new private equity funds that will mobilize up to \$1 billion of additional private investment in Africa, he said.

OPIC currently is providing more than \$2 billion in support for investment funds in Africa and Central

America.

OPIC funds provide the financing and political risk insurance critical to securing capital investments in telecommunications, energy, transportation and agriculture. These guarantees also have allowed the creation of several investment funds in Africa that support rural development and women-owned businesses.

USAID also is encouraging the development of small businesses by supporting financial institutions that provide microfinance to poor households.

In another effort, the United States has launched an aggressive global response to the avian influenza threat by helping countries plan to prevent and contain outbreaks. ♦

## “Muslims Care” Campaign Improves American Health, Communities . . .

(Continued from page 12)

fenses against it, according to the American Cancer Society.

At fundraising events, women in the United States wear pink to indicate that they have survived breast cancer or that they support breast cancer research.

### CAMPAIGN TRANSLATES FAITH INTO DEEDS

The Muslims Care campaign's theme for June is health awareness. In addition to participating in the Komen Race for the Cure and encouraging Muslims to sign up for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life races, held throughout the country all summer long, CAIR offers other ideas for Muslims to

help. Suggested projects include organizing mental health awareness days and health fairs at mosques, volunteering at hospitals and nursing homes, and organizing blood drives through the American Red Cross.

July's theme is helping needy communities. During that month Muslims will volunteer their services to people who need their help.

August's focus will be on youth. Muslims will address the pressures faced by youth at home, at school and in their communities by co-sponsoring events with i-SAFE America Inc., an organization that offers Internet safety programs to young people.

Mosques around the country also

will be hosting information seminars on adoption and foster care and encouraging Muslims to volunteer with Big Brothers, Big Sisters, a youth-mentoring program in the United States. Some mosques will sponsor a school supplies drive to provide pens, paper, calculators and computers to children.

“We are encouraged to assume a broad role in society by working to improve the communities in which we live,” said Awad. “Islam is a religion of deeds, and we need to put our faith into action by working to make the world a better place.”

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

## State Department Program Opens Doors for World's Businesswomen

By Judy Aita  
USINFO Staff Writer

New York -- Thirty-two of America's most successful women executives mentored 32 young female business leaders from 21 countries as part of the second annual International Women Leaders Mentoring Partnership.

The program -- run by the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Fortune magazine's Most Powerful Women Summit, and Vital Voices Global Partnership -- gives gifted young businesswomen the opportunity to develop leadership, management and business skills and gain experience in the U.S. business world.

Participants from Argentina, Bosnia-Herzegovina, China, Egypt, Gaza, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, Russia, Rwanda, South Africa, Vietnam, the Palestinian Territories and Zimbabwe spent time with executives from a wide range of U.S. companies.

On May 24, the women shared experiences at a farewell gathering and press conference hosted by Ann Moore, chief executive officer (CEO) of Time Inc. Moore, the first executive to agree to be a mentor in 2006, was a 2007 mentor as well.

"We have found that women are the best partners. Women are the greatest catalysts for transforming societies," Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Dina Habib Powell, co-founder of the program, said at the press conference. An additional benefit, Powell said, is that the women come to the United States as unofficial ambassadors and

"teach Americans that there is a tremendous history and heritage and culture from which they come."

"Not only do these young women learn from their mentors, but by sharing skills and experiences, they strengthen each other's leadership," added Patricia Sellers, chair of Fortune's Most Powerful Women Summit, who, along with Powell, originated the program. Participants in the program forged "not just professional, 9 to 5 relationships but personal relationships," Sellers said.



Assistant Secretary of State Dina Habib Powell, co-founder of the Mentoring Partnership. (File photo AP Images)

Moore said she still "talks" with her 2006 protégé almost every week by e-mail, adding, "No matter where we come from, there are many more similarities than differences.

"A lot of us are working parents; we have the same issues. We need to learn to communicate ... how to run an organization and inspire people to do things sometimes they don't want to do. We learn to never give up and we learn the fundamentals of leadership," Moore

said.

Aashmi Rana, managing director of Himali Pashmina Udhyog in Kathmandu, Nepal, said the experience has changed her perspective. "I will no longer be content just to advance myself. I now know clearly that I have a responsibility to make sure that other women in business -- in all of Nepal -- are given a voice in what happens and are able to contribute to the betterment of my country."

Rana had high praise for her mentor, Jacqueline Kosecoff, CEO of Ovation Pharmacy Solutions/United Health Group. Visiting Kosecoff's home, she said, she saw a focused and dynamic business leader easily shift roles to become a nurturing parent and spouse.

Germaine Gicanda said that through her mentor -- Patricia Fili-Krushel, executive vice president of administration at Time Warner Inc. -- she learned how women view their careers and "how to work hard to get to your objective."

### LEARNING NOT TO GIVE UP

Rashmi Tiwari, associate director of the American Chamber of Commerce in India, said that her mentorship will not end in New York. She has assignments from her mentors, Anne Mulcahy, CEO of Xerox, and Sophie Vandebroek, chief technology officer of Xerox. "Don't ever give up" is the most important lesson she learned, Tiwari said. "We may not get the successes in our lifetime or at this moment, but maybe for people who are coming behind us it will be easier for them to achieve their goals."

Melanne Verveer, chairman of Vital

*(Continued on page 18)*

## State Department Program Opens Doors for World's Businesswomen . . .

(Continued from page 17)

Voices Global Partnership, said an extraordinary "dividend" of the program is hearing participants talk about empowering other women in their countries, holding governments accountable and transforming their societies.

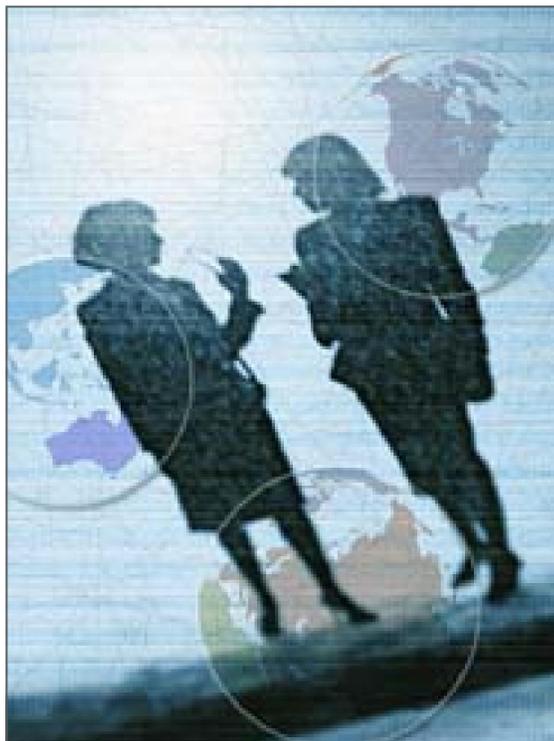
Amina Suzanah Agbaje, a partner in an Abuja law firm, said, "I want very much to quickly share so much of what I have learned with the other women lawyers in Nigeria. It is hard for me to be patient.

"My heart is full of joy not only from the experience with a prestigious American law firm, but also becoming friends with other women I have met from around the world. This is something I did not expect, but I have learned so much from them also," said Agbaje, whose mentor was Antoinette Cook Bush, a partner in the Washington law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom.

Rocio del Pilar Ardiles Reyes, a finance and administration manager with Brightstar Peru, said, "We all come from very different countries,

very different cultures, but it seems that our dreams and goals are very similar."

The participants said their mentors included them on business trips,



arranging meetings and introducing them to other women leaders throughout the United States.

Phurbu Tsamchu, owner and general manager of Tibet Snow Leop-

ard Carpets, cited confidence as the most important thing she gained from her mentor, Pat Woertz, president of Archer Daniels Midland Company.

"If you keep learning, nothing is impossible," Phurbu said. "I am going to bring back some experience, some knowledge from other companies so that I will improve our company."

Orsolya Szcus, regional director for Hungary and Austria of Epicor Software Corporation, said that getting to see a great American corporation through her mentor, Kathy Cassidy, vice president and treasurer of General Electric Company, was "a unique opportunity." She was impressed with the way the company invests in its personnel and believes "in keeping people in the company for a long time."

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

## World Partnership Helping To Stop Spread of Tuberculosis

By Eric Green  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- A worldwide partnership to stop the spread of tuberculosis (TB) is achieving success.

In a new report released May 29, a global network of more than 500 groups called the Stop TB Partnership said it has treated more than 10 million people in 78 countries in the past six years. This means, the group said, that anti-TB drugs are getting to the people who need them.

The partnership was founded in 2000 as part of the Geneva-based World Health Organization (WHO). The group's goal is to eradicate TB as a public health issue by 2050.

Kent Hill, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) assistant administrator for global health, said that treating 10 million people for TB is "a significant accomplishment and an excellent example of what strong commitment and coordinated action can achieve." USAID provides between \$5 million and \$6 million each year to the TB partnership.

Hill said USAID is "fully committed to ensuring that TB patients have access to high-quality care," that they complete their treatment for the disease and that there is continued investment in new TB drugs and "diagnostics," the tools to help researchers learn the nature of diseases by means of their symptoms or signs.

Irene Koek, chief of USAID's Infectious Diseases Division, serves as chair of the coordinating board of the Stop TB Partnership. Another board member is Kenneth Castro, director of the tuberculosis elimination division at the U.S. Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention. Marcos Espinal, the partnership's executive secretary, told USINFO May 29 that treating 10 million people for TB is a wise investment of the public's money. He said society benefits when TB patients -- most often people between ages 15 and 49 -- get well and can become productive members of the work force. Espinal said his partnership is the first group to treat so many people for TB in so many countries. He



A lab technician examines samples for suspected TB in Karachi, Pakistan. (USAID photo)

said his group's focus is to help especially 22 of the "high-burden" TB countries that generate 80 percent of the estimated 9 million new cases of the disease every year. Espinal said these countries are spread all over the world -- including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Uganda, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

Ensuring that people complete their TB treatment is "the only way to break the back" of the TB epidemic and "also the best weapon we have for preventing a potentially massive new epidemic of drug-resistant TB," said Espinal.

He said his group is "moving steadily" toward its target of treating 50 million TB patients between 2006 and 2015.

**EPIDEMIC HAS LEVELED OFF, BUT REMAINS MAJOR KILLER**

WHO announced in March that the TB epidemic had leveled off for the first time since the agency declared TB a public health emergency in 1993.

The Stop TB Partnership's new report, called 10 Million Treatments in Six Years, said its drug-supply arm, called the Global Drug Facility, ensures that its targeted low-income population receives treatment by providing life-saving TB-preventive drugs free of charge to underprivileged patients.

Michel Kazatchkine, executive director of the Geneva-based Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, said his group and the Stop TB Partnership together provide countries with financing and drugs that ensure better-run treatment programs and a continuous drug supply so that more patients can be cured of TB.

The United States is the single largest donor to the Global Fund, a public-private organization created in 2002 to accelerate the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria.

President Bush announced May 30 he will ask the U.S. Congress to double U.S. help to AIDS patients worldwide by providing \$30 billion over five years toward that effort. Bush first announced in 2003 a five-year, \$15 billion plan to complement the continued U.S. commitment to the Global Fund. ♦

## Human Antibodies Shown To Protect Mice from Avian Flu

By Cheryl Pellerin  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- An international team of scientists has reported using antibodies derived from immune cells from recent human survivors of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza to treat H5N1-infected mice and to protect them from an otherwise lethal dose of the virus.

The research is a collaboration among scientists at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, the Institute for Research in Biomedicine in Switzerland and the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Vietnam.

"If the success of this initial study is confirmed through further laboratory and clinical trials," said NIAID Director Anthony Fauci in a May 28 statement, "human monoclonal antibodies could prove to be valuable therapeutic and prophylactic [preventive] public health interventions for pandemic influenza."

Monoclonal antibodies are special hybrid disease-fighting proteins created in the laboratory from natural substances in the body.

The announcement comes amid reports of new human cases of infection by the highly pathogenic avian flu virus in China and Indonesia. These cases bring total human cases since 2003 to 308, with 186 deaths. According to a May 30 statement on the World Health Organization (WHO) Web site, the Chinese Ministry of Health reported a new case of human H5N1 infection that the national laboratory there confirmed May 23.

A 19-year-old soldier serving in Fujian province developed fever and pneumonia-like symptoms May 9 and was hospitalized May 14. He does not seem to have had contact with sick birds. Individuals with whom he had close contact are under medical observation; of 25 cases confirmed in China, 15 have been fatal.



Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

### MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES

The immune system recognizes foreign substances -- like disease-causing viruses -- as invaders called antigens. Natural defenses against antigens are antibodies, proteins that seek out antigens and help destroy them.

Antibodies are specific -- each binds to and attacks one particular antigen. Once some antibodies -- like those for chickenpox and measles -- are activated, they keep protecting

people from those diseases. This characteristic makes it possible to develop vaccines, according to the U.S. National Health Museum.

Monoclonal antibody technology lets scientists produce large amounts of pure antibodies by obtaining cells that produce antibodies naturally. They also use a class of cells that are "immortal," that is, they grow continually in cell culture.

If scientists use these cells to form a hybrid that combines the characteristic of immortality with the ability to produce the desired substance, they have a biological factory that produces antibodies around the clock.

In monoclonal antibody technology, tumor cells that replicate endlessly are fused with human cells that produce an antibody. The result of this cell fusion is a "hybridoma" that continually produces antibodies.

### PROTECTION FROM H5N1

In the work that produced human antibodies to protect mice from H5N1, four Vietnamese adults diagnosed with H5N1 flu infection between January 2004 and February 2005 agreed to donate blood soon after they recovered.

In Switzerland, Dr. Antonio Lanzavecchia extracted antibody-producing white blood cells from the Vietnamese samples and treated them with a process he developed so they produced large amounts of antibody.

Next, researchers in Dr. Kanta Subbarao's NIAID lab screened 11,000 antibody-containing samples provided by the Swiss team and found

*(Continued on page 23)*

## Bush Seeks New International Framework on Climate Change

Washington – The United States will work with other countries to establish a new international framework to address global climate change once the Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012.

Under an initiative unveiled May 31 by President Bush, 10 to 15 countries that consumer the most energy and emit the largest quantities of greenhouse gases would discuss a post-Kyoto arrangement at international meetings convened initially by the United States.

By 2009, at the end of the first phase, the countries would set a long-term global goal for reducing emissions that contribute to global climate change and establish related national mid-term energy security and environmental goals and strategies based on the nations' individual characteristics.

Bush said a strong and transparent system for measuring countries' performance must be an essential element of the new plan.

Under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, industrialized countries committed to make specific cuts in emissions of gases such as carbon dioxide that contribute to global warming. The cuts are made primarily through a "cap-and-trade" mechanism in which nations set industry caps on emissions and then allow emitters to buy or sell emissions credits to meet targets.

The United States has not ratified the Kyoto Protocol, which it believes can constrain economic growth and will achieve little because it does not include countries in the developing world such as China and India that emit large quantities of greenhouse gases.

The U.S. initiative aims to complement broader international discussions under the auspices of the United Nations on a replacement for the Kyoto agreement, according to U.S. officials.



The use of windmills to generate energy reduces emissions that contribute to global climate change. (AP Images)

The president launched his climate change initiative roughly a week ahead of the June 6-8 Summit of Group of Eight (G8) countries in Germany where global climate change is expected to be among major topics discussed. The G8 comprises Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and Russia.

"The United States takes this issue seriously," Bush said.

He said the global community can meet the double challenge of en-

ergy security and climate change through technology.

The United States has been in the forefront in technology development, investing more than \$12 billion over the past six years in research on clean-energy technology, according to official U.S. sources.

But more needs to be done worldwide to bring technology up to a level capable of meeting the global challenge, the president said.

Bush said he will encourage other G8 leaders to increase investment in clean energy research and discuss with them measures to promote such investment in developing countries.

To facilitate a large-scale transfer of technologies to countries where they are most needed, the president proposed to conclude by the end of 2007 talks on eliminating tariffs and other barriers to trade in clean-energy technologies and services. This effort would be part of the Doha round of global trade negotiations conducted under the auspices of the World Trade Organization.

In addition, Bush said, "we'll help the world's poorest nations reduce emissions by giving them government-developed technologies at low cost or, in some cases, no cost at all."

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

## Fight Against Illegal Wildlife Trade To Dominate CITES Meeting

By Lea Terhune  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington – The U.S. delegation will push for strong conservation measures and international trade protections when the 14th Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Conference of the Parties (CITES-CoP) convenes June 3-15.

“CITES has proven to be a powerful tool to prevent the extinction of species such as tigers, elephants and whales and we intend to work with other countries to support the continued protection and conservation of these species,” Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior Todd Willens, said prior to leaving for the meeting in The Hague, Netherlands. He heads the U.S. delegation.

The tentative U.S. negotiating positions on CITES agenda items were listed in the June 1 Federal Register. The notice shows elephants, Asian big cats and some fish species are of special concern.

The United States wants new restrictions on international trade in sawfish, a shark-like ray, the catching of which is banned on U.S. coasts, and on 26 species of pink and red corals. Sawfish are over-harvested for their saw and fins, and corals for jewelry and other ornaments.

Concern that China might lift its domestic moratorium on trade in tiger parts has prompted the United States to urge China to continue the ban, according to a May 25 U.S. Department of Interior statement.

Lifting the ban could increase tiger farming, which “could provide a cover for trade in illegally poached tigers.” Chinese traditional medicine uses a number of endangered plant and animal species, including tigers,

population in India. Parts from wild tigers are more desirable and less expensive to obtain than the costly farm-raised variety, he said.

Because of “the potential for creating or increasing demand for wild Appendix-I

[greatly endangered] species,” the United States supports use of alternative ingredients in traditional medicines instead of captive breeding, according to the Federal Register notice.

A proposal by Botswana and Namibia for an annual ivory export quota will be watched carefully by the United States, which has opposed such quotas. The U.S. position is that until conditions are fulfilled for a one-time ivory sale approved by CITES in 2002, consideration of export quotas is premature.

Another item on the CITES agenda that will draw U.S. interest is the role of the Internet in the illegal wildlife trade. The United States has invested enforcement resources to police illegal Internet sale of endangered wildlife.



An egret stands on a one-horned rhinoceros at the state zoological park in Gauhati, India. (File photo AP Images)

rhinoceros, bears and saiga antelopes. Studies have shown that demand in China has contributed to decline of these species.

Conservationists support the U.S. position. Ashok Kumar of Wildlife Trust of India told USINFO that tiger farms would precipitate the extinction of the already precarious tiger

Organizations such as the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) join in countering Internet ivory trade. For the past two years, IFAW has lobbied eBay, the U.S.-based Internet auction site, to stop online sale of ivory. IFAW's Peter Pueschel told USINFO it has been a tough fight. “Enforcement in eBay

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## Human Antibodies Shown To Protect Mice from . . .

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a handful able to neutralize H5N1 flu virus.

Based on these results, Lanzavecchia created four monoclonal antibodies that secrete H5N1-specific neutralizing antibodies.

Subbarao and co-workers first tested whether the human H5N1 monoclonal antibodies could protect mice from severe H5N1 infection.

The mice receiving non-H5N1 monoclonal antibodies developed severe illness and died within a week. Those receiving the first H5N1 monoclonal antibody tested survived, and 80 percent of mice receiving the highest dose of the second H5N1 monoclonal antibody survived. The scientists also tested the therapeutic potential of the human H5N1 monoclonal antibodies. Using blood products from flu survivors is an old idea, they said.

During the flu pandemic of 1918-1919, for example, physicians took serum from recovered flu patients and gave it to new victims; recent historical research indicates that those blood transfusions, when given early in the illness, sometimes saved lives.

Taken together, Subbarao said, the research findings show that fully human monoclonal antibodies with potent H5N1 flu virus neutralizing ability can be generated quickly from the blood of convalescent patients, and that the monoclonal antibodies work well to treat H5N1 infection and prevent death from such infection, at least in mice.

The authors plan to take the research forward by scaling up the production of H5N1 monoclonal antibodies and, if the technique is safe and effective in more animal tests, to evaluate the human monoclonal antibodies in clinical trials in people.

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## Fight Against Illegal Wildlife Trade To Dominate CITES Meeting . . .

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is a disaster," he said, "It looks like they aren't taking it seriously at all." Pueschel said criminals may launder contraband ivory easily on the Internet, and he credits the Chinese government for banning Internet ivory sales.

Final U.S. positions on several proposals on the CITES-CoP agenda are pending reports at the conference. Issues on the agenda include the listing of plant and animal species under Appendix I, which prohibits all commercial trade; Appendix II, which allows strictly controlled trade; or Appendix III, which lists species in need of regional trade monitoring and regulation. Trade control, monitoring and handling of wildlife will be discussed.

The United States has a long commitment to species conservation, domestically and internationally. The United States finances programs through congressionally mandated multinational species conservation funds and Wildlife Without Borders, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Separate funds promote conservation of Asian and African elephants, tigers, rhinoceros, great apes and marine turtles.

CITES embodies an international agreement to control and regulate global trade in threatened plant and animal species. The United States is among 171 signatories to the pact.

The full text ( [2714.htm \) of the Federal Register notice is available on the U.S. Government Printing Office Web site.](http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/07-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

The full text ( <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/hearings/hearingdetail.aspx?NewsID=63> ) of Willens testimony in early May to a House Natural Resources Committee subcommittee on U.S. preparations for the CITES meeting is available on the House Natural Resources Committee Web site.

For additional information on U.S. policy, see Environment ( [http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/environment.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/environment.html) ).

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