



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

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## U.S. Supporting Human Rights and Democracy for Africa

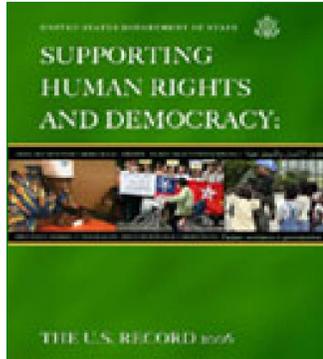
U.S. Department of State Released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, April 5, 2007

Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2006

Africa

"If they think they can stop me from speaking against injustice, corruption and misgovernment ..., then they are mistaken. It will not stop me."

Trevor Ncube, Zimbabwe journalist harassed by government



Many countries in Africa made significant headway along the road to democracy, bringing new hope to the region. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) held its first democratic and credible presidential and legislative elections in more than

40 years, and democratic elections in Benin, Madagascar, and Mauritania brought renewed optimism to the region. As countries moved toward greater democratic governance, US assistance focused on building political

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## State's Frazer Visits Somalia To Support Peace Efforts

By Melody Merin  
USINFO Special Correspondent

Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendaya Frazier visited Baidoa, Somalia, April 7 to reiterate the U.S. commitment to support the Somali people in their efforts to achieve and uphold security and stability in their country. Frazer's visit to Somalia was the first visit by a senior U.S. official in more than 10 years.

According to a statement released by the U.S. State Department that day, Frazer

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Assistant Secretary Jendaya Frazier meets Somali President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed (R) and Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gedi (L). (AP Images)

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## U.S. Supporting Human Rights and Democracy for Africa . . .

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plurality, ensuring voter registration, and providing election monitoring. In Uganda, the United States supported Ugandans' decision to adopt a multiparty political system by funding programs to enhance voter participation and political pluralism, and improve the administration of presidential and parliamentary elections. Nonetheless, institutionalizing democratic reforms across the continent continued to be a major challenge.

Key human rights problems, principally armed conflict, remained throughout Africa. In Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic (CAR), DRC, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda, US priorities included ending the violence that threatens so many lives and livelihoods, protecting vulnerable populations from further suffering, and bringing peace and stability to the region. In June, The Gambia was suspended from eligibility for assistance from the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a US Government-owned corporation that delivers targeted assistance to developing countries, after restricting civil liberties and press freedom in the wake of a springtime failed coup.

Despite the May 5th signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), genocide continued in Darfur. In 2006, the United States led the international community in diplomatic and humanitarian efforts to stop the violence and protect the lives of millions of innocent civilians through peace negotiations, action at the UN Security Council, and aggressive promotion and support of a robust, international peacekeeping force in Darfur. The US continued its role as the world's largest donor of humanitarian assistance to Sudan.

In Zimbabwe, where the ruling party maintained its monopoly on the executive branch, the United States encouraged the efforts of the Parliament, the judiciary, and local government to exercise some independence. A US-sponsored program to strengthen parliamentary committees helped increase debate from both opposition and reform-minded ruling party members and encouraged greater transparency through public hearings on legislation. US programming also provided much-needed training for local government leaders in Sierra Leone's recently reconstructed public infrastructure, helping town and district councils take on greater responsibilities for local governance issues, including health and agricultural services, as the central government continued to develop.

A vibrant and involved civil society is one of the best long-term guarantees of democratic stability. Throughout Africa, the United States worked to strengthen civic education in communities, support the development of civil society, including nascent nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and labor movements, and diversify the sources of information available to communities. For example, US-funded grants supported local NGOs who educated communities on human rights, HIV/AIDS, reconciliation, and peace building throughout Liberia.

US programs promoted free, economically stable, and socially-responsible media in the region. African journalists participated in professional exchange program visits to the United States. In the DRC, the United States held twelve workshops and an internet training course to help nearly 500 journalists improve their political reporting. US-sponsored programs also helped

promote the free flow of independent and objective information in Zimbabwe, Chad, Burundi, Mauritania, Liberia, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, and Ethiopia.

In response to the corruption that continued to plague many countries in the region, the United States made the development of modern, efficient, and transparent legal systems an assistance priority for Africa. In Chad, the United States provided technical assistance to the Oil Revenue Management College to promote accountability in projects financed by oil revenues, and funded a budget-training workshop for parliamentarians. The United States also financially supported anticorruption efforts in Zambia, Chad, Liberia, and The Gambia.

United States support for human rights protections, including the rights of women, minorities, and the disabled, mirrored the growing demands for personal and political freedoms in the region. Swaziland passed its first constitution in 32 years that provided for an independent judiciary and gave equal legal rights to women, although the citizens of the country wait for its full implementation. The United States worked throughout the region to improve awareness of human rights principles among military and law enforcement agencies, to ameliorate conditions in prisons, educate women and minorities of their legal rights, and build linkages among human rights organizations. In Uganda, the United States supported an extensive project to improve the rights and status of women that included mentoring sessions between female members of Parliament and more than 300 prospective female candidates for local and national office.

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## State's Frazer Visits Somalia To Support Peace Efforts . . .

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met with Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed and Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Ghedi, as well as leaders of the Transitional Federal Institutions, clans and civil society. She urged them to follow an "inclusive political process" based on the Transitional Federal Charter, which provides a United Nations-backed framework on ways to restore peace and good governance to Somalia.

Frazer and local officials who met with her all agreed that an inclusive reconciliation process "should be open to all Somalis who eschew violence, extremism and terrorism," the statement said. Moving ahead

expeditiously with the national reconciliation process will lay the groundwork to carry out successfully the transition to an elected government set for 2009, it added.

Prior to her visit to Baidoa, Frazer attended a meeting in Cairo of the International Contact Group on Somalia. The International Contact Group emphasized concern about the violence in Mogadishu and the need for monetary aid to help install security forces in Somalia.

Frazer noted that the U.S. government will continue with its plan to offer \$40 million in aid to Somalia. She has requested from Congress an additional \$60 million for security, support development and hu-

manitarian needs and to assist in the deployment of an African Union Mission in Somalia.

Somalia has been ravaged by years of clan warfare. In December 2006, a coalition comprised of TFG and Ethiopian forces took power from the radical Islamic Courts Council to create a national unity government.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice noted in January that "[t]he Somali people and the international community have an historic opportunity to begin to move beyond two-decades of warlordism, extreme violence, and human suffering." ♦

## U.S. Supporting Human Rights and Democracy for Africa . . .

*(Continued from page 2)*

The variety of religious expression in Africa provides a unique showcase for interfaith and interethnic tolerance. In many countries with sizable Muslim populations, an interfaith gathering to mark the end of the holy month of Ramadan has become an annual embassy event. The United States promoted religious freedom through speeches and by gathering for occasions such as Iftar dinners to engage in dialogue with Muslim leaders in various African countries. The United States has worked extensively in Nigeria on the problems of interreligious violence and constraints on religious freedom, meeting with political and religious leaders at both the national and local levels to gain a better understanding of existing tensions.

Throughout Africa, the United States devoted substantial resources to prevent trafficking in persons and a range of labor rights abuses. These programs provided educational opportunities and job training for at-risk youth, expanded cooperation among law enforcement bodies, and helped victims reintegrate into their home communities. For example, the United States funded a cross-border anti-trafficking awareness program in Liberia and Sierra Leone, and continued to expand educational opportunities for nearly 10,000 children either employed or at risk of being employed in the worst forms of child labor. Kenya, Angola, DRC, Zimbabwe, and Guinea, among others, also received US support for human rights protection programs, including initiatives to combat sexual violence and abuse of women.

Countries with accountable governments, political and economic freedoms, and respect for individual human rights enjoy a strong advantage in building prosperous, healthy, and educated populations. It is no coincidence that conflict, chaos, corrupt and oppressive governments, and humanitarian crisis often co-exist. The United States will continue to promote democracy and advance human rights in Africa to help the countries of the continent further develop the groundwork for peace, security, and stability.

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

## Deputy Secretary Negroponte To Engage Sudan on Peacekeepers

By Stephen Kaufman  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte will visit Sudan and neighboring countries April 11-19, focusing on the crisis in Darfur and continuing efforts to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement and Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said April 5.

In his meetings with Sudanese officials, Negroponte will be encouraging Sudan to take the steps necessary to allow the three-phased deployment of a hybrid African Union-United Nations peacekeeping force, which McCormack said is "fundamental to providing security and greater stability in Darfur," as well as helping to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement.

"Most important ... [the peacekeepers] would allow some easing of the terrible humanitarian situation that we find in Darfur right now," he said.

Negroponte also plans to discuss the ability of nongovernmental organizations to operate and deliver humanitarian assistance in Darfur in the face of continued attacks.

"The Sudanese government needs to do everything that it possibly can to halt, stop, prevent any attacks on innocent civilians or those aid groups," McCormack said.

The spokesman said that because the situation in Darfur is "a regional crisis," Negroponte also will be

traveling to Chad, Libya and Mauritania.

"The focus of his discussions will be on Sudan and how Libya, how Chad can play a role in resolving

Bashir. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2007&m=April&x=20070402162503esnamfuak0.7766992> ).)



A refugee waits for a medical examination at the Turkish Red Crescent Hospital in the Darfur city of Nyala, February 2007. (AFP/File/Mustafa Ozer)

the conflict, [and] what they might do. It certainly touches on their borders," he said, adding that Sudan's neighbors can play "an active, positive role" by encouraging the Sudanese government to take steps to help resolve the crisis, as well as to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Asked about the possibility of U.N. sanctions on Sudan if it does not cooperate with the peacekeeping efforts, McCormack said the Bush administration first wants to speak with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon about his recent discussions with Sudanese President Omar al-

"It's a combination of taking a look at what other diplomacy is ongoing, whether or not that's yielding results, as well as internally taking a look at what it is we would put on the table for next steps that we would take," McCormack said. However, he added that if the Sudanese "don't change their behavior, I wouldn't bet against the United States, as well as others, taking additional steps."

*(The Washington File 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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## U.S. Agencies Help Malawi Police Improve Skills, Gain Confidence

"The first effect you see is in the officers. The training has built a higher sense of confidence in themselves and their sense of duty. They are able to handle situations better than they used to," said Lot Dzonzi, commissioner general of the Malawi Police Service (MPS).

When the Malawi government wanted to qualify for Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) development funding, it decided to tackle the related problems of corruption and poor police training.

With support from the MCC threshold program, which is for select countries that are close to qualifying for multiyear MCC grants, in late 2006 several officers from the MPS participated in a practical skills training course provided by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The Justice Department's International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) provides training to improve the performance of police forces in emerging democracies. The training is based on internationally recognized principles of human rights, rule of law and modern police practices.

"This training is going to enhance our ability to be of service to Malawian people -- both victims of crimes and suspects. The people who need the services of the MPS will now be handled by people who are competent and can get to the root of things without being abusive," Dzonzi said.

"The training has enhanced investigative abilities and [has] been able to target results," he said. It is making "a very significant difference" in the quality of evidence collected.

Dzonzi said that as the citizens of Malawi become more aware of their rights, the training enables police officers to meet their "growing expectations" for quality police service.

The "beauty" of the training program is that it was not "imposed" by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) or MCC, Dzonzi said.

"It's a program that's been jointly developed. The training needs and gaps are something that we jointly identified. This training is complimentary and supplementary to other trainings," he said.

The entire training was hands-on, with each trainee able to practice using all the equipment, such as handcuffs and fingerprinting equipment, as well as computers and projectors for teaching. Team-building was a focus.

Crime Officer Geoffrey Fumbanani Mgungwe, who participated in the training and now teaches it to other MPS officers, said that in the past, police duties were not very well defined.

"I've received a lot of training. I've been to Swaziland, India and the UK [United Kingdom], but the training this time was different. The ap-

proach was more detailed this time," Mgungwe said.

Officers are usually the first to arrive on the scene after a crime has been committed. "They have a critical role to play. They have to secure the area and hand it over to the investigators," Mgungwe said.

The public now understands what police officers are supposed to do when they arrive at a crime scene. "This allows them to have confidence in the job you are doing," Mgungwe added.

He said part of the training also involved prosecutors. They learned how to collect evidence and investigate a crime scene so the evidence can be used at a trial.

The police service plans to mainstream this type of training into all of its programs.

Mgungwe went on to serve as an instructor in the course for prosecutors conducted jointly by MPS instructors and regional legal adviser Peter Strasser.

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

## U.S. College's "Coexistence House" Promotes Religious Tolerance

By Carolee Walker  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington – Spring in the United States is often the time when university students get together with friends to submit their fall housing requests, hoping to share living spaces with people they know and who share compatible lifestyles. Not so for the 14 Muslim, Christian and Jewish women who have chosen to room together at the Middle East Coexistence House at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

By agreeing to live with each other, students also agree to accept each other regardless of their religious beliefs, Dalia Gheith, a Muslim and a freshman at Rutgers' all-female Douglass College, said in a USINFO webchat on April 4. "We try to understand each other's points of view and learn more about each other's backgrounds." Gheith and several other residents of the house participated in the hourlong webchat.

The Middle East Coexistence House is part of a growing grassroots effort on American campuses to bridge cultural gaps and embrace diversity, according to Danielle Josephs, a senior, who founded the house in 2005. Josephs' father is an Iraqi Jew and her Iraqi grandparents lived among Arab and Muslim neighbors. "I am determined, through this project, to help demystify misperceptions about Islam and Muslim women," said Josephs, who speaks Hebrew and is studying Arabic.

"There are 'ah-ha!' moments every day," Josephs said. "Every encounter broadens your knowledge base. For example, at the outset of the project, I was unaware that Muslim women could take off their hijab

[traditional headscarf] in the presence of other women. During the first week, when one of my residents took off her scarf, I practically ran the other way so as not to embarrass her." "Sometimes we see similarities among cultures and



Middle East Coexistence House residents watch "The Battle of Algiers" on a laptop computer. (Courtesy Danielle Josephs)

philosophies that one may not expect," said Samantha Shanni, a sophomore majoring in psychology and Middle Eastern studies, whose mother is Christian and father is Jewish.

"I was used to dealing with other religions because half of my family is also Jewish. But I do find that when talking about Christianity in American society a lot of people only talk about the evangelicals or extremely conservative Christians in the government. It is similar to the way people can stereotype Muslims as one certain thing. The more knowledgeable on the religion you are the less this happens," Shanni said.

For Muslims to live in peace with non-Muslims in the United States, Gheith said, Muslims themselves must "have a good understanding of the tolerance of which our faith speaks and which it promotes. Consequently, we will become more open and accept dealing with and living amongst people of different faiths."

"I ... believe in the power of American Muslims in the Arab world," said Sara Elnakib, a Muslim and a senior studying nutritional sciences who was born in Egypt. "I personally am planning to go back to Egypt to live there after I graduate and hopefully somehow change health care in the Middle East."

Because Coexistence House residents are beginning to understand how to bridge religious differences, Gheith said, the students try to promote the message of coexistence on campus and outside school. Few pressing issues of the day, including environmental problems, poverty and security can be solved without working together as a global community, according to Josephs. "There are many inspiring examples of Israelis and Palestinians in the Middle East collaborating on environmental projects in the region. These gigantic problems will only be solved if we put our minds together and commit to work as a team."

Ultimately, it might be easier for women of different faiths to cooperate with each other than it would

*(Continued on page 15)*



Danielle Josephs founded Coexistence House to help demystify misperceptions about Islam and Muslim women. (Courtesy Danielle Josephs)

## Financial Institutions Expand Products that Target U.S. Muslims

By Elizabeth Kelleher  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington – In the coming year, a bank subsidiary in Michigan will expand its reach by offering products targeted to Muslims in three metropolitan areas outside of that state.

The University Islamic Financial Corporation, a subsidiary of University Bank, a community bank in Ann Arbor, Michigan, will reach Muslims in the Washington metropolitan area via a suburban office in Herndon, Virginia. It plans to open in two more locations, as yet undisclosed, shortly thereafter.

The bank subsidiary's president, Stephen Lange Ranzini, estimates that Michigan is home to approximately 400,000 Muslims, "the largest community of Arab Muslims outside of the Middle East."

Locations of these new branches have been chosen for their proximity to large Muslim populations. The bank subsidiary seeks to serve a customer niche that does not want to buy a home using traditional home loans, which involve paying interest, popular in the United States. Such customers interpret Islamic law, or Shariah, as forbidding the paying or charging of interest.

Since the end of 2005, the Michigan bank subsidiary has offered its alternative home-financing products only to Michigan residents. But Ranzini said it has built products that will be compliant with the laws of other states.

The first of two home-finance products the Ranzini's institution offers in Michigan is called *ijara* – in which

the bank holds ownership of a property and leases it back to a customer, who pays property taxes, insurance and maintenance, and who eventually buys the home back through the lease payments. The second is called *murabaha* – in which the bank buys the property and sells it to the customer at a profit, the total of which is divided into monthly payments.



Devon Bank, in Chicago, also offers housing finance using the *murabaha* model and has begun selling its contracts to Freddie Mac, a stockholder-owned corporation established by Congress in 1970 to support homeownership. Brad German, a spokesman for Freddie Mac, said the corporation is buying a fair number of contracts – business that has gone from nothing in March 2001, when it was the first major U.S. mortgage investor to contract to purchase Islamic homeownership products, to roughly \$200 million a year.

The Michigan bank subsidiary also offers deposit accounts in which it invests depositors' money into Islamic assets. The accounts are called *mudaraba* (or profit-sharing)

contracts. After taking an administrative fee, the bank gives profit from the investment to account holders.

Finally, the bank offers mutual funds – investment in groups of stocks that are screened to eliminate companies involved in alcohol, tobacco, gambling or other products or activities that would not comply with Islamic law. The companies' whose stocks are included in the funds are screened for the amount of interest they earn (eliminating banks, insurance companies, and financial service companies). The definitions of what amount of interest a company might earn often becomes controversial, Ranzini said. UIFC offers its customers the Amana funds, managed by Saturna

Capital in Bellingham Washington.



Stephen Lange Ranzini  
President & Chairman,  
University Bank

Other funds are put together by the Dow Jones Islamic Market Index Group, which also uses interest and debt screens on companies to put together some 60 different equity indexes of companies that are Shariah compliant. The indexes can be used as benchmarks or licensed as financial products, according to a spokes-

woman at Dow Jones. She said they appeal to conventional investors, as well as Muslims, because they "outperform the traditional indexes they are derived from," she said.

Other financial institutions are serving the Muslim market, including Guidance Financial Group, in Reston, Virginia, and Lariba American Finance, in Pasadena, Califor-

*(Continued on page 15)*

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## Secretary Rice Cites Importance of Free Press to Democracy

By Eric Green  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice praised journalists for being on the front lines to report "some of the most difficult conflicts in the world."

Speaking April 10 at the State Department-sponsored Edward R. Murrow Journalism program, Rice said journalists very often have sacrificed their lives to bring the news to the general public.

"And so I especially want to acknowledge that sacrifice," said Rice, speaking at the program, which brought about 200 journalists from around the world to examine journalistic practices in the United States.

The secretary welcomed the journalists to America, saying the program, developed by the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, allows for an interchange of discussion by journalists on vital foreign policy issues.

Rice said, "There is no more important pillar of democracy than a free and active press," what American "founding father" Thomas Jefferson called "the fourth estate." Jefferson meant, said the secretary, that without a free and active press, "the people could not be certain that their views would be known to their leaders and that their leaders' views would be known to them."

In countries without freedom, said Rice, journalists are the ones "who make the sacrifice and endure the danger to try and report to the outside world so that those places can be free. And so journalists are not just reporters ... of great events, they are also very involved in mak-

ing those events happen."

The second annual Murrow program, planned for April 7-28, involves a public-private partnership between the State Department, the Washington-based Aspen Institute, an international nonprofit group, and 12 leading U.S. schools of journalism. Edward R. Murrow, a renowned figure in the history of American broadcast journalism, served as the director of the U.S. Information Agency from 1961 to 1964.

The contributions and sacrifices made by journalists will also be recognized on World Press Freedom Day May 3. The United States and the United Nations, among others, will hold events that day to raise awareness of the importance of press freedom. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2006/May/01-313893.html>)).

### RICE ON WORLD EVENTS

Following her opening remarks at the Murrow forum, Rice fielded questions from the journalists on a variety of topics, including the various crises afflicting sub-Saharan Africa, the international force fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan, the increase in the number of leftist governments in Latin America, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in the Middle East and U.S. relations with Russia.

Regarding sub-Saharan Africa, Rice said President Bush launched a \$15 billion program to bring treatment to hundreds of thousands of Africans suffering from AIDS. In addition, Bush also announced a \$1.43 billion malaria initiative aimed at eradicating 50 percent of the malaria cases on the African continent. On the conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan, Rice said the United States

continues to be "very engaged" in trying to end the conflict in which many thousands of people have lost their lives. (See Darfur Humanitarian Emergency (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/darfur.html>)).

The secretary called Afghanistan a "remarkable story," saying that in 2001 the Taliban ruled that nation. The brutal Taliban regime has been overthrown, said Rice, replaced by a democratic government that "Afghans went and voted for in huge numbers." (See Rebuilding Afghanistan ([http://usinfo.state.gov/sa/rebuilding\\_afghanistan.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/sa/rebuilding_afghanistan.html))).

Rice said President Bush emphasized during his March 8-14 trip to Latin America that the United States can and will work with governments "wherever they come from on the political spectrum, as long as they respect democratic elections and values."

Rice said she is "devoted to the creation of a Palestinian state" so that a democratic Palestine and Israel "can live side by side in peace."

Both the Palestinians and the Israelis need to recognize "that they're going to have to share the land," said Rice. When they do, "there is going to be a renunciation of violence and a respect for each other," Rice said.

Rice said the United States has, "essentially, a good relationship" with Russia.

The two countries do not agree about everything, "but we cooperate very well on a whole host of issues," said Rice. ♦

# Global Crackdown on Nongovernmental Agencies a Major U.S. Concern

By Jane Morse  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) increasingly are suffering under repressive governments, and the United States is intensifying its efforts to reverse this destructive trend, says Paula Dobriansky, State Department under secretary for democracy and global affairs.

Dobriansky spoke during the April 5 press briefing in Washington for the State Department's annual report Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2006. She noted that this year's report highlights the fact that "in spite of international commitments, we are witnessing a crackdown by some governments on NGOs and other civil society actors."

A number of governments, Dobriansky said, "have passed or are selectively applying laws against NGOs and civil society groups in an attempt to restrict freedom of expression, association and assembly."

In response, the United States budgeted more than \$1.2 billion in human rights and democracy programming for fiscal year 2006. These programs are aimed at promoting free and fair elections and defending human rights, the right to worship freely and the right of workers to organize, Dobriansky said.

Barry F. Lowenkron, the assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor, noted that U.S. programs to support human rights and democracy are tailored to meet the challenges of each particular country and region. Some

U.S. aid goes to supporting NGOs that promote democracy and human rights, he said. Other U.S. aid goes to support broadcasting or foster exchanges. In every case, he said, U.S. support sends a clear message that the defenders of democracy and human rights are not alone.



Under Secretary Paula Dobriansky says a number of governments are cracking down on NGOs' efforts. (AFP/Karen Bleier)

In 2006, Secretary of State Rice released 10 guiding principles regarding the treatment of NGOs by governments, in recognition that NGOs, in the language of the report, "are essential to the development and success of free societies and that they play a vital role in ensuring accountable, democratic government."

These principles, Lowenkron said, have been sent out to U.S. embassies worldwide for further dissemination. "We hope that our contribution of the 10 NGO principles will help to rally worldwide support for embattled NGOs," he said.

Another Bush administration initiative launched by Rice in 2006 is the Human Rights Defenders Fund. This fund, Lowenkron explained,

enables the State Department to quickly disperse small grants to human rights defenders facing "extraordinary needs" as a result of government repression.

The State Department each year submits the Supporting Human Rights and Democracy report to Congress, as called for by the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 2003. Its release, by law, follows that of the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, which, for the year 2006, assessed the human rights practices of 196 countries.

The report documents the various tools applied by the United States to support indigenous democratic reform efforts across the globe. U.S. support is focused on the "core components" of a working democracy and the ability of human rights to be protected. These core components are free and fair elections, transparent and accountable institutions operating under the rule of law, and a robust civil society and independent media.

A transcript ( <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/rm/2007/82655.htm> ) of Dobriansky's remarks is available on the State Department's Web site.

The full text ( <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/shrd/2006/> ) of the report is available on the State Department Web site.

*(The Washington File 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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## Developing Countries Need To Act To Prevent Official Misconduct

By Andrzej Zwaniecki  
USINFO Staff Writer

Johannesburg, South Africa -- Developing nations should not wait for a national scandal to put in place a system for preventing and detecting misconduct by public officials, says a representative of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE).

The creation of the OGE in 1978 was one of the good-governance reforms introduced in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal in the United States. The name of the scandal refers to a 1972 break-in at Democratic Party headquarters in the Watergate Hotel in Washington by operatives of President Richard Nixon's re-election committee and the following cover-up, which led to the president's resignation.

The OGE, a small, semi-independent agency within the executive branch, administers code of conduct, financial disclosure and ethics training programs for federal officials and employees.

Jane Ley, deputy director of the office, said many developing countries where corruption is widespread are under pressure to investigate and prosecute cases of bribery and fraud and do not pay much attention to preventing misconduct.

But most international anti-corruption conventions and similar commitments those countries honor call for codes of conduct for public officials and other good-governance measures.

"At some point they will have to think about prevention and detection measures as well," Ley told USINFO April 3 at the Global Forum on Fighting Corruption, being held

in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Ley is co-leader of the U.S. delegation to the forum. She spoke to forum delegates about establishing systems for managing conflict-of-interest issues.

Many developing countries already address such issues, she said, al-



though rarely through separate bodies, mostly because of a lack of experience and experts.

"We can help them learn from our mistakes and the experience of others," Ley said. "We can show them there is a much faster learning curve than the one they are on now."

The number of countries seeking such learning opportunities is growing, as indicated by increasingly frequent requests for technical assistance from OGE in the last 10 years, Ley said.

The agency shares its ideas and experiences with foreign governments directly and through multilateral fora. The OGE has formal ties with counterparts in Argentina and Slovenia and has worked with other countries, including post-Soviet republics.

The relationships with Argentina and Slovenia have a broader regional impact in Latin America and the Balkans, Ley said.

The OGE also has an extensive network of contacts with fellow organizations around the world, including the Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption, considered a global authority on government ethics.

Some countries seeking OGE's assistance have quite different political and economic regimes than those existing in the United States and may choose different approaches to managing conflicts of interest. The OGE encourages governments not to make specific policy decisions but rather to take management steps that can help prevent or detect official misconduct, Ley said.

"But you have to start somewhere," she said.

For example, she said, the majority of U.S. government officials and employees put high value on having access to a person -- an ethics officer, for example -- who can answer questions related to official conduct, according to OGE surveys. "Such or similar persons can be made available to public officials and employees almost anywhere in the world," Ley said.

For additional information, see Bribery and Corruption ( [http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic\\_issues/bribery\\_and\\_corruption.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/bribery_and_corruption.html) ).

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

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## U.S. Training Helps Fight Global Securities Fraud

By Jaroslaw Anders  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Securities regulators from nearly 70 countries will come to Washington April 17 to take part in the two-week annual International Institute for Securities Market Development program organized by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

"In the globalized economy there is a great need for cooperation between regulators around the globe. We need the cooperation of sophisticated, well-trained counterparts in other jurisdictions," Robert M. Fisher, assistant director in the SEC Office of International Affairs told USINFO.

The SEC is the U.S. regulatory agency mandated to protect investors, maintain fair, orderly and efficient markets, and facilitate capital formation.

Now in its 16th year, the institute is the SEC's main global training program bringing together senior securities regulators from emerging or recently emerged market economies for a series of lectures, panels and workshops on the development, operation and regulation of securities markets.

After the training, participants have a chance to gain hands-on experience while visiting with U.S. stock exchanges, investment firms and nongovernmental self-regulatory organizations.

Later in 2007, delegates from developed markets will meet in Washington at a one-week Institute for Securities Enforcement and Market Oversight program. That program focuses on practical techniques for conducting investigations, market surveillance and auditor oversight.

Both institutes are part of a range of international training run by the SEC throughout the world in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), international financial institutions and nongovernmental organizations. In 2006, SEC provided training for more than 1,000 officials from 107 countries.

SEC training is helping countries build their own regulatory systems and protect investors in an increasingly borderless investment environment, according to the SEC official. Apart from sharing best practices and globally applicable standards, the program builds mutual trust and understanding needed in large enforcement operations, he told USINFO.

"We are building strong relationships and making good friends around the world, Fisher said.

He added that in today's global economy it is common that crucial evidence of securities crimes committed in the United States is found abroad. Foreign regulators "often request our help and we often request their help." This cooperation has resulted in hundreds of successful transborder investigations, the official said.

The United States does not try to impose its own regulatory solutions on other countries, the SEC official said. However, foreign regulators might find aspects of the U.S. model useful and implement them in their jurisdictions.

"To the extent that regulators around the world are sharing ideas and approaches to various challenges with one another, there is more likely to be long-term convergence in regulation, and that tends to reduce cost for investors, issuers

and everybody in the market," Ethiopis Tafara, director of the SEC Office of International Affairs told USINFO.

The SEC international training program was initiated primarily to train securities regulators from former communist countries in Eastern Europe. Since then, it has branched out to offer training to regulators in practically every region of the world. SEC regulators work with their counterparts in South and East Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2006, the SEC conducted training programs in a number of overseas locations including China, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Ecuador, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq.

The faculty of the SEC courses includes senior SEC officials as well as representatives of other U.S. government agencies, self-regulatory organizations and representatives of major U.S. securities companies.

SEC representatives say their agency is positioned uniquely to share the agency's expertise with international partners. The commission officers deal every day with cases of insider trading, market manipulation, market surveillance, financial disclosure and other aspects of modern securities markets. They are willing to share their collective knowledge with their counterparts abroad, they say.

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

## U.S. Official Cites Significant Progress in Removing Land Mines

By Jim Fisher-Thompson  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington – After considerable progress in removing land mines across the world, the greater problem today is with unexploded munitions, says a senior State Department official.

Richard Kidd, director of the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, said April 4 during a webchat with an audience in Eastern Europe that the accomplishments in humanitarian land mine removal have been significant in reducing deaths and injuries.

"Everyone involved in mine action should be proud of the accomplishments to date, with casualties down to well under 10,000 per year and processes in place to focus resources where they will have the greatest impact," Kidd said. "Today, more people come to harm through tampering with unexploded ordnance than by land mines."

For example, he pointed out that in a recent accidental explosion of an ammunition dump in Maputo, Mozambique, more people were killed there than by land mines in the past three years. Those mines are remnants of a bloody civil war during which thousands of land mines were emplaced in the southern African nation. So, "It is right and appropriate to shift focus to where the problem is," he said.

Looking toward the future, Kidd said, "It will not be too long before major [land mine removal] programs start to scale down and response mechanisms are put in place to meet small-scale threats as they emerge."

Asked by a mine removal worker in Macedonia how he could secure funding to remove mines left over from past wars, Kidd suggested a range of options starting with submitting a request through the International Trust Fund for Humanitarian Demining (ITF), located in Slove-

of anti-personnel land mines in 1993. In terms of mines found in countries around the world, U.S.-manufactured land mines emplaced by U.S. troops are found today only in Southeast Asia -- in Vietnam, placed there during the war more than 30 years ago.



A man tries a new pair of artificial legs in Kabul after recovering from a land mine accident. (File photo AP Images)

nia. "It is through the ITF that the U.S. contributes just under \$10 million per year to work in South East Europe," he said.

Another option, he said, is to approach private foundations or groups associated with mine action and 50 of them could be found through on his office's Web site at the State Department.

When he was asked if the United States was the world's largest distributor of land mines, Kidd responded: "No, this is a common misperception."

Quite to the contrary, Kidd said the United States was the first country in the world to prohibit the export

of anti-personnel land mines in 1993. He said that U.S. land mine policy is "to leave no mine behind of any type on any battlefield anywhere in the world." To achieve that goal, he said "the U.S. is committed to using only mines that are command-controlled or that have multiple self-destruct fuses."

Kidd pointed out that in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Angola, Cambodia and elsewhere "the vast majority of mines removed ... were manufactured in either the former Soviet Union or in China." ♦

## Cancer a Growing Problem in Poorer Countries, Researcher Says

By Judy Aita  
USINFO United Nations Correspondent

United Nations -- Cancer researchers estimate that the number of cancer cases will more than double over the next 25 years, with the great majority of the increase in developing countries.

Dr. Peter Boyle, director of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), said April 3 that his agency estimates "between 2000 and 2030 there will be a more than doubling of the number of cases of cancer diagnosed each year, and the great majority of the increase will be in the low- and medium-resource countries."

"Cancer is still a big problem in the Western countries, but it is now becoming an increasing, growing problem in the lower-resource countries -- and that is to continue," he said at a press conference at U.N. headquarters. "We are going to see big increases in the absolute numbers of cases" in the poorer countries.

He attributed the rise to population growth, the aging of the population and "the successful exportation of cancer risk factors" such as smoking from developed to developing countries.

"A billion people are going to die this century because of the effects of smoking," Boyle said.

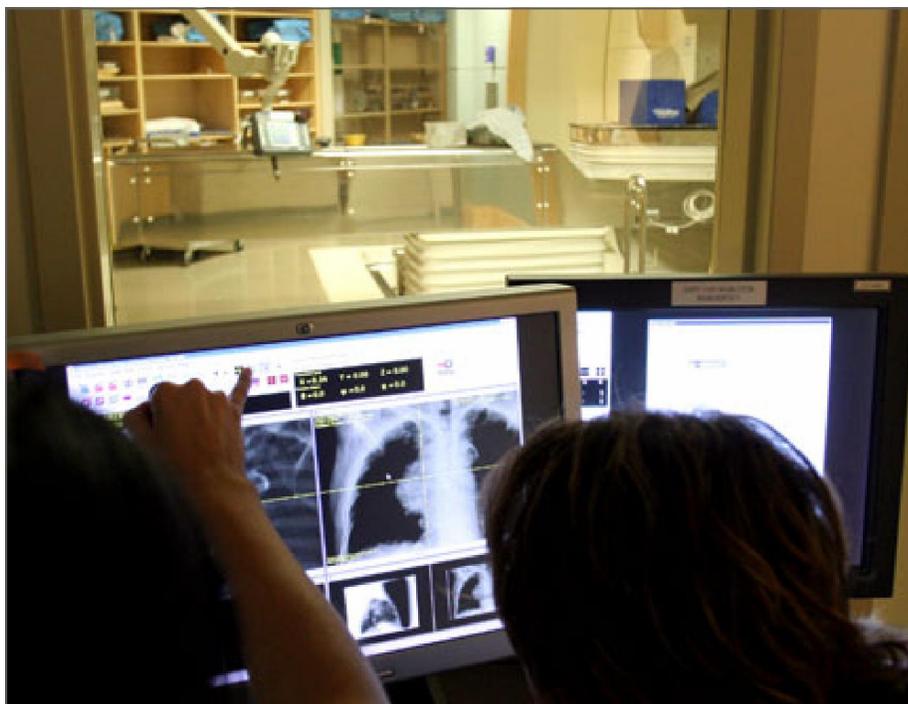
Currently, more people in the world die of cancer than die of tuberculosis, malaria and AIDS combined, he noted.

Boyle said the HIV/AIDS epidemic has led to increased health reporting in developing countries, which has

allowed IARC to compile better cancer data over the past few years.

The most common or second most common form of cancer in every region of the world is breast cancer, he said. The most common type of

The international health community needs to find ways to stop the spread as well as ensure that adequate treatment facilities are available. "The international community, WHO and the United Nations must increase the awareness of the prob-



A radiation therapist and radiation oncologist use X-rays to show the exact position of a patient's tumor in the left lung. Currently, Africa only has radiation therapy machines to treat one-fifth of cancer patients in Africa, says Dr. Peter Boyle, director of the International Agency for Research on Cancer. (AP Images)

cancer in men in Africa is Kaposi's sarcoma, which is directly linked to the HIV/AIDS epidemic there.

Established in 1965, IARC coordinates and conducts research on the causes of human cancer and develops scientific strategies for cancer control. The agency, which is part of the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations' agency for health issues, is involved in both epidemiological and laboratory research.

A large proportion of the cancer cases can be prevented, Boyle said.

lem and delivery of cancer prevention and cancer care to many parts of the world," Boyle said. "We need to increase our activity and, therefore, our spending on cancer."

"Now that we've got a better appreciation of the globalization of cancer, we need to look at how we're going to approach these issues in a strategic and programmatic fashion rather than throw corn seed all around and hope something grows," he said.

The worldwide cancer-control community has suffered from being very

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## New Phase in Fight Against Corruption Begins at Global Forum

By Andrzej Zwaniecki  
USINFO Staff Writer

Johannesburg, South Africa -- The global community entered a new stage in the fight against corruption as a major international meeting of anti-corruption officials and experts urged adoption and implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

In a declaration issued April 5 at the conclusion of the Fifth Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity (GF V), participants endorsed the UNCAC as the "primary global framework for action and cooperation among governments and between governments, the private sector and other nonstate actors."

Joseph Gangloff, deputy director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, said the gathering in Johannesburg provided "solid ground" for transition from the Global Forum process to follow up with the U.N. convention.

Gangloff was co-leader of the U.S. delegation to the forum.

The declaration called for "prompt ratification and accession to UNCAC."

The U.S. delegation, in an April 3 statement, said the United States is urging countries that have already ratified or signed the convention to complete a self-assessment checklist agreed on at the first meeting of the Conference of State Parties to the convention. Gangloff said the survey will show which kinds of deficiencies exist in countries' capabilities and where expertise can be found.

The declaration recognized that the accomplishments of all past global anti-corruption fora serve as a platform for the exchange of best practices information.

But Gangloff, who participated in all those meetings, said he believes the Johannesburg forum achieved even more.

"Initially, many countries were reluctant to even admit that they had a corruption problem," he said.

"Now everyone clearly accepts that something has to be done about it [corruption] and understands that the fight against it has an international dimension."

At the fifth global forum representatives of several developing countries affected by perceived rampant corruption, according to the 2006 Transparency International Corruption Perception Index, talked about their plans and specific efforts to combat the scourge.

Indeed, the global forum has achieved more than anybody expected, said U.S. delegate David Luna.

"Moving forward, we hope that an alliance of committed partners at the GF V was reenergized to end corruption, implement the UNCAC and cooperate internationally to prosecute kleptocrats and recover plundered assets," he said.

Luna is director for anti-corruption and governance initiatives in the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

Gangloff said denial of safe haven to corrupt officials and recovery of stolen assets, together with the need for building capacity to fight

corruption, topped the list of major concerns of developing countries.

Another U.S. participant, Steven Tyrrell from the Department of Justice, said many countries are determined to implement effective anti-corruption programs but lack resources and knowledge to carry out effective investigations and prosecutions.

"But there is a will to do better," he said.

Tyrrell is the chief of the fraud section in the Justice Department's criminal division.

Representatives of developed countries at the forum expressed their willingness to share their expertise.

The U.S. statement said, "The United States is eager to work with countries to prevent financial safe havens from developing in the first instance and to help partner governments recover plundered assets."

It offered to help governments establish effective and transparent delivery of government services and reaffirmed the U.S. commitment "to empower citizens in democracies with the tools and resources they need to challenge corrupt practices and to demand transparent rulemaking."

In addition, to effectively fight corruption, countries must confront other financial crimes, according to the statement. "Through joint determination and mutual cooperation, we can [work] ... to identify, interdict, block and cut off the financial pipelines to all corrupt individuals, criminal organizations and illicit networks," the statement said. ♦

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## Financial Institutions Expand Products that Target U.S. Muslims . . .

*(Continued from page 7)*

nia. These organizations normally consult with Islamic scholars in designing services and ironing out any problems with particular contracts.

Economist Mahmoud El-Gamel of Rice University in Houston said he worries that religious scholars might push people to invest in these financing products even if they are more costly than mortgages that are more traditional in the United States. He said that some sectors of the Muslim American population might be willing to pay \$500 more to "buy peace of mind. Bankers call it 'the cost of being Muslim,'" he said.

The African Development Center of

Minnesota, a nonprofit microfinance organization, helps Muslim business owners to finance the purchase of assets that they might not be able to afford, without taking out interest-charging loans. The nonprofit typically helps Muslim businesses that are considered to be in their "second stage" because they have been around for a few years but need help to grow.

According to Hussein Samatar, executive director of the center, "We want them to succeed. There is not one bottom-line profit motive. We offer technical assistance to help them make a sustainable business, make a living and send their children to school." The week of April 9, the center will announce a program with the city of Minneapolis

to help Muslim business owners. In that city, the Muslim population consists of people from Pakistan, Indonesia and the Middle East who came to study at the University of Minnesota and of refugees from Africa, many who left Somalia during the 1990s due to civil war there.

Samatar said that many of them are comfortable in dealing with interest, but about 40 percent do not want to finance businesses or homes with interest. "We don't want to leave them behind in creating wealth in this community."

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## Cancer a Growing Problem in Poorer Countries, . . .

*(Continued from page 13)*

diverse and loose, with little coordination. It now needs leadership, he said.

The IARC director said increasing resources for cancer does not have to come at the expense of other programs, such as the fight against HIV/AIDS.

"We found the money to spend on AIDS. Cancer and the growth of cancer is something which merits the same response," he said.

For example, radiation therapy is the mainstay of cancer treatment, Boyle said. In the West, half the people with cancer get one course of radiation therapy and a quarter get two courses.

But there are 30 countries in the world which do not have a single radiation therapy machine among them.

"Africa has only enough radiation therapy machines to cope with one-fifth of the needs of the entire African continent," he said.

"Now we have the data and are beginning to look carefully at the problem, we can see there is a lot of basic work that needs to be done and needs to be organized at a global level rather than leave it to individual countries," Boyle said. ♦

## U.S. College's "Coexistence House" Promotes . . .

*(Continued from page 6)*

be for men, observed Josephs, who encourages women's involvement in international conflict resolution and negotiation.

"In collaboration with men and existing leaders, I think that women can make a significant change in the [Middle East] region," she added.

The transcript and information on upcoming webchats are available on USINFO's Webchat Station (<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Products/Webchats.html>).

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# U.S. Satellite Images of Earth Help Countries Worldwide

By Cheryl Pellerin  
USINFO Staff Writer

This is the second article in a series on the Landsat Earth observation satellites.

Washington -- U.S. agencies responsible for the Landsat series of Earth observation satellites have agreed that the next-generation Landsat will launch in 2011, and the United States is not the only nation that will benefit from the continued imaging of the planet's oceans, land surfaces and ice cover.

Since 1972, a series of Landsat satellites have been orbiting Earth, collecting images from about 700 kilometers above the surface in a near-polar, sun-synchronous orbit. This means the satellite circles the planet in an almost north-south direction as Earth rotates from west to east. NASA and the Department of Interior's U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) share responsibility for the satellites' space and ground segments.

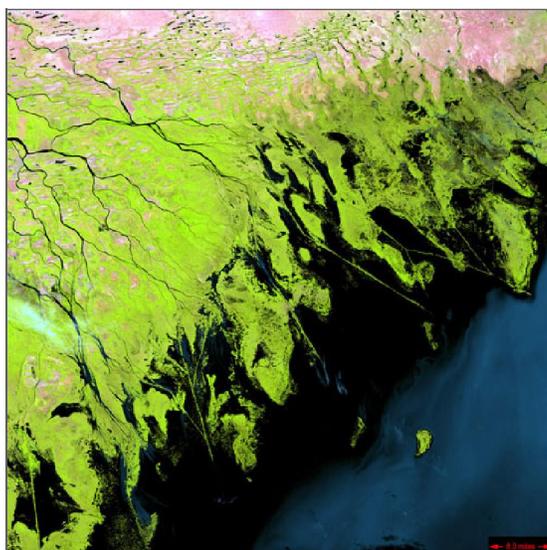
Landsat 5 launched in 1984 and, despite a design life of three to five years, is still operating, but with limited capability. Landsat 7 launched in 1999, and since 2003 has had a sensor problem that limits its capability. Both satellites will run out of fuel in 2010 or 2011; the next satellite, called the Landsat Data Continuity Mission, is expected to launch in 2011.

"The USGS and NASA are very concerned about data continuity and data access," said Ronald Beck, USGS program information specialist for the Land Remote Sensing Program. "We're firmly committed

to finding ways to get the data into the hands of the global science community."

## SHARING GLOBAL IMAGES

Landsat data are used in various applications, including agriculture and forestry, land use planning, water resource management, coastal zone management, ecological forecasting and disaster management.



The Volga Delta, where the Volga River flows into the Caspian Sea, sustains the most productive fishing ground in Eurasia. (NASA photo)

Landsat sensors have a moderate spatial resolution. Individual houses are not visible on a Landsat image, but large objects like highways are. This is an important spatial resolution because it is coarse enough for global coverage but detailed enough to characterize human-scale processes such as urban growth.

In 2001, NASA and the USGS agreed to give the international community, through the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP), the global Landsat dataset -- satellite images of the entire planet -- for 1992 and 2000.

That \$20 million worth of Landsat images is allowing environment ministers in Africa, with help from UNEP, NASA, USGS, the University of Maryland and the Earth Satellite Corp., to learn about and analyze environmental changes in their regions over eight years.

Because many African countries do not have Internet access, datasets were given to ministers on high-density hard disks called "databricks" that hold hundreds of satellite images. The same data are freely accessible through Internet portals from NASA, USGS, Michigan State University and the University of Maryland.

The State Department Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) and the U.N. Office of Outer Space Affairs held four workshops in Africa between 2003 and 2005 to review the progress made by African institutions in using the Landsat data to address sustainable development problems, said Fernando Echavarría of the Space and Advanced Technology Office in OES.

"We also worked to make sure we were making headway in getting the Landsat data out to the regional centers of excellence," Echavarría said. "It's a big continent and there are a lot of problems, but there's a lot of capacity in Africa on these remote-sensing technologies."

## TRACKING HEALTH THREATS

In 2000, Landsat images helped scientists from the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Naval Medical Research Unit-3 (NAMRU-3) and the Walter Reed

*(Continued on page 18)*

# Worldwide Impact from Climate Change Predicted

By Lea Terhune  
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington – A grim picture of the impact of environmental changes ahead – especially for the world's poor -- is drawn by the latest installment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report. It is the second of four working group assessments examining the causes and consequences of global warming.

"It is the poorest of the poor in the world, and this includes poor people even in prosperous societies, who are going to be the worst hit," IPCC Chairman Rajendra Pachauri told journalists at the release of the report's summary for policymakers in Brussels, Belgium, April 6.

"This does become a global responsibility in my view," he said.

The summary reflects a longer, densely technical scientific report that sets forth a stark reality. Climatic and environmental changes accelerated by human activity already are under way, and scientists are confident the projected temperature rises will mean "significant extinctions around the globe."

"For the first time, we are no longer arm-waving with models; this is empirical data, we can actually measure it," Martin Parry, co-chairman of IPCC Working Group II, told reporters.

The impact might include extensive drought and desertification; water scarcity in Africa and elsewhere from decreased rainfall; and melting of glaciers in mountainous regions limiting available water. Communicable diseases may spike with an

increase in insect vectors and more prevalent conditions favoring disease transmission, according to the report.

"Climate change is having impacts on natural systems ... plants, animals, ecosystems and human systems," Sharon Hays, leader of U.S.



Melting glaciers release large amounts of water into the sea, raising water levels and increasing sea expanse. (AP Images)

IPCC delegation, said in a press conference call from Brussels April 6.

An increase of 1.5-2.5 degrees Celsius could result in the extinction of 20 percent to 30 percent of global plant and animal species, the report says. The first IPCC assessment released in January said temperatures could rise by 4 degrees Celsius by the century's end. "Not all projected impacts are negative,"

Hays said, but "at higher potential future temperature the range of projected impacts becomes increasingly negative."

"Climate change is clearly a global challenge and we all recognize that it requires global solutions," she said. It will be felt regionally, affecting vulnerable areas. "Not all regions of the world have the same capacity to adapt," Hays said, citing a key finding of the IPCC report, adaptation. Natural adaptation already is taking place, and, to reduce the impact of climate change, societies actively must adapt.

James L. Connaughton, White House Council on Environmental Quality chairman and lead policymaker on the U.S. delegation, said the IPCC report "underscores what the president has been saying for some time about the seriousness of this challenge."

He said the United States has set ambitious standards domestically and is committed to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. "We are leading the way with dozens of advanced technology partnerships and ... engaging the developing countries, as well, in strategies for significantly reducing greenhouse gases," he said.

"The imperative of the work with developing countries is as strong, or stronger, than it has ever been. ... Adaptation at its core is a fundamental component of the development strategy," Connaughton said.

The United States and other developed nations are directing billions of development dollars toward the de-

*(Continued on page 18)*

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## U.S. Satellite Images of Earth Help Countries . . .

*(Continued from page 16)*

Army Institute for Research deal with an outbreak -- the first outside Africa -- of Rift Valley fever in Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Rift Valley fever is an acute, fever-causing viral disease that affects people and domestic animals such as cattle, buffalo, sheep and goats, and most commonly is associated with mosquito-borne epidemics during years of unusually heavy rainfall.

To support efforts by international agencies, said Assaf Anyamba, a research scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, "we had to provide information for them to know where it had rained, where the vegetation had greened up. Those would be potential areas where the most creatures that carry the virus were breeding and spreading the disease."

The scientists used a Landsat image from the period during the outbreak and compared it with an image from before the outbreak.

"We could see a big difference in terms of the vegetation greenness," Anyamba said, "and this allowed the teams ... to look at the areas along this floodplain of the Arabian-Yemen coast and respond to that outbreak." He added, "In areas where outbreaks occur that are small and in areas of complex topography, Landsat becomes a very useful tool for analyzing the patterns and ecological conditions."

Additional information ( <http://www.landimaging.gov/> ) is available on the Future of Land Imaging Web site, sponsored by the Executive Office of the President.

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## Worldwide Impact from Climate Change Predicted . . .

*(Continued from page 17)*

veloping world, with finely tuned priorities. Health issues and building the capacity and resiliency of civil societies are paramount concerns, according to Connaughton: "training people so they can make smarter choices about land use, making agricultural practices more modern," increasing access to clean water and sanitation.

Hays said that "a great deal of care" was taken to ensure the summary accurately reflects the scientific findings. "I think we helped craft a report that robustly reflects the findings of this underlying, very long technical document," she said, emphasizing that many of the lead scientific authors were party to the four-day discus-

sions about the final draft "to make sure the summary document accurately reflects the scope of all the information."

The IPCC report results from research by thousands of scientists from around the world, including a significant number of Americans. Roger Pulwarty, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientist, is lead author of the chapter on adaptations and practices.

"NOAA's climate research and related work extends far beyond its contributions to IPCC," said NOAA Administrator Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher. NOAA data, models and other materials were used in the report.

The third part of the IPCC report, on curbing greenhouse gas emissions, is scheduled for release in May; the fourth, a final summation, is due in November.

"This groundswell of information is also pushing along a groundswell of additional policies and international cooperation," Connaughton said.

For more information on U.S. policies, see Climate Change and Clean Energy ( [http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/climate\\_change.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/climate_change.html) ).

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