

2006 Grants

Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

Location: Blacksburg, VA

Subject: Emphasizing the importance of rights and responsibilities in a democratic society

Virginia Tech (VT) is partnering with Kenyatta University in Nairobi and the Center for Civic Education in California over a two and a half year period to provide a series of seminars conducted in Kenya by eight Americans that examine the practices, policies, and processes of transparency and accountability in governance. Ten Kenyan participants come to the United States to learn first-hand about governance at both the national and local levels during internships they will have in agencies and schools and living with host families. Upon their return to Kenya, the participants conduct trainings in their communities and will also implement small projects. The outputs of the exchange should directly impact over 500 people.

Country(ies): Kenya

Region: Africa

U.S. State: VA

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Morehouse College

Location: Atlanta, Georgia

Subject: Conducting an exchange program with South Africa on ethical leadership, cultural understanding and community service

The Leadership Center at Morehouse College is conducting an exchange program on ethical leadership, cultural understanding, and community service between Morehouse College and two South African partner institutions, CIDA City Campus and Wilberforce Community College. Project activities include a two-week U.S.-based exchange for 18 South Africans and a two-week program in South Africa for 20 Americans. A second tier of students and faculty benefit from group lectures, discussion groups and interactions with the exchange groups during their visits to the United States and South Africa.

Country(ies): South Africa

Region: Africa

U.S. State: GA

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Michigan State University

Subject: Improving effectiveness and accountability of local government

Location: Lansing, MI

Michigan State University with its Nigerian partner the University of Jos, will conduct a year-long program on responsible governance. Eighteen Nigerian local government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and university scholars will come to the U.S. for a week of seminars in Washington, D.C. followed by three weeks of internship with the Michigan Municipal League. The participants will explore how they can more effectively collaborate to promote citizen participation in government decision-making and examine specific practices that foster responsive government and public administration. Eight MSU professors will travel to Nigeria to conduct training workshops and consultations for ten days.

Country(ies): Nigeria

Region: Africa

U.S. State: MI

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: National Committee on US-China Relations

Subject: Developing e-governance and municipal governance capacities in the PRC and Taiwan

This grant has the objective of increasing cross-Strait understanding through a dialogue on municipal governance. It is providing a forum for representatives of municipal governments in the United States, PRC and Taiwan to share best practices in e-government. Through discussions about the ways in which they use e-government to communicate with citizens and coordinate delivery of services, the program enables participants to learn more about the relationship between government, citizens and civil society in other jurisdictions. The program is planned for three stages: workshops in the PRC and Taiwan that include American specialists; a study tour of the United States; and dissemination of educational materials, including a jointly authored article. Partners are the Academy of E-Government at Peking University and the Taichung municipal government.

Country(ies): China

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State: NY

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: US-Vietnam Trade Council

Subject: Developing responsible governance

This project partners the Vietnamese Young Businesspeople's Association and the State of Oklahoma and starts in the 4th Quarter of 2006 with three one-day seminars on responsible governance in Hanoi, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City for 150 young leaders in local government, the private sector and civic organizations. In the 1st or 2nd Quarter of 2007, there is a 3-4 week program in Washington, DC and Oklahoma for a group of 10 to 12 Vietnamese community leaders, including two to three-week internship assignments in government offices, NGOs, civic associations, universities or community organizations in Oklahoma; there is also a volunteerism component in community service projects. The project concludes in the 2nd or 3rd Quarter of 2007 with follow-up seminars and on-site consultancies in Vietnam.

Country(ies): Vietnam

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State: DC

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: American Bar Association

Subject: Enhancing accountability and transparency in environmental decision-making

This project brings ten key Chinese environmental officials and NGO representatives to Washington in Spring 2007 for an intensive orientation and then for six-week internships in New York, San Francisco, Sacramento, and Chicago. The internships are designed to provide the Chinese participants with the knowledge, tools, and skills necessary to develop and effectively implement concrete programs and initiatives to improve citizen participation and transparency in environmental decision-making in their daily work in China. Two week follow-ups for practical implementation in China are conducted by five US experts in Summer 2007.

Country(ies): China

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State: IL

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: University of Massachusetts

Location: Boston, Massachusetts

Subject: Demonstrating due process, transparency, and judicial independence

Under this grant, the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies of the University of Massachusetts, Boston, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Judges Conference, a private association of over 400 sitting and retired Massachusetts state judges, continues its ongoing Moot Court Project to aid China in its efforts to bring transparency and reform to its judicial system. Project activities focus on Northwest China in Spring of 2007 and Southwest China in the Spring of 2008. In between, a delegation of 10 Chinese judges and academics come to Boston for consultations, internships, and to present their own moot court.

Country(ies): China

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State: MA

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Columbia University

Location: New York, New York

Subject: Developing Tibetan capacities in conservation and ecotourism

Columbia University is conducting an educational and cultural exchange to develop human capacity in Tibet that will facilitate the training of Tibetans in ecotourism and conservation. The project develops relevant educational materials and courses in the Tibetan language in order to support the work of other NGOs working with Tibetans on ecotourism implementation. It also provides training for government planners and policymakers. Through exchanges between U.S. and Tibetan educators, conservationists and experts, the project is training tourism practitioners and equip a core group of Tibetan teachers to develop the knowledge and teaching of ecotourism and conservation, by holding courses, workshops and meetings in the U.S. and in various areas of Tibet, and by preparing and distributing Tibetan-language case studies and educational materials.

Country(ies): China-Tibet

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State: NY

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Institute for Training and Development

Location: Boston, MA

Subject: Providing training in civic involvement and curriculum development for Indonesian educators

This grant funds a project for 30 secondary school English language teachers from Indonesia that aims for two specific and achievable results: 1) increased civic involvement through community service projects initiated by the teachers and their students, and 2) the integration of accurate and up-to-date information about the US in new English language curriculum units developed by the teachers. The first phase of the project is an information and recruitment campaign, while Phase Two is comprised of the stateside training programs in February and March, 2007 in Amherst, Massachusetts, Tucson, AZ, and New York City. Phase three is the follow-up and implementation phase in the teachers' home districts in Indonesia.

Country(ies): Indonesia
Region: East Asia and Pacific
U.S. State: MA
Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Heartland International
Location: Chicago, IL

Subject: Developing a training program for Indonesian educators

Heartland International, in partnership with the Center for Civic Education/Indonesia, is developing a second iteration of its educational training program focusing on strengthening private and community-based secondary education in Indonesia. This program is designed to improve the quality of teaching and learning and to promote diversity, tolerance and human rights, as well as to promote greater community involvement. Participants gain a comprehensive introduction to the U.S. education system, improve critical-thinking skills, and learn ways of promoting democratic values and entrepreneurship in students. The venues are Chicago, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, ending in Washington, D.C. with a round of meetings with members of Congress and representatives of the Department.

Country(ies): Indonesia
Region: East Asia and Pacific
U.S. State: IL
Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation

Subject: Supporting a fellowship program U.S. federal government officials to work with Japanese counterparts

The Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program, established by Congress, in 1994, provides an opportunity for U.S. federal government officials to gain substantial personal knowledge about the Government of Japan by working alongside their counterparts in Japanese agencies. Those selected as Mansfield Fellows spend one year in Washington in intensive training in the Japanese language and the political economy of Japan, a second year in a Japanese government agency, and upon their return, work at least two years in the U.S. Government.

Country(ies): Japan
Region: East Asia and Pacific
U.S. State:
Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Meridian International Center
Location: Washington, DC

Subject: Supporting a youth exchange for Korean and U.S. university students

The Korean National Assembly Youth Exchange project is introducing U.S. and Korean university students to the political process, society and culture of Korea and the United States, respectively. The Korean students, together with their US counterparts, begin their three-week U.S. program in Washington with a series of talks and briefings on the U.S. political system and U.S. - Korean relations, coupled with time spent observing the operation of a congressional office. The Korean group then travels to New York City, Highland Park, IL, and Seattle to learn about volunteerism, racial and ethnic relations, environmental issues, and community development. The exchange concludes in Seoul where the Korean students have the opportunity to host their U.S. counterparts. Meridian International Center has responsibility for implementation of the U.S. program for the Korean participants and coordinating the travel of the American participants to Korea. The Korean National Assembly funds and administers the program for the U.S. students in Korea.

Country(ies): Korea
Region: East Asia and Pacific
U.S. State: DC
Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Institute for the Study and Development of Legal Systems (ISDLS)
Location: San Francisco, CA

Subject: Developing Turkish police oversight & criminal trial alternatives

This grant is supporting reforms to the Turkish legal system and police oversight procedures in Turkey. The program consists of ten Turkish prosecutors, judicial officers, and members of the Ministry of Interior participating in a two-week study tour in the U.S. to observe Californian courts and police departments and interact with American experts, followed by two U.S. participants traveling to Turkey to take part in a workshop, where the Turkish participants will make presentations on Turkish trial alternatives and police oversight. Three U.S. participants are also traveling to Turkey for a joint presentation with their Turkish counterparts of proposed models developed during the program to members of the Turkish legal and NGO community.

Country(ies): Turkey

Region: Europe

U.S. State: CA

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: CDS International, Inc.

Location: New York, NY

Subject: Integrating marginalized populations in Germany

This grant examines and compares means of integrating immigrant and minority populations in Germany and the U.S., with the objective of establishing positive relations between U.S. and German (primarily Turkish) minorities. Program activities include a one-week study tour and a four-week internship for fifteen American experts in Germany and a reciprocal study tour and internships for fifteen German minority community representatives in New York. A final seminar takes place in Hamburg, Germany for all program participants at the end of the project.

Country(ies): Germany

Region: Europe

U.S. State: NY

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Institute for Training and Development

Location: Amherst, Massachusetts

Subject: Integrating marginalized populations in the Netherlands

This grant examines and compares ways of integrating immigrant and minority populations in the Netherlands and the U.S., with the objective of establishing positive relations between the U.S. and Dutch minority populations. Program activities include a three-week study tour program for 15 Dutch minority community representatives in Boston, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. and a reciprocal study tour for eight American

experts in the Netherlands. Presentations, workshops, and community action plans are being implemented by all program participants in the Netherlands as part of the project.

Country(ies): Netherlands

Region: Europe

U.S. State: MA

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Institute for Training and Development

Location: Amherst, Massachusetts

Subject: Integrating marginalized populations in Spain

This grant examines and compares ways of integrating immigrant and minority populations in Spain and the U.S., with the objective of establishing positive relations between the U.S. and Spanish minority populations. Program activities include a three-week study tour program for 15 Spanish minority community representatives in Boston, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. and a reciprocal study tour for eight American experts in Spain. Program participants in Spain are implementing presentations, workshops, and community action plans.

Country(ies): Spain

Region: Europe

U.S. State: MA

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Sister Cities International

Location: Washington, D.C.

Subject: Integrating marginalized populations in France

This grant examines and compares ways of integrating immigrant and minority populations in France and the U.S. with the objective of establishing positive relations between U.S. and French minorities. The project includes four city partnerships that will compare French and U.S. approaches to the integration of marginalized populations. The partnerships are Charlotte, NC and Limoges; Louisville, KY and Montpellier; St. Louis, MO and Lyon; and Los Angeles, CA and Bordeaux. Program activities include a three-week study tour by twenty French minority community representatives in the U.S. and a training practicum in Paris for French officials, NGO representatives, and educators. Program participants in France, as part of the project are implementing presentations, workshops, and community action plans.

Country(ies): France
Region: Europe
U.S. State: DC
Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: University of Vermont
Location: Burlington, Vermont

Subject: Supporting a three-year sustainable development exchange with Russia

The University of Vermont's (UVM) Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources is conducting a three-year sustainable development exchange program focusing on the fields of ecology, natural resource use, resource-dependent community sustainability and agriculture. Project activities include a series of three-week exchange programs that will bring 15 faculty from Petrozavodsk State University to the U.S. for consultations with faculty and local and state government officials and field trips to sustainability sites in Vermont. Faculty from the University of Vermont also travel to Karelia to conduct a series of follow-on activities with their Russian counterparts.

Country(ies): Russia
Region: Europe
U.S. State: VT
Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Northern Forum
Location: Anchorage, Alaska

Subject: Strengthening educational linkages with Pakistan

This project supports activities that will enable Northern citizens to share knowledge and expertise, address common issues and support sustainable development initiatives among the Northern Forum's target countries including the United States (Alaska), Canada, China, Finland, Iceland, Japan, Mongolia, Russia, the Republic of Korea and Sweden. The project includes: a Youth EcoForum Exchange and a Youth Health Ambassadors Exchange in Russia; a training program for project coordinators focusing on program and grant management skills; an exchange for managers and leaders of zoos to discuss operations and management of northern zoos; a workshop for indigenous residents focusing on observing and documenting changes in the environment; a business exchange that will build upon previous work and promote expanded business relationships in the North; and a Governance Workshop on municipal services in Russia and the impact of decentralization.

Country(ies): Russia
Region: Europe
U.S. State: AK
Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Center for Higher Education in the Middle East
Location: Cambridge, Massachusetts

Subject: Encouraging educational leadership and intercultural dialogue

The Center for Higher Education in the Middle East (CHEME) is designed to promote innovative teaching methodologies and curriculum enhancements focused on openness and coexistence and fostering democratic principles in the Middle East and North Africa. The 28 MENA secondary school teachers from eight countries who participate in the intensive, month-long Teacher Education Institute experience site visits, lectures, discussions, group project developments, skill building exercises, and, in the process, enhance their knowledge and understanding of one another's societies and cultures. This is a professional exchange: ten American educators will travel to the MENA region; 28 MENA secondary school teachers will travel to the United States.

Country(ies): Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon , Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Tunisia
Region: Near East
U.S. State: MA
Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Hamline University
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

Subject: Creating a civic education teacher certificate program for the Middle East

Hamline University builds on an intensive Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian-American cooperative effort in civic/democracy education through an institute for teacher training, strengthening the capacity of civic education teachers in Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority to implement a pedagogy of civic responsibility in their communities. Twenty-five teachers from the Middle East and 20 American teachers meet in an intensive two-week summer institute in St. Paul, Minnesota, and engage in formal studies, community outreach, mentoring, and networking. Workshops and youth leadership seminars are conducted by teams of American and Middle Eastern teachers in Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority throughout academic year 2006-07.

Country(ies): Israel, Jordan, Palestinian Authority
Region: Near East
U.S. State: OR
Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Institute for the Study and Development of Legal Systems
Location: San Francisco, California

Subject: Developing Egyptian criminal trial alternatives

The Institute for the Study and Development of Legal Systems is building on intensive effort, conducted with the Egyptian Ministry of Justice, to implement a far-reaching system of criminal justice reform. The collaboration is assisting influential judicial representatives from Egypt gain a more comprehensive appreciation of diversion mechanisms utilized in the United States, allowing them to examine the institutions and legal frameworks in which these mechanisms operate, and assisting them in designing a creative diversion model responsive to the needs of their legal community. Six Egyptian jurists, senior prosecutors, and defense attorneys are travel to California in fall 2006 to study the operations of diversion programs, four American legal specialists consult in Cairo in winter 2006, and seven Egyptian jurists work with U.S. counterparts in Washington, D.C. and California to refine model designs for presentation at a national conference in Egypt.

Country(ies): Egypt
Region: Near East
U.S. State: CA
Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Quebec-Labrador Foundation
Location: Ipswich, Massachusetts

Subject: Building capacity of NGOs and local communities to promote responsible government

This grant supports the Quebec-Labrador Foundation's promotion of responsible governance in Syria through capacity building for NGOs and community-based organizations. A seven-phased, three-year program of fellowships, workshops, internships, and conferences focused on strengthening NGOs and community-based Syrian organizations is increasing collaboration among Syrian and American organizations, increasing the role of women and youth in community work, expand volunteerism, and promoting accountability within Syrian civil society. Eight Syrian participants are participating in a workshop and extended training in the U.S. in spring

2007. Four workshops are conducted in Syria by six American specialists in fall 2007, and six Americans work collaboratively with Syrian counterparts in Syria in early 2008.

Country(ies): Syria
Region: Near East
U.S. State: MA
Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Environmental Law Review Worldwide (E-LAW)
Subject: Encouraging compliance with judicial orders through greater citizen participation

Location: Eugene, OR

This project examines similarities and differences in compliance and enforcement of judicial orders in the environmental field in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The project activities include workshops on compliance and enforcement of judicial orders in each of the five countries for 100 legal professionals; a regional follow-up conference in India for four to six participants from each country; and a ten-day U.S. program on U.S. practices for one or two participants from each country. Participants are also preparing, publishing and disseminating a comprehensive guidebook reviewing the cases examined during the course of this project, examining how participants might apply the lessons learned in their respective countries.

Country(ies): Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka
Region: South and Central Asia
U.S. State: OR
Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: World Learning

Location: Washington, DC

Subject: Strengthening professional standards in the media

This grant supports the improvement of journalistic coverage in Nepal of government accountability and transparency. The program consists of twelve Nepali journalists meeting in Katmandu for a two-day workshop, then traveling to the U.S for a five-week program, including a three-week internship at local media outlets across the country. The program concludes with the participants gathering for a train-the-trainer seminar at the Nepali Press Institute for the original participants and 100 of their peers.

Country(ies): Nepal
Region: South and Central Asia
U.S. State: DC
Theme(s): Media, Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Legacy International
Location: Bedford, VA

Subject: Encouraging responsible governance, civic education and citizen participation

This grant supports a training program on the development of democratic institutions and good governance in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic. The program consists of two visits by seven U.S. experts to the three Central Asian nations and the travel of approximately 12 government representatives, educators, NGO leaders, and youth advocates to Virginia and Washington, D.C. for three-weeks of training and presentations. The program exposes participants to principles of strategic planning, democratic decision-making processes, and human resource management as practiced in the U.S., and examines how participants might apply these approaches in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic.

Country(ies): Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic
Region: South and Central Asia
U.S. State: VA
Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Plymouth State University
Location: Plymouth, New Hampshire

Subject: Strengthening educational linkages with Pakistan

This project is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of secondary school administrators in the area of research design and implementation. Project activities include a five-week training institute for 15 participants in New Hampshire; an evaluation of the past three previously funded programs; follow-on workshops with project alumni; and collaboration between the alumni of this project and the alumni of other ECA supported Pakistan projects.

Country(ies): Pakistan
Region: South and Central Asia
U.S. State: NH
Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Special Olympics

Location: Washington, DC

Subject: Supporting Special Olympics athletes in Mexico

This grant focuses on Mexico, targeting Sonora, Chihuahua, Nuevo Leon in the north and Mexico City and the State of Mexico in the central part of the country. The project builds capacity within Mexican schools and community based clubs by improving their infrastructure to sustain and service the 20,217 athletes participating in existing programs and to reach out to 2,200 new athletes. Grant activities include sports training sessions and athletic competitions in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Country(ies): Mexico

Region: Western Hemisphere

U.S. State: DC

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Partners of the Americas

Location: Washington, D.C.

Subject: Implementing exchanges that support the development of democratic values in the Western Hemisphere

Partners of the Americas implements exchanges designed to enhance mutual understanding through personal involvement and linkages of key volunteer specialists in fields such as citizen participation, judicial reform, public administration, the promotion of minority and indigenous rights, journalism, environmental and historical conservation, education, economic development and trade, and visual and performing arts. These activities directly support the development and fostering of democratic values to improve understanding among people of the Americas.

Country(ies): Multiple

Region: Western Hemisphere

U.S. State: DC

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance, Media, Business

Name of Organization: Partners of the Americas

Location: Washington, DC

Subject: Implementing the American Fellows Program to promote excellence in government in the Western Hemisphere

At the April 2001 Summit of the Americas, President Bush announced the American Fellows Program. This program is intended to promote mutual understanding and excellence in government within the hemisphere through the exchange of outstanding mid- to senior-grade officials in government agencies of participating countries. The Department of State was assigned the responsibility of coordinating the program in the U.S. Partners of the Americas was selected to manage and implement this program due to its strong track record of programming in the Western Hemisphere. Over the past three years, Partners has generated a significant level of interest, and government agencies in the U.S., Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada have responded enthusiastically to the opportunities that the program offers. To date, 60 Fellows have been placed in more than 30 host agencies-- federal, state, and county agencies-- throughout the United States.

Country(ies): Multiple
Region: Western Hemisphere
U.S. State: DC
Theme(s): Democracy & Governance
Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: American Center for International Labor Solidarity
Location: Washington, DC

Subject: Implementing exchanges for labor leaders in eight countries in multiple regions

The American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS) is implementing the following exchanges: U.S. study tour to Algeria; U.S. study tour to the Ukraine; U.S. study tour to Kenya; African Telecommunication Trade Unionists study tour to the U.S.; U.S. study tour to Oman; U.S. study tour to Colombia; U.S. study tour to China; U.S. study tour to India; Brazilian study tour to U.S.; African Trade Unionists study tour to U.S.; and scholarships for foreign trade union leaders to study at the George Meany Center.

Country(ies): Algeria, Ukraine, Kenya, Oman, Colombia, China, India, Brazil
Region: Africa, Near East, South and Central Asia, Western Hemisphere
U.S. State: OR
Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Institute for Representative Government
Location: Washington, DC

Subject: Providing parliamentary study missions and democratic development in countries in multiple regions

The Institute for Representative Government is arranging and monitoring a series of highly targeted, well-timed parliamentary study missions that can provide critical impetus to parliamentary and democratic development initiatives. Specifically, IRG is implementing the following: 1) Balkans: Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro - Constitutional Change and Legislative Reform Program ; 2) Uganda and Liberia - Disability Awareness and Advocacy Program ; 3) Ukraine - Political Party Caucus Strengthening Program; 4) Kazakhstan - Constituent Services Program; 5) Kyrgyzstan - Parliamentary Development Program; 6) Yemen - Budget Monitoring Program; 7) Sri Lanka - Strengthening Parliamentary Processes Program; 8) Egypt - Government Opposition Relations Program and; 9) Democratic Republic of Congo - Legislative Committee Strengthening and Peace Program.

Country(ies): Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Uganda, Liberia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Democratic Republic of Congo
Region: Europe, Africa, Near East, South and Central Asia
U.S. State: DC
Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: University of Louisville
Location: Louisville, KY

Subject: Developing aspects of democracy in five Asian nations

This grant consists of three start-up projects that will initiate a Center for Asian Democracy at the University of Louisville. The start-up projects are being carried out from September 1, 2006 through September 1, 2009, by which time an endowment will be returning income for the Center's operation. Per its title, this project focuses on different aspects of democracy building in five different Asian countries. It is divided into three separate, multi-year projects. Countries are (1) Kazakhstan, (2) Vietnam and Laos, and (3) China. The Kazakhstan project is to train participants on how NGOs can work more effectively with legislators. The Vietnam/Laos project begins with training and workshops in-country conflict resolution among government actors and between them and citizens. Its second part has some five Southeast Asians coming to the US for Master's degrees in related fields. The China project aims at studying and promoting Chinese democracy at the margin of political power: legislatures at lower levels, especially those outside of the nation's major centers.

Country(ies): Kazakhstan, Vietnam, Laos, China
Region: South and Central Asia, East Asia and Pacific
U.S. State: KY
Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Ohio Northern University

Location: Ada, Ohio

Subject: Building up skills for lawyers from the Middle East, Central Asia and Eurasia to strengthen democratic institutions in their countries

Summary of Project: This grant brings 12 young lawyers from the Middle East, Central Asia and Eurasia to the U.S. for a ten-month LL.M program, designed to provide them with the skills for building stable democratic institutions in their countries. In addition to completing two semesters of class work, the students attend four weekend seminars on women's rights, transition from one-party rule, international criminal law and post conflict resolution, led by visiting experts. The program also includes field study trips to local, state and federal judicial and government organizations.

Country(ies): Multiple

Region: Europe, Near East, South and Central Asia

U.S. State: OH

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Sister Cities International

Location: Washington, D.C.

Subject: Supporting Sister City partnerships in over 130 countries

Sister Cities International (SCI), which promotes mutual understanding among citizens of the U.S. and abroad through the activities of the 1,300 U.S. cities affiliated with more than 2,400 sister cities in 137 countries around the world, acts as a coordinator and catalyst in the development of various types of sister-city programs. This grant partially supports SCI functioning as a clearinghouse to gather, analyze and disseminate information and work directly with community leaders and citizen volunteers, as well as elected officials.

Country(ies): Worldwide

Region: Multiple

U.S. State: DC

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: The American Council of Young Political Leaders

Location: Washington, D.C.

Subject: Implementing two-week exchanges for young political leaders

The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) supports the development of democratic practices and productive, ongoing contacts between politically active individuals in the United States and their overseas counterparts by coordinating a series of exchange programs for U.S. and foreign participants. These exchanges directly support the Department's U.S. strategic goal to open political systems and societies to democratic practices, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights. ACYPL is implementing a series of two-week study tours, involving up to 30 delegations of seven to twelve members each.

Country(ies): Worldwide

Region: Multiple

U.S. State: DC

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: University of Alaska

Location: Fairbanks, AK

Subject: Supporting the implementation of the Ninth International Permafrost Conference

The University of Alaska is implementing a variety of activities designed to address the preparation, planning and implementation of the Ninth International Permafrost Conference. Specific activities include (1) the conference, to be held June 29-July 3, 2008, on the University of Alaska-Fairbanks campus and which focuses on issues associated with understanding permafrost evolution and its feedback to climate change; (2) the operation of the Education and Outreach Coordination Office, which supports activities related to the International Polar Year (IPY), including the travel of U.S. specialists to IPY activities abroad; and (3) the creation of a "Think-tank of the North"--a set of public seminars given around Alaska by prominent scientists, policy makers, and authors who have focused on understanding and adapting to the ongoing challenges the Arctic faces.

Country(ies): Worldwide

Region: Multiple

U.S. State: AK

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: World Affairs Council of Oregon

Location: Portland, Oregon

Subject: Creating international connections in three cities and towns outside of Portland, Oregon

This grant supports the World Affairs Council of Oregon's efforts to increase that state's international connections in education, business, government and the non-profit sector in the cities and towns outside of metropolitan Portland. Project activities include the development of three regional centers in Medford, Pendleton and Bend; visits by international visitors at each center; outreach to schools; strengthening of adult discussion groups; and website development.

Country(ies): Worldwide Region: Multiple U.S. State: OR Theme(s): Democracy & Governance