

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

Weekly Highlights Report

August 20, 2004

ECA Highlights are organized by the Bureau's response to the Department's Strategic Objectives and by three themes: *ECA Outreach Worldwide*; *Partnerships for Learning: Working Together for the Successor Generation*; and *Program Alumni Magnifying U.S. Public Diplomacy*. The geographic regional breakdown of highlights presented in this report is as follows:

AF - Africa

- [IOWA PROMOTES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA](#)
- [U.S. AGRICULTURE INFLUENCES CHADIAN AGRICULTURE LEADER](#)

EAP - East Asia and Pacific

- [ASSISTANT SECRETARY SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH AICHI USA 2005 WORLD EXPOSITION, INC., U.S. COMMISSIONER GENERAL IS NAMED](#)
- [SOUTH KOREAN ASSEMBLYMEN MEET WITH U.S. COUNTERPARTS AND OTHER OFFICIALS](#)
- [INDONESIAN YOUTH GAIN AND LEAVE 'MEANINGFUL IMPRESSIONS' IN AMERICA](#)

EUR - Europe and Eurasia

- [BOSNIAN EXCHANGE STUDENTS PRESENT THEIR U.S. EXPERIENCES](#)
- [CULTURECONNECT ENVOYS FOR SPORTS ENGAGE WITH YOUTH THROUGH BASKETBALL IN BOSNIA, ROMANIA, ALBANIA AND TURKEY](#)
- [UZBEK FLEX STUDENT BIDS FAREWELL TO TEXAS IN LETTER TO THE EDITOR](#)
- [AMBASSADOR TO MOLDOVA FOCUSES ON DEMOCRACY VIA ON-LINE CHAT](#)

NEA - Near East

- [MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN BEGIN FIRST MEPI BUSINESS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM](#)
- [FIRST IRAQIS SINCE IRAQ ASSUMED SOVEREIGNTY VISIT UNITED STATES](#)
- [YES STUDENTS MEET WITH SECRETARY POWELL IN KUWAIT](#)

SA - South Asia

- [BOLSTERED FULBRIGHT BANGLADESHI STUDENT PROGRAM STRENGTHENS U.S.-BANGLADESHI TIES](#)
- [HUMPHREY PROGRAM ALUMNA HEADS MUMBAI POLICE 'CRIME BRANCH'](#)

WHA -Western Hemisphere

- [U.S. FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR STRIKES UP THE BAND IN SANTA CRUZ](#)
- [SURVEY SHOWS LATIN AMERICAN ALUMNI OF FULBRIGHT PROGRAMS FULFILL PROGRAM'S EXPECTATIONS](#)

Global/Multi-Regional/United States

- [DEPARTMENT OF STATE REACHES OUT AT INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S GAMES AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL](#)
- [ARTISTS 'REUNITE IN PALMDALE' AND LOS ANGELES WITH CULTURECONNECT AMBASSADORS VIA INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM](#)
- [FULBRIGHTERS INSPIRE, SUSTAIN GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE EDUCATION](#)

I. ECA Outreach Worldwide

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Advance Sustainable Development and Global Interests

MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN BEGIN FIRST MEPI BUSINESS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



Secretary of State Colin Powell speaks with participants in the first Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) U.S. Business Internship Program for Young Middle Eastern Women, in the Department of State Treaty Room, Washington, DC, August 2, 2004. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

On August 2, Secretary of State **Colin Powell** welcomed 42 women participating in the first Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) U.S. Business Internship Program for Young Middle Eastern Women. Organized by ECA in partnership with the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, the program provides the women with opportunities to study U.S. business culture and society and to learn management and business skills while working in a U.S. business environment. The program consists of a four-week MBA-level academic program, followed by a three-month internship at Fortune 500 companies, law firms as well as small and medium size enterprises in a variety of businesses across the United States. Administrative support and assistance to the participants in the United States is provided by IREX- the International Research & Exchanges Board.

FIRST IRAQIS SINCE IRAQ ASSUMED SOVEREIGNTY VISIT UNITED STATES

Seven Iraqi civic, community, political leaders and government officials — the first International Visitors since Iraq assumed sovereignty on June 28 — began a three-week International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) on July 26, visiting Washington, DC, Memphis, Los Angeles, and Chicago. Focusing on democratic institutions and processes, civic rights and responsibilities, ethnic diversity and influence in a democracy, and education, the participants are speaking with Americans about Iraq and gaining information about the United States with the aim of returning home to better inform their countrymen about America. The delegation met in Washington, DC, with Deputy Secretary of State **Richard Armitage**, Assistant Secretary of State **Patricia Harrison**, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Asian Affairs **Ronald Schlicher**. The delegates expressed their gratitude to the American people and emphasized their need for more training, education, and exchanges.

IOWA PROMOTES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

Under an ECA Citizen Exchange grant, the Iowa Resource for International Service (IRIS) is beginning the third phase of a project with workforce development teams from two Nigerian states, Enugu and Taraba. IRIS recently delivered 20 IBM Pentium computers and 20 monitors to the two Nigerian teams. Based on plans developed with Nigerian teams who came to Iowa last fall, IRIS is assembling a U.S. delegation to go to Nigeria, to include president of the Iowa state chapter of the International Association of Workforce Professionals **Elsie Lewis** and managers from the Iowa state Office of Workforce Development, who will conduct workshops in workforce analysis and strategic planning.

BOSNIAN EXCHANGE STUDENTS PRESENT THEIR U.S. EXPERIENCES

Eleven participants from the Bosnia and Herzegovina Undergraduate Development Program (BUDP) arrived in Washington on July 18 for a workshop to conclude the seventh year of BUDP, a one-year non-degree program for undergraduate students from Bosnia comprising academic study, community service, and a summer internship. The students debriefed State Department officials from ECA's European and Eurasian Programs Division, Office of Academic Exchange Programs, as well as the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Office of Press and Public Diplomacy, which was followed by a discussion on the U.S. policy towards Bosnia. The workshop participants also attended a meeting at the office of Senator **George Voinovich** (R-Ohio), toured the U.S. Capitol, planned alumni activities, and discussed how to deal with reverse culture shock.



Bosnian exchange students discuss their BUDP experience with ECA officials, July 2004.

Strategic Objective: PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

ASSISTANT SECRETARY SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH AICHI USA 2005 WORLD EXPOSITION, INC., U.S. COMMISSIONER GENERAL IS NAMED

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State is charged with developing a public-private partnership for the official U.S. participation in the 2005 World Exposition, Aichi, Japan. On July 29, 2004, Assistant Secretary of State **Patricia Harrison** signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Aichi USA 2005 World Exposition, Inc. Under the agreement, Aichi USA 2005, Inc. will design, build and operate the U.S. Pavilion at The World Exposition, Aichi, Japan. **Lisa Guillermin Gable** was sworn in on August 9, 2004, as U.S. Commissioner General of Section of the United States Exhibition to the 2005 World Exposition, Aichi, Japan.

SOUTH KOREAN ASSEMBLYMEN MEET U.S. COUNTERPARTS AND OTHER OFFICIALS

Seven Korean representatives from three parties in South Korea's National Assembly visited Washington and Los Angeles from July 11 to 18, sponsored by ECA's Citizen Exchange Program. The highlight of their Washington program was several hours of exchanges with members of the U.S. House Korean Caucus, headed by Representative **Ed Royce** (R-California) on July 13. Chairman **Jay Kun Yoo** subsequently led his delegation to meetings with the House Armed Services Committee Chairman, representatives of the National Security Council and U.S. Trade Representative, and Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs **James Kelly**.

BOLSTERED FULBRIGHT BANGLADESHI STUDENT PROGRAM STRENGTHENS U.S.–BANGLADESHI TIES

For the first time in recent memory, the Fulbright Bangladeshi student program doubled the number of grants awarded for graduate study in the United States as a result of increased funding, to strengthen educational exchange and mutual understanding between the two countries. On July 28, the American Center in Dhaka held a pre-departure orientation program

for the Fulbright Bangladeshi Junior Students awarded grants for study in the United States for academic year 2004-2005. Six young faculty members will pursue Master's degrees in International Relations, Business, Rural Sociology, Mass Communication and Journalism. Two of Dhaka's first Foreign Language Teaching Assistant grantees also attended the orientation as did Fulbright alumni who discussed various issues including U.S. culture and academic environment, and practical points to assist grantees in preparing for life in the United States.

U.S. AGRICULTURE INFLUENCES CHADIAN AGRICULTURE LEADER

The U.S. government's agricultural and environmental protection policies impressed Dr. **Nomaye Madana**, Director General of the Institute of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Chad, who participated in the recent regional International Visitor (IV) project "Agriculture, Environment and Development." Dr. Madana found the program "enriching and useful," and notes the importance of biotechnological advances in agriculture as solutions to the food security and sustainable agriculture problems in Chad, particularly especially genetically modified crops. Following the discovery and commercialization of petroleum in southern Chad, many Chadians advocate that oil replace agriculture as a mainstay of the economy, but their IV visit to Oklahoma, showed Dr. Madana and his colleagues the value of maintaining a strong agricultural sector even when the oil industry predominates in the state's economy. On the basis of his U.S. experience and in collaboration with the Public Affairs Section in Ndjamena, he will organize a forum for colleagues from his institute to discuss agricultural product transformation.

U.S. FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR STRIKES UP THE BAND IN SANTA CRUZ

Working with an independent arts organization in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, U.S. Fulbright Scholar Dr. **Kenneth Sarch** helped form the Santa Cruz Youth Symphonic Orchestra and the Children's Orchestra. In partnership with his wife, also a noted musician, Dr. Sarch provided guidance to the orchestras' governing board, taught violin courses and master classes at the local arts institute, collaborated with local musicians, repaired a number of instruments, and performed in several concerts. Following Dr. Sarch's departure from Bolivia, a local musician assumed the directorship of the Youth Symphonic Orchestra, which recently hosted the San Diego State University jazz band during a U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section-sponsored cultural tour.

II. Partnerships for Learning: Working Together for the Successor Generation

Strategic Objective: PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

DEPARTMENT OF STATE REACHES OUT AT INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S GAMES AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL

ECA teamed with the Department of State's Bureau of Public Affairs (PA) to participate in the International Children's Games and Cultural Festival in Cleveland, Ohio, July 30 through August 2, 2004. Endorsed by the International Olympic Committee, the Games began in 1968 with the partnership of teams from nine European cities. This year, 2200 young athletes from 50 countries and 120 cities descended on Cleveland for the first United States-hosted Games. The athletes, ages 12-15, participated in 10 sporting areas: athletics, tennis, swimming, volleyball, soccer, water polo, table tennis, basketball, baseball and gymnastics, as well as representing their cities as ambassadors of cultural exchange.

Sharing a booth with the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce on “Embassy Row,” State Department representatives answered questions about employment opportunities and distributed information including <http://future.state.gov/> materials, the State Department Weekly Reader, and a new ECA Sports Diplomacy fact sheet <http://exchanges.state.gov/intlathletics/>. ECA also helped facilitate last-minute visa issues.

President George W. Bush greets the Afghanistan delegation of 8 young female soccer players and their coordinator following his address to over 2200 athletes at the International Children’s Games and Cultural Festival in Cleveland, Ohio, July 30, 2004.



YES STUDENTS MEET WITH SECRETARY POWELL IN KUWAIT



Secretary of State Colin Powell meets in Kuwait with exchange students including YES program alumni and those coming to the United States for the 2004-2005 program, July 31, 2003.

On July 30, Secretary Powell met in Baghdad with 11 high school students preparing to come to the U.S. on the ECA-sponsored Partnerships for Learning Youth Exchange and Study (P4L YES) program. He also met in Kuwait with Kuwaiti students soon departing for the United States on the YES program and with those who had just returned from a year in America. The Secretary emphasized the great friendship between Kuwait and the United States, and his expectations that the students will prepare themselves for leadership in their country, and come away from their exchange experience with a better understanding of America. Read the meeting transcript at

<http://consular.usembassy-israel.org.il/publish/press/2004/august/080103.html>

CULTURECONNECT ENVOYS FOR SPORTS ENGAGE WITH YOUTH THROUGH BASKETBALL IN BOSNIA, ROMANIA, ALBANIA AND TURKEY

Aiming to draw on the talents of Americans to engage with young people around the world, ECA launched its pilot CultureConnect - Cultural Envoys Program on July 10 when Cultural Envoys **Omari Faulkner** and **Courtland Freeman** began their series of tours around the world. Both former members of Georgetown University’s Men’s Basketball team, Faulkner and Freeman are traveling under contract with the U.S. Department of State over six months, to conduct basketball clinics, visit schools, and speak with young people, ages 12 to 25, about sports, education, and social issues. Through their energy, enthusiasm, and professionalism, the two men are forging lasting ties and increasing international cultural understanding and mutual

respect as they exemplify shining aspects of American culture, including free expression, teamwork and hard work.

Traveling to Bosnia, Romania, and Albania and Turkey this summer, Faulkner and Freeman received overwhelming positive feedback from students, coaches, city council members, and national leaders. The young men enjoyed instant fame at each location, resulting in children across the respective countries eagerly anticipating their next stop. Throughout their tour, the Cultural Envoys adroitly responded to the surge of media attention, emphasizing their message of the importance of increasing international understanding and respect using basketball as a powerful vehicle for dialogue. Omari Faulkner and Courtland Freeman will reach out to youth in Mexico, El Salvador, Bolivia and Brazil through a Cultural Envoys tour from August 21 through September 12.



In Turkey, the last stop on their four-country tour, the first ECA Cultural Envoys reached over 700 youth in two cities, Gaziantep and Kayserý, and their message reached thousands of others through national and local media coverage. Leaders of each community received the Envoys' warmly and expressed their interest in increasing interaction with Americans through exchange programs for youth. The positive response to the Envoys in Turkey exemplifies the power of cultural exchange programs to reach key audiences in communities that have limited exposure to Americans.

Above: Cultural Envoys Courtland Freeman (photo left) and Omari Faulkner (photo right) interact with youth, ages 10-17, at one of two Basketball clinics ages they conducted in Gaziantep, Turkey, August 2, 2004. More than 500 young people came to watch the clinic.

ARTISTS 'REUNITE IN PALMDALE' AND LOS ANGELES WITH CULTURECONNECT AMBASSADORS VIA INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Two International Visitor projects offered follow-up opportunities for artists who had participated in CultureConnect activities in their own countries. First, renowned vocalist and CultureConnect Ambassador **Mary Wilson**, who traveled to Mozambique in June, reunited with several Mozambican artists participating in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) project for Africa "Performing Arts and Cultural Activism," July 19 through August 6. During her July 31 performance before 8000 people in Palmdale, California, Wilson described her CultureConnect experience and introduced the group from the stage. She also invited one of the visitors, musician and traditional instrument maker **Hohigo Jasse**, to perform with her onstage. In addition, Wilson gave a brief interview to another of the IVs, Radio Mozambique journalist

Julieta Mussanhane. Palmdale mayor **James C. Ledford**, who joined the visitors backstage with Wilson, said the experience inspired a new motto for his city: “Reunite in Palmdale!”

Under the auspices of ECA’s Voluntary Visitors Division, two young Costa Rican actors visiting the United States July 26 through August 6 had a follow-up meeting with actress and CultureConnect Ambassador **Doris Roberts** in Los Angeles, including a two-and-a-half hour mentoring-master class session. Roberts — who initially met the actors in June during her April 2004 CultureConnect tour to Costa Rica — focused on the difference between being an actor and being a celebrity and emphasized the importance of focusing on one’s own goals. One of the participants said, “When you talk to her, you can see a light that comes on...she has become my teacher.”

INDONESIAN YOUTH GAIN AND LEAVE ‘MEANINGFUL IMPRESSIONS’ IN AMERICA

Thirty-eight teenagers participating in the Indonesia Youth Leadership Program candidly shared their views with officials from ECA and the Department of State’s Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs in Washington, DC, on July 22. Two students recognized the mutual understanding that flourished during the four-week exchange program. One noted, “Before coming here, I thought Americans were arrogant. After experiencing living here, my perception of American people has changed drastically. I have found Americans to be very tolerant people and they respect one another even if they are of different religions.” Another student remarked, “I hope that our visit has left a meaningful impression on Americans, and that they know that Muslims are not terrorists.” In this program, supported by an ECA Youth Programs Division grant to Legacy International, participants also explored good citizenship: “We learned ... the techniques of how to become an active participant in a democracy. We found that if a law is not agreeable to them, they can propose changes. I think we can use this same approach in Indonesia.”

UZBEK FLEX STUDENT BIDS FAREWELL TO TEXAS IN LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Iowa Park, Texas, *Iowa Park Leader* (July 8, 2004) featured a “Letter to the Editor” submitted by a Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program participant from Uzbekistan who offered parting thoughts on her yearlong program. She described her culture shock upon first arriving in the United States and how various members of her school and the Iowa Park community provided the support she needed to adapt to her new life. She thanked her host family and her high school principal, as well as the “people in Iowa Park Dental who volunteered to take care of [her] teeth” and the Lions Club for presenting her with a \$500 scholarship that she will use towards her college education in Uzbekistan.

III. Program Alumni Magnifying U.S. Public Diplomacy

Strategic Objective: ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL INTERESTS

FULBRIGHTERS INSPIRE, SUSTAIN GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE EDUCATION

Fulbrighters from around the world were prominent among 140 participants from 50 countries focused on international collaborations, teaching, and social responsibility at the Third International Conference of the Global Alliance for Justice Education, “Structuring a Justice Curriculum for the Future,” held July 21-30 at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. Indian Fulbright alumnus Dr. **Ved Kumari**, U.S. Fulbright Scholar Professor **Martin Geer**, en route to India for his grant period, and Fulbright alumnus Professor **Frank Bloch** participated as resource persons as did Fulbright alumna and U. S. Educational Foundation in India Executive Director **Jane Schukoske**. As a self-supporting professional organization for social justice that

is largely led by Fulbright scholars, the Global Alliance for Justice Education exemplifies an international network that is inspired by the Fulbright Program on a global level.



HUMPHREY PROGRAM ALUMNA HEADS MUMBAI POLICE ‘CRIME BRANCH’

On July 26, 2001-2002 Humphrey Fellow **Meera Borwankar** became the first woman to be appointed head of the crime branch of the Mumbai police force. According “The Times of India” (July 30, 2004), Borwankar is second in command in the police hierarchy and oversees the branch responsible for white-collar and organized crime. As a Humphrey Fellow at the University of Minnesota, she studied Policy Analysis in Law Enforcement.

Meera Borwankar, a 2001-2002 Humphrey Fellow at the University of Minnesota, became the first woman to be appointed head of the crime branch of the Mumbai police force on July 26, 2004, Mumbai, India.

SURVEY SHOWS LATIN AMERICAN ALUMNI OF FULBRIGHT PROGRAMS FULFILL PROGRAM’S EXPECTATIONS

A survey of alumni of Fulbright Faculty Development, Ecology, and Cost-Share programs administered by LASPAU: Academic and Professional Programs for the Americas reflects that the alumni have fulfilled the Fulbright Program’s expectations as 80 percent of respondents continue to work in academia in their home countries. The survey provides information on about 20 percent of the 2,566 grantees. During their careers, the survey respondents will directly influence over one million students at Latin American and Caribbean universities. Mutual understanding was rated by alumni as one of the most important personal outcomes of the Fulbright Program. A summary of the survey is available at <http://www.laspau.harvard.edu/informss04/survey.html>.

AMBASSADOR TO MOLDOVA FOCUSES ON DEMOCRACY VIA ON-LINE CHAT

More than 50 alumni of ECA exchange programs participated with U.S. Ambassador to Moldova **Heather M. Hodges** in the July 8 online chat “The Values and Challenges of Democracy in the United States and Moldova,” organized by the Internet Access and Training Program (IATP) Moldova. Focusing on the advantages of market economy and freedom of speech, the ambassador emphasized, “Public participation in the process of decision making is very important at any level in a democracy whether it is at the national, regional, or local level. One of the most important ways to show one's participation is through voting.” Alumni pledged to encourage people to vote in the upcoming elections and expressed appreciation for continuing U.S. government support in providing security assistance and anti-trafficking programs in Moldova.



Assisted by Aleisha Woodward, PAO, U.S. Ambassador to Moldova Heather M. Hodges, left, chats online with alumni during an IATP countrywide online conference, July 8, 2004.