



June 27, 2008

Dear Friends of Foreign Assistance,

I am pleased to present the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid's (ACVFA) report for its Spring meeting. A forum highlighting Atlanta's successful history of work in international development, the Committee's June 4, 2008 convening paid close attention to the future of partnerships, highlighting the ongoing efforts of universities, private voluntary organizations, service organizations and the private sector.

The morning session was kicked off with recorded remarks by USAID's Administrator Henrietta H. Fore. Emphasizing the role of partnerships, the Administrator highlighted their unique role in response to recent natural disasters in Burma and China.

This was followed by a panel discussion facilitated by ACVFA Member Helene Gayle. Joined by Committee Members Corey Griffin and Michael Nyenhuis as well as Dr. Roy Bahl with Georgia State University and Dr. Julie Gerberding with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the panel examined the tensions and challenges in partnerships as well as characteristics of sustainable alliances.

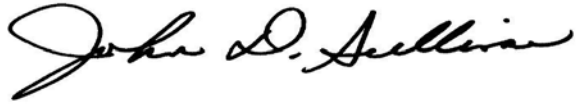
The ACVFA then received an update on the Development Grants Program from Terri Hasdorff with USAID. She was followed by a keynote address from USAID's Acting Deputy Administrator Jim Kunder. He highlighted USAID's new Development Leadership Initiative which will allow USAID to hire new foreign service officers so as to strengthen its position in the coming years.

The afternoon session of the public meeting examined the importance of both partnerships and raising awareness of U.S. foreign assistance. ACVFA Members hosted small group discussions with the general public around these two themes and reported out with many thoughtful recommendations.

In closing, I commend this report to the ACVFA community. The Committee's Fall meeting will take place on Thursday, October 2 in Washington, D.C. at the National Press Club. Details may be found on ACVFA's web page: [www.usaid.gov/about\\_usaid/acvfa/](http://www.usaid.gov/about_usaid/acvfa/)

We look forward to continuing our charter's mandate to facilitate exchange and consultation between USAID and its partners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John D. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "D" and "S".

John Sullivan  
Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid