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**TOP STORY**

**Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid Public Meeting**



*Remarks by Henrietta H. Fore  
Acting USAID Administrator and  
Acting Director of U.S.  
Foreign Assistance  
National Press Club, Washington, D.C.  
October 24, 2007*

This is an exciting, demanding, and rewarding time to be involved with international development. When President Bush and Secretary Rice asked me to lead USAID and serve as Director of Foreign Assistance at the State Department, I could not have imagined a more fulfilling challenge. Today's meeting comes at a moment of intense activity in international diplomacy and in efforts to transform the management of USAID's complex operations.

During the past few days, a number of us have been involved in the World Bank meetings and in the worldwide conference of USAID Mission Directors. This last event takes place only once every two years. I would like to report on some highlights of these and other recent events, because I know they concern you, and I count on you as partners in our work. [\(Full speech\)](#)

**TOP STORY**

**Empowering Women -Promoting Growth**

*Remarks by Henrietta H. Fore  
Acting USAID Administrator and  
Acting Director of U.S.  
Foreign Assistance  
The Washington Club, Washington, D.C.  
October 19, 2007*

We gather today to highlight three critically important themes: the fundamental importance of economic growth to development, the primacy of business climate reform to sustained economic growth, and the significant role business climate reform plays in the empowerment of women across the developing world.

It is a tremendous pleasure for USAID to join the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation in presenting the results of the 2008 Doing Business report.

Now in its fifth year, this report provides objective, annually updated, and globally comparable rankings of 178 economies. It measures the extent to which government regulation works to enhance or constrain private-sector growth, based on ten indicators of business regulation that track the time and cost to meet government requirements in business start-up, operation, trade, taxation, and closure. [\(Full speech\)](#)

**USAID World News**



**LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN**  
**USAID Provides Flood Assistance to Nicaragua** USAID has provided \$50,000 to humanitarian organizations for the local purchase and transport of emergency relief supplies as a result of the recent floods in Nicaragua...



**EUROPE & EURASIA** **USAID in Bulgaria (1990–2007): Seventeen Years Hand in Hand** To commemorate the closing of the USAID program in 2007, this publication gives a short historical summary of that role and the accomplishments along the way...



**ASIA NEAR EAST** **USAID's Education Program Success in Earthquake-Affected Areas Celebrated** USAID's \$13 million RISE project is an integral part of the U.S. government's reconstruction efforts in the earthquake-affected area...



**AFRICA** **USAID Highlights Public Private Alliance Successes in Reducing Poverty and Increasing Development in Africa** USAID hosted a presentation entitled "Empowering Women - Promoting Growth" today, highlighting the agency's commitment to public-private alliances in the advancement of African social and economic development...

**In The News**

**USAID Assists Flood Recovery in Slovenia** USAID is providing \$50,000 to a Slovenian government flood relief fund following countrywide flooding in September. USAID funds will support the construction of a water pump station to provide safe drinking water to affected residents in Zelezniki Municipality...

**USAID Supports Efforts to Reduce Violence Against Refugee and Displaced Women** USAID awarded the American Refugee Committee (ARC), an international non-governmental organization, \$1.5 million to conduct a three-year communication initiative...

**Telling Our Story**

**A Walk to Raise Awareness Saves Lives in Georgia**



**Suryani, with her husband Samsulmasli, said that she would not have known where to go for help without the USAID-funded emergency team at Zanoel Adidin Hospital.**

Photo: John Snow Internatiol/Sara Barrett

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