CDC's International Experience and Technical Assistance Program (IETA)

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Brown Bag Presentation





IETA Brown Bag Lunch Agenda:

- IETA Background
- A year in the program: 2009
- Questions and Answers



What is IETA?

IETA is a 12-month professional development/technical assistance program consisting of three 4-day training workshops in Atlanta and a short-term (12 weeks minimum) assignment with an international public health program.

Our aim is to:

- Build a pool of CDC staff qualified for and interested in long-term assignments in our global programs in low-income countries
- Create a cadre of staff capable of responding to increasing requests for short-term international technical assistance
- Provide IETA participants with a supervised work experience in the international public health sector
- Support personnel needs of CDC programs and organizations benefiting from IETA assignees working abroad



IETA Background: History

- 1996: Originated as a response to field staff survey for training
- 1997: First year 7 participants selected
- 2000: Global AIDS Program began and the need for experienced consultants increased
- 2000: IETA expanded to 24 participants to meet the programs' needs internationally
- 1997 2008: 10 training groups selected 207 accepted
- 2008: IETA expands to 30 participants
- 2009: IETA expands to 35 participants



IETA Background: Cohort 10

- 22 participants currently in assignments (30 selected)
- Federal experience ranging from 2 26 years
- GS levels 12 through SES accepted
- 4 Commissioned Corps Officers (O-3 RADM-07)
- Variety of skill sets represented
- 25 CDC/ATSDR participants from Atlanta, Washington, DC/Maryland and Houston
- 5 participants from HHS OIG & NIH

IETA Cohort 10



Program Format: Timeline

- Recruitment & Competitive Application (thru Oct 17)
- Interview and Selection (October December)
- Workshop 1: Orientation to International Work January
- Workshop 2: Realities of the Field March 24-27
- 3 month International Assignment (May Nov)
- Workshop 3: Trip Reports & Lessons Learned December



Training Design: Workshop Content

- Introduction to International public health organizations and programs
- Cross cultural aspects of international work
- Conflict resolution
- US Embassy 101
- US representation abroad
- Safety & security

- Personal health management
- Emotional health & wellness
- Official travel
- Trip reports
- International briefings
- Case studies
- Role plays
- PFWO



Assignment Requirements

- 12 weeks minimum
- Must go out between May 1-Sept 15
- Scope of work (SOW) with a clear objective and specific tasks/projects to be performed
- An in-country supervisor willing to evaluate assignee's performance
- Clear opportunities for the assignee to utilize his/her professional expertise to make tangible contributions toward the success of the international program while learning the realities of working overseas



International Assignments in a Variety of Fields

- Program Management Surveillance
- Policy, Planning and **Analysis**
- Training
- Behavioral and Social Science
- Health Education
- Health Communication
- Finance/Budget

- Evaluation
- Strategic planning
- **Informatics**
- Laboratory
- **Epidemiology**
- **Program Administration**
- Program Delivery/Implementation
- Contracting



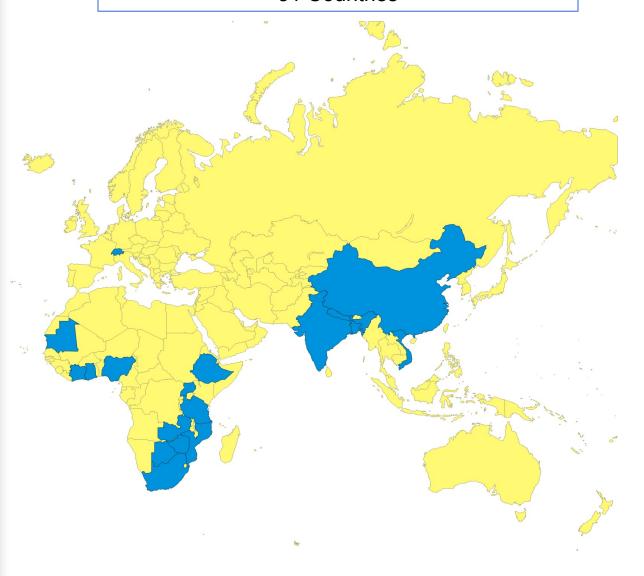
International Assignments

Programs Hosting IETA:

- CDC
 - Global AIDS Program
 - STOP Program Polio Eradication/Measles Elimination
 - Malaria Control
 - Tuberculosis Elimination
 - NCID/Emerging Infections Disease Program
 - DHAP
- World Health Organization
 - SEARO, AFRO, EMRO

IETA 1997- 2008

167 International Assignments 31 Countries



Countries

Angola Bangladesh Botswana Caribbean **Trinidad** Cameroon China Cote d'Ivoire Egypt Ethiopia Ghana Guyana India Kazakhstan Kenya Malawi Mauritania Mozambique Nepal Nigeria Pakistan Rwanda South Africa Switzerland Tanzania Thailand Uganda Vietnam Zambia

Zimbabwe

IETA Results

Since 1997:

- 207 Federal Employees participated in program since 1997
- 167 have successfully completed program requirements
- 95% are interested and actively continuing link with international public health work
- 17 are in (or have been in) long-term assignments abroad many more have taken jobs with Global Programs based in Atlanta
- Provided technical assistance to 13 international programs in 31 different countries over the years
- The Global AIDS Program is our biggest customer
- All 28 2008 participants were placed in assignments this year and placements were made before May.
- 24 participants deployed overseas 22 are still active in the program
- Alumni are excited about the program and its impact on their lives and are willing to share their experiences



Opportunity for Q and As

- Frequently asked questions
 - Approx. 75-120 applicants for 35 slots
 - Selections around Dec. 1
- What more do you want to know?

Tips for the application process

- Follow the instructions!!
 - Must submit original and two paper copies
 - Must have 2 levels of supvr/mgr support with signatures
 - If you can't complete the application as requested – we don't see you as a good candidate for the program
 - Show us your best work well articulated answers to the questions

For more information:

http://www.cdc.gov/cogh/training/ieta

Gwn2@cdc.gov or 404-639-7521



