Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives

Dear Newsletter Recipients,

The planning and implementation of the Kansas City workshop has finally come to an end. The workshop was a success, and I thank all of you who were able to attend. Nearly 150 participants were able to learn more about partnering with the United States Government on food aid. This week the topic of food prices and how they are affecting development assistance seems to be getting a lot of attention. The UN World Food Program has made open statements about their concerns, and Oxfam and CARE International hosted a three-day conference addressing responses to World Hunger. A few highlights are included below.

In addition to this, the Infopoverty World Conference was held in New York City April 16-18. Infopoverty is a common platform aiming at fighting poverty through the innovative use of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), able to provide broadband services such as telemedicine, e-learning, e-government, etc. to disadvantaged communities.

Finally, on Wednesday April 16, Pope Benedict XVI began his first papal visit to the United States, and was greeted warmly by President and Mrs. Bush on the White House lawn before thousands of Americans. The next day the Pope gave a Mass at the Washington Nationals stadium to 46,000 attendees, and will visit New York City before returning to Rome. Remarks by the President and by Pope Benedict XVI are provided here.

Warmest regards,

Terri

Terri Hasdorff
Director, Center for Faith Based & Community Initiatives
U.S. Agency for International Development
U.S. Department of State
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW , Washington, DC 20523
FBCI@usaid.gov

CFBCI Kansas City Workshop a Success

The CFBCI was pleased to host a Kansas City Workshop entitled, "The International Faith-Based and Community Initiative: Growing Food Aid Partnerships" on Monday, April 14. Nearly 150 participants attended to hear panelists discuss USDA's food security programs, successful practices in prime and sub-partnerships with the United States Government, and corporate partnerships. After the discussion, participants were invited to engage in a question and answer session with the panelists. The workshop was followed by a larger International Food Aid Conference being held in Kansas City. The conference focused on addressing challenges to food security, meeting nutritional needs, and reemphasizing the importance of children in food programs.

Infopoverty World Conference VIII

On April 16-18, OCCAM, Oklahoma University and others hosted the 8th annual Infopoverty World Conference. Infopoverty is a common platform aiming at fighting poverty through the innovative use of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), able to provide broadband services such as telemedicine, e-learning, e-government, etc. to disadvantaged communities. Infopoverty is a program born in the ambit of the United Nations and coordinated by OCCAM, the Observatory for Cultural and Audiovisual Communication created by UNESCO in 1997. The Infopoverty Programme involves more than 100 international institutions that have taken part, in various forms, in the Infopoverty World Conference.

One of the many important programs introduced at the conference was IBM's Makocha Minds mentor program ("makocha" is the Swahili word for "coach"). MM matches senior technical leaders from IBM and its partners with African university students studying science and technology disciplines ranging from computational biology and engineering to systems and software development. Through these mentoring relationships, students gain an inside perspective on their chosen areas of study and future career options, on how large global business organizations work, and how to better prepare for the working world. Makocha Minds also gives technical professionals an unprecedented opportunity to share their knowledge and personal career experiences with African students.

The program is available to students studying Engineering, ICT, Computer Science and Software Development at a select number of African universities. Technical professionals from IBM and participating partners are invited to volunteer as mentors. Protégés are hand-selected to participate in the program by the participating University coordinators.

The Makocha Minds program is designed to provide mentors and their protégés with considerable flexibility in pursuing their relationships. For the most part, interaction will be through remote connections - mentoring sessions by email and through other forms of communication such as phone and SMS text messaging).

To learn more about the Infopoverty World Conference, please click here.
To learn more about the Makocha Minds mentor program, please click here.

President Bush Welcomes His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to White House

On Wednesday, April 16 President and Mrs. Bush welcomed Pope Benedict XVI to the White House during the pope's first papal visit to the United States.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Holy Father, Laura and I are privileged to have you here at the White House. We welcome you with the ancient words commended by Saint Augustine: "Pax Tecum." Peace be with you.

You've chosen to visit America on your birthday. Well, birthdays are traditionally spent with close friends, so our entire nation is moved and honored that you've decided to share this special day with us. We wish you much health and happiness -- today and for many years to come.

This is your first trip to the United States since you ascended to the Chair of Saint Peter. You will visit two of our greatest cities and meet countless Americans, including many who have traveled from across the country to see with you and to share in the joy of this visit. Here in America you'll find a nation of prayer. Each day millions of our citizens approach our Maker on bended knee, seeking His grace and giving thanks for the many blessings He bestows upon us. Millions of Americans have been praying for your visit, and millions look forward to praying with

you this week.

Here in America you'll find a nation of compassion. Americans believe that the measure of a free society is how we treat the weakest and most vulnerable among us. So each day citizens across America answer the universal call to feed the hungry and comfort the sick and care for the infirm. Each day across the world the United States is working to eradicate disease, alleviate poverty, promote peace and bring the light of hope to places still mired in the darkness of tyranny and despair.

Here in America you'll find a nation that welcomes the role of faith in the public square. When our Founders declared our nation's independence, they rested their case on an appeal to the "laws of nature, and of nature's God." We believe in religious liberty. We also believe that a love for freedom and a common moral law are written into every human heart, and that these constitute the firm foundation on which any successful free society must be built.
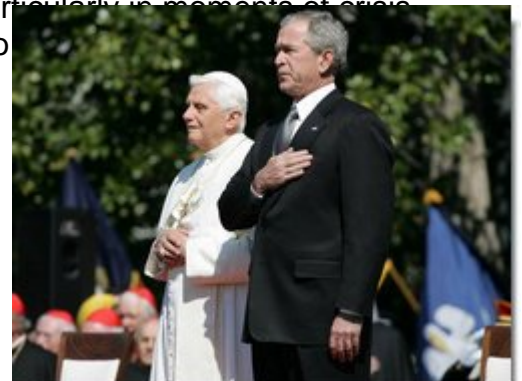
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POPE BENEDICT XVI: Mr. President, thank you for your gracious words of welcome on behalf of the people of the United States of America. I deeply appreciate your invitation to visit this great country. My visit coincides with an important moment in the life of the Catholic community in America: the celebration of the 200th anniversary of elevation of the country's first Diocese -- Baltimore -- to a metropolitan Archdiocese and the establishment of the Sees of New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Louisville.

Yet I am happy to be here as a guest of all Americans. I come as a friend, a preacher of the Gospel, and one with great respect for this vast pluralistic society. America's Catholics have made, and continue to make, an excellent contribution to the life of their country. As I begin my visit, I trust that my presence will be a source of renewal and hope for the Church in the United States, and strengthen the resolve of Catholics to contribute ever more responsibly to the life of this nation, of which they are proud to be citizens.

From the dawn of the Republic, America's quest for freedom has been guided by the conviction that the principles governing political and social life are intimately linked to a moral order based on the dominion of God the Creator. The framers of this nation's founding documents drew upon this conviction when they proclaimed the self-evident truth that all men are created equal and endowed with inalienable rights grounded in the laws of nature and of nature's God.

The course of American history demonstrates the difficulties, the struggles, and the great intellectual and moral resolve which were demanded to shape a society which faithfully embodied these noble principles. In that process, which forged the soul of the nation, religious beliefs were a constant inspiration and driving force, as for example in the struggle against slavery and in the civil rights movement. In our time, too, particularly in moments of crisis, Americans continue to find their strength in a commitment to aspirations.

In the next few days, I look forward to meeting not only with America's Catholic community, but with other Christian communities and representatives of the many religious traditions present in this country. Historically, not only Catholics, but all believers have found here the freedom to

worship God in accordance with the dictates of their conscience, while at the same time being accepted as part of a commonwealth in which each individual group can make its voice heard.

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To read remarks in full, please click here.

Bush administration makes last-minute food aid plea

The Bush administration warned lawmakers on Wednesday they would snatch food out of the mouths of millions if they approve restrictive rules for U.S. food aid in the new farm bill.

The need for flexible rules for purchasing and meting out aid, senior officials said at a food aid conference in Kansas City, is all the more crucial as the world comes to grips with a deepening food crisis.

Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer urged lawmakers to reconsider a proposal in the 2008 farm bill, the giant agriculture law moving slowly toward the White House, to set aside up to $600 million in food aid funds, almost half the budget for the biggest food aid program, for long-term development work.

He said restricting those funds for development work would sap money needed to respond quickly when disaster or famine strikes around the globe.

"It would cut off food aid to up to 8 million people," he said…

To read the entire article, please click here.

CARE and Oxfam Organize Forum
to Rethink the Response to World Hunger

UN Relief Web

Despite years of international relief efforts, hunger is on the increase. An estimated 10 million people die from the effects of malnutrition each year, and 850 million suffer from hunger worldwide. The number is increasing by four million people a year. Recently, the World Food Programme (WFP), which feeds 73 million people in the world, said that if it does not get an extra $500m this year to cover the hike in food and fuel costs, its food aid will have to be rationed. The World Bank President, Robert B. Zoellick, has said that the crisis of surging food prices could mean 'seven lost years' in the fight against worldwide poverty and has called for a 'new deal on global food policy'.

This week more than 60 policy experts from 30 leading international aid organizations met at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome to take a hard look at what needs to be done to solve the problem. 'What we are really talking about is how to address the underlying causes of hunger,' said Dr. Robert Glasser, Secretary General of CARE International, who gave the opening speech at the forum on Wednesday.

The three-day conference, entitled Rethinking Food Security in Humanitarian Response, was organized by two leading international relief and development organizations, CARE and Oxfam. The discussions tackled a number of issues raised by a new report from Tufts University, which is embargoed until Wednesday. The study notes that while fewer people are dying today from major disasters, a greater number are being affected by food shortages resulting from smaller events, droughts and civil unrest which often fail to make international headlines, but have a devastating cumulative impact on the economies of developing countries. . .

To read the entire article, please click here .

The Global Development Commons

As the GDC is being introduced at the Infopoverty World Conference this week, it seems necessary to include some information on USAID's important new initiative. Administrator Henrietta Fore has launched a bold initiative on the Global Development Commons (GDC). This initiative will bring together the ground-breaking changes taking place in development with the rapid advancements in information technology and web communication.

The GDC is the space where development actors unite - physically and virtually - to gather and exchange ideas and services, communicate, and form partnerships. The GDC will unite all those with a stake in development - from end-users/beneficiaries to governments, to partners, to citizens - into a seamless and accessible network, making it easier for developing countries and their citizens to find solutions and resources that match their development needs.

The GDC builds and improves on the existing *development information architecture* (websites, portals, blogs, chat rooms, conferences, gatherings, etc.) to create a *comprehensive network that allows users to search for information, facilitate dialogue, and trade or exchange products and ideas*. The physical components of the GDC - meetings and forums such as global HIV/AIDS conferences and joint donor-recipient country planning processes - will gather relevant stakeholders to discuss and share ideas with members of the commons. When these communities are linked together, they create a landscape of existing development-oriented information sites (both physical and virtual).

No entity or individual "owns" the GDC, instead USAID and other development stakeholders are all part shareholders of the GDC. The ownership model envisioned is more like that associated with *Wikipedia* where some stakeholders will be more active than others. The GDC must be a shared responsibility with its own identity management. USAID will help launch, publicize, and facilitate the GDC and actively seek partners to scale it up worldwide.

To learn more about the GDC, please click here .

Federal Funding Opportunities

USAID

Senegal USAID-Dakar has posted an unrestricted cooperative agreement seeking applications from organizations for a cooperative agreement to fund a program entitled "Enabling Quality, Access, and Transparency in Education for Senegal". As of April 18, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is April 28, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here .

Dominican Republic USAID-Santo Domingo has posted an APS announcing USAID's intention to awarding multiple grants. Eligible applicants are Dominican NGOs operating legally under Dominican law, foreign organizations operating under the relevant Dominican laws and that have the required clearance to operate in the Dominican Republic from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The RFA is seeking project proposals to administer aid for the Out of School and At Risk Children and Youth program. Applicants must specify the length of time and requested funding level in the submitted concept paper. As of April 18, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is April 30, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here .

Hungary USAID-Budapest has posted an unrestricted cooperative agreement for a three-year program to support the USG Trafficking in Persons Strategy (TIP) for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), specifically helping BiH to remain a Tier 2 country and, if possible, to progress to a Tier 1 country. The program will help to strengthen the capacity of BiH's Government to combat TIP and to implement the country's National Action Plan. This objective will be accomplished through the following prevention and protection interventions: 1) Insertion of trafficking prevention education in schools 2) Support for victim assistance 3) Support to the implementation of the National Anti-Trafficking Plan of Action This program will support, wherever possible, interventions that are by their nature self-sustaining. As of April 18, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is May 27, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here.

The US Agency for International Development Food for Peace grant announcement has been posted on Grants.gov. Eligible applicants include U.S. non-profit organizations and Public International Organization (PIO). Applications may request a maximum of 75 metric tons (MT) of commodities (currently valued at approximately $173,000) and up to $100,000 of funding. It is not mandatory, however, that these exact levels be requested or in this proportion. (Note: Funding is available for costs directly associated with the movement, management and monitoring of IFRP commodities. Funding will not be considered for the following costs: vehicle purchase, project materials, tools and office equipment.) To read more about USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) and to obtain a link to fiscal year 2008 IFRP Guidelines and Procedures, click here. To access the announcement on Grants.gov and for contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here. As of April 18, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is June 2, 2008.

US Agency for International Development has posted an unrestricted cooperative agreement to solicit partners to implement activities in support of creative and timely responses to encourage the abandonment of traditional practices that promote and condone gender-based violence. USAID is specifically interested in those traditional harmful practices that have received limited attention from the development community. The geographic focus under consideration is USAID's geographic definitions of Africa and Asia & the Near East (ANE). To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here. As of April 18, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is June 12, 2008.

US Agency for International Development has posted an unrestricted grant announcement seeking partners to meet the critical basic needs of internally displaced people and returnee populations (both old and new caseload) in Kabul Province. To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here. As of April 18, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is June 21, 2008.

US Agency for International Development has posted a cooperative agreement for registered U.S. and non-U.S. NGOs, non-profit, and for profit organizations willing to forego profit. The purpose of the Annual Program Statement is to solicit applications for funding. The United States Government, through USAID/Washington and in close collaboration with USAID/Cotonou, USAID/Nairobi, USAID/Pretoria, and USAID/Lusaka, is seeking full applications from prospective partners to implement activities in support of creative and timely responses to the USAID-related components of the Presidential Women's Justice and Empowerment Initiative (WJEI). To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here. As of April 18, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is July 23, 2008.

Ethiopia USAID-Addis Ababa has posted an unrestricted cooperative agreement to solicit applications for funding from prospective new partners to support implementation of the United States Government's President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (hereafter referred to as Emergency Plan or also referred to as PEPFAR) in Ethiopia. The United States Government, through USAID/Ethiopia, is seeking, from prospective partners, concept papers to be followed by full applications (if concept papers are selected) to implement activities in support of the Prevention for at Risk Populations in High Prevalence Urban Areas in Ethiopia. The U.S. Government Mission in Ethiopia anticipates awarding a limited number of grants or cooperative agreements (hereafter called Agreements) for a period of no less than one year

and no more than three years. Meanwhile, depending on successful implementation, needs and availability of funds, the period of performance could be extended by one or two additional years. To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here. As of April 18, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is July 31, 2008.

USAID has posted a grant notice for conflict mitigation and reconciliation programs (with possible multiple awards). The Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (DCHA/CMM) within USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) invites applications from U.S. and non-U.S. non-profit or for-profit non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations (IOs) and other qualified non-U.S. Government (USG) organizations (including faith-based organizations and community based organizations) to carry out activities, under grants or cooperative agreements, that support conflict mitigation and reconciliation programs and activities that bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious or political backgrounds from areas of civil conflict and violence. A program performance period of up to twenty-four (24) months is anticipated for each award -- between $100,000 to $600,000 each. As of April 18, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is August 12, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here.

USAID has posted a grant notice for Public Private Partnerships in Ethiopia. The USAID/Nigeria Economic Growth, Partnership and Private Sector (PPS) Team is strongly committed to building public-private partnerships that mobilize resources, expertise, creative approaches, and technologies that address development issues in Nigeria under the Global Development Alliance (GDA) Annual Program Statement (APS). Click here to view the entire announcement. As of April 18, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is September 30, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here.

Nigeria USAID-Abuja has posted a cooperative agreement for registered Nigerian indigenous organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. non-governmental organizations (NGO), faith-based organizations (FBO), community-based organizations (CBO), foundations, private organizations affiliated with public academic institutions, parastatals, professional organizations, non-profit organizations, and for-profit organizations willing to forego profit. They are looking for proposals to strengthen civil society to combat HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. As of April 18, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is January 31, 2009. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here.

Department of State

The Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration has posted a cooperative agreement for nonprofits with 501 (C)(3) status that are not institutions of higher learning and for international organizations. They are seeking applications from non-governmental organizations and international organizations for assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan and recent returnees in Afghanistan. This program will have two deadlines: February 25 for projects beginning in May and June, and April 18 for projects beginning in July through September. Please consult the full announcement for additional details and priority areas in Afghanistan and Pakistan. To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here.

The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration has posted a cooperative agreement for nonprofits with 501 (C)(3) status that are not institutions of higher learning and for international organizations. Limited funding is available to support overseas assistance programs to address gender-based violence (GBV), including sexual abuse and exploitation, amongst refugees and refugee returnees, in a manner that respects the dignity of the individual and culture in which s/he lives. Applicants should bear in mind that PRM's central mandate is to provide assistance to refugees and returnees. Priority activities, countries, and populations are included in the full announcement. While other vulnerable populations are also of vital concern, applicants must clearly show how they are benefiting PRM's primary target population. As of April 18, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is April 30, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here.

The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor has posted a grant for nonprofits with 501 (C)(3) status that are not institutions of higher learning. The Bureau announces a Request for Proposals from organizations interested in submitting proposals to support technologies that will maximize freedom of expression and the free flow of information and ideas through minimizing the success of repressive technologies in censoring and silencing peaceful expressions of political, religious, and ideological views on the Internet. These technologies should be either Internet-based technologies that can directly counter Internet censorship tools, or mobile technologies that circumvent Internet censorship by disseminating information through other media. Proposed activities should promote Internet freedom in restricted environments, including the Middle East and Asia. As of April 18, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is May 2, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here .

The Bureau Of Educational and Cultural Affairs has posted a cooperative agreement for nonprofits with 501 (C)(3) status that are not institutions of higher learning and for international organizations. They are requesting proposals in an open competition for the Ngwang Choepel Fellows program that focus on the themes of Cultural Preservation and Economic Self-sufficiency. The Office seeks proposals that train and assist Tibetans living in Tibetan communities in China by providing professional experience and exposure to American society and culture through internships, workshops and other learning activities hosted by U.S. institutions. As of April 18, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is May 9, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here .

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs has posted a grant for public and state controlled institutions of higher education, nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status, other than institutions of higher education, and private institutions of higher education. They announce an open competition for multiple grants to support international exchange projects under the rubric "Faith and Community: A Dialogue." Public and private non-profit organizations or consortia of such organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 USC 501(c)(3) may submit proposals to develop and implement multi-phased exchanges that bring clerics, scholars of religion, educators, and community leaders/activists from countries with significant Muslim populations to the United States to interact with their counterparts and support reciprocal visits by American clerics, scholars of religion, educators, and community leaders/activists representing the diversity of the American population. . As of April 18, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is May 21, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here .

The Bureau Of Educational and Cultural Affairs has posted a cooperative agreement for nonprofits with 501 (C)(3) status that are not institutions of higher learning and for international organizations. They are announcing an open competition for the English Language Teaching (ELT) Materials Development Project and English Language Educators Summer Institute for July 2009. Proposals should provide the following: 1) the development of English language materials suitable to Office of English Language Programs' goals and 2) the design and administration of a three-week professional development program for assessing English language teaching materials for possible adoption into English language teaching programs overseas. As of April 18, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is May 13, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here .

For all federal grant notices, visit grants.gov .