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Fiscal Years 2007 - 2010
AMERICAN OVERSEAS RESEARCH CENTERS
PROGRAM ABSTRACTS

PR Award #	American Overseas Research Center	Recommended Funding FY 2007
P274A070003	American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies	\$60,511
P274A070004	American Research Center in Egypt	\$72,582
P274A070006	American School of Classical Studies at Athens	\$91,598
P274A070007	Center for Khmer Studies	\$82,909
P274A070008	American Institute for Maghrib Studies	\$109,406
P274A070010	American Institute of Indian Studies	\$109,650
P274A070014	American Research Center in Turkey	\$109,406
P274A070015	West Africa Research Association	\$106,195
P274A070020	Palestinian American Research Center	\$88,181
P274A070021	American Institute of Pakistan Studies	\$63,893
P274A070023	American Center for Mongolian Studies	\$105,669

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR SRI LANKAN STUDIES

The overall purpose of the American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies (AISLS) is to develop and support U.S. research and expertise on Sri Lanka. We seek operating and program support from the U.S. Department of Education for our Overseas Research Center in Colombo, the capital city of Sri Lanka.

This project has five main components. First, it provides operating support for the Center, which enables our staff to help U.S. researchers with matters such as security, visas, housing, research permits, access to specialized libraries and archives, and making contacts with Sri Lankan scholars, government officials, and members of civil society. These services are especially important because of the unsettled security situation in Sri Lanka and because many graduate students and scholars using the Center do not have previous experience working in the country. Second, the project provides support for a new initiative to improve and expand our language instruction program in Sinhala, Tamil, Arabic, and Pali. This initiative will include a systematic survey of qualified language instructors and the compilation of language teaching materials for Sinhala and Tamil. Third, the project provides for the continuation of our successful workshop program, which bolsters the expertise of U.S. educators and builds ties between them and their Sri Lankan counterparts in academia and civil society.

In the FY 2007-2011 funding cycle we will continue to cover a wide variety of topics in the humanities and social sciences, but also plan to develop workshops on Sinhala and Tamil language pedagogy. Fourth, the project provides support for the Colombo Center library, which holds many materials not available elsewhere in Sri Lanka and other materials not available in the United States. Finally, the project will strengthen AISLS programs that make research materials and other information on Sri Lanka more accessible to U.S. educators. AISLS will expand its efforts to publish bibliographical and other reference information on the Internet, and it will continue to meet the requests of US educators who are seeking to locate Sri Lankan research materials.

The project has been designed to complement AISLS activities that are carried out with other federal and private funds. For instance, the support of the Colombo Center staff and access to our library are essential to the success of our research fellowship and dissertation planning grant programs. These programs, in turn, provide U.S. scholars and students with per diems while undergoing Department of Education funded language instruction. The AISLS also maximizes the impact of its programs by working closely with its member universities and other organizations that share its goals. The Digital Library for International Research, for example, not only hosts our library catalog, but provides expertise and resources that enable AISLS to make other Sri Lanka-related materials available on the Internet.

AISLS programs serve some 90 individual members, as well as students and faculty affiliated with its fourteen institutional members. Annual individual membership rates are set an affordable level (\$30, or \$10 for students), thus ensuring wide access. Since its incorporation in 1996 and the establishment of its Colombo Center in 2000, the AISLS has made considerable progress in strengthening US scholarship on Sri Lanka. Support from the U.S. Department of Education is essential for AISLS efforts to continue to expand and diversify U.S. expertise and to improve the language skills of U.S. specialists.

AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT

The American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) is a nonprofit consortium of individuals and North American educational institutions dedicated to an understanding of all aspects of Egyptian history and culture, up to the present. To these ends, ARCE promotes scholarly research and the dissemination of its results; encourages cultural and academic ties among its members and their Egyptian counterparts; and fosters broader knowledge and appreciation among the general public. ARCE's activities in Egypt and through its chapters in the United States include, but are not limited to:

- Facilitation of scholarly research in Egypt
- A program of fellowships awarded for study and research in Egypt
- Scholarly publications
- Educational activities for the public and general membership
- Academic exchanges
- A program of Arabic studies encompassing language and cultural heritage
- Preservation of Egypt's cultural heritage

ARCE produces a cadre of American scholars and international experts knowledgeable in the fields of area studies and international affairs as a result of its wide array of postgraduate Fellowship and research opportunities and its expanding Arab studies program for undergraduate and graduate students. These projects will directly serve the U.S. academic community and the general public through the ARCE network of chapters and affiliates by fostering a deeper understanding of Egypt, the Middle East and the Muslim world.

During the FY 2007-2010 funding cycle the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) seeks \$337,666 of funding from the Department of Education's (DOE) American Overseas Research Centers Program over a four-year period to support ARCE operating expenses, the launching of new activities and the expansion and strengthening of existing programs.

Specific plans for the use of the DOE funds for the next four years include support for:

1. Enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of ARCE in-country support for its research fellowship program.
Funding under this grant will be used to hire a part-time Fellows In-country Coordinator who will design, implement and monitor the effectiveness of ARCE support mechanisms to its fellows, orient and counsel new fellows and oversee fellowship grant writing and reporting.
2. The establishment of the Arabic Studies Center, in direct response to two U.S. DOE invitational priorities, and as an expansion of ARCE's Arabic language training program.
Funding under this grant will be used to purchase, install and maintain computers for the ASC as well as furnishing the classrooms.
3. Simpson Library acquisitions and computer enhancements and management.

Funding under this grant will be used to upgrade existing equipment, install and maintain a wireless Internet system, and procure the services of an IT specialist who will divide his time between the library and the ASC.

AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES AT ATHENS

For 125 years the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) has served American post-graduate education as the preeminent overseas research institution devoted to the advanced study of all aspects of Greek culture from antiquity to the present day. The broad mission of the ASCSA has remained constant over its distinguished history: teaching; research; archaeological exploration; and publication and dissemination of research.

Founded in 1881, the ASCSA provides graduate students and scholars from a consortium of 174 North American colleges and universities a base for research and study in Greece. These institutions with curricula in classical archaeology, classics, linguistic studies, Byzantine, Ottoman, and modern Greek studies, political science, history, and other fields including the archaeological sciences, regard the outstanding academic programs, excavations, libraries and other facilities of the ASCSA as extensions of their own institutions' graduate programs. The ASCSA's academic program for postgraduate students is viewed by many institutions as a requirement for the well-rounded Ph.D. in Greek area studies. In fact, many of today's faculty in American universities in these core disciplines are alumni/ae of the School.

The ASCSA has had a significant impact on thousands of scholars over four generations who have participated in its programs and conducted research in Greece under its auspices. The deep background in Greek area studies--all aspects of Greek culture, history, language, and in the land of Greece, itself--that students and scholars gain from their participation in the programs of the ASCSA and research at its facilities in Greece has contributed to developing a group of international experts who have been major assets to the United States in the fields of education, government, business, civic and non-profit sectors for over a century and a quarter. The ASCSA represents the best and the brightest of American scholarship and education in Greece, a country of strategic importance to the U.S. and a stable ally positioned in southeastern Europe at the gateway to the Balkans, Turkey and the Middle East.

This request is for funding for a small portion of the annual costs of maintaining the ASCSA's outstanding postgraduate academic program and research facilities in Greece: the salary of the School's Director who leads the academic program and oversees all aspects of the School in Greece; the salary of the Administrator who works with the Ministry of Culture to secure the necessary permits for American scholars to do research in Greece; the salary of the Head Librarian of the Blegen Library who oversees the acquisitions and management of the research holdings; acquisitions for the two libraries to expand their holdings to keep up with the research disciplines the School supports; and a lecture series to bring top scholars to the School to enrich the academic program and intellectual community.

CENTER FOR KHMER STUDIES

The Center for Khmer Studies' mission is to support the advancement of knowledge and develop U.S. experts on Cambodia and Southeast Asia. It is the only American Overseas Research Center in Southeast Asia, a region of 500 million people, and serves as a meeting place and a unique regional anchor for scholars. CKS provides financial and logistical support enabling U.S. scholars to conduct research, and promotes competent local scholars able to collaborate with U.S. colleagues. We administer U.S. doctoral and post-graduate fellowships, run conferences and workshops, coordinate U.S. study tours and foster exchange between Cambodian institutions and our U.S. consortium. We provide language training, a research library with free Internet access, work space, contacts, scholarly publications and a Web site. Existing resources are two offices, a conference center, a professional research library, a trained staff and strong management and governance. We serve an expanding consortium of U.S. institutions, U.S. students and advanced scholars, regional and international scholars, American NGOs and visiting Americans, as well as the general policy interests of the United States.

Activities for the 2007-2010 Funding Cycle: The goals of our Title VI request are to: sustain and strengthen operations capacity and outreach; and enhance research opportunities and services for advanced scholars. In order to build the field of Southeast Asian studies in the United States, we seek to bring more U.S. scholars to Southeast Asia, enable them to do their research effectively, build relations and collaborate with regional colleagues. Our project entails funding for:

- 1) Partial support of senior staff salaries, Internet upgrade, partial support of Phnom Penh and Siem Reap offices, librarian training and sustaining outreach among U.S. scholars and institutions.
- 2) Khmer language training, funding U.S. scholars' participation in CKS conferences and an on-staff American visiting resident scholar.

Expected outcomes are the strengthening and stabilization of CKS as an institution, with improved services, expansion of our U.S. consortium, strengthening of the American academic presence in Cambodia and the region and development and increased awareness of the field of Southeast Asian Studies in U.S. institutions.

The contributions of this project are well-administered fellowship offerings, expanded opportunities and facilities for U.S. scholars to work in the region, better resources for research at our library, conferences featuring U.S. scholars' participation, publication of research findings, and a recognized presence of American scholarship in the region.

The CKS consortium now numbers 18 American institutions large and small, after just 6 years. This number will no doubt increase in the coming years as a result of our Director's targeted annual visits to U.S. campuses. CKS contributes to building a favorable image of the United States in Southeast Asia, underscoring the desire to cultivate knowledge of this pivotal region in America, and to form future experts and partners. CKS is the sole institution in former Indo-China, where American scholars are able to conduct research and interact with regional counterparts. After years of civil war and misunderstandings on both sides, CKS's existence and growth signal a new beginning in relations between Southeast Asia and the United States.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR MAGHRIB STUDIES

The American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS) is an educational, non-profit organization dedicated to the study of North Africa. Established in 1984, AIMS has developed and administered a steadily expanding array of activities which promote graduate and postgraduate research, scholarly exchanges, Arabic language acquisition, and area and disciplinary studies in North Africa. AIMS is the first American Overseas Research Center (AORC) to represent an entire region, and it is the only AORC to administer overseas research centers in three countries: the Centre d'Etudes Maghrébines à Tunis (CEMAT) in Tunisia, the Tangier American Legation Museum (TALM) in Morocco, and the newly opened Centre d'Etudes Maghrébines en Algerie (CEMA). AIMS hopes to encourage improved U.S.-Libyan relations and facilitate research ties there, and has plans to host the 2010 annual AIMS conference in Libya on Roman Archaeology.

AIMS promotes the study of North Africa in American universities and colleges and works to increase the professional contacts between American and North African scholars. While AIMS primary goal is to facilitate the training and work of U.S. scholars in North Africa, which includes Arabic language acquisition, an important additional goal is to introduce North Africans to U.S. scholarship and American values of representation, accountability, and the free exchange of ideas. To achieve these goals, AIMS coordinates nine activities: 1) research grants, 2) intensive summer study of Arabic, which as of this year expanded to three programs, 3) international conferences and conference publications, 4) collaborative research projects, 5) scholarly journal, 6) graduate student organization and dissertation workshops, 7) Maghribi scholar grants to ORC's, 8) an international scholarly society with a newsletter, Web site and listserv, and 9) ORC programs. This complex of components is designed to produce a coordinated, on-going, and mutually reinforcing set of academic programs that introduce students and scholars to North Africa, provide opportunities for Arabic language study, offer a competition for research funds, assist researchers in the field, and supply opportunities for conference papers, panels and publications. All programs are administered with the assistance of CEMAT, TALM, and CEMA. Accordingly, our overseas centers and their resident directors are the foundation of AIMS' work.

To enable AIMS to continue and expand its programs, we are applying for administrative funds for salaries, supplies, and maintenance for our programs and our three overseas research centers. We appreciate the Department of Education's willingness to fund AIMS and support the study of the critical area of North Africa.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INDIAN STUDIES

The American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) was formed to further the knowledge of India in the United States by supporting American scholarship on India. The major activities of the Institute are located in India. The principal methods by which the AIIS achieves its goal are providing financial and logistical support to American scholars carrying out research and study in India. It provides language instruction in India to an average of 125 American graduate and undergraduate students each year and fellowships for research in India to an average of 38 doctoral and post-doctoral scholars from all fields of academic inquiry focusing on aspects of India, as well as to performing and creative artists. The Institute handles matters of research clearance for approximately 250 American academics visiting India each year. The AIIS also maintains two internationally recognized research archives: the Center for Art and Archaeology and the Archives and Research Center for Ethnomusicology. In addition, it provides substantial in-country support (e.g. travel arrangements, access to archives, introductions to pertinent scholars) to scores of American scholars each year and to U.S. study abroad programs in India.

The AIIS, incorporated in 1961, is a consortium of 55 American universities and colleges in which scholars actively engage in teaching and research about India. The scholars from these institutions who serve the Institute as trustees, officers and committee members are recognized as the most respected scholars in the fields of South Asian Studies. The U.S. administrative office of the Institute is located at the University of Chicago. In India, the AIIS employs approximately sixty employees, in Delhi (the headquarters and locus of the Institute's two research centers), at the Regional Centers in Kolkata, Chennai, and Pune and at Language Program Centers.

The programs of AIIS promote and advance mutual understanding between the citizens of the United States, and of India. They contribute to the creation of an increasingly large group of experts on all aspects of India and who will use their knowledge in their teaching, their scholarship, in government service or in their work for non-governmental organizations. All AIIS fellows in India are affiliated with an Indian institution of higher education, and contribute to the scholarly interaction that takes place at that institution. In addition, our performing/creative arts fellowships promote the arts of India in the United States through performance as well as teaching. A broad cross-section of the American public benefits from experiencing the arts of India.

The Institute endeavors to reach out to the widest possible audience in the United States, in terms of scholarly discipline, geographical location, gender, and national origin. It advertises its programs widely and is constantly exploring new ways of publicizing. It actively solicits applications from students and scholars who are not located at major research universities and not located in large states. Its efforts have been rewarded by a marked increase in the number of applications for its fellowship and language program over the past five years.

The Institute seeks United States Department of Education funding to maintain services and to enhance the in-country support that the Institute is able to deliver to its fellows and other scholars working in India--services nowhere else available yet ones that will significantly aid the research of these scholars. We also seek funding to enhance our successful language programs in India and to fund conferences that will promote exchange among scholars, including a seminar for all junior fellows in India (i.e. Ph.D. candidates) that is intended to do much to facilitate their research and build a sense of community among the new generation of scholars.

AMERICAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN TURKEY

The American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) is a private non-profit consortium of American universities that was incorporated in 1964 to promote, encourage, and serve U.S.-based scholarship in Turkey in the humanities, social sciences, and archaeology, and to nurture and expand U.S. expertise in these areas of study. The knowledge gained in this process is in turn made available in the United States through teaching, lecturing, the media, scholarly publications and consulting. These outlets promote U.S. scholarly interests in Turkey and help to ensure that the United States continues to be a major world center of teaching and learning about Turkey from ancient through present times. ARIT directly supports U.S. scholars in Turkey through programs of research and language fellowships, and through the programs, services, and facilities available to all U.S. researchers at its centers in Istanbul and Ankara. The centers in turn become focal points of exchanges between and among U.S. and Turkish scholars.

ARIT's funds come primarily from U.S. sources. The fellowship programs are largely funded through grants from federal agencies (U. S. Department of State, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and U.S. Department of Education). Additional funds come from dues paid by institutional members, fellowship grants from private foundations, and from donations by Friends organizations in the United States and Turkey, where fundraising campaigns are carried out in conjunction with ARIT's public outreach educational programs.

ARIT has over 40 years of experience in administering fellowships and other programs of high quality in Turkey, including educational public outreach. ARIT makes the most of U.S. taxpayers' dollars through cost-efficient, well-managed operations. The interest among American scholars for work in Turkey continues to be great; ARIT hopes to be able to continue serving their needs at the level that has been enjoyed, thanks to USED support since 1994-1995. Funding sources exist for fellowship programs. Yet the USED-AORC Program offers the only real opportunity for ARIT to maintain its consolidated position and to maximize its programs, which serve not only its own fellows, but all American researchers in Turkey, under whatever auspices. ARIT-affiliated researchers form a core of scholars with first-hand knowledge and experience in Turkish language and Middle East studies.

ARIT supports two programs that meet the invitational priorities put forth in the 2007 year American Overseas Research Centers Program description. ARIT's traditional Summer Program in Intensive Advanced Turkish Language at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul meets both priorities as a program that facilitates advanced study of a critical language. The new Critical Language Institute Scholarship Program complements the advanced language program in that it supports the study of Turkish language at the beginning and intermediate level. The ECA beginning and intermediate programs meet the second invitational priority by expanding U.S. knowledge of a less commonly taught critical language and expand access to many more students and scholars who benefit from Turkish language training.

ARIT is requesting continued funds for operations to apply toward administrative support, and toward the cost of maintaining adequate facilities in Turkey. ARIT will thus be able to continue making efficient and effective use of its facilities and administrative personnel, and sustaining at the present level its many services to U.S.-based scholars and students in Turkey.

AMERICAN CENTER FOR MONGOLIAN STUDIES

The American Center for Mongolian Studies (ACMS) is a non-profit educational organization recognized under Section 501 (c) 3 of the U.S. tax code, which supports the development of Mongolian Studies and academic exchanges with Inner Asia including Mongolia and the neighboring areas of China, Russia and Central Asia, such as Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Buryatia, Tuva, Kazakhstan and related regions. The activities of the ACMS include the development of academic resources, student and research support and the fostering of academic partnerships in all fields of study related to Mongolia.

The ACMS was established in April 2002, and in March 2004 the ACMS established a permanent office and library in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The ACMS maintains a U.S. office at Western Washington University. The ACMS consortium now has 33 Institutional Members, including 24 U.S. universities, museums and research centers, and over 140 Individual Members. Increases in the numbers of members and patrons served are expected to occur in coming years due to growing ties between the U.S. and Mongolia, and recent upgrades to ACMS facilities and services. The ACMS library now holds over 1000 volumes, and is the only library in Mongolia offering access to electronic databases such as JSTOR. The ACMS is cooperating with other local libraries and archives to improve access to collections through the creation of on-line catalogues and digitized resources, and improve the archival condition of rare books and manuscripts.

The ACMS organizes a full range of program offerings to increase Americans' knowledge of Mongolia and the Mongolian language, support mutually beneficial academic research and exchange, and deepen Americans' understanding of the Inner Asian region. The ACMS offers assistance in identifying and making contact with Mongolian Studies scholars and institutions, organizes guest speakers, conferences and seminars, and offers services for scholars, students and groups visiting Mongolia such as arranging transportation, housing, visas and permits. The ACMS offers fellowships for students through the U.S.-Mongolia Field Research Fellowship Program, and organizes study tours of Mongolia for U.S. educators.

The ACMS Web site (www.mongoliacenter.org) contains information for scholars wishing to work in Mongolia, such as information on logistics, library and information resources, visas and permits, plus Mongolian Studies resources including listings of dissertations and theses, information on research projects and an up-to-date list of Mongolian Studies events, conferences, publications, resources, work opportunities and links to other sites. It includes an extensive section on Mongolian language resources, including comprehensive information about where and how to study Mongolian language in both the United States and Mongolia, an annotated list of study books and resources, and links to online instructional material.

The proposed project is built around support for four key areas of ACMS activities: personnel and supplies to continue and expand the ACMS Ulaanbaatar office operations and programs; the creation of a new staff position and resources to support Mongolian language instruction; development of the ACMS library; and funds to ensure effective oversight and evaluation of ACMS programs and business practices. The project will result in the creation of a new Mongolian language immersion program in Mongolia and the development of new language instructional materials, including support of the development of a collaborative online Mongolian language instructional site that will allow geographically dispersed students to cooperate in their studies. The grant will support fellowships to promote intensive Mongolian language studies by American students. The grant will also allow significant upgrades in both facilities and resources for the ACMS library.

PALESTINIAN AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER

The U.S. government identifies the security and stability of the Middle East as of prime strategic importance. In that connection, resolution of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is a central goal of U.S. foreign policy. U.S. national interest will, therefore, be served by improving and expanding the community of U.S. scholars knowledgeable about the conflict and about the broad range of Palestinian issues in which the conflict is embedded. The Palestinian American Research Center (PARC), established in 1998, is the sole U.S. center focused on providing research funding and field support to scholars studying Palestinian affairs. In the eight years of operation, PARC has made a noticeable difference through its support for field and archival research by American, Palestinian, Israeli, and other doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers.

PARC represents a consortium of 21 U.S. colleges, universities, and research institutions (along with other international institutional members) and nearly 500 individual members. These figures are up substantially from the 15 institutions and 100 individuals affiliated with PARC four years ago. PARC is a non-profit organization receiving virtually all of its funding from U.S. public and private sources. The primary missions of PARC are to improve scholarship about Palestinian affairs, expand the pool of experts knowledgeable about the Palestinians, strengthen linkages between U.S. and Palestinian research institutions and scholars, and enhance public knowledge about Palestinian-related issues. Over the next four years PARC will:

- Expand the pool of scholars specialized in Palestinian studies by offering research fellowships focused on social sciences, environmental studies, public health, humanities, and policy-oriented fields;
- Enhance researchers' abilities to conduct research overseas on Palestinian-related issues by providing support services to scholars in the field;
- Strengthen linkages among U.S. and Palestinian educational, cultural and research institution through cooperative research projects, sharing archival resources, publishing a semi-annual newsletter, participation in annual Middle East Studies Association conferences, and organizing an annual conference in Jerusalem, annual seminars at Palestinian universities, and promoting other lectures, exchanges, and events; and
- Develop online library resources and teaching modules to facilitate research and educational outreach that will enable students, teachers, civic groups, and business persons, and academic and policy researchers to access up-to-date information on Palestine.

To these ends, PARC has established administrative offices in the United States in Bethesda, Maryland and Ramallah, Palestine, and has obtained grants from the Ford, Earhart, and Rockefeller foundations and the U.S. Department of State to support research, strengthen linkages, and develop online resources. PARC appreciates the opportunity to apply for a third grant from the Department of Education to support its operations. These funds will enable PARC to solidify its presence overseas and dramatically expand its online outreach and research programs.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PAKISTAN STUDIES

The American Institute of Pakistan Studies continues to provide resources for the study of critical languages such as Urdu and a greater understanding of Pakistan on the national and international level in spite of post 9/11 restrictions on the use of federal funds for fellowships and travel to Pakistan. The Institutes activities during the next four years will include continued development of the Islamabad Center to support U.S. scholars in Pakistan as well as Pakistani scholars who will be traveling to the United States as part of the Pakistan Lecture Series; fellowship support for the study of Pakistan in countries other than Pakistan and the United States; library and Web development support; support for conferences and seminars relating to Pakistan studies in the United States and Pakistan. It will also work in collaboration with the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan and the Berkeley Urdu Language Program in Pakistan to develop specialized short term language training for U.S. personnel and other interested persons in Islamabad. This support of Urdu language training and teaching is a new feature of the Institute.

The Institute will expand its facilities in Pakistan by developing two new regional centers in collaboration with other institutions to provide increased access to Web-based resources for the study of Pakistan and the United States. It will collaborate with other AORC's in a Cultural Heritage management training program with follow-up seminars and workshops; with Pakistani Government organizations, universities, and NGO's to promote knowledge on Pakistan, encourage international study, train graduate students for the study of Pakistan, and stimulate the study and use of Urdu and other Pakistani languages.

AIPS will also continue its efforts in reviewing and evaluating its program activities and develop more effective means for the collection of quantifiable, outcome-measure-oriented data.

WEST AFRICAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

The West African Research Association (WARA), founded in 1989, is a consortium of American colleges and universities with significant research interests in West Africa.

Its mission is to enhance collaborative research and exchange between American and West African scholars, students, and institutions and to contribute to the training and development of a cadre of Americans with expertise on this region. The fact that West Africa is a critically important part of the Islamic world and that a significant portion of the U.S. population traces its roots to this region are two compelling reasons to further our understanding of and relationships with this part of the world.

A member of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, WARA maintains the only American research center of its kind in sub-Saharan West Africa, embracing 18 countries. The center serves American scholars working in the region, study abroad students from a number of U.S. institutions, and a community of local scholars. Located in Dakar, Senegal, a hub of intellectual activity that radiates out to the rest of the region, the West African Research Center (WARC) provides an institutional presence and lends continuity and stability to programs sponsored by American postsecondary institutions. WARC enjoys a collaborative relationship with the principal university in Senegal and offers an array of supportive services to visiting scholars and affiliated institutions from the United States, including a research library, computer facilities, and logistical and scholarly support. Through its program of regular seminars, exhibits, and forums WARC provides a rich and vibrant venue for scholarly exchange between American scholars and their West African counterparts.

Each year WARA awards a number of research fellowships to American students and scholars to conduct research in West Africa, with special priority given to students enrolled in Historically Black Colleges and Universities for its Summer Intern Awards. Through its Residency Program, WARA provides funds for member institutions to host West African scholars on their campuses and communities. WARA also organizes Summer Institutes for American faculty on pertinent topics such as Islam in West Africa; these two-week institutes, held in collaboration with West African institutions, are designed to increase faculty capacity for teaching about Africa.

WARA receives funds to support its programs through membership dues and contributions, funds generated from its programs, and a grant from the Educational and Cultural Affairs bureau of the U.S. State Department.

We are requesting funds to support operation of WARA's overseas headquarters, as well as a portion of the salaries of the U.S. and overseas directors and essential staff travel. These administrative functions allow us to provide the rich programming that has become associated with WARA.