



What People are Saying About MCC

"I think the evaluation work undergirding the new Millennium Challenge Corporation program is perhaps the most innovative yet. But its merits will only be known if Congress gives it a fighting chance to demonstrate its potential."

Sheila Herrling
Center for Global Development
Interview on OneWorld.net:
"Aid Is Working, Just Not As Well As It Should"
February 25, 2009

"The U.S. Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) is setting new standards for transparency; they select countries against clear, objective criteria. They focus on countries not because they are politically important, but because they have development needs and the capacity to manage their own development. Some of those characteristics are under threat; some policy makers want more MCA money to be used for geopolitical not development purposes—that would be a shame."

Paul O'Brien
Oxfam America
Interview on OneWorld.net:
"Aid Is Working, Just Not As Well As It Should"
February 25, 2009

Excerpt from a letter sent from 30 members of the Board and Leadership Council of the Initiative for Global Development to all U.S. Senators
February 2, 2009

"...we talked about the Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact for Indonesia. Indonesia has earned the Millennium Challenge Corporation compact eligibility status because of its impressive reform agenda and results. And I'm pleased to announce that a Millennium Challenge Corporation team will visit this spring to begin another exciting new partnership to work with Indonesia on its goals of reducing poverty and promoting economic growth. This remained an important point. Democracy and prosperity must advance together. And that is a goal that we share as well..."

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
Jakarta, Indonesia
February 18, 2009

"The MCA...is now recognized by many experts as the most forward-thinking and innovative development program in our foreign assistance portfolio. We believe the MCA's founding principles are correct: the surest path out of poverty is through broad-based economic growth; U.S. assistance will have the greatest impact in countries that invest in their citizens, govern with transparency, and foster economic opportunity; assistance programs will be most effective if based on the self-identified needs of recipient countries with the input of the private sector and civil society; and U.S. assistance should be evaluated by results not disbursements."

"...the Millennium Challenge Account...greatly increased United States foreign aid to countries that practiced good government and met certain specific goals. Mr. Obama's aides say that he will probably continue the Millennium Challenge program. Beyond that, it is unclear what specific steps Mr. Obama intends to take on democracy promotion."

Helene Cooper
New York Times:
"Talking Softly About Democracy Promotion"
January 30, 2009

"The MCA is revolutionizing U.S. economic-assistance policies. By demanding that a country show its commitment to freedom and economic development, the MCA has greatly improved the likelihood that its aid is not squandered on wasteful and unproductive projects. By placing emphasis on good governance and democratic norms, the MCA has lessened the potential for U.S. foreign aid to be used to prop up authoritarian regimes and increased the likelihood it will go to programs that help people on the ground."

James Jay Carafano, Ph.D.
and Henry Brands
Heritage Foundation:
"Building a Global Freedom Coalition
with a New 'Security
for Freedom Fund'"
February 4, 2009

"...there's no other account like the MCC...One can look at all the other accounts of foreign assistance... None of them provide an incentive for developing countries to attain sound political economy as a precondition for eligibility or they also don't have the same degree of local ownership, if at all...many at the MCC have certainly paved new ground in U.S. foreign assistance policy."

Sean Mulvaney
German Marshall Fund
at MCC and Oxfam co-hosted event:
"Smart Development Through Local Leadership:
MCC's Approach to Country Ownership"
February 18, 2009

"It was in large part the inability or refusal of many traditional development agencies... to prioritize governance reforms that led to the...creation of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). A public-private hybrid, MCC incentivizes countries to make governance reforms first before any money will follow...early signs are encouraging that the Obama Administration will keep it going."

Will Inboden
Foreign Policy
Shadow Government blog:
5 "Don'ts" for U.S. Development Policy
February 22, 2009

"Ownership and partnership have to prepare us to stand on our own feet...Tanzania has always been on [the] forefront of the country-led development agenda, and of genuine country ownership of the development process. We determine needs. We set priorities. And we welcome genuine partnerships. We like compacts with clear goals, benchmarks, and firm multi-year commitments that make planning and budgeting easier and more realistic. We strive to pursue sound tested policies and welcome rigorous analysis. And that is why the MCC approach is such an important contribution to Tanzania's country ownership and the development process and why we value it so much."

Tanzania's Ambassador Ombeni Sefue
at MCC and Oxfam co-hosted event:
"Smart Development Through Local Leadership:
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