

**REMARKS FOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR LORI GARVER
RANDOM HACKS OF KINDNESS (RHoK 2) KICKOFF EVENT
Dec. 3, 2010**

- Thank you, Mr. Secretary General. It's an honor and a pleasure to be here tonight with so many enthusiastic innovators at the very doorstep of our world's leader in international collaboration, the United Nations. And thank you also to our founding partners in Random Hacks of Kindness -- The World Bank, Microsoft, Google and Yahoo! I know many other organizations have also come on board to support the organization and this event, and we are grateful to you all.
- When I re-joined NASA last year as deputy administrator, I soon became aware of Random Hacks of Kindness. It immediately appealed to me as the type of thing that NASA should be involved in. It is the very definition of thinking outside the box, builds on our existing technology achievements, and makes a difference in the real world. What more could you ask for?
- As NASA works today to become more nimble, to maximize the investments we've made in the areas of science, aeronautics, and human exploration, Random Hacks is an idea whose time has come. NASA's Chief Information Officer Linda Cureton put it well when she said that we are proud to be supporting Random Hacks of Kindness and promote wider usage of our open data to solve the world's greatest challenges. And who doesn't want to be a RHoK Star?! To all the participants around the world in this weekend's hackathon, I can only say, this is awesome. Thank you. All of your efforts will be important.
- Lately at NASA, we've seen some real progress in our ability to use all of our technology to make a difference in response to disaster. Our Earth observing satellites helped us to characterize the Gulf Oil spill. They also took dramatic images of the earthquake damage in Haiti that helped us understand its extent. A combination of space-based data and ground observations is helping officials in the SERVIR program (SERVIR is an acronym standing for the Spanish words meaning Mesoamerican Regional Visualization and Monitoring System) make better environmental decisions and respond to natural events in Asia, Africa and South America. What you're doing here this weekend is a significant, concrete contribution to our ability to make life better everywhere. I for one plan to make my phone the life saving beacon that people like you in previous RHoK events have made possible. My teenaged sons think that's a pretty cool idea. Kind of like video games with a positive spin.
- Right now, we are undergoing a transition to be the space program for the 21st century and beyond. Learning from our rich history and taking a posture of

continuous learning, we are in the process of repositioning NASA on the cutting edge, adapting to a changing external environment, embracing new technologies, engaging with our citizens and entering into partnerships and encouraging collaboration. Its part of something we call Open Gov, making our resources more widely applicable and available, allowing them to evolve through citizen participation.

- In his first executive act on January 21, 2009, President Obama issued his Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government. Transparency holds the government accountable for results by inviting public scrutiny of performance data such as agency goals and measures, sources of improper payments, and details on government spending. An example of this increased transparency is the government's efforts to significantly expand the level of detail on Federal spending that resides on USASpending.gov. The public is now able to track and monitor how Federal dollars flow throughout the spending process.
- Open Gov also includes enhanced ways to use technology to cast a wider net for innovative ideas from throughout society, and increased use of prizes and challenges to solicit new solutions to our national challenges. For example, NASA recently held three challenges on InnoCentive, an online innovation marketplace. Nearly 1,500 people from 65 countries worked on the NASA challenges, and NASA received great ideas in areas critical to astronaut health. One winning solution came from a mechanical engineer in Foxboro, Massachusetts, who won the prize for the best proposed design for an exercise device to reduce the bone and muscle loss astronauts suffer in weightlessness. He had never before responded to a government Request for Proposal, and NASA may never have found him or benefitted from his winning insight were it not for the use of this approach.
- This shows that the best ideas and solutions don't necessarily come from inside bureaucratic organizations. Ad-hoc groups of people assembled around a common cause can change the world. In a weekend, you can change the world. NASA, The World Bank, Microsoft, Goodle and Yahoo! – we're all here to create the environment for you to learn, to innovate, and to create a more desirable future. The diversity of thought assembled here today will undoubtedly bring new approaches to the table, use data in new ways, and develop new solutions to some of society's greatest challenges. We cannot do it alone.
- At NASA, we are at heart problem-solvers and truth-seekers. If you think about the varied activities we conduct at NASA, from developing technologies allowing humans to live and work sustainably in space -- to sensors peering beyond the edge of our universe, data is a common product. We have catalogued over 50

years of data from our activities. Today, we have over 70 spacecraft operating through our solar system (two have left the solar system) and 14 are looking down here on the Earth. Every day, 17 TerraBytes of new Earth Science data is transmitted from our satellites. We have unmanned vehicles, high altitude balloons, planes and other ground-based sensors collecting additional information to allow Earth scientists to model and understand our ever-changing, home planet. This raw science data is archived by all NASA missions and is available for open use. And you are making great use of it. In fact, you're making data hip and fun!

- So please use that data, talk to our technologists, and contribute to creating a sustainable future. I thank you for your dedication and can't wait to see how you change the world this weekend. Best of luck to all of you, both here in the Big Apple and around the world.