

must demonstrate clear coordination with and support for existing U.S. Government anti-narcotics and anti-human trafficking programs in WHA countries.) Proposals should focus on how a democratic government functions from the community to the national level in addressing these concepts. Participants would be representatives of politically engaged NGOs with a good-government focus. Project activities might focus on how municipal teams, including government officials, educational leaders, NGOs, business leaders, etc., join forces to develop approaches to economic development or solutions to major problems (environment, crime, drug use, etc.) Ideally, participants will be committed activists who will share ideas, successes, and challenges from the U.S. and the foreign country.

2. *Accelerating economic growth:*

Proposals should focus on the impact of globalization on the national economy with emphasis on both the benefits of globalization and the inherent risks involved in participating in the global economy. Projects, which include orderly market compliance, intellectual property rights (IPR) enforcement, regulatory transparency, sector reforms and measures that government and business can take to ease the displacement of workers in the process of economic liberalization. A sub-theme would include a discussion of how the U.S. implements commercial diplomacy including how we negotiate and plan our trade/commercial relations.

3. *Enhance development of good health through focus HIV/AIDS:*

Proposals should focus on creative community-based public awareness initiatives that will promote better health care and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. Proposals should focus on educating girls and young women on some of the following topics: the need for prevention and stigma reduction strategies for people living with HIV/AIDS, engagement of political, religious, cultural and other leaders in public education efforts; grassroots mobilization and advocacy.

Note: proposals must clearly support the "U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act of 2003" and promote accomplishment of the goals set forth in the US Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Details on U.S. policy to combat HIV/AIDS can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/hiv aids/>

4. *Protection of Indigenous and Minority Cultures in a Shrinking World:*

Proposals would address the protection of indigenous cultures by demonstrating ways in which

technology can be adapted to local conditions, and how these technologies can be used to protect and preserve and disseminate information about local cultural heritage. Emphasis under this theme is on assisting countries in preserving their cultural heritage through programs designed to reduce the threat of pillage of sites representing irreplaceable cultural heritage, and to create opportunities to develop long-term strategies for preserving cultural property through training and conservation, museum development, and public education. Projects might include supporting the preservation of cultural sites, objects in a site, museum or similar institution, or forms of traditional cultural expression.

General Program Guidelines

Applicants *must* identify local organizations and individuals in the counterpart country with whom they are proposing to collaborate and describe in detail previous cooperative programming and/or contacts. Information about the counterpart organizations' activities and accomplishments is required and *must* be included in the section on Institutional Capacity. All proposals *must* contain letters of support tailored to the project being proposed from all foreign-country partner organizations. Applicants seeking information on possible overseas counterpart organizations may wish to speak with the Bureau Program Officer listed under each world region in this announcement for information on contacting U.S. Embassy personnel to discuss potential local partner institutions.

Exchanges and training programs supported by institutional grants from the Bureau should operate at two levels: they should enhance institutional partnerships, and they should offer practical information and experience to individuals and groups to assist them with their professional responsibilities. Strong proposals usually have the following characteristics:

- A proven track record of working in the proposed issue area;
- an experienced staff with language facility and a commitment by the staff to monitor projects locally to improve accountability;
- a clear, convincing plan showing how permanent results will be accomplished as a result of the activity funded by the grant; and
- a follow-on plan providing for individual and institutional cooperative efforts beyond the scope of the Bureau grant.

Proposal narratives should demonstrate an organization's

willingness to consult closely with the Public Affairs Section and other officers at the U.S. Embassy. Final grants awards will require that all materials developed specifically for the project and funded with assistance of the ECA grant acknowledge USG funding for the program. *Please note that this will be a formal requirement in all final grant awards.* Proposals should indicate a commitment to invite representatives of the Embassy and/or Consulate to participate in various program sessions/site visits.

Suggested Program Designs

Bureau-supported exchanges may include internships; study tours; short-term, non-technical experiential learning, extended and intensive workshops and seminars taking place in the United States or overseas. Examples of possible program activities include.

1. A U.S.-based program that includes: orientation to program purposes and to U.S. society; study tour/site visits; professional internships/placements; interaction and dialogue; hands-on training; professional development; and action plan development.

2. Capacity-building/training-of-trainer (TOT) workshops to help participants to identify priorities, create work plans, strengthen professional and volunteer skills, share their experience to committed people within each country, and become active in a practical and valuable way.

3. Seed/small grants to indigenous non-profit organizations to support community-based educational projects that build upon exchange activities and that address issues of local concern. Proposals may include a component for a Seed/Small Grants Competition (often referred to as 'sub-grants' or 'secondary grants'). This requires a detailed plan for recruitment and advertising; description of the proposal review and award mechanism; a plan for how the grantee would monitor and evaluate small grant activity; and a proposed amount for an average grant. The small grants should be directly linked to exchange activities. Small/seed grants may not be used for micro-credit or re-lending purposes. Small/seed grants may not exceed 10% of the total value of the grant funds sought from ECA.

4. Site visits by U.S. facilitators/experts to monitor projects in the region and to provide additional training and consultations as needed.

5. Content-based Internet training/cyber-training to encourage citizen participation in workshops, fora, chats, and/or discussions via the Internet that will stimulate communication and