

prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism for a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest in accordance with section 6(b)(5) of the Act.⁹

The Commission believes that the rules proposed by the PCX will adequately govern the operation of the Linkage as envisioned in the Plan. The Commission believes that these rules will help to ensure that the Linkage is operated fairly and effectively, in accordance with the principles of the Act and the Plan.

The Commission also finds good cause for approving proposed Amendment No. 1 prior to the thirtieth day after the date of publication of notice of filing thereof in the **Federal Register**. Amendment No. 1 proposes several changes to the Exchange's original proposal that are designed to conform the Exchange's rules governing linkage more closely to the Plan. The provisions of the Plan have already been subject to notice and comment, and have been approved by the Commission. The changes proposed in Amendment No. 1 do not raise any novel regulatory issues, and therefore, it is appropriate for the Commission to accelerate approval of Amendment No. 1.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change, including whether Amendment No. 1 is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to Amendment No. 1 between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at

the principal office of the Exchange. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-PCX-2002-64 and should be submitted by February 27, 2003.

V. Conclusion

It is therefore Ordered, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹⁰ that the proposed rule change (SR-PCX-2002-64), be, and hereby is, approved, and that Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change be, and hereby is, approved on an accelerated basis.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹¹

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-2948 Filed 2-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4272]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Request for Grant Proposals: Kyrgyz Republic Educational Partnerships Program in Cultural and Comparative Religious Studies

SUMMARY: The Office of Global Educational Programs of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for the Kyrgyz Republic Educational Partnerships Program in Cultural and Comparative Religious Studies. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) may submit proposals to support mutually beneficial partnerships which contribute to the development of instruction in comparative religion, cultural studies/history, computer science and English at the Bishkek Islamic Institute in the Kyrgyz Republic. The means for achieving these objectives may include the exchange of university and college faculty and research scholars, administrators, and advanced students between the Kyrgyz Republic and appropriate U.S. counterpart colleges and universities.

In a program announced in a separate RFGP, the Bureau supports linkages in higher education with partners in the Eurasian states of the former Soviet Union through the FREEDOM Support Educational Partnerships Program. Applicants seeking support for educational partnerships with partners in the Kyrgyz Republic other than the

one specified in this RFGP or for fields of study other than those specified in this RFGP should consult the RFGP for the FREEDOM Support Educational Partnerships Program or contact the Bureau's Humphrey Fellowships and Institutional Linkages Branch at (202) 619-5289.

Program Information

Overview: The Kyrgyz Republic Educational Partnerships Program in Cultural and Comparative Religious Studies will fund a three-year project to permit one or more U.S. institutions to work with the Bishkek Islamic Institute. Pending availability of funds, approximately \$200,000 is expected to be available under the FREEDOM Support Act for the Kyrgyz Republic Educational Partnerships Program in Cultural and Comparative Religious Studies in FY 2003.

Objectives: Proposals that benefit both partner institutions will be the most competitive, although the benefits do not need to be identical for each partner. The proposal should outline a plan to cooperate with the Bishkek Islamic Institute to: (1) Develop courses and curricula in eligible fields; (2) improve teaching methods; (3) develop educational materials which support new courses and curricula; (4) train teachers or other practitioners in the effective use of these materials; and (5) foster self-sustaining relationships with U.S. academic institutions and educators.

The program should equip the Bishkek Islamic Institute to provide accurate and balanced information about religion, including Islam, and cultural history framed within a contemporary understanding of human rights and the role of cultural and religious pluralism in a democratic society. At the conclusion of the program, teachers at the Bishkek Islamic Institute should be capable of teaching the newly introduced or revised courses and should be able to participate more fully in international dialogue with U.S. and other educators. Students graduating from the Bishkek Islamic Institute should have a better understanding of the relationships between religion, politics, and society in modern democracies and should be better prepared to apply this understanding in public service, education, and the private sector, and to contribute to building a democratic society.

The Bureau anticipates that the participating U.S. institution(s) and individuals will benefit by developing or strengthening regional expertise. Participating U.S. faculty may utilize

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).