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Success Story: *Tatweer* Launches Scholarship Program for Studies in Public Management

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Scholarship program seeks to bolster civil service corps

To help strengthen Iraq's civil service corps, *Tatweer*, the USAID-funded program for national capacity development, will award up to 75 scholarships for Masters or certificate-level studies in public management.

Announced in November 2006, the *Tatweer* scholarship program awarded six scholarships in its first round, securing placements for scholarship recipients at American University in Cairo's School of Business.

Scholarship recipients receive full tuition, housing and a cost-of-living stipend. In return, they must agree to complete four years of service in the Iraqi government through placement services by the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation.

According to one scholarship winner, "This is an exciting and unique opportunity for all of us. A year ago, we would not have imagined this was in our future."

As *Tatweer* targets civil servants, the application process now allows 10 key ministries to nominate up to 15 candidates each. Iraqis from the private sector and beyond are also eligible and encouraged to apply.

Following the application period, candidates are subject to a rigorous selection process that includes personal one-on-one interviews as well interviews with bi-national technical and selection committees, each comprised of four Iraqis and four Americans.

To ensure a diverse pool of candidates representing Iraq's geographic and ethnic

mosaic, the *Tatweer* team is reaching out to Iraqis nationwide through the ministries, Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), and the Prime Minister's Office and Council of Ministers (PMO/ComSec).

Radio, television and print advertising have also been used to promote the scholarship program.

New with the second round, which began in early February 2007 and is expected to conclude by the end of March, the program has been expanded to give scholarship recipients more choice about where to study.

In addition to the American University in Cairo, scholarship winners can now choose from other universities within the region or in the United States.

In addition, *Tatweer* is working to identify regional institutions that offer Arabic language programs in Public Management. This would ensure that qualified candidates who lack English language skills can also take advantage of an invaluable opportunity to enhance their skills and contribute to the development of Iraq.

For more information on *Tatweer*, visit www.tatweer-iraq.com.