



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

CFBCI NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 28, 2008

JULY 18, 2008

Letter from the Director

Dear Newsletter Recipients,

Administrator Leads U.S. Delegation at Kosovo Donors Conference

USAID YouTube and Regional Development Mission for Asia launches new

National Language Service Corps,

G-8 Africa Update

USAID and U.S. Department of State

Warmest regards,

Terri

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HELPFUL LINKS

National Language Service Corps

The National Language Service Corps (NLSC) “offers individuals with language expertise the opportunity to help their neighbors and fellow citizens by participating in national and state efforts, particularly in times of emergency or crisis when their expertise can truly make a difference.” The NLSC is comprised of “volunteers with certified expertise in languages important to the security and welfare of the United States willing to serve as on-call Federal employees (when the NLSC becomes operational), using their diverse language skills across local, state, and federal agencies. The opportunities for service include emergency relief as well as service in support of domestic and international crises—wherever language skills are needed. The NLSC strives to connect service-minded individuals who embrace the power of communication and ultimately, envision helping the greater human good...

“The NLSC began in 2005 as a result of a Congressional charge to the National Security Education Program (NSEP) to explore a program that provides certified language skills in times of national emergencies...Fully implemented, NLSC is expected to include more than 30,000 members in over 150 languages.” The initial pilot program is currently seeking speakers of eight languages: Mandarin, Hausa, Somali, Hindi, Swahili, Vietnamese, Russian, and Indonesian.

To learn more about the National Language Service Corp, visit www.nlscorps.org/.

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

Transparency International (TI), an NGO dedicated to eradicating corruption, mobilizes a world coalition of leaders in government, civil society, business, and the media to generate dialogue and promote transparency in these crucial state sectors. Since its founding in 1993, TI has become a world leader in establishing an anti-corruption movement

Over 1 billion people worldwide have no guaranteed access to water, and over 2 billion are living without adequate sanitation, thus creating global water crisis severely hindering development. According to Transparency International, internal corruption remains the primary source for barriers to water access for much of the world’s poorest populations. On June 25, TI released the 2008 Global Corruption Report: Corruption in the Water Sector, which tracks the scope of corruption and the impact it has on various divisions of the water sector. To see the full report click here

http://transparency.org/publications/gcr/download_gcr

The report covers a wide range of issues concerning water management and distribution, including “petty bribery in water delivery to procurement-related looting of irrigation and hydropower funds; from covering up industrial pollution to manipulation of water management and allocation policies.”

Nonetheless, as the Global Corruption Report shows, taking action against corruption in the water sector is both timely and feasible: precisely the work for which Transparency International dedicates itself. Key recommendations of the report include:

- Establish transparency and participation as guiding principles for all aspects of water governance: From transparent budgeting and participatory policy-making to public mapping of water pollution, public audits of projects and access to contract terms and performance

reports, transparency and participation strengthen integrity in water governance, but need to be adopted globally.

- **Strengthen regulatory oversight:** Government and the public sector continue to play the most prominent role in water governance and should establish effective regulatory oversight, whether for the environment, water and sanitation, agriculture or energy. Institutional reform and capacity-building are essential to bring oversight in water up to the standards already achieved in other sectors
- **Ensure fair competition and accountable implementation of water projects:** All stakeholders have a role to play. Contracts should incorporate anti-corruption measures. Governments and contractors can enter into agreements for fair public procurement. Lenders and donors must strengthen anti-bribery provisions in their due diligence requirements. (cited from TI website)
http://transparency.org/news_room/latest_news/press_releases/2008/2008_06_25_gcr2008_en

Hydropower constitutes one sixth of the world's electric power, making water a critical sector of interest in the global debate about sustainable energy use. "As well as undermining the long term viability of dam projects, the costs of corruption are considerable for people and the environment. With up to 80 million people displaced by dams in the last decades, resettlement programs are also a rich seam for corruption, and take a particular toll on poor displaced communities."