

Fact Sheet
U.S. Government
Science and Technology Engagement
With the Muslim World

*Progress in Realizing the President's Vision of Enhanced Science and Technology (S&T)
Partnership in the Muslim World*



Top 17 S&T Activities

June 4, 2009 – June 4, 2010

1. **Science Envoys:** Three of America's most prominent scientists traveled and engaged with counterparts in Morocco, Egypt, Indonesia, and other countries.
2. **OPIC Fund:** The OPIC Global Technology and Innovation Fund attracted almost \$2 billion in private investment to support technological development projects to be implemented in Muslim communities around the world.
3. **Center of Excellence on Water:** USAID and State Department began the creation of a Middle East Water Center after extensive consultations across the region.
4. **Center of Excellence on Climate Change:** USAID and the State Department began the creation of an Asia Regional Climate Change Center after extensive consultations across the region, with an anticipated initial focus on water-scarcity issues.
5. **Gulf Nuclear Energy Infrastructure Institute:** This newly established institute—a collaborative effort involving the State Department, Department of Energy (DOE), Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research, Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation, UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation, Sandia National Laboratory, and Texas A&M University's Nuclear Security Science & Policy Institute—will work with Gulf States through regional workshops and follow-up bilateral training to assist those states that decide to pursue nuclear energy with the tools to do so in a safe, secure, and safeguarded manner.
6. **Entrepreneurship Summit:** This summit brought together successful business and social entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, development bankers, and other business experts to discuss ideas and share experiences with a view toward creating support networks that will help promote development in Muslim communities.
7. **Expanded Science Corps:** Secretary of State Clinton committed to expanding the number of Environment, Science, Technology, and Health (ESTH) officers at embassies, with new positions already being filled in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).
8. **Regional R&D Collaboration:** The State Department launched six new Middle East Regional Cooperation projects to fund applied research and S&T cooperation involving institutions in Jordan, West Bank/Gaza, Tunisia, and Israel

on topics in agriculture, environmental protection and global and regional health.

9. Bilateral R&D Collaboration: The United States and Indonesia concluded a new S&T Agreement and the United States provided a doubling of financial support for S&T agreements with Egypt and Pakistan.
10. Frontiers of Science Program: The U.S. National Academy of Sciences expanded this program to support linkages between young scientists in the United States and Southeast Asia, with planned expansion to additional regions as well.
11. MENA POWER 2010: The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) sponsored a Middle East and North Africa technology and projects forum to match MENA policymakers and project stakeholders in the electric power sector with U.S. providers of equipment and service solutions

12. Energy:

- ✓ Memorandum of Understanding for Clean Energy Cooperation: DOE partnered with UAE's multi-billion-dollar Masdar City clean energy initiative, with delegates and DOE officials outlining an initial work plan.
- ✓ Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation: Secretary Chu signed this MOU during his visit to the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, in Riyadh, to facilitate partnerships with DOE national laboratories, U.S. universities and scientific institutions.
- ✓ Feasibility Studies: USTDA supported extensive feasibility studies throughout the region to determine potential capabilities for geothermal energy, solar energy, and smart grid technology.

13. Information Communication Technology:

- ✓ Iraq Science and Technology Virtual Science Library project was officially transferred to Iraqi government control and administration. 7500 users are now registered, 95% of the university population is participating, 1,000,000 articles have been downloaded to date, and publications by Iraqi authors are increasing apace and expected to reach about 300 this year.
- ✓ NSF supported a host of electronic networking programs, including implementation of a multi-million-dollar broad-band internet linkage to Egypt and Pakistan, and provided support to involve Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, France, and nearly all countries in North Africa in a network for research on new materials for renewable energy.

- ✓ Maghreb Digital Library. The State Department supported the establishment of a Digital Library for the Maghreb (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania) to support development in S&T, increase access to digitized scientific data and research, and encourage partnership and networking.

14. Health:

- ✓ Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius and the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) jointly hosted a Health Dialogue with Ministers of Health from the OIC member states in Geneva on the margins of the World Health Assembly. Concrete steps were outlined for enhanced collaboration.
- ✓ The National Institutes of Health conducted training in tobacco control, injury and trauma, bioethics and genetics. This included meetings among twelve regional nations across MENA and SE Asia, leading to the creation of new programs in medical schools in the participating nations.

15. Water: The U.S. Geological Survey supported extensive training in collection and analysis of water samples, workshops on water contamination, training on the establishment of digital water resources data systems, and consultation on the establishment of water quality laboratories across the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia.

16. Space: NASA signed agreements with several nations for future collaboration on space programs. NASA now has agreements with 30 of the world's more than 50 Muslim-majority nations.

17. Pollution: The Environmental Protection Agency has teamed up with Indonesia and Jordan to create programs aimed at decreasing air pollution in both nations. *Breathe Easy Jakarta* and *Jordan's Environmental Rangers* are just two of the programs implemented to increase public participation and enforcement and accountability in the fight against pollution.

Top 10 Activities in the Year Ahead

1. **Global Engagement Fund**: S&T collaboration is an important part of the new \$100M Global Engagement Fund submitted to Congress for FY2011.
2. **US-Egypt Year of Science 2011**: This year-long enterprise will celebrate US Egypt engagement in science, promote interest among Egyptian youth in science-related careers and research, and promote digital engagement among the Egyptian science community with US peers and institutions.
3. **New Science Envoys**: The Administration will name three new envoys, with plans to travel to Central Asia, East and West Africa, and Southeast Asia.
4. **Science, Technology, and Innovation Conference 2011**: This conference will include representatives from Muslim communities around the world in cooperation with Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and other key stakeholders.
5. **White House/OSTP Digital Knowledge Networking Event**: This major international event will bring together ICT leaders from public and private foundations involved in electronic knowledge sharing, technology, education, and development, along with other experts, to move from idea to realization of a significant increase in on-line knowledge-sharing in science and technology.
6. **Middle East Energy Efficiency Center**: DOE, State, and USAID will launch an effort in the Middle East to promote and enhance regional cooperation in science and technology, focusing on six energy-efficiency initiatives.
7. **Challenges & Awards**: EPA/USAID will launch a challenge to drive innovation for water technologies serving international and domestic constituencies.
8. **Forest Conservation**: The Department of Interior will work with several nations to preserve nature reserves and protect endangered species.
9. **Eye on the Earth – Abu Dhabi 2010**: EPA will co-sponsor this event to address the establishment of a global environmental information network.
10. **Joint Ocean Exploration**: NOAA's research vessel *Okeanos Explorer* and the Indonesian research vessel *Baruna Jaya* will make a pioneering joint mission to the "Coral Triangle" in the Indo-Pacific region in the summer of 2011.