

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 19, 2011

FACT SHEET

**The United States and Brazil:
Education, Science, Technology, Innovation, Space, and Education Cooperation**

The United States and Brazil share a deep commitment to an expanding science and technology partnership, building upon the Science and Technology Framework Agreement the two countries signed on February 6, 1984. Under this Framework Agreement, the United States and Brazil alternately host Joint Commission Meetings on Scientific and Technology Cooperation that provide a productive forum for government agencies to develop and strengthen cooperation with counterparts across a broad spectrum of issues. The last Joint Commission Meeting took place in Washington, D.C., in 2009, with an unprecedented level of participation from a variety of technical agencies on both sides.

Cooperative research in science and technology between the United States and Brazil has grown significantly, and is particularly advanced in the areas of agriculture research, biomedical research, and biofuels. The U.S.-Brazil Fulbright Commission, a joint partnership to promote higher education exchanges between the United States and Brazil, dates back to 1957, and has awarded grants enabling 3,000 Brazilians to participate in educational programs in the United States and 2,500 Americans to participate in educational programs in Brazil. The Fulbright program, which includes public-private partnerships, is increasingly focused on promoting research and study in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

- **Framework Agreement on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.**

The Framework Agreement reaffirms both nations' commitment to cooperation in the use and exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes. The Agreement fosters and facilitates collaboration between the two governments by enabling specific cooperative projects to be undertaken through associated implementing agreements.

- **National Science Foundation (NSF)-Brazilian Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education (CAPES) MOU.**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is an outcome of an exchange of visits by NSF and CAPES staff, encouraged by the U.S.-Brazil Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Cooperation meeting in 2009. It fosters partnership activities related to the Dimensions of Biodiversity program that include the exchange of students, scientists, and scholars; joint research projects; seminars, workshops and conferences; and the digitization of biological collections.

- **Participation in Earth Observation Coordination and Bilateral Cooperation.**

The United States and Brazil participate jointly in several Earth observation related international coordination groups, such as The Group on Earth Observation, The Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, and The International Charter, Space and Major Disasters. These initiatives foster collaboration among space agencies to produce and share scientific data critical to climate change prediction, environmental monitoring, and the management of crises arising from major natural or technological disasters.

- **Education Partnerships.**

Presidents Obama and Rousseff share a commitment to promoting an innovative U.S.-Brazil education partnership to meet the needs of a 21st century workforce. They agreed to strengthen educational exchanges, particularly between research and higher education institutions in the Science, Technology, Environment, and Math (STEM) fields. Both presidents believe that the prosperity of a country is significantly linked to the education of its people, which is enriched by shared academic experiences in other countries.

To view the Education Partnerships fact sheet on the Department of State's website, click [HERE](#).

#