

that waiver of the operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because it recently approved a proposal from CBOE which is identical to the current proposal in all material respects and on which no comments were received.¹⁵ Therefore, the proposal is operative upon filing.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-NYSEAmex-2009-84 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEAmex-2009-84. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). 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 the proposed rule change 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, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEAmex-2009-84 and should be submitted on or before December 18, 2009.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁶

Florence E. Harmon,
Deputy Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 6819]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Request for Grant Proposals: Study of the United States Institutes on U.S. Foreign Policy for East Asian Student Leaders

Announcement Type: New Cooperative Agreement.

Funding Opportunity Number: ECA/A/E/USS-10-26.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 19.009.

Key Dates: July—August 2010.

Application Deadline: Thursday, January 14, 2010.

Executive Summary: The Branch for the Study of the United States, Office of Academic Exchange Programs, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, invites proposal submissions for the design and implementation of "The Study of the U.S. Institute on U.S. Foreign Policy for East Asian Student Leaders" to take place over the course of five weeks beginning in July, 2010, pending availability of funds. The Institute will take place at an accredited post-secondary education institution, and will provide a group of up to 20 East Asian undergraduates with an academic program examining U.S. Foreign Policy. The program should also give the students a deeper understanding of U.S. society and culture, while enhancing their leadership skills.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Authority

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries * * *; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations * * * and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world." The funding authority for the program above is provided through legislation.

Purpose

The Study of the U.S. Institute for East Asian Student Leaders aims to foster mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of East Asia. The Study of the U.S. Institutes for undergraduates are intensive academic programs whose purpose is to provide a group of foreign students an introduction to a specific field of study, while also heightening the participants' general knowledge of U.S. society, culture, and values.

In addition to promoting a better understanding of the United States, an important objective of the Institutes is to develop the participants' leadership skills. In this context, the leadership component should be experiential in nature and include group discussions, training, and exercises that focus on leadership theories, teambuilding, collective problem-solving skills, effective communication, and management skills for diverse organizational settings. Additionally, there should be a community service component, in which the students experience firsthand how not-for-profit organizations and volunteerism play a role in U.S. civil society.

The program should also include cultural activities, local site visits, and an educational travel component within the United States to illustrate the various topics explored in class and to gain an understanding of the regional differences within the country. Finally, the program should include opportunities for participants to meet U.S. citizens from a variety of backgrounds, to interact with U.S. peers, and to speak to appropriate student and

¹⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 60978, *supra* note 4.

¹⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

civic groups about life in their home countries.

Overview

The Study of the U.S. Institute on U.S. Foreign Policy for East Asian Student Leaders should introduce participants to U.S. foreign policy, briefly covering the history of U.S. foreign policy and theories of foreign policy, and focusing primarily on current foreign policy issues for the United States in different regions of the world. The program will also explore current U.S. foreign policy issues with East Asia. The program should explain how foreign policy is formulated in the United States, the role played by the President and Congress in creating policy, and the influence of the media, think tanks, and public opinion. Specific topics of discussion could include worldwide and regional counterterrorism efforts; energy issues; food security; public health initiatives; economic cooperation and trade agreements; foreign assistance and humanitarian aid; environmental and climate change; and women's issues. Issues specific to the East Asian region such as the U.S. military presence in East Asian countries; the role of ASEAN and APEC in international foreign relations; the Six-Party Talks on non-proliferation; and bilateral relationships can also be explored.

Recipient Organization

ECA is seeking detailed proposals from U.S. colleges, universities, and other not-for-profit organizations that have an established reputation in one or more of the following fields: political science, international relations, law, history, sociology, American studies, and/or other disciplines or sub-disciplines related to the study of the United States.

Program Design

The Study of the U.S. Institute on U.S. Foreign Policy for East Asian Student Leaders should provide a group of up to 20 students with a uniquely designed program that provides a broad, historical overview of U.S. foreign policy with a particular focus towards East Asia including recent developments and issues in the region. The Institute must not replicate existing or previous lectures, workshops, or group activities designed for American students but should be tailored for the particular group of students. The recipient institution should take into account that the participants may have little or no prior knowledge of the United States and varying degrees of experience in expressing their opinions in a classroom setting and should tailor

the curriculum and classroom activities accordingly. Every effort should be made to encourage active student participation in all aspects of the Institute. The program should provide ample time and opportunity for discussion and interaction among students, lecturers, and guest speakers. The program should incorporate a variety of classroom approaches such as panel presentations, seminar discussions, debates, individual and group activities, lectures, and reading assignments for the academic sessions.

The program should be five weeks in length; participants will spend four weeks at the host institution for the academic program, and approximately one week on a related educational study tour, including three or four days in Washington, DC at the conclusion of the Institute.

Program Administration

The recipient organization should designate an academic director, who will be present throughout the program to ensure the continuity, coherence, and integration of all aspects of the academic program, including the related educational study tour. In addition to the academic director, an administrative director should be assigned to oversee all student support services, including supervision of the program participants and budgetary, logistical, and other administrative arrangements. It is important that the recipient organization also retain qualified mentors or escorts who exhibit cultural sensitivity, an understanding of the program's objectives, and a willingness to accompany the students throughout the program.

Participants

Up to 20 participants will be selected from China, Japan, and South Korea. The students will be identified and nominated by the U.S. Embassies, Consulates and/or Fulbright Commissions in the participating countries, with final selection made by ECA.

Participants in the Study of the U.S. Institutes on U.S. Foreign Policy for East Asian Student Leaders will be highly motivated undergraduate students from colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education in selected countries who have demonstrated leadership through academic work, community involvement, and extracurricular activities. Their major fields of study will be varied, and will include the sciences, social sciences, humanities, education, and business.

Every effort will be made to select a balanced mix of male and female participants and to recruit participants from a variety of backgrounds who have had little or no prior experience in the United States or elsewhere outside of their home country.

Program Dates

The Institute should be five weeks in length beginning in July, 2010.

Program Guidelines

It is essential that the proposal provide a detailed and comprehensive narrative describing how the host institution will achieve the objectives of the Institute; the title, scope and content of each session; planned site visits, including educational travel; and how each session relates to the overall Institute theme.

Overall, the proposal will be reviewed on the basis of its responsiveness to RFGP criteria, coherence, clarity, and attention to detail.

Please note: In a cooperative agreement, ECA is substantially involved in program activities above and beyond routine grant monitoring. ECA will assume the following responsibilities for the Institute: Participate in the selection of participants; review and confirm syllabi and proposed speakers for the Institute; monitor the Institute through one or more site visits; meet with participants in Washington, DC at the conclusion of the Institute; work with the recipient organization to publicize the program through various media outlets; and engage in follow-on communication with the participants after they return to their home countries.

ECA may request that the recipient institution make modifications to the academic residency and/or educational travel components of the program. The recipient institution will be required to obtain approval from ECA of any significant program changes in advance of their implementation.

Note: All materials, publicity, and correspondence related to the program must acknowledge this as a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State. ECA will retain copyright use of and distribute materials related to this program as it sees fit.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Cooperative Agreement ECA's level of involvement in this program is listed under number I above.

Fiscal Year Funds: 2010.

Approximate Total Funding: \$240,000.

Approximate Number of Awards: 1.

Anticipated Award Date: Pending availability of funds, March 1, 2010.

Anticipated Project Completion Date: March 31, 2011.

Additional Information: Pending successful implementation of this program and the availability of funds in subsequent fiscal years, it is ECA's intent to renew this cooperative agreement for two additional fiscal years, before openly competing it again.

III. Eligibility Information

III.1. *Eligible applicants:* Applications may be submitted by public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 USC 501(c)(3).

III.2. *Cost Sharing or Matching Funds:* There is no minimum or maximum percentage required for this competition. However, ECA encourages applicants to provide maximum levels of cost sharing and funding in support of its programs.

When cost sharing is offered, it is understood and agreed that the applicant must provide the amount of cost sharing as stipulated in its proposal and later included in an approved agreement. Cost sharing may be in the form of allowable direct or indirect costs. For accountability, you must maintain written records to support all costs which are claimed as your contribution, as well as costs to be paid by the Federal government. Such records are subject to audit. The basis for determining the value of cash and in-kind contributions must be in accordance with OMB Circular A-110, (Revised), Subpart C.23—Cost Sharing and Matching. In the event you do not provide the minimum amount of cost sharing as stipulated in the approved budget, ECA's contribution will be reduced in like proportion.

III.3. *Other Eligibility Requirements:* (a) Bureau grant guidelines require that organizations with less than four years experience in conducting international exchanges be limited to \$60,000 in Bureau funding. ECA anticipates making one award, in an amount up to \$240,000 to support program and administrative costs required to implement this exchange program. Therefore, organizations with less than four years experience in conducting international exchanges are ineligible to apply under this competition. ECA encourages applicants to provide maximum levels of cost sharing and funding in support of its programs.

IV. Application and Submission Information

Note: Please read the complete announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFGP deadline has passed, Bureau staff may not

discuss this competition with applicants until the proposal review process has been completed.

IV.1. *Contact Information to Request an Application Package:* Please contact the Sanda Chao, Branch for the Study of the U.S., ECA/A/E/USS, SA-5, 4th Floor, U.S. Department of State, 2200 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20522-0504, *Telephone:* (202) 632-3339, *Fax:* (202) 632-9411, *E-mail:* ChaoSL@state.gov to request a Solicitation Package. Please refer to the Funding Opportunity Number ECA/A/E/USS-10-26 located at the top of this announcement when making your request.

Alternatively, an electronic application package may be obtained from grants.gov. Please see section IV.3f for further information.

The Solicitation Package contains the Proposal Submission Instruction (PSI) document which consists of required application forms, and standard guidelines for proposal preparation.

It also contains the Project Objectives, Goals and Implementation (POGI) document, which provides specific information, award criteria and budget instructions tailored to this competition.

Please specify Sanda L. Chao and refer to the Funding Opportunity Number ECA/A/E/USS-10-26 located at the top of this announcement on all other inquiries and correspondence.

IV.2. *To Download a Solicitation Package Via Internet:* The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from ECA's Web site at: <http://exchanges.state.gov/grants/open2.html>, or from the Grants.gov Web site at <http://www.grants.gov>.

Please read all information before downloading.

IV.3. *Content and Form of Submission:* Applicants must follow all instructions in the Solicitation Package. The application should be submitted per the instructions under IV.3f. "Application Deadline and Methods of Submission" section below.

IV.3a. You are required to have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to apply for a grant or cooperative agreement from the U.S. Government. This number is a nine-digit identification number, which uniquely identifies business entities. Obtaining a DUNS number is easy and there is no charge. To obtain a DUNS number, access <http://www.dunandbradstreet.com> or call 1-866-705-5711. Please ensure that your DUNS number is included in the appropriate box of the SF-424 which is part of the formal application package.

IV.3b. All proposals must contain an executive summary, proposal narrative and budget.

Please Refer to the Solicitation Package. It contains the mandatory Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) document and the Project Objectives, Goals, and Implementation (POGI) document for additional formatting and technical requirements.

IV.3c. You must have nonprofit status with the IRS at the time of application.

Please note: Effective January 7, 2009, all applicants for ECA federal assistance awards must include in their application the names of directors and/or senior executives (current officers, trustees, and key employees, regardless of amount of compensation). In fulfilling this requirement, applicants must submit information in one of the following ways:

(1) Those who file Internal Revenue Service Form 990, "Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax," must include a copy of relevant portions of this form.

(2) Those who do not file IRS Form 990 must submit information above in the format of their choice.

In addition to final program reporting requirements, award recipients will also be required to submit a one-page document, derived from their program reports, listing and describing their grant activities. For award recipients, the names of directors and/or senior executives (current officers, trustees, and key employees), as well as the one-page description of grant activities, will be transmitted by the State Department to OMB, along with other information required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA), and will be made available to the public by the Office of Management and Budget on its USASpending.gov Web site as part of ECA's FFATA reporting requirements.

If your organization is a private nonprofit which has not received a grant or cooperative agreement from ECA in the past three years, or if your organization received nonprofit status from the IRS within the past four years, you must submit the necessary documentation to verify nonprofit status as directed in the PSI document. Failure to do so will cause your proposal to be declared technically ineligible.

IV.3d. *Please take into consideration the following information when preparing your proposal narrative:*

IV.3d.1 Adherence To All Regulations Governing the J Visa

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs places critically important emphases on the security and

proper administration of the Exchange Visitor (J visa) Programs and adherence by award recipients and sponsors to all regulations governing the J visa. Therefore, proposals should demonstrate the applicant's capacity to meet all requirements governing the administration of the Exchange Visitor Programs as set forth in 22 CFR 62, including the oversight of Responsible Officers and Alternate Responsible Officers, screening and selection of program participants, provision of pre-arrival information and orientation to participants, monitoring of participants, proper maintenance and security of forms, record-keeping, reporting, and other requirements.

ECA will be responsible for issuing DS-2019 forms to participants in this program.

A copy of the complete regulations governing the administration of Exchange Visitor (J) programs is available at <http://exchanges.state.gov> or from: Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation, Office of Designation, ECA/EC/D, SA-5, Floor C2, Department of State, Washington, DC 20522-0582.

Please refer to Solicitation Package for further information.

IV.3d.2 Diversity, Freedom, and Democracy Guidelines

Pursuant to ECA's authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including, but not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and disabilities. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle both in program administration and in program content. Please refer to the review criteria under the 'Support for Diversity' section for specific suggestions on incorporating diversity into your proposal. Public Law 104-319 provides that "in carrying out programs of educational and cultural exchange in countries whose people do not fully enjoy freedom and democracy," ECA "shall take appropriate steps to provide opportunities for participation in such programs to human rights and democracy leaders of such countries." Public Law 106-113 requires that the governments of the countries described above do not have inappropriate influence in the selection process. Proposals should reflect advancement of

these goals in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

IV.3d.3. Program Monitoring and Evaluation

Proposals must include a plan to monitor and evaluate the project's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. ECA recommends that your proposal include a draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus a description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives. ECA expects that the recipient organization will track participants and be able to respond to key evaluation questions, including satisfaction with the program, learning as a result of the program, changes in behavior as a result of the program, and effects of the program on institutions (institutions in which participants work or partner institutions). The evaluation plan should include indicators that measure gains in mutual understanding as well as substantive knowledge.

Successful monitoring and evaluation depend heavily on setting clear goals and outcomes at the outset of a program. Your evaluation plan should include a description of your project's objectives, your anticipated project outcomes, and how and when you intend to measure these outcomes (performance indicators). The more that outcomes are "smart" (specific, measurable, attainable, results-oriented, and placed in a reasonable time frame), the easier it will be to conduct the evaluation. You should also show how your project objectives link to the goals of the program described in this RFGP.

Your monitoring and evaluation plan should clearly distinguish between program *outputs* and *outcomes*. *Outputs* are products and services delivered, often stated as an amount. Output information is important to show the scope or size of project activities, but it cannot substitute for information about progress towards outcomes or the results achieved. Examples of outputs include the number of people trained or the number of seminars conducted. *Outcomes*, in contrast, represent specific results a project is intended to achieve and is usually measured as an extent of change. Findings on outputs and outcomes should both be reported, but the focus should be on outcomes.

We encourage you to assess the following four levels of outcomes, as they relate to the program goals set out in the RFGP (listed here in increasing order of importance):

1. Participant satisfaction with the program and exchange experience.
2. Participant learning, such as increased knowledge, aptitude, skills,

and changed understanding and attitude. Learning includes both substantive (subject-specific) learning and mutual understanding.

3. Participant behavior, concrete actions to apply knowledge in work or community; greater participation and responsibility in civic organizations; interpretation and explanation of experiences and new knowledge gained; continued contacts between participants, community members, and others.

4. Institutional changes, such as increased collaboration and partnerships, policy reforms, new programming, and organizational improvements.

Please note: Consideration should be given to the appropriate timing of data collection for each level of outcome. For example, satisfaction is usually captured as a short-term outcome, whereas behavior and institutional changes are normally considered longer-term outcomes.

Overall, the quality of your monitoring and evaluation plan will be judged on how well it (1) specifies intended outcomes; (2) gives clear descriptions of how each outcome will be measured; (3) identifies when particular outcomes will be measured; and (4) provides a clear description of the data collection strategies for each outcome (*i.e.*, surveys, interviews, or focus groups). (Please note that evaluation plans that deal only with the first level of outcomes [satisfaction] will be deemed less competitive under the present evaluation criteria.)

Recipient organizations will be required to provide reports analyzing their evaluation findings to ECA in their regular program reports. All data collected, including survey responses and contact information, must be maintained for a minimum of three years and provided to ECA upon request.

IV.3e. Please take the following information into consideration when preparing your budget:

IV.3e.1. Applicants must submit SF-424A—"Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs" along with a comprehensive budget for the entire program. There must be a summary budget as well as breakdowns reflecting both administrative and program budgets. Applicants may provide separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity to provide clarification. Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

IV.3f. Application Deadline and Methods of Submission:

Application Deadline Date: Thursday, January 14, 2010.

Reference Number: ECA/A/E/USS–10–26.

Methods of Submission: Applications may be submitted in one of two ways:

(1) In hard-copy, via a nationally recognized overnight delivery service (*i.e.*, Federal Express, UPS, Airborne Express, or U.S. Postal Service Express Overnight Mail, *etc.*), or

(2) Electronically through <http://www.grants.gov>.

Please Note: ECA strongly encourages organizations interested in applying for this competition to submit printed, hard copy applications as outlined in section IV.3f.1., below rather than submitting electronically through Grants.gov. This recommendation is being made as a result of the anticipated high volume of grant proposals that will be submitted via the Grants.gov webportal as part of the Recovery Act stimulus package. As stated in this RFGP, ECA bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes for proposals submitted via Grants.gov.

Along with the Project Title, all applicants must enter the above Reference Number in Box 11 on the SF–424 contained in the mandatory Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) of the solicitation document.

IV.3f.1—Submitting Printed Applications: Applications must be shipped no later than the above deadline. Delivery services used by applicants must have in-place, centralized shipping identification and tracking systems that may be accessed via the Internet and delivery people who are identifiable by commonly recognized uniforms and delivery vehicles. Proposals shipped on or before the above deadline but received at ECA more than seven days after the deadline will be ineligible for further consideration under this competition. Proposals shipped after the established deadlines are ineligible for consideration under this competition. ECA will *not* notify you upon receipt of application. It is each applicant's responsibility to ensure that each package is marked with a legible tracking number and to monitor/confirm delivery to ECA via the Internet. Delivery of proposal packages *may not* be made via local courier service or in person for this competition. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. Only proposals submitted as stated above will be considered.

Important note: When preparing your submission please make sure to include one extra copy of the completed SF–424 form and place it in an envelope addressed to "ECA/EX/PM".

The original and 7 copies of the application should be sent to: Program Management Division, ECA–IIP/EX/PM, Ref.: ECA/A/E/USS–10–26, SA–5, Floor 4, Department of State, 2200 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20522–0504.

Applicants submitting hard-copy applications must also submit the "Executive Summary" and "Proposal Narrative" sections of the proposal in text (.txt) or Microsoft Word format on a CD–ROM. ECA will provide these files electronically to the appropriate Public Affairs Section(s) at the U.S. embassies for their review.

IV.3f.2—Submitting Electronic Applications: Applicants have the option of submitting proposals electronically through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>). Complete solicitation packages are available at Grants.gov in the "Find" portion of the system.

Please Note: ECA strongly encourages organizations interested in applying for this competition to submit printed, hard copy applications as outlined in section IV.3f.1. above, rather than submitting electronically through Grants.gov. This recommendation is being made as a result of the anticipated high volume of grant proposals that will be submitted via the Grants.gov webportal as part of the Recovery Act stimulus package. As stated in this RFGP, ECA bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes for proposals submitted via Grants.gov.

Please follow the instructions available in the 'Get Started' portion of the site (<http://www.grants.gov/GetStarted>).

Several of the steps in the Grants.gov registration process could take several weeks. Therefore, applicants should check with appropriate staff within their organizations immediately after reviewing this RFGP to confirm or determine their registration status with Grants.gov.

Once registered, the amount of time it can take to upload an application will vary depending on a variety of factors including the size of the application and the speed of your internet connection. In addition, validation of an electronic submission via Grants.gov can take up to two business days.

Therefore, we strongly recommend that you not wait until the application deadline to begin the submission process through Grants.gov.

The Grants.gov Web site includes extensive information on all phases/aspects of the Grants.gov process, including an extensive section on frequently asked questions, located under the "For Applicants" section of the Web site. ECA strongly recommends that all potential applicants review

thoroughly the Grants.gov Web site, well in advance of submitting a proposal through the Grants.gov system. ECA bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes.

Direct all questions regarding Grants.gov registration and submission to: Grants.gov Customer Support, Contact Center Phone: 800–518–4726, Business Hours: Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–9 p.m. Eastern Time, E-mail: support@grants.gov.

Applicants have until midnight (12 a.m.), Washington, DC time of the closing date to ensure that their entire application has been uploaded to the Grants.gov site. *There are no exceptions to the above deadline. Applications uploaded to the site after midnight of the application deadline date will be automatically rejected by the grants.gov system, and will be technically ineligible.*

Please refer to the Grants.gov Web site, for definitions of various "application statuses" and the difference between a submission receipt and a submission validation. Applicants will receive a validation e-mail from grants.gov upon the successful submission of an application. Again, validation of an electronic submission via Grants.gov can take up to two business days. *Therefore, we strongly recommend that you not wait until the application deadline to begin the submission process through Grants.gov.* ECA will *not* notify you upon receipt of electronic applications.

It is the responsibility of all applicants submitting proposals via the Grants.gov web portal to ensure that proposals have been received by Grants.gov in their entirety, and ECA bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes.

IV.3g. Intergovernmental Review of Applications: Executive Order 12372 does not apply to this program.

V. Application Review Information

V.1. Review Process

ECA will review all proposals for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the Solicitation Package. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by the program office, as well as the Public Diplomacy section overseas, where appropriate. Eligible proposals will be subject to compliance with Federal and Bureau regulations and guidelines and forwarded to Bureau grant panels for advisory review. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the Legal

Adviser or by other Department elements. Final funding decisions are at the discretion of the Department of State's Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards *cooperative agreements* resides with ECA's Grants Officer.

Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation:

1. Quality of Program Plan and Ability to Achieve Program Objectives:

Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to the ECA's mission. A detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive undertakings and logistical capacity. Objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible. Proposals should demonstrate clearly how the institution will meet the program's objectives and plan.

2. *Support for Diversity*: Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity. Achievable and relevant features should be cited in both program administration (program venue and program evaluation) and program content (orientation and wrap-up sessions, program meetings, presenters, and resource materials).

3. *Evaluation and Follow-Up*: Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the activity's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. The Bureau recommends that the proposal include a draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus a description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives. Proposals also should discuss provisions made for follow-up with returned participants as a means of establishing longer-term individual and institutional linkages.

4. *Cost-effectiveness/Cost-sharing*: The overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate. Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support, as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

5. *Institutional Track Record/Ability*: Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past ECA grants as determined by ECA Grants Staff. The

ECA will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants. Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be fully qualified to achieve the project's goals.

6. *Follow-on Activities*: Proposals should provide a plan for continued follow-on activity (without ECA support) ensuring that ECA supported programs are not isolated events.

VI. Award Administration Information

VI.1a. *Award Notices*: Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal Bureau procedures. Successful applicants will receive a Federal Assistance Award (FAA) from ECA's Grants Office. The FAA and the original proposal with subsequent modifications (if applicable) shall be the only binding authorizing document between the recipient and the U.S. Government. The FAA will be signed by an authorized Grants Officer, and mailed to the recipient's responsible officer identified in the application.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive notification of the results of the application review from the ECA program office coordinating this competition.

VI.2 *Administrative and National Policy Requirements*: Terms and Conditions for the Administration of ECA agreements include the following:

Office of Management and Budget Circular A-122, "Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations."

Office of Management and Budget Circular A-21, "Cost Principles for Educational Institutions."

OMB Circular A-87, "Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Governments".

OMB Circular No. A-110 (Revised), Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and other Nonprofit Organizations.

OMB Circular No. A-102, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants-in-Aid to State and Local Governments.

OMB Circular No. A-133, Audits of States, Local Government, and Non-profit Organizations.

Please reference the following Web sites for additional information: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants>; <http://fa.statebuy.state.gov>

VI.3. *Reporting Requirements*: You must provide ECA with a hard copy original plus two copies of the following reports:

(1) A final program and financial report no more than 90 days after the expiration of the award;

(2) A concise, one-page final program report summarizing program outcomes no more than 90 days after the expiration of the award. This one-page report will be transmitted to OMB, and be made available to the public via OMB's USAspending.gov Web site—as part of ECA's Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) reporting requirements.

(3) A SF-PPR, "Performance Progress Report" Cover Sheet with all program reports.

Award recipients will be required to provide reports analyzing their evaluation findings to ECA in their regular program reports. (Please refer to IV. Application and Submission Instructions (IV.3.d.3) above for Program Monitoring and Evaluation information.

All data collected, including survey responses and contact information, must be maintained for a minimum of three years and provided to ECA upon request.

All reports must be sent to the ECA Grants Officer and ECA Program Officer listed in the final assistance award document.

VII. Agency Contacts

For questions about this announcement, contact: Sanda L. Chao, Study of the U.S. Branch, ECA/A/E/USS, SA-5, 4th Floor, Department of State, 2200 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20522-0504. Telephone: (202) 632-3339, Fax: (202) 632-9411, E-mail: ChaoSL@state.gov.

All correspondence with ECA concerning this RFGP should reference the above title and number ECA/E/USS-10-26.

Please read the complete announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFGP deadline has passed, Bureau staff may not discuss this competition with applicants until the proposal review process has been completed.

VIII. Other Information

Notice: The terms and conditions published in this RFGP are binding and may not be modified by any ECA representative. Explanatory information provided by ECA that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFGP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. ECA reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and

evaluation requirements per section VI.3 above.

Dated: November 18, 2009.

Maura M. Pally,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E9-28280 Filed 11-25-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 6811]

U.S. Department of State Advisory Committee on Private International Law: Public Meeting of the Study Group on International Transport Law Regarding Implementation of the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea (the "Rotterdam Rules")

The United States signed the Rotterdam Rules on September 23. The Executive Branch intends to recommend to the Congress the manner in which the Rotterdam Rules should be implemented if the United States becomes a party to the Rotterdam Rules. A public meeting of the Study Group on International Transport Law will be held, under the auspices of the Advisory Committee on Private International Law, to discuss issues regarding the domestic implementation of the Rotterdam Rules.

Time and Place: The public meeting will take place in Room 240, South Building, 2430 E Street, NW., Washington, DC on December 9, 2009. Visitors should appear at the gate at the southwest corner of 23rd and C Streets by 8:30 a.m. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and is expected to last no later than 12 p.m. It is possible that the subject matter of this meeting will continue to be discussed in subsequent teleconferences. If you are unable to attend the public meeting and would like to participate from a remote location, teleconferencing will be available.

Public Participation: It is requested that persons wishing to attend contact Trish Smeltzer prior to December 2, 2009 at smeltzertk@state.gov or 202-776-8423 and provide their name, date of birth for pre-clearance purposes, as well as e-mail address and affiliation. Members of the public who are not pre-cleared might encounter delays with security procedures. A member of the public requesting reasonable accommodation should make his or her request upon registering for the meeting. Such requests received after December 2nd will be considered but might not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Ms.

Smeltzer for additional meeting information, including teleconferencing details.

Dated: November 12, 2009.

Keith Loken,

Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Private International Law, Office of the Legal Adviser, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E9-28427 Filed 11-25-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 6809]

Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation; Notice of Meeting

SUMMARY: The Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation will meet on December 14th and December 15th at the Department of State, 2201 "C" Street, NW., Washington, DC. Prior notification and a valid government-issued photo ID (such as driver's license, passport, U.S. government or military ID) are required for entrance into the building. Members of the public planning to attend must notify Margaret Morrissey, Office of the Historian (202-663-3529) no later than December 10, 2009, to provide date of birth, valid government-issued photo identification number and type (such as driver's license number/State, passport number/country, or U.S. government ID number/agency or military ID number/branch), and relevant telephone numbers. If you cannot provide one of the specified forms of ID, please consult with Margaret Morrissey for acceptable alternative forms of picture identification. In addition, any requests for reasonable accommodation should be made no later than December 7, 2009. Requests for reasonable accommodation received after that time will be considered, but might be impossible to fulfill. The Committee will meet in open session from 1:30 p.m. through 2:30 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2009, in the Department of State, 2201 "C" Street, NW., Washington, DC, in Conference Room 1205, to discuss declassification and transfer of Department of State records to the National Archives and Records Administration and the status of the *Foreign Relations* series. The remainder of the Committee's sessions from 2:45 p.m. until 5 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2009, and 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, will be closed in accordance with Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463). The agenda calls for discussions of agency declassification

decisions concerning the *Foreign Relations* series and other declassification issues. These are matters properly classified and not subject to public disclosure under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1) and the public interest requires that such activities be withheld from disclosure. Questions concerning the meeting should be directed to Ambassador Edward Brynn, Executive Secretary, Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation, Department of State, Office of the Historian, Washington, DC, 20520, telephone (202) 663-1123, (e-mail history@state.gov).

Dated: November 18, 2009.

Ambassador Edward Brynn,

Executive Secretary, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E9-28422 Filed 11-25-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

[Docket No. FHWA-2009-0114]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Notice of Request for Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of request for extension of currently approved information collection.

SUMMARY: The FHWA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval for changes to a currently approved information collection that is summarized below under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Please submit comments by January 26, 2010.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket ID Number FHWA-2009-0114, by any of the following methods:

Web Site: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Fax: 1-202-493-2251.

Mail: Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590-0001.