



USAID/U.S. Embassy Beijing Newsletter

May 2013

The mission of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is to support the people of developing and transitional countries in their efforts to achieve enduring economic and social progress.

Through this newsletter, we hope we can have more interactive communication with colleagues in the development sector in China, and your comments and suggestions are highly appreciated. Please contact us by sending emails to beijingusaid@state.gov.

Recent activities in USAID:

1. Administrator's Annual Letter

Every year the USAID Administrator writes an annual letter to showcase the extraordinary work that the agency staffs do around the world. It is an opportunity to present some of the best partnerships, ideas, and results in a creative and transparent way.

[In this year's letter](#) released in March, USAID Administrator, Mr. Rajiv Shah, has gathered examples that demonstrate USAID's work to answer President Obama's call to end extreme poverty and its most devastating corollaries, including widespread hunger and preventable child death. Many of these examples focus on the capacity of partnerships to maximize USAID's impact and scale meaningful results. From partnering with small community banks in the Philippines, to local imams in northern Nigeria, to multinational agriculture companies in Tanzania, USAID is trying to change the way development works to achieve extraordinary goals.

2. USAID releases first-ever [Water and Development Strategy](#)

USAID has been a leader in providing individuals around the world with access to water. In Fiscal Year 2011 alone, USAID provided more than 3.8 million people with improved access to drinking water supply and more than 1.9 million with improved access to sanitation facilities. These efforts have had positive impacts on other key development priorities in Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, and Tanzania where 1 million people living with HIV were provided with access to clean water.

This year, USAID celebrates World Water Day with a new Water and Development Strategy, launched in April. The goal of the Strategy is to save lives and advance development through improvements in water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs, and through sound management and use of water for food security. The Strategy steers USAID's water programs toward key themes consistent with two of the most important ways we rely on water: water for health and water for food.

On World Water Day, throughout the U.N. Year of Water Cooperation, and beyond, USAID will be a leading partner in the effort to tackle global water challenges. This will be done in collaboration with

non-governmental and civil society organizations, interagency colleagues, other donors, advocacy groups, universities, the private sector, and devoted individuals around the world.

3. USAID Celebrates World Tuberculosis Day

On March 24, USAID recognize World Tuberculosis (TB) Day to increase awareness and to renew our commitment to tackling this curable, but devastating disease.

Working with other U.S. Government agencies and partners such as the Stop TB Partnership, the World Health Organization, and The Global Fund, USAID is fully committed to accelerating actions to fight TB. Between 2000 and 2012, USAID provided over \$1.6 billion for global TB-control activities, including expanding the detection and treatment of TB and multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB, addressing TB/HIV and scaling up the management of MDR TB, and supporting research and innovation.

We are investing in research activities that contribute to the development of new drugs and diagnostics, and improve the performance and public health impact of TB programs. We are evaluating several regimens for shortening the treatment of MDR TB and funding the scale-up of a rapid diagnostic test called GeneXpert, which can accurately detect the disease in less than two hours instead of waiting for two days. On World TB Day, we recommit to work with countries and the international community to successfully control TB.

4. Commemoration of Earth Day--April 22, 2013

The Earth Day is a reminder that climate change – if we ignore it – could reverse hard-won development gains and undermine investments in global prosperity and security. To meet the challenges of climate change, USAID is promoting clean, sustainable development based on climate-smart plans and technologies. We are using innovative new approaches like our [Powering Agriculture Grand Challenge for Development](#), which works to catalyze market-based, clean energy innovations for farmers in developing countries, supporting their energy independence and their food security by increasing harvests. We are partnering with at least 400 companies of the Consumer Goods Forum to reduce tropical deforestation from key commodities as part of the [Tropical Forest Alliance 2020](#). And, USAID is working with our most vulnerable partners, including low-income African nations, small island states, and glacier-dependent areas, to pioneer new ways to manage risks and adapt to the rapid changes that rising temperatures could bring.

To commemorate Earth Day of 2013, USAID co-hosted with the Environmental Protection Agency a six kilometer walk, which began at 11:30am in front of the Ronald Reagan Building on April 24.

5. Event of Asian Approaches to Development Cooperation (AADC) dialogue series: Asian Perspectives---- Asian Approaches to Development Cooperation

On April 23, 2013, government officials and policy specialists from China, India, Indonesia, and South Korea joined their peers in the United States to explore “Development Cooperation in the Asian Century” and “Post 2015 Development Challenges.” Susan Reichle, Assistant to USAID Administrator, gave an opening remark. Tony Pipa, Deputy Assistant to the Administrator for USAID's Bureau of Policy, Planning and Learning (PPL), and Nisha Biswal, assistant administrator for Asia of USAID, participated in the event. Panelists from Asian countries including Japan, Korea, Indonesia, and China shared their views with participants on developing countries’ approach to development cooperation with other countries, and international development challenges that traditional donors facing.

What's new in Beijing USAID

Panel Discussion on US and China in Africa: Crossroads for Cooperation or a Theatre for Competition?

On March 26, 2013, together with US Embassy economic, political and public affairs section, USAID Counselor Maria Rendon attended the event organized by Carnegie Tshinghua Center to discuss with experts and students from China, Africa and the US on cooperation in development. Joshua Eisenman, a senior fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council and co-editor and co-author of several publications on China and Africa introduced his new book *China and Africa: A Century of Engagement*, to kick off the discussion.

Participants discussed the different approaches that US and China adopts in aid to Africa, and agreed that cooperation is much better than competition in development, and the US is seeking more cooperation with China on aid effectiveness and transparency to work with African partners for the goods of three parties. Besides aid, trade and investment are tools for economic development in Africa and there are opportunities for all sides to work together. Participants are very active in the discussion and eager to push the three sides to develop plans on how to help Africa digest international investment and build up its own capacity.



USAID Counselor Maria Rendon (left) and Panelists from Rwanda and China

Final Planning Conference of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx) 2013

USAID Beijing Development Counselor, Maria Rendon, participated in the DiREx 2013 Final Planning Conference (FPC), which starts today and will conclude on Wednesday 3 April. At the FPC, delegates from 20 countries and 4 international organizations finalized the details on the preparations leading to the ARF DiREx 2013, the civilian-military disaster relief exercise under the ASEAN Regional Forum Framework. This year's DiREx in Thailand will be the third time that the exercise is organized, with Thailand and the Republic of Korea as the co-chairs.



Maria Rendon and representatives from China



Representatives from the chairing countries and the delegates from 20 countries