



## USAID/U.S. Embassy Beijing Newsletter August 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](mailto:beijingusaid@state.gov).

### Recent activities in USAID:

#### Feed the Future: Progress made, challenges ahead

U.S. President Barack Obama together with U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Rajiv Shah visited the Feed the Future Agricultural Technology Marketplace in Senegal on June 28, 2013. The Feed the Future initiative released its 2013 progress report on the same day. Though there is limit in outcome information, the report data reflected the scale of the initiative up to now, for example, 270,000 stakeholders implementing practices to mitigate risks and improve resilience to climate change; 7 million farmers were reached with new technology and management techniques. Feed the Future is currently planning, designing or implementing nearly 40 impact evaluations that will help test new innovations, learn lessons, adapt development practices, and improve effectiveness.



*Photo by: Pete Souza / White House*

#### The Power Africa Initiative

President Obama announced the launch of the Power Africa in South Africa on June 30.

[Power Africa](#) is a whole-of-government effort, led by USAID, is to double access to power in sub-Saharan Africa. More than two-thirds of the population of sub-Saharan Africa is without electricity, and more than 85 percent of those living in rural areas lack access. Power Africa will build on Africa's enormous power potential, including new discoveries of vast reserves of oil and gas, and the potential to develop clean geothermal, hydro, wind and solar energy. It will help countries develop newly-discovered resources responsibly, build out power generation and transmission, and expand the reach of mini-grid and off-grid solutions. With an initial set of six partner countries in its first phase, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, and Tanzania, Power Africa will add more than 10,000 megawatts of cleaner, more efficient electricity generation capacity. It will increase electricity access by at least 20 million new households and commercial entities with on-grid, mini-grid, and off-grid solutions. And it will enhance energy resource management capabilities, allowing partner

countries to meet their critical energy needs and achieve greater energy security. Power Africa will also work closely with the African Development Bank and other donors and investors to enhance the tools and resources available to the energy sector. The United States will commit more than \$7 billion in financial support over the next five years to this effort.

## **USAID Awards Grants for Innovative Farm Technologies**

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has selected the World Cocoa Foundation and the American startup DripTech to receive grants to get their specialized technologies to thousands of smallholder farmers, as announced by USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah on May 21. "Agricultural transformations occur through comprehensive innovations in water management, soil fertility and crop management with an eye toward the needs of the community," USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah said.

The World Cocoa Foundation will use its grant to bring pest and fertilizer management techniques to farmers in Côte d'Ivoire. DripTech will use its grant to market affordable, easy-to-install drip-irrigation kits to smallholder farmers in India.

## **What's new in Beijing USAID**

### **OECD-China DAC Study Group Roundtable on Effective Development Co-operation (Beijing, 18 June 2013)**

Based on the past two years activities that focused on OECD and China's foreign aid programs in Africa's agricultural development, the Roundtable on development cooperation aims to discuss how to improve effectiveness in foreign aid programs and enhance cooperation among agencies from China, OECD and other countries. Chinese government representatives from the Leading Group of Poverty Reduction, Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Agriculture participated in the roundtable as well as more than 10 African participants and representatives from OECD DAC and its member countries. The African participants also visited agricultural projects in Shunyi and Daxing District of Beijing and learned how Chinese rural enterprises are managed to develop modern agriculture. Being an active member of the roundtable organizing group, USAID provided support to the roundtable meeting, and Ms. Jennifer Adams and Mr. Adrian Ng'asi participated in the discussion and the field visit.

### **Panel Discussion----Approaches to Development Assistance and Collaboration: Perspective from China, OECD and Africa**

June 19, 2013, USAID and the International Relations Department of Tsinghua University organized a panel discussion on approaches to development assistance and collaboration in Tsinghua-Carnegie Center. Panelists including Mr. Erik Solheim from the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC); Adrian Ng'asi, International economist of USAID; Modibo Traore, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) representative to the African Union (AU); Naohiro Kitano, Deputy Director of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Research Institute; Joyce Mapunjo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Trade of Tanzania; Mao Xiaojing, Deputy Director in the Department of Development Assistance at Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economics; Dawit Alemu, Director of the Agricultural Economics, research Extension and Farmers' Linkages Research Program, the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research. Panelists from China and OECD countries gave an introduction to the foreign aid policy and practices, especially in Africa, which was commented by African participants who gave reflections on the effectiveness and impacts of foreign aid, and explained the government strategy in future development. Participants from Tsinghua University and other countries found the panel discussion very useful because it provided balanced views from different parties.

### **Public Event--Disaster and Volunteerism**

On May 16, 2013, Beijing USAID office and the Public Affairs section of the Beijing US Embassy jointly organized an event themed Disaster and Volunteerism in the Beijing American Center (BAC). This

panel discussion looked at the processes by which the world comes together to assist after a disaster, with participants from NGOs, the private sector, media and general public. Representatives from China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA), Mercy Corps, UNOOSA and USAID gave presentations on how the organizations work in tackling disaster and encouraging volunteerism, and discussed with participants topics including gender equity in disaster relief, credibility of philanthropy organizations, application of high-tech and space information to field works, etc. On the second day of the event, Mr. Wang Xingzui, the Vice Chairman of CFPA, who was a panelist of the event, got a request from one of the participants for volunteer opportunities in CFPA.

### **Development Counselor Participated in US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue**

Maria Rendon, Development Counselor based in the US Embassy in Beijing, participated in the US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue held in Washington from July 10-12. US Vice President Biden emphasized the global impact and importance of US-China relationship, and Secretary of State Kerry and Secretary of Treasury Lew followed by saying that these discussions are essential steps to enhance trust and create a framework for continued collaboration. The Chinese delegation, Vice Premier Wang Yang and State Counselor Yang Jiechi, were also appreciative of this opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest: military and strategic dialogue, climate change/energy, trade/growth, etc. Ms. Rendon also participated in a side meeting on animal trafficking. Charles North from USAID made a presentation on USAID's programs and mentioned that it's a multi-agency, whole-of-government effort. The Chinese side stressed the need for a regional/global approach and is committed to working with the US government and other organizations on this important issue. For detailed outcomes of this year's S&ED, please visit <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2013/07/211861.htm>