



INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

<http://exchanges.state.gov/ivlp>
Celebrating Our 70th Anniversary in 2010



Introduction

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs funds and administers the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), one of its premier professional exchange programs. The IVLP is designed to build mutual understanding between the U.S. and other countries through carefully designed visits that reflect the participants' professional interests and support U.S. foreign policy goals. Participants are established or potential foreign opinion makers in government, public policy, media, education, labor, the arts, and other key fields. Selected by American embassies abroad, International Visitors come to the United States to meet and confer with their professional counterparts and to gain an appreciation of the ethnic, cultural, political, and socio-economic diversity of the U.S. In FY 2010, approximately 5,200 International Visitors participated in 838 projects through the program.

The IVLP is carried out through close collaboration with seven non-profit program agencies in Washington, D.C. and a network of over 90 community-based organizations across the U.S. whose members arrange professional meetings, cultural activities and home hospitality for the visitors. These organizations are members of the National Council for International Visitors (<http://www.nciv.org/>). Tens of thousands of Americans volunteer their time and expertise to strengthening relations between the United States and other countries through the IVLP.

IVLP SNAPSHOT

- Over 190,000 International Visitors have participated in the program since its inception in 1940.
- A typical IVLP project is three weeks, and includes visits to four U.S. cities. IVs meet with professional counterparts and visit U.S. public and private sector organizations related to the project theme. In addition, IVs are usually hosted by American families.
- As an example, in 2010, IVLP launched special "New Beginning" projects to explore strategies for building capacity, skills, and job opportunities in Muslim communities worldwide. Almost 30 participants each took part in "Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation" and "Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education."
- As part of 70th anniversary activities, the IVLP hosted 62 alumni association leaders to examine best practices and strategies to enhance association activities that benefit their communities.
- At any given point during the year, approximately 250 IVs are on projects in the U.S. In 2010, IVs participated in projects on themes such as:
 - Counter-terrorism
 - International Crime & Drug Prevention
 - Combating HIV/AIDS
 - Civic Education
 - NGO Management
 - Foreign Policy
 - Religious Diversity
 - Democracy and Rule of Law
 - Journalism

Alumni

More than 320 IVLP alumni are current or former Heads of Government or Chiefs of State.

Alumni include:

- *Prime Minister Julia Eileen Gillard of Australia ('06)*
- *Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Trinidad and Tobago ('98)*
- *President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya ('99)*
- *President Abdullah Gul of Turkey ('95)*
- *Prime Minister Ahmed M. Nazif of Egypt ('90)*
- *President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan ('87)*
- *President Nicolas Sarkozy of France ('85)*
- *Former Prime Minister Gordon Brown of U.K. ('84 and '92)*

Educational and Cultural Programs

The International Visitor Leadership Program exchanges are among more than 30,000 annual exchanges managed by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Other academic and professional exchange programs include the Fulbright Program and the Citizen Exchanges Program. For more information, please refer to:

<http://exchanges.state.gov>



"The IVL Program offers priceless opportunities to understand the United States and the American people through direct experience, and to make valuable contacts...I am immensely grateful for the insights into the U.S. which this exchange scheme provided. I have drawn on them regularly since then." *Tony Blair, former British Prime Minister*