



Information Resource Center - Monrovia

NEWS & ARTICLES ALERT

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Public Affairs Section
Embassy of the United States of America
Monrovia, Liberia



IRC-MONROVIA

The Information Resource Center (IRC) offers information resources, organizes regular weekly events, and is the hub for coordinating outreach programs, especially the American Corner program. The IRC is open to the public Monday to Thursday from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm; photo ID is required for entry.

IRC NEWS

IRC-Monrovia is #1 on IVCF Registration



U.S. Embassy Monrovia PAO Sally Hodgson briefs the students in the IRC.

IRC-Monrovia, through the Public Affairs Office, U. S. Embassy Monrovia, registered the highest number of students in the world in the U. S. State Department's first ever International Virtual College Fair (IVCF) organized during the International Education Week in November. Liberia had the largest number of students registered at the end of the registration week of November 18 with 2,573 registrants. Other countries in the top ten included Nigeria with 198 and Ghana with 145.

IRC-Monrovia Launches eReading

IRC-Monrovia launched e-reading on 14 Kindles on Friday, December 16. U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Officer Sally Hodgson led over 20 librarians in reading from the electronic device. The Department of State and Amazon.com. have partnered on this program called Kindle Mobile Learning Initiative. The initiative engages young foreign audiences by providing them with content about American society, culture, and U.S. English language materials via e-reader devices. This initiative allows the Department to create and store a robust and reliable information pipeline for target audiences, especially in countries or regions where access to information is limited by technology or censorship. Presently, there are 56 books uploaded on the Kindle and the e-readers will be available in the IRC for users to read books on.

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END OF YEAR 2012 ACTIVITY

U.S. Embassy Hosts Arts & Crafts Fair



Ambassador Deborah Malac making remarks at the fair. She is flanked by (left) Information Minister Lewis Brown and (right) Deputy Commerce Minister Axel Ady.

United States Embassy Monrovia hosted its sixth biannual Art & Crafts Fair on December 1 at the New Embassy Compound. The U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, Deborah Malac, declared the Fair open after remarks by Deputy Minister of Commerce & Industry, Axel Ady, and Minister of Information, Culture & Tourism, Lewis Brown, both of whom hailed the event as "a big

promotion of Liberian art and culture by the United States Government." The fair brought together nearly 90 Liberian artists who displayed various items from paintings, carving, baskets, quilts, tie-dyes to jewelry, hats, beads, clothing, drums, sasa, masks, etc., for sell to public.

COMING UP IN DECEMBER 2012

End of Year Children's Hour:

Thursday, December 20:
(4:30 - 6:00 pm, MPR- 1105)
IRC-Monrovia will host its usual annual Children's Holiday Season Hour for children who have attended IRC Children's Hour during the year. Attendance is by invitation and those invited can enter through Embassy entrances on Benson and Gibson streets.



Search IRC Books Online

Search IRC-Monrovia books online at: www.librarything.com/catalog/ircmonrovia. Click Your Books on the Home Page, then search using Style C. Over 1,450 books are already uploaded.

EDUCATION ADVISING

Education advising sessions at the IRC:
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

www.educationusa.state.gov

ARTICLES ALERT

Articles Alert is produced monthly by the Information Resource Center, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Monrovia. It offers abstracts of current articles, mostly from U.S. publications and by U.S. authors, highlighting significant issues in major areas of international or U.S. domestic affairs. Views expressed in the articles are those of authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government policies.

GOVERNMENT

Secretary Clinton Hails 50 Years of Art as “Tool of Diplomacy”

Source: ipdigital.usembassy.gov



For half a century, visitors to U.S. embassies and consulates around the world have enjoyed works by American artists that transcend boundaries of geography, culture and language, thanks to the U.S. Department of State’s Art in Embassies (AIE) program. Created to promote deeper cultural understanding through sharing art, the AIE program —

which marks its 50th anniversary in 2012 — selects and displays artwork purchased or borrowed for embassies, consulates and ambassadors’ residences. On November 30, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton hosted a luncheon at the State Department to recognize AIE’s achievements and to honor five artists who have demonstrated an enduring commitment to the AIE mission: Jeff Koons, Cai Guo-Qiang, Shahzia Sikander, Kiki Smith and Carrie Mae Weems. Praising the AIE program as “an internationally recognized leader in cultural diplomacy,” Clinton said that “today, there are more than 10,000 works hanging or standing or being exhibited in some way, depending on the medium, in more than 200 [U.S.] overseas missions.”

U.S. INTERNATIONAL AID

USAID Supports African Diaspora Development Fund

Source: infocentral.state.gov



The U.S. Agency for International Development has agreed to support an African Development Bank fund that helps members of the diaspora in the United States promote development in Africa and improve the flow of worker remittances. The Migration and Development Fund will award up to \$500,000

to financial institutions or network associations in West or Central Africa that propose innovations aimed at boosting local development, increasing investment in migrant home countries in Africa, or promoting regulatory reforms that affect money transfers. The fund aims to scale up its capacity-building efforts in the financial sector to benefit low-income Africans, according to a USAID press release. Proposals must show evidence of building wealth or creating jobs in Africa, and of reducing informal financial practices, according to the development bank. In addition, proposal sponsors must be registered within Africa, the bank said in a press release. “We are doing this to encourage members of the African diaspora to build on the social capital of their countries of origin in their local communities as well as their host societies,” said Rafael Jabba, the fund’s coordinator.

WHITE HOUSE

President Obama at National Christmas Tree Lighting

Source: whitehouse.gov



“We’ve been lighting the National Christmas Tree for 90 years now. In times of war and peace, triumph and tragedy, we’ve always come together to rejoice in the Christmas miracle. But our tree has been having a hard time recently -- this is our third one in as many years. Our longstanding tree was lost in a storm, and then its replacement didn’t take hold. It just goes to show, nobody’s job is safe

here in Washington. But I feel good about this one. It was planted just days before Hurricane Sandy, and it made it through the storm in one piece. Now, we know that some of our neighbors to the north saw a more ruthless and destructive Sandy. And this holiday season is especially difficult for families who lost everything in the storm. But it’s also a time for us to be grateful for the heroism and perseverance of ordinary men and women in the storm’s path who’ve showed us that Americans will always be stronger than the challenges that we face. And as I did before Thanksgiving, I can’t help but tell a story of their enduring holiday spirit....”

RESEARCH

Researchers Complete Map of Wheat DNA



U.S. agricultural scientists and international collaborators have completed sequencing the wheat genome, an accomplishment expected to lead to higher yields and hasten the development of wheat lines with enhanced nutrition and resistance to pests and diseases. “This opens up the

storehouse. We now know what tools we have at our disposal,” said Sandy Miller Hays, spokeswoman for the U.S. Agriculture Department’s Agricultural Research Service. She said that if researchers can find the right tool, or gene, that is the secret to making some wheat resistant to the virulent fungal disease called Ug99, they can do traditional cross-breeding between plants that have a strong version of that gene and plants that have other desired traits. “We’ll wind up with an offspring that gives us everything we want and also have strong resistance,” she said.



Information Resource Center

Public Affairs Section

United States Embassy, Monrovia, Liberia

077-677-7073, 077-677-7185, 077-677-7257

<http://monrovia.usembassy.gov>