



Information Resource Center - Monrovia

NEWS & ARTICLES ALERT

Vol. 2 No. 1 & 2
February 2013



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

Year-End Children's Hour



The children's cultural troupe performing in the MPR.

In December, IRC-Monrovia hosted nearly 50 children to mark the final Children's Hour of 2012. PAO Sally Hodgson welcomed the kids, thanked them for attending the Children's Hour during the year and wished them a happy holiday season. The kids then performed some traditional dances and a

drama. The drama portrayed the spirit of giving to others. At the close of the two hour program, the PAS presented holiday gifts to the kids.

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Guest Speaker Rev. Frederick Umoja speaking to students at Zwedru Multilateral High School.

In January 2013, the Public Affairs Section organized several activities including speaker series in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Rev. Frederick

Umoja, an American and human rights advocate, who was with the late King Jr. during the US' Civil Rights Movement, served as guest speaker at the American Corners in Buchanan, Kakata and Zwedru as well as at Cuttington University, Ganta Youth Center and at the IRC in Monrovia. PAS staff accompanied him to these venues and distributed information sheets including Dr. King's profile, the Presidential Proclamation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday 2013, and the Presidential Proclamation of 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

EDUCATION ADVISING

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

www.educationusa.state.gov

NEW ON THE SHELF

IRC-Monrovia Receives L. Ron Hubbard Series



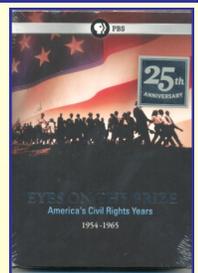
IRC-Monrovia has received a set of the *L. Ron Hubbard Series* (LRH). The LRH Series is a collection of 16 text volumes that has been provided to the IRC as a gift by Bridge Publications, the exclusive non-fiction international publisher of L. Ron Hubbard. LRH Series is a definitive biographical ency-

clopedia of L. Ron Hubbard's life. Each volume focuses on a separate field of endeavor. Distribution Manager Larry Perras notes in his referral letter to us that "The collection provides insight into Hubbard's life that began in the grit of the rough Montana frontier, circumnavigated the planet, studied almost two dozen cultures, many of the world's religions and examined in depth both the social and physical sciences. His experiences and study culminated at the juncture where science and religion converge."

COMING UP IN FEBRUARY 2013

IRC Observes Black History Month

Movie Series, Children's Hour, and Speaker Series: (4:30 - 6:30 pm): Under the theme "At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March to Washington," IRC-Monrovia will screen documentaries during **Movie Series** and host talk shows during **Children's Hour** and **Speaker Series**. Attendance to all events is without invitation; present photo ID at the gate for admission.



eLibraryUSA Training

IRC-Monrovia will conduct training on eLibraryUSA and other research databases to academic and administrative staff of the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary on February 7, and the Muslim Congress High School on February 14. Attendance is by invitation only.

STAY CONNECTED

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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.

ACCOUNTABILITY

MCC Selects Countries Eligible for New Programs

Source: iipdigital.state.gov



At its quarterly meeting December 19, the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) board of directors selected Liberia, Niger, Sierra Leone, Morocco and Tanzania as eligible to develop proposals for new compacts, and Guatemala as eligible for a Threshold Program. "This year's selection decisions are a testament to the 'MCC Effect,' the ability of

MCC to provide incentives for countries to adopt policy reforms and strengthen institutions in order to become eligible for an MCC compact," said Daniel W. Yohannes, MCC's chief executive officer. "Liberia, Niger and Sierra Leone have worked hard for several years to meet MCC's rigorous eligibility standards, and the board is pleased to recognize these efforts by selecting them as eligible to develop compact proposals."

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Agriculture Gets Increased U.S. Support in 2012

Source: iipdigital.state.gov



During 2012, the United States bolstered its commitment to agriculture and economic growth around the world with new systems that monitor the effectiveness of assistance efforts, new agreements with public and private sector partners and more

resources for agricultural research. The United States also integrated its short-term humanitarian assistance with its longer-term development aid with the aim of building resilience in communities vulnerable to recurrent crises. Progress began early in the year. In February, the U.S. Feed the Future program, the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative of Oxford University launched a Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index.

WHITE HOUSE

President Obama Says John Kerry is "Perfect Choice" for Secretary of State

Source: whitehouse.gov



When President Obama announced on December 21 that he is nominating Massachusetts Senator John Kerry to be the next Secretary of State, he told reporters that Kerry's long public service career has already earned him respect and confidence from

leaders around the world. Kerry has been chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for the past six years and has served on the committee since his election to the Senate in 1984. Kerry is also a decorated Vietnam War veteran and was the 2004 Democratic presidential nominee. "He is not going to need a lot of on-the-job training," Obama said. "I think it's fair to say that few individuals know as many presidents and prime ministers or grasp our foreign policies as firmly as John Kerry."

MILITARY PRESENCE

U.S. Military to Expand Presence in Africa Amid Growing Militant Threat



On January 29, several major American newspapers ran front-page reports on a deal reached between the U.S. and Niger that will allow the American military to establish a drone base in Niger. Reports cast the deal as a sign that the U.S. is

moving to boost its presence in the region, which is increasingly home to Islamic militants. The Wall Street Journal (A1, Entous, Gorman, Subscription Publication, 2.29M) reported that the deal could allow the U.S. to increase its cooperation with France as it continues its fight against Al Qaeda-linked militants in Mali. AFRICOM, however, declined to discuss plans for deploying drones to Niger. The New York Times (A1, Schmitt, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) reported that "for now, officials say they envision flying only unarmed surveillance drones from the base, though they have not ruled out conducting missile strikes at some point if the threat worsens." The move, it says, represents "an indication of the priority Africa has become in American antiterrorism efforts." According to U.S. officials, AFRICOM is also "discussing options" for bases with other countries in the region, including Burkina Faso.



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