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From the Ambassador's Desk | [A Bi-Monthly Update from the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon](#)



**MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR KATZ**

This is first time we are sending out our new bimonthly Embassy newsletter. I believe that it is an opportunity for us to share what is going on at the U.S. Embassy in Portugal and within the US Government with our friends in Portugal and elsewhere. I hope that you enjoy our first edition which focuses on our most recent programs as well as U.S. Energy policy, United Nations Reform and global warming. Please feel free to let us know how we are doing at [opalisbon@state.gov](mailto:opalisbon@state.gov).



**EMBASSY INITIATIVES**

**Ambassador Allan J. Katz Signs Memoranda of Understanding and Inaugurates American Corners at [FCT/UNL](#) and [ISEG/UTL](#)**

Continuing the collaboration of the Embassy with the academic and scientific community, Ambassador Allan J. Katz inaugurated, in March, American Corners at Nova University's Faculty of Science and Technology (FCT/Caparica) and at the Higher Institute of Economics and Management of the Technical University of Lisbon. The American Corner program is a partnership that supports education and research, namely through printed materials, scientific databases and hosts lectures and workshops by American experts.



Ambassador Allan J. Katz signing the MOU at FCT/Caparica



Ambassador Allan J. Katz and Dean João Duque inaugurating the American Corner at ISEG

**[Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy visits Portugal](#)**

The Undersecretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, [Judith McHale](#), visited Lisbon and Porto on April 1-2 where she held meetings at several academic and cultural institutions. At Nova University's Faculty of Science and Technology (FCT/Caparica), the Undersecretary addressed students and professors on the subject, "Science and Entrepreneurship - Innovation in the US-Portugal relationship." Accompanied by U.S. Ambassador to Portugal, Allan J. Katz, Undersecretary McHale also had the opportunity to also visit the new American Corner at FCT, exchange ideas with students participating in the FCT partnership program with MIT and the University of Texas-Austin, and speak to the Portuguese media.



Nova University's Rector, and the Dean and Students of FCT welcome Undersecretary McHale



Undersecretary McHale addressing remarks to professors and students at FCT/Caparica



President Obama wants to reduce use of imported oil by increasing domestic energy production, increasing the use of biofuels and natural gas, and improving fuel efficiency.

### [President Obama Announces New Energy Security Measures](#)

The United States will begin an effort to reduce its dependence on imported oil by a third over 10 years by increasing domestic energy production, increasing the use of biofuels and natural gas, and improving the fuel efficiency of U.S.-built cars and trucks, President Obama says. "We cannot keep going from shock to trance on the issue of energy security, rushing to propose action when gas prices rise, then hitting the snooze button when they fall again," Obama said. "The United States of America cannot afford to bet our long-term prosperity and security on a resource that will eventually run out."

## THE WORLD



### [Reforming the United Nations: The Future of U.S. Policy](#)

**Ambassador Rice (Apr. 7):** "As we well know, America's resources and influence are by no means limitless, and that's why the United Nations is so important to our national security."



### [41st Commemoration of Earth Day on April 22](#)

A huge water reservoir that millions of people in cities rely on is being depleted. A mountain once covered in glaciers now lies bare. Where there used to be rain forest there are now pastures. And the story goes on.

The satellite images in this photo gallery, which come from [NASA's Global Climate Change page](#), show the human impact on land, water and air over time. They document a planet in a "state of flux."