

U.S. ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA



For a Better Future

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Launch of the 2015-2016 Thomas Jefferson Scholarship Program

U.S. Ambassador Jake Wallis and the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Information and Communications Technologies Taoufik Jelassi, hosted a press conference on November 12 to launch the Thomas Jefferson Scholarship Program for the 2015-2016 academic year.



U.S. Ambassador Wallis With the Tunisian Minister of Higher Education Jelassi

This program builds the capacity of young leaders from diverse populations across Tunisia to contribute to the country's economic growth and development. Additionally, it provides greater opportunities for increased cooperation and understanding between the Tunisian and American people.

In its first three years, this program has enabled more than 150 undergraduate students from all over Tunisia to study in the United States, enhance their academic and English skills, strengthen their leadership capacity, and further develop their professional expertise through career-related in-

ternships and volunteering activities. Alumni return home ready to actively and efficiently contribute to their communities, and their country.

U.S. Ambassador Jake Wallis noted, *"Tunisia has a bright future thanks to its youth, and we are proud to continue this program and send a new group of Thomas Jefferson Scholars off on their educational adventure in the U.S. We wish all applicants the best of luck."*

Mabrouk to 2014 Coca-Cola Scholarship Participants

Welcome back to the 17 Global Business Institute participants, a U.S. Department of State and Coca-Cola Company summer entrepreneurship program. Students participated in a series of lectures and visits to learn more about business development. The program included a visit to the worldwide headquarters of Coca-Cola.



Tunisian Participants

Participants also visited the U.S. Department of State where they presented their own business development projects to a panel of senior business executives; five participants were recognized for the design of their business plans. Congratulations to all the participants!

Monitoring and Evaluation Site Visits to Local MEPI-Funded Election Partners

The U.S. Embassy conducted several monitoring and evaluation site visits to elections-related projects funded by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). During the visits, embassy staff attended various voter outreach and voter education campaigns in different regions around the country.

Currently, MEPI partners with five associations in Tunisia focused on voter education and voter outreach. These organizations' initiatives are implemented in all 24 governorates.



Voter Outreach, Beja



Voter Education, Medenine



Voter Education, Tunis

Citizenship Academy Project to Encourage Participation in Elections

On August 1, the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), in partnership with Will and Citizenship Organization (OVC), launched the "Citizenship Academy Project: A Coalition for Tunisia." This coalition of southern Tunisian civil society organizations helped implement the project. Voter awareness/civic education campaigns targeted marginalized groups including women and youth in southern Tunisia, and OVC managed to mobilize more than 6,500 registered voters in Gabes, Kebili, Medenine, Tataouine, and Tozeur to become active citizens and exercise their right to vote. Citizenship Academy Project implemented a variety of pre-election voter training and capacity-building activities that helped empower women and youth and increase voter participation in the 2014 legislative elections.



Voter Outreach, Gabes

International Republican Institute Empowers Youth Political Leaders

In support of the 2014 elections, MEPI supported the International Republican Institute (IRI) program to prepare Tunisian youth to participate in the October parliamentary campaigns and the November presidential campaigns. IRI's Campaign Academy for Successful Elections (CASE) is a multi-topic training that provides candidates and campaign teams the essential

Over 150 youth candidates and campaign managers – representing all 24 of Tunisia's governorates – were trained on the fundamentals of campaigns in IRI's CASE trainings

skills for running a campaign. Building on three years of engage-

ments with Tunisian political parties, IRI tailored this program to address the needs and concerns expressed by parties across the political spectrum. In the two months prior to the official campaign period, IRI led 17 CASE trainings for six of Tunisia's political parties, focusing on youth candidates and campaign managers throughout the country.

Transforming Tunisians with Disabilities into Civil Society Leaders

Through the Leadership and Empowerment for Action on Disability (LEAD) Initiative, Handicap International in partnership with MEPI and their local partner “Le Collectif Tunisien pour La Promotion des Droits des Personnes en Situation de Handicap,” is training more

than 1,000 Tunisian civil society advocates in Tunisia’s 24 governorates. The overarching goal of LEAD is to transform a disenfranchised community of 700,000 Tunisians with disabilities into civil society leaders who will advocate for the interests of persons with disabilities and marginalized populations.



Yellow Walking Day in Tunis

With U.S. support, the LEAD project developed and finalized the Tunisian Pact for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This pact was signed by more than six Tunisian organizations and gained the support of the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. To secure political party signatures, a national campaign was launched



Urban Billboard Campaign

through social networks using the hashtag #signezlepacte. There was also a billboard campaign and awareness walk (Yellow Walking Day) held in ten governorates. Eleven political parties signed the pact.

United States Donates Equipment to Ministry of Interior



Safety Equipment

The U.S. Ambassador, General Director of International Relations and External Cooperation, and Minister of the Interior, attend an October 22 ceremony recognizing the U.S. donation of safety equipment including bulletproof vests, helmets, shields, and other personnel protective gear to Tunisian security forces.

The donation was part of an ongoing program that includes training to support the Tunisian security forces in their operations against groups attempting to destabilize the country.

During the ceremony, U.S. Ambassador Jake Walles reiterated that the United States remains committed to supporting Tunisia's fight against terrorism and helping the country succeed in its democratic transition.

Transfer of Night Vision Devices to Tunisian Armed Forces

U.S. Ambassador Jake Walles, Minister of Defense Ghazi Jeribi, and Brigadier General Bechir Bedoui, attended a November 7 ceremony during which the U.S. Embassy donated night vision devices, valued at nearly \$2 million, to the Tunisian Armed Forces, highlighting the strong and growing strategic partnership between the United States and Tunisia. The acquisition of these night vision devices further enhances the existing capability of the Tunisian Army, Air Force and Navy to conduct operations during hours of limited visibility against terrorist organizations determined to destabilize Tunisia. This event follows Minister Jeribi and Ambassador Walles’ recent visit to Washington, D.C. in which they met with senior U.S. officials including Secretary of Defense Hagel.



Transfer of Devices

MEPI “Tomorrow’s Leader” Alumn Participated in Elections Observation



Amir Ben Ameur During the Legislative Elections, in Front of the Tunisian Embassy in Cairo Polling Station.

Amir Ben Ameur, a young Tunisian participant in the MEPI “Tomorrow’s Leaders” Scholarship Program at the American University in Cairo, observed the Tunisian legislative elections for overseas voters at the Tunisian Embassy in Cairo.

Amir gave a number of interviews to television stations in Egypt in which he stressed that his country’s legislative elections are crucial for Tunisia’s future.

Amir is also the director of We Youth Association which is currently implementing a TransVote project that focuses on voter outreach and voter education for the three rounds of elections in partnership with MEPI.

Mohamed Arous, MEPI Student Leader Alumnus, Representing Tunisia in the European Parliament

Congratulations to Mohamed Arous for participating in the workshop held in the European Parliament to discuss Elections, Youth, and Democratic Transition in Tunisia. He is a MEPI Student leader alumnus and project coordinator of TransVote project, a MEPI initiative.

The meeting was an excellent opportunity for Mohamed to speak about the achievements of We Youth association. He was recently appointed a permanent member of the “World Youth Parliament for Water” a network of young people concerned with water conservation.



Selfie with Mr. Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament

MEPI Alumna Asma Mansour in the 2014 “100 Women” List of BBC

Congratulations to Asma Mansour for being part of the 2014 “100 Women” list of BBC.

Last year, the BBC committed to better represent women in its international edition. The list includes women from all around the world who work in diverse fields. A total of 11 Arab women were selected by the BBC, and this year, the list includes more scientists, more



women working in the arts, more than fifth of whom are under 25.

Asma, the Co-founder of the Tunisian Center for Social Entrepreneurship, is the sole Tunisian included in the BBC’s list of 100 Women of 2014. The Centre is an association working to develop the relationship between the social enterprise and the environment.

Announcements

The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Scholarship

The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) scholarship is funded by the U.S. Department of State, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and administered by AMIDEAST in Tunisia.

Application Deadline: December 12, 2014

Further information is available online at www.amideast.org

Thomas Jefferson Scholarship Program 2015-2016

The U.S. Embassy in Tunis is pleased to announce immediate national recruitment for the Thomas Jefferson Scholarship Program for study at universities and community colleges in the United States.

Application deadline: December 15, 2014 at 5:00pm

Applications and more information are available from IREX (<http://www.irex.org>) or CEMAT (<http://www.cematmaghrib.org>).

Participants will be selected through an open, merit-based competition.

Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders on Women's Leadership Summer 2015

The U.S. Embassy is seeking applicants for the 2015 Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders on Women's Leadership. This Institute is a five-week program that will examine the history and participation of women in public life in the United States.

Application Deadline: December 19, 2014

For more information about the program and how to apply, please visit our website at: <http://tunisia.usembassy.gov>

Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders on Civic Engagement Summer 2015

The U.S. Embassy is seeking applicants for the 2015 Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders on Civic Engagement. This undergraduate-level, five-week academic program provides students with an overview of how citizens have shaped U.S. history, government, and society.

Application Deadline: December 19, 2014

For more information about the program and how to apply, please visit our website at: <http://tunisia.usembassy.gov>

Announcements

Study of the United States Institutes Scholars & Foreign Secondary Educators

The U.S. Embassy is pleased to announce the 2015 Study of the United States Institutes for Scholars & Foreign Secondary Educators. These institutes are intensive six-week academic seminars at American universities throughout the United States.

Application Deadline: January 5, 2015

For more information about the program and how to apply, please visit our website at:
<http://tunisia.usembassy.gov>



Foreign Assistance Unit

U.S. Embassy Tunis

Les Berges du Lac 2045 - Tunisia

Phone: 71 107 000

Fax: 71 107 090

E-mail: ForeignAssistanceTunis@state.gov

We'll be on the Web soon!

<http://tunisia.usembassy.gov>

Since the January 2011 revolution, the United States has provided approximately \$550 million to support Tunisia's transition, focusing on technical and financial assistance to Tunisia's economic growth, support for peace and stability, and support for civil society and democratic practices. The U.S. government plans to allocate more than \$60 million in Fiscal Year 2014 funding, building on assistance programs initiated after the revolution.

