



# INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

Issue 66

Second Quarter 2003

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of the

### COUNCIL ON FOUNDATIONS

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## Notes from the Chair

By *Cornelia Higginson*  
*Vice President, American Express  
Philanthropic Program  
Chair, Council on Foundations  
International Committee*

The troubled international scene, the continuing economic slump, and the regulatory challenges to funding overseas programs are all tough realities of our work as international grantmakers. Now, more than ever, we need to pull together and support the important international work we do through our grantees. The Council's 54th Annual Conference in Dallas will give us that opportunity.

Building on the increasing level of international content at the Council's past annual conferences, this year's gathering in Dallas (April 27–30) promises a strong international theme with a variety of speakers and events of interest to those engaged in international grantmaking.

The International Grantmakers reception and dinner will be held Sunday, April 27. Judy Woodruff, CNN prime anchor and founding co-chair of the International Women's Media Foundation, will be the speaker.

A range of individual sessions at the conference mirror concerns about the turbulent state of world affairs, addressing issues like local and global security, the impact of globalization, human rights challenges and protecting water resources. Three conference sessions will look at ways of collaborating across borders, cultures or religions. See page 2 for details.

On a more personal note, I've just completed my second four-year term on the International Committee and my last meeting as committee

chair. I've had great satisfaction and professional growth from my association with an extraordinary group of grantmakers—the members of the International Committee—and the Council's highly capable International Programs staff, led by Director Rob Buchanan and Vice President for Constituency Services Char Mollison.

International grantmaking's role in the Council's activities has changed greatly since my first tenure on the International Committee in the early 1990s. We in the international grantmaking community are grateful to Council President and CEO Dot Ridings and the Council's leadership in recognizing the increasingly global implications of both domestic and international grantmaking and supporting our initiatives. As proof, I am delighted to say that for the first time, the next International Committee chair and vice chair will both be non-U.S. grantmakers. Iftekhar Zaman, executive director of the Bangladesh Freedom Foundation, will lead the committee, assisted by John Binsted, vice president and CEO of the Vancouver Foundation, who will continue to serve as the committee's vice chair (in addition to serving on the Council's board). There are now ten non-U.S. members—38 percent—on the International Committee.

A subcommittee under the leadership of Elan Garonzik of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation is working to ensure international topics are well represented at future annual conference sessions—yes, we are already looking forward to the 2004 conference to be held in Toronto!

In the meantime, see you in Dallas!

*Providing grantmakers and their associations with information and resources regarding domestic giving on international themes, U.S.-based cross-border grantmaking and the development of philanthropic structures around the world.*



# International Grantmaking Events at the Council's 2003 Annual Conference

Dallas, April 27–30, 2003

Following are Council-sponsored events, speakers and sessions of interest to international grantmakers:

## SUNDAY, APRIL 27

**International Programs Meeting** [with international (non-U.S.) Council members]

2:00–3:30 p.m.

**Civicus Briefing**

3:30–5:30 p.m.

**International Grantmakers Reception and Dinner**—Speaker is Judy Woodruff of CNN

6:00–8:00 p.m.

## MONDAY, APRIL 28

**Opening Plenary**—Speaker is Tim Wirth of the UN Foundation

**Session**—“Our Global Future: How Two International Companies Look at the Future and Why It Matters to Grantmakers”

2:00–3:30 p.m.

**Session**—“Collaboration with International Grassroots Organizations as a Means to Local and Global Security”

2:00–3:30 p.m.

**Session**—“The World's Water: How to Protect Our Most Precious Resource”

2:00–3:30 p.m.

**Session**—“Post-9/11 Collaborations in Arab, Muslim, South Asian and Sikh Communities”

2:00–3:30 p.m.

**Session**—“The Role of Philanthropy in a Time of War”

2:00–3:30 p.m.

**Session**—“Collaborating across Cultures”

4:00–5:30 p.m.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 29

**Session**—“Micro-Credit for International Development”

8:30–10:00 a.m.

**Session**—“The Impact of Globalization on Low-Wage Sectors in the United States”

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Session**—“Collaboration for Impact: A Cross-Border, Cross-Sector Approach”

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Session**—“The Human Rights Challenge: What Does Human Rights Have to Do with It—Our Grantmaking?”

2:30–4:00 p.m.

**Open Space Session**—USIG will host a session during this period on the U.S. Treasury's voluntary guidelines for international grantmaking.

4:00–5:30 p.m.

**International Programs Reception** [open to all conference attendees]

6:30–8:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

**International Programs Core Session**—“Making Effective Grants in Developing Countries: Perspectives from Africa, Asia and Latin America”

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

**Closing Plenary Luncheon**—Speaker is Marta Sahagun de Fox, First Lady of Mexico, and chair, Vamos Mexico Foundation

12:30–2:30 p.m.

## International Grantmaking Trends

The Foundation Center's 2003 edition of *Foundation Giving Trends: Update on Funding Priorities* (which is based on a sample of 1,007 of the largest private and community foundations) reports that international giving totalled \$2.46 billion in 2001, virtually unchanged from the previous year. However, as a share of *overall* foundation funding in the sample, international giving fell from a record 16.3 percent in 2000 to 14.7 percent in 2001. The report also notes that, based on the sample, grants to U.S.-based international programs rose from \$1.5 billion to \$1.7 billion from 2000 to 2001, while giving directly to overseas recipients declined from approximately \$900 million to \$770 million. For the full report, contact The Foundation Center at 212/620-4230. Website: [www.fdncenter.org](http://www.fdncenter.org).



## Council Task Force Examines Government Counter-Terrorism Rules

In the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, various legal requirements were established through the USA Patriot Act, Executive Order 13224 and the Treasury Department that were aimed at preventing the transfer of funds to terrorists or terrorist organizations. In addition, lists of “prohibited individuals” were issued by various U.S. government agencies. These regulations and lists are of special interest to foundations and corporations that make grants overseas.

The Council’s U.S. International Grantmaking (USIG) Steering Committee has been looking at counter-terrorism compliance issues since September 2001. (See the fall 2002 *Legal Dimensions of International Grantmaking* article “International Grantmaking After September 11: Dealing with Executive Order 13224 and the USA Patriot Act.”)

In November 2002, the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued additional voluntary guidelines in response to a request for guidance from a group of Arab American and U.S. Muslim charities. These guidelines suggest an extraordinary level of due diligence with respect to foreign grantees, including obtaining information about each grantee’s board members, banking affiliations and subcontractors. Because some aspects of the

The Council’s Treasury Guidelines Task Force is analyzing the legal and practical implications of the Treasury guidelines and developing recommendations in response to the Treasury Department’s request.

guidelines are unclear or unrealistic, they pose special challenges for international grantmakers.

In January 2003, the Council organized a meeting with Treasury officials to discuss the compliance issues raised by the voluntary guidelines. As a result, Treasury asked the Council to propose additional steps that international grantmakers can take, beyond the existing required due diligence, to address the terrorist funding concern. Subsequently, the Council established a Treasury Guidelines Task Force, composed of legal experts and international grantmaking practitioners. The task force is analyzing the legal and practical implications of the Treasury guidelines and developing recommendations in

response to the Treasury Department’s request.

With United Way International and other organizations, the Council sponsored a seminar in February—“Responsible International Grantmaking Post-September 11: Emerging Standards and Evolving Best Practices in a Changing World,” which brought together more than 50 legal experts, foundations, corporations and nongovernmental organizations. On April 29, at the Council’s Annual Conference in Dallas, there will be a special session on Treasury’s voluntary guidelines during the Open Space period, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

## War, Terrorism and Humanitarian Aid

Following are selected quotes from the International Committee’s March 10, 2003, roundtable discussion on the theme “International Grantmaking in Turbulent Times: Implications of Terrorist Threats, Global Tensions, Escalating Conflicts and Faltering Economies.”

### ON WAR:

*“It is important to see that some of the fundamentals of peace—democracy and social justice—which are also the goals of many foundations, are being affected at a basic level.”*

*“The rise in the price of oil resulting from the war is going to damage the economies of many developing nations, so [funding for post-war] reconstruction is not only going to [rebuild the economy] of Iraq, but of the rest of the developing world, as well.”*

*“The United Nations Foundation decided to focus on the role of the UN as peacemaker by supporting initiatives around adolescent girls and youth and creating dialogues around peace and conflict resolution in various regions of the world. The UN Foundation is working to create networks*

*continued on page 4*



continued from page 3

of universities at which these dialogues can take place, most strongly in the Middle East.”

### ON TERRORISM:

“Everyone is now talking about war and terrorism, and there is little talk of the lack of social justice and development, which are the root causes of both [war and terrorism]. Instead of having a list of organizations with which we should not work, we should have a “list” of organizations that we should promote.”

“The Philippines understands terrorism well. People there have a perception that the war against terrorism is taking the form of aggression against the Philippine Muslim community, and this perception is shared globally by many Muslim populations.... The root of terrorism is poverty, and if you want to go after terrorism, you must go after poverty and increase educational initiatives. Uneducated, poor populations make effective recruiting markets for terrorists.”

“There are a lot of examples of how the youth of the world are dealing with [terrorism] that are not being talked about by the mainstream media.... One example is the tremendous outpouring of support for the Muslim community from Michigan’s youth after [the] September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, even though [many in] Michigan didn’t even know that community existed.”

### ON HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE:

“Grantmakers can play an important role on the humanitarian front. In addition to relieving suffering, foundations can help to focus on alternative methods of dispute resolution in the future.”

“For those foundations that are capable of responding to humanitarian needs, that is an important aspect that needs to be taken care of. But at the same time it is incredibly important to continue [administering our primary funding activities]. There is no way the foundation communities [alone], even pooling all their resources, can [shoulder the entire burden of rebuilding after the war]. This is not to minimize the importance of providing humanitarian assistance, but to emphasize the importance of keeping one’s eye on the long-term.”

“The foundation world can try to provide a more unifying approach and more calm outlook, and [we] should put forward the Guide to Disaster Grantmaking: A Practical Guide for Foundations and Corporations (a free publication of the Council on Foundations and the European Foundation Centre) as a model of what to do....”

“The [Guide to Disaster Grantmaking] suggests that foundations try as much as possible to [focus on] economic development and work with local organizations in their disaster relief efforts. Foundations will be under tremendous pressure to respond and will need to get a sense of which organizations they should be working with.”

“Philanthropy is going to be limited, and the majority of (humanitarian aid) costs are going to be handled by governments. Foundations should take advantage of opportunities to affect policy at multilateral organizations. The sector can help many of the multilaterals get better grants out the door.”

“The Internet will be a key factor in developing ways of responding to the humanitarian crises that will come as a result of the conflict [in Iraq].”



## INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

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## Spotlight on the Miguel Alemán Foundation, Mexico City, Mexico

In 1984, friends of the former president of Mexico, Miguel Alemán Valdes, established the Miguel Aleman Foundation (MAF) in Mexico City to support his work and interests in the areas of rural development, medical research, cultural and social activities and environmental protection.

MAF's programs are divided into five broad areas, each of which addresses a particular aspect of the foundation's focus: rural development, health, tourism, environmental protection and eco-tourism. In addition, the foundation runs the "Biblioteca Mexicana," a library devoted to Mexican history and culture.

The Rural Development Program (Programa de Tecnología al Campo) works on what it calls the "micro-regional" level to provide credits to low-income farmers and assistance in organizing groups of women farmers better to leverage their marketing potential. By 2002, the Rural Development Program had organized more than 90 different "societies," totaling some 3,000 farmers who share

information to increase their productivity. The foundation also works to increase farmers' acceptance of technology and assists farmers in its use as well as provide micro-credit loans to the agricultural sector.

MAF has an active health program that provided funding for a variety of projects in 2002, including a study of Mexico City's air pollution, breast and prostate cancer research, drug and alcohol abuse and exposure to lead during pregnancy.

The foundation's other wide-ranging activities include sponsorship of conferences and symposia on nuclear energy, youth and the environment, and tourism as well as the "Miguel Aleman Valdes Ecology and Environment Prize." In addition, MAF makes the resources of the Mexican Library available to a wide audience.

More information about the Miguel Alemán Foundation is available on the foundation's website, [www.miguelaleman.org.mx](http://www.miguelaleman.org.mx). (Information is available in Spanish and English.)

## Addressing Poverty on Both Sides of the U.S.–Mexico Border

The US–Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership held its second biannual "Learning Community" April 9–11, 2003, in San Diego, California, which brought together representatives of funding organizations and community foundations from the U.S.–Mexico border region to discuss ways of improving the quality of life there. The meeting combined peer learning sessions, moderated discussions and site visits. The first such meeting was held September 18–20, 2002.

The Border Philanthropy Partnership is a collaboration of nine regional, national and international funders, 21 community foundations from the U.S.–Mexico border region, and The Synergos Institute, sharing the mission of improving the quality of life in disadvantaged border communities.

"This partnership is a historic event. Two very different countries come together to address common critical needs through a philanthropic network," said Enrique Suarez of Fundación Comunitaria Frontera Norte.

Building on a series of bi-national gatherings from 1993–96 sponsored by the Council on Foundations and the Mexican Center for Philanthropy, the partnership began in 2002. A coalition of nine regional, national and interna-

tional funders came together to support the initiative: the Houston Endowment, the McCune Charitable Foundation, The Meadows Foundation, Fundación Gonzalo Río-Arronte, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Inter-American Foundation and the Ford Foundation's Mexico and New York offices.

The partnership has already channeled approximately one-third of the committed \$10 million to the region, which will benefit the 21 participating community foundations with direct grants over three years.

"The collaboration of international, national and regional funders with local community foundations holds great hope for developing and implementing strategic plans for systemic change in the border region," said Estelle Wick, Advisory Board representative from the Cochise Community Foundation.

For more information about the U.S.–Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership, visit [www.borderpartnership.org](http://www.borderpartnership.org), or contact Silvia Siller at Synergos by telephone at +1-212-517-4900 or by e-mail at [ssiller@synergos.org](mailto:ssiller@synergos.org).



## A CONVERSATION WITH...

## Melissa A. Berman, President and CEO, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors

*The Council on Foundations' 54th Annual Conference theme—Working Together for the Common Good: What Have We Learned about Collaboration?—which guided the conference programming, was designed to focus on the state of collaboration on multiple levels: internationally, across economic and government sectors and within the philanthropic community. Council members who fund cross-border programs conduct their international grantmaking in collaboration with partners. The Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors looks to collaboration for innovative ways to support and sustain the operations of organizations and services essential to global communities. Council on Foundations staff writer Isabelle Mack spoke with Melissa Berman, president and CEO of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, about the foundation's international programs.*

### WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE ROCKEFELLER PHILANTHROPY ADVISORS?

To help donors create thoughtful, effective philanthropy throughout the world. We were launched by the Rockefeller family as the natural outgrowth of their Family Philanthropy Office, which has been in existence for more than 100 years. The Rockefeller family was interested in [making] the kinds of approaches to philanthropy that they've practiced for years—collaborative grantmaking, international philanthropy and carefully researched programs—more broadly available to a larger cross-section of donors around

the world. To accomplish that, they spun off Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors from the family office into an independent nonprofit philanthropy service.

### DESCRIBE THE STAFFING FOR YOUR NEW YORK AND SAN FRANCISCO OFFICES.

We have 15 full-time people in New York [City] and two on the West Coast, along with some affiliated advisors and senior fellows with whom we are very proud to work—including Bruce Sievers, Susan Hirsch and Lori Vacek.

### WHAT KINDS OF SERVICES DOES THE ROCKEFELLER PHILANTHROPY ADVISORS PROVIDE?

We help our clients achieve their philanthropic goals through whatever kind of giving vehicle they would like to use. We manage foundations and charitable trusts and often serve as the equivalent of foundation staff. In addition, we offer a donor-advised fund and also manage special projects and collaboratives. About half of our clients choose to use our donor-advised fund, The Philanthropic Collaborative, which the Rockefeller family established in 1991 to create a flexible vehicle for international giving, a donor collaborative and special projects. Over the last decade, we have helped to facilitate more than \$800 million in giving to more than 40 countries.

### DESCRIBE THE INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES THAT YOUR ORGANIZATION MANAGES?

On behalf of a charitable trust based in the Caribbean, we are the largest source of private philanthropy in Trinidad and Tobago. We manage that giving program “from soup to nuts,”

including outreach to bring more donors into the Caribbean, which is an area that hasn't gotten the level of attention and support it needs. That trust also does a lot of grantmaking on [the Atlantic island of] Madeira, in Portugal and in some Portuguese communities in North America. In addition, we are the fiscal and management agent for The Bridge Fund, which provides grants for economic development and preserving the cultural heritage of Tibetan communities in China. This interesting program has a broad base of supporters—individuals, family foundations and public sector entities. Most recently, following the events of September 11, 2001, we established a special fund—Afghan Women Leaders Connect—to build capacity and ensure support for a handful of truly innovative nonprofits operating in Afghanistan and Pakistan, all of which are run by notable Afghan women leaders.

### WHAT DO YOU FIND MOST REWARDING ABOUT THIS KIND OF GRANTMAKING?

To help donors realize their philanthropic vision across borders. There seems to be so many barriers to giving internationally, many of which are very real and need to be dealt with, but some of which really are more a matter of perception than reality. We find it very fulfilling to be able to help donors accomplish what they really want and to start to see the kind of change and results they are looking for across an enormous and fascinating cross-section of countries and issues.



### WHO ARE SOME OF YOUR PARTNERS IN INTERNATIONAL GRANTMAKING?

In the Caribbean, we do much work with the Bernard van Leer Foundation. In Afghanistan, we have done some work with the Open Society Institute, the Asia Foundation, the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children and other organizations that we've been exchanging a lot of information with, including the Council on Foreign Relations. In China, we do some work with a European counterpart of our organization here in the United States, as well as with the China Charities Federation, through which a good deal of the grantmaking flows.

### COULD YOU DESCRIBE THE CHALLENGES YOU'VE FACED IN SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES?

Among the challenges to international grantmaking, especially in the developing world are—transparency, accountability and reporting—concepts that we often take for granted about the nonprofit sector, but are new to some of these areas. So it's hard for some of the overseas organizations to understand why they are being asked certain questions. Another difficulty is that in some parts of the world where we've taken on program work conditions are extremely fluid and, in some cases, dangerous. Consequently, you need a certain amount of flexibility in how you approach organizations like that and the kinds of responses to expect from them, the kinds of burdens you can put on them, as well as the volume of funds that many of them can handle.

### HOW HAS THE FACT THAT POST-SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, AMERICANS ARE PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO THE REST OF THE WORLD AFFECTED YOUR GRANTMAKING?

We've seen a sharply increased demand from the donors that we work with and those who approach us for information and resources about international giving. We're delighted that there are so many new [organizations involved in] international giving with whom we can partner, all of whom are very generous in sharing information with us. We also have needed to develop more sources of direct information to be able to put together very specific kinds of programs that match the needs of some of the donors we work with. Transitional Justice and Environment Health in West Africa is an example of a client program that we developed over the past year. So, [Americans' increased interest in global affairs] has really meant that we've needed to invest a great deal more time and resources in research and in working with membership organizations, including some of the groups affiliated with the Council on Foundations, the European Foundation Centre and other professional networks that are sources of insight and information.

### IN RETROSPECT, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD DO DIFFERENTLY IN THE WAY YOU APPROACH YOUR WORK?

I think if we could take some time out, our organization and many other organizations that work with highly sophisticated donors wish that we had more organized channels to exchange information. It's especially important

among organizations that work with private donors and family foundations to supplement some of the information and networks developed by the large professionally staffed foundations. That would be a tremendous asset to the field of international philanthropy and would serve a lot of donors really well.

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER TO ANYONE THAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERING INTERNATIONAL GRANTMAKING?

First, it's possible to fulfill your vision if you are willing to put in some time and energy as well as money. There are lots of great resources available now—new, international pooled-giving vehicles and specialized organizations that can help you develop and research your giving program, do some of the legwork and assess the results. There are networks of other donors that you can join to share ideas and experiences and exchange information about the organizations and causes that you care about. The barriers to international giving are not as great as they might appear to be on first blush, and it's really worth pursuing. The donors we work with find it tremendously rewarding.

For more information, contact:

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## International Dateline Changing to Electronic Format

In an effort to improve the timeliness of *International Dateline*, reduce printing costs and increase circulation, we will be changing to an electronic-only newsletter beginning with the Fourth Quarter 2003 issue (to be published in October 2003). We will produce both print and electronic versions of *International Dateline* for our Second Quarter 2003 issue (April 2003) and Third Quarter 2003 issue (July 2003) issues before going electronic-only in October. Subscribers will receive an e-mail summary of the newsletter with links to the online version of the full newsletter, published on the Council on Foundations's website. If you have not received an electronic version of this newsletter, you are not on our e-mailing list.

*International Dateline* is a free publication produced by the International Programs staff of the Council on Foundations. If you wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please send an e-mail to Steve Dau (dau@cof.org) with the words "newsletter subscribe" in the subject box.

## Community Foundation Global Status Report

A study funded by the Council on Foundations and Community Foundations of Canada for Worldwide INitiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS) indicates there are now nearly 1,100 community foundations worldwide. As a follow-up to the Council on Foundations' 2000 report, *The Growth of Community Foundations Around the World*, the two organizations are providing an update on international community foundation trends and developments called the *2003 Community Foundation Global Status Report*. The new report is available only online through Community Foundations of Canada's website (www.community-fdn.ca), with links to the Council's website (www.cof.org). The report will be updated annually to reflect the strong growth of community foundations worldwide. For more information, contact WINGS Outreach and Communications Manager Michael Strubin at michael@efc.be.

## CALENDAR

May 31

COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY INITIATIVE  
EUROPEAN FOUNDATION CENTRE

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June 1-3

EUROPEAN FOUNDATION CENTRE  
14TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
(AGA) AND CONFERENCE

"Foundations for Europe:  
The Citizen Facing  
Challenges of Globalisation"  
Lisbon, Portugal  
European Foundation Centre  
www.efc.be

June 11-13

CORPORATE GRANTMAKERS SUMMIT

"Doing Well by Doing Good:  
Rhetoric or Reality?"  
Washington, DC  
Fran Eaton,  
202/467-0447  
eaton@cof.org

July 13: INSTITUTE FOR  
NEW BOARD MEMBERS  
COUNCIL ON FOUNDATIONS

July 14: ESTABLISHING  
A NEW FOUNDATION  
COUNCIL ON FOUNDATIONS

July 14-16:  
INSTITUTE FOR NEW GRANTMAKERS  
COUNCIL ON FOUNDATIONS

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