



# INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

LEGAL DIMENSIONS  
SAFEGUARDING  
INTERNATIONAL  
GRANTMAKING

Special Insert

BUILDING CAPACITY  
IN NEW ZEALAND

page 2

A CONVERSATION  
ARLEEN LAWSON  
OF THE EXXONMOBIL  
FOUNDATION

page 3

INTERNATIONAL  
GRANTMAKING BY  
AFFINITY GROUPS

pages 5

NEW INTERNATIONAL  
FELLOW FROM JAPAN

page 6

WINGS UPDATE

page 6

CALENDAR

page 6

IRAQ WAR  
SPARKS NEW GIVING

page 7



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## Notes from the Chair

By *Iftekhar Zaman, Executive Director, Bangladesh Freedom Foundation  
Chair, Council on Foundations International Committee*

It is with great humility that I accepted the invitation of Council President and CEO Dorothy “Dot” Ridings to chair the Council’s International Committee for the next two years. As a Bangladeshi, I am especially honored to have been asked to chair a key committee of such a prestigious American organization.

Over the past four years that I have served on the International Committee, I have come to know it, and the Council, well. I only hope that I can live up to the high standards of leadership, fairness, compassion and professionalism set by the two chairs under whom I have had the pleasure of serving—Woody Wickham of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and Connie Higginson of the American Express Philanthropic Program. I am also humbled by the rich legacy of their illustrious predecessors, Rien van Gendt of the Bernard van Leer Foundation, Barry Gaberman of the Ford Foundation, Bill White of the C.S. Mott Foundation and others.

I am delighted to be assisted in my new role by John Binsted of the Vancouver Foundation in Canada who has agreed to continue as vice chair of the committee. At our next meeting in September, we will welcome four new members who will contribute greatly to the richness of experience and diversity of perspectives which already exist on the committee. They are:

- **Boris Cornejo**, Vice President, *Esquel Group Foundation* in Ecuador
- **Rachel Liel**, Shatil Project Director, *New Israel Fund* in Israel
- **Carla Roberts**, Vice President of Affiliates, *Arizona Community Foundation*
- **Jonas Rolett**, Senior Policy Analyst, *Open Society Institute*

*“With some of the fundamental values of democracy, pluralism and internationalism under severe strain, the underlying struggles for poverty reduction, social justice, peace building and human dignity have never been more urgent.”*

The International Committee celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. What began with the vision of a small group of international grantmakers at the Council’s annual conference back in 1981 became a formal committee of the Council in 1983.

Since then, the committee has initiated a wide range of Council activities to promote effective and responsible

international grantmaking. I believe it is not coincidental that grantmaking for international purposes has nearly tripled as a percentage of all U.S. foundation giving over the past 20 years.

As was demonstrated by the strong international content of the Council’s annual conference this year in Dallas, the world is becoming a smaller and smaller place. It has been a difficult year for grantmakers, in general, with special concerns for those funding internationally.

*Continued on page 8*

*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.*



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE COUNCIL'S INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS:

## New Zealand's Compass Aims to Build Capacity of NGOs

"Specifically, the Compass Community Foundation seeks to provide leadership in community development, play an advisory role to agencies focused on community development, provide grants to local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), build an endowment and act as a convener and bridge between the NGOs, corporations and local and national government."

The Compass Community Foundation was begun in 1996 in the town of Tauranga on New Zealand's central North Island. Originally, the foundation was set up to provide community leadership and support to the western Bay of Plenty and has recently expanded its focus to include activities throughout New Zealand.

The foundation's goals range over a broad swath of community development activities. Specifically, the Compass Community Foundation seeks to provide leadership in community development, play an advisory role to agencies focused on community development, provide grants to local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), build an endowment and act as a convener and bridge between the NGOs, corporations and local and national government.

The scope of the foundation's activity has increased steadily since its formation in 1996. During 2001, it undertook nearly 300 projects, of which three-fourths were focused on the local region. The Compass Foundation breaks down its grantmaking into three broad thematic categories: welfare and community, children and youth education and employment programs.

The Acorn Fund is the foundation's community donation program, through which it offers a variety of philanthropic options to individuals interested in giving to the community. The Acorn Fund allows donors to choose between funds based on a broad field of interest, a specific organization, a scholarship or a donor-advised fund that features more active donor participation.

Beyond financial assistance, the foundation also assists local NGOs by providing advice to help build organizational capacity. The foundation's areas of expertise in this regard

include business planning, management structure, financial systems, information technology, government funding, personnel management and general troubleshooting.

Local residents interested in volunteering in community development projects can visit the foundation's Volunteer Centre, which acts as a collection point for community organizations interested in recruiting volunteers.

The foundation also operates and receives revenue from the Compass Community Village in Tauranga. This village is a restored colonial-era community, managed by the Compass Community Foundation, which houses, at much-subsidized rates, more than 70 community groups and rents it out for conferences, seminars and meetings. The village also operates an eco-friendly garden free of genetically modified plants for use by residents.

For more information on the Compass Community Foundation and a list of contact staff, visit their website at [www.compass-foundation.co.nz](http://www.compass-foundation.co.nz) or call them at +64 07 571 3700.



## INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

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## A CONVERSATION WITH...

## Arleen Lawson, Executive Director ExxonMobil Foundation, ExxonMobil Corporation

### WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE EXXONMOBIL FOUNDATION?

We're strongly committed in all of our corporate giving to investing in the communities where we operate. We want to help develop prosperous, stable communities—not only because they're good places to do business, but also because we care about our neighbors and the places we call home.

### WHO ARE YOUR PARTNERS IN YOUR INITIATIVES?

Overseas, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, we put a lot of emphasis on health, and we have projects in Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Zambia, Ghana and Angola. In those countries, we work with the World Health Organization, the Harvard University School of Public Health and other partners. In other countries, including the United States, our partners could be any non-governmental organization or non-profit organization in a local community.

### HOW DO YOU SET YOUR PRIORITIES?

In the last couple years, we've undertaken a strategic study and out of that came our priorities—health, education and the environment.

### PLEASE TELL US ABOUT A FEW OF YOUR EDUCATION INITIATIVES.

In the United States, we tend to concentrate in education—improving the quality of mathematics, science and engineering education. We've partnered with the National Council of Teachers in Mathematics in teacher training to improve how mathematics is taught. We've also partnered for a

number of years with the National Science Teachers Association on a project to promote science education standards in the United States. We're the largest supporter of the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, which tries to increase the number of minorities and under-represented groups that go into the engineering profession.

Overseas, we've made teacher training available and provided computers to schools in Malaysia, Brazil and Russia. Also, in Azerbaijan, we've translated and distributed textbooks and dictionaries. In the United

**"The business value for us in investing in those communities is that those communities will be stronger and healthier and better able to be successful business partners."**

Kingdom, we have a project called the ExxonMobil Growing Schools Link program. That program helps schools with a variety of math, science and environmental education initiatives.

### IN ADDITION TO YOUR EDUCATION INITIATIVES, EXXONMOBIL ALSO SUPPORTS ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES.

#### WHAT ARE SOME OF THOSE INITIATIVES?

One that is probably the most well-known is the Save the Tiger Fund, which was established in partnership with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. It supports field research in tiger range countries, anti-poaching efforts and initiatives to stop the trade

of tiger parts. In addition, the fund supports public education about the plight of the tiger with the ultimate goal of worldwide tiger conservation. That fund was established in 1995, and this past year we surpassed the \$10 million mark in contributions.

In November 2002, we announced a plan to invest \$100 million in a groundbreaking Stanford University project. The Global Climate and Energy Project is an alliance of scientific researchers and leading companies in the private sector, from around the world, that will be working to find new options for commercially viable, technological systems for energy supply and use that have the capability to substantially reduce greenhouse emissions.

### WHAT IS THE BUSINESS VALUE FOR YOU AND, WHAT TOOLS DO YOU USE TO MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF YOUR INTERNATIONAL GRANTMAKING?

The business value for us in investing in those communities is that those communities will be stronger and healthier and better able to be successful business partners. Consequently, we feel that philanthropic investment will lead to a better business outcome.

Sometimes we do formal evaluations, using outside consultants. In other cases, there may be a bit more informal evaluation, but we're constantly monitoring our grants. As we make grants, we've established projected outcomes. Therefore, we're looking to see whether those outcomes have been achieved and what impact they have on the community and the improvements in the quality of life there.



### HOW LONG-TERM IS EXXONMOBIL'S COMMITMENT TO ITS GLOBAL INITIATIVES?

We're a company that is more than 120 years old, and we've been investing and will continue to invest in communities as long as we operate in them.

### ARE YOU FUNDING IN BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES?

We are funding grants in more than 75 countries. A large number of those would be considered developing countries. Then, of course, we're in Canada, Europe, Australia, Japan and other parts of the developed world.

### TO WHAT EXTENT ARE LOCAL COMMUNITIES INVOLVED AND CONSULTED IN SUPPORTING THE INITIATIVES THAT WILL AFFECT THEM?

We try to get local communities involved early on, as much as possible. We did more than 900 public consultation meetings in 300 villages for one of the largest projects in Chad and Cameron just to decide where the pipeline route would be. Part of that also included contribution initiatives. One of the things we focused on there was to include things like scholarships to train nurses to ensure a better quality of health in those communities. In Indonesia, we built a medical clinic, and since the inception of that clinic, more than 2 million people have been treated. We work very closely with our communities to understand their needs. We always continue our engagement past the initial investment to make certain that what we do is not only what's needed, but is also successfully implemented.

### HOW DOES TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT YOUR GRANTMAKING EFFORTS ABROAD?

The advent of the Internet and computer technology has helped improve communications, [which affects] how well we handle grants. We are in constant contact with our people in places where it might have taken a great deal of time to get feedback on what those investments are like. We look at the introduction of computers, particularly on the education side, as something that helps with the quality of the grants we make.

### WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YOU FACE WITH INTERNATIONAL GRANTMAKING?

We're used to challenges, and our feeling is this: If you work hard enough and you have the necessary partnerships and you are engaged with your community, there are very few challenges that you can't overcome. We're in the kind of business where there can be many challenges in our projects, but we work very hard to successfully overcome those challenges, and we approach our contribution investments in the same way.

### WHAT ROLE DO YOUR EMPLOYEES PLAY IN FOSTERING CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP GLOBALLY?

Our employees are very much engaged. We have formal volunteer involvement programs in the United States, Australia, Canada and the UK. But even outside that, our employees do volunteer work all around the world. Last year, here in the United States, we logged more than 600,000 hours of volunteer time. So, our employees get very much involved in volunteering their time, particularly in projects where we've made contributions.

"I'd tell them that you really have to consider the community as your partner, [since] partnering with the community is the only way you are going to make your grants successful."

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER TO GRANTMAKERS NEW TO INTERNATIONAL GRANTMAKING?

I'd tell them that you really have to consider the community as your partner, [since] partnering with the community is the only way you are going to make your grants successful. And, it's the only way you are going to have the community view what you do as helpful. If you maintain the kind of relationship where you both have something to contribute toward a successful investment in your communities, then you're going to have a great outcome.

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# Study Reveals 43 Percent of Council Affinity Groups Are Involved in International Grantmaking

By *Andres Corral, International Fellow, Council on Foundations*

Foundations have become increasingly interested in international issues and international grantmaking in recent years, and this is reflected by the growing interest from affinity groups. Globalization, universal human rights, global environmental issues, global justice, international advocacy, fighting HIV/AIDS globally and other international issues are now permanent topics at affinity groups conferences, publications, websites and meetings. Support from these groups to promote international grantmaking through their members has enabled them to make global links, assist nonprofit organizations abroad, support new leaders in other countries and acknowledge the importance of operating in a global context.

A survey undertaken by the International Programs staff explored the level of interest, the ways in which the affinity groups are engaged in international grantmaking and the international issues of most concern to them. Results show that out of 37 Council-recognized affinity groups, 20 have a current interest in international grantmaking or international issues, 16 of which are currently developing activities and programs. The report also notes that some have worked internationally for more than a decade, for example,

*“Out of 37 Council-recognized affinity groups, 20 have a current interest in international grantmaking or international issues, 16 of which are currently developing activities and programs.”*

Funders Concerned About AIDS, which mobilizes philanthropic leadership and resources, domestically and internationally, to eradicate HIV/AIDS. Others have expanded their mission and begun funding initiatives abroad, like Grantmakers Concerned with Care at the End of Life did in 2000, when they started supporting funding initiatives in Eastern Europe and South Africa.

According to the survey, the international work of affinity groups and its members goes far beyond their relations with Canadian and Mexican nongovernmental organizations. For several groups, members come from all around the globe and represent a substantial part of their membership, thus, developing truly international associations. The Women’s Funding Network, a growing international association of more than 90 women and girls’ funds and philanthropic organizations, currently has members in Africa, Canada, Germany, Holland, India, Mexico, Nepal, Switzerland, Nicaragua and the United States. Furthermore, affinity groups’ programmatic areas and support reach all regions including Africa, Latin America and Europe.

*Continued on page 8*

## Funders Concerned About AIDS

**M**ore than 40 international HIV/AIDS grantmakers participated in a May 13 meeting and dialogue in New York City, sponsored by Funders Concerned About AIDS. The gathering focused on mapping current international HIV/AIDS funding and exploring ways to achieve greater impact. Grantmaking by U.S. foundations and corporations for HIV/AIDS issues in the United States and abroad has grown dramatically, from an estimated \$58 million in 1996 to more than \$312 million in 2000. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s contribution of more than \$178 million for HIV/AIDS activities in 2000 accounts for much of the rapid increase. Despite the improved funding situation, the range of needs arising from the HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to outrun available resources both domestically and globally.



## International Programs Welcomes New Fellow

The Council's International Programs Department is pleased to welcome Fumiyo Layman as the new International Programs Fellow. Fumiyo comes to us from Japan, where she worked as a program officer on grants to Eastern Europe at the Nippon Foundation and a research fellow at the Graduate University of Advanced Studies in Kanagawa. She has also worked with the Japanese Economic Planning Agency, and she was a Research Fellow at The City University of New York's Center for the Study of Philanthropy.

In addition to her work regarding Eastern Europe, Fumiyo has researched and written about the philanthropic

and nonprofit legal structures in the United States, China and Japan and presented her research findings at the International Society for Third Sector Research Conference.

Fumiyo is a graduate of Keio University in Tokyo, Japan. She also has a master's of engineering degree from the Tokyo Institute of Technology and was a visiting fellow in international trade and development from the University of California, San Diego.

Fumiyo Layman begins her year-long fellowship at the Council September 15, 2003.

## WINGS—Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support

Monica Patten, president and CEO of Community Foundations of Canada, succeeded Barry Gaberman, senior vice president at the Ford Foundation, as chair of the WINGS Coordinating Committee. Rory Tolentino, executive director of the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium, is the new vice chair. Six new members joined the committee this year: Tobias Henkel of the Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen in Germany; Natalya Kaminarskaya of the Russian Donors Forum; Rebecca Raposo of Group de Institutos Fundacoes e Empresas in Brazil; Lourdes Sanz of Centro Mexicano para la Filantropia; Iftekhar Zaman of the Bangladesh Freedom Foundation; and Rory Tolentino.

At a coordinating committee meeting in April, a positive external evaluation of the first three years of WINGS was reviewed. The evaluation confirmed that the loosely structured global network of 100 associations of grantmakers and grantmaker support organizations is working well and the WINGS website ([www.wingsweb.org](http://www.wingsweb.org)), peer learning meetings and the 2002 WINGSForum in Sydney, Australia, have been especially useful. As well, working groups are being organized around specific interest areas within WINGS such as corporate grantmakers, emerging associations of grantmakers, the Latin America/Caribbean region and others.

## CALENDAR

### September 19–24

ENVIRONMENTAL  
GRANTMAKERS ASSOCIATION  
Fall Retreat  
Chateau Laurier, Ottawa  
Ontario, Canada  
Lisa Pike, 212/812-4260  
[lpike@rffund.org](mailto:lpike@rffund.org)

### September 22–24

AFRICA GRANTMAKERS  
AFFINITY GROUP  
Annual Retreat  
Baltimore, MD  
Niamani Mutima  
212/812-4212

### October 12

GRANTMAKERS  
WITHOUT BORDERS  
Funding Social Movements  
Globally: Collaboration  
for Social Change  
Doubletree Reid Park  
Tucson, AZ  
John Harvey, 617/794-2253  
[gwob@att.net](mailto:gwob@att.net)  
[www.gwob.net](http://www.gwob.net)

### October 27–29

COUNCIL ON FOUNDATIONS  
19th Fall Conference for  
Community Foundations  
Baltimore Marriott  
Waterfront Hotel  
Baltimore, MD  
Heather Scott, 202/467-0406  
[scoth@cof.org](mailto:scoth@cof.org)

### December 9–12

COUNCIL ON FOUNDATIONS  
Institute for New Board  
Members & Institute  
for New Grantmakers  
Washington, DC  
Jennifer Hollohan  
202/467-0282  
[hollj@cof.org](mailto:hollj@cof.org)



## Foundations Respond Cautiously to Iraq War

Fortunately, the war in Iraq did not produce the massive displacement and humanitarian upheaval that some relief agencies had anticipated, although widespread looting and disruption of basic services exacerbated existing shortages of food, medicine and energy supplies. Despite these needs, the U.S. foundation response has been cautious. Ongoing concerns about security in Iraq, lack of relationships with Iraqi organizations and promises of large-scale U.S. government relief and reconstruction aid, compounded by dwindling grants budgets and urgent domestic priorities, are all contributing to a “go slow” approach among U.S. foundations that are otherwise sensitive to the plight of the Iraqi people.

Nevertheless, some foundations are responding to Iraq:

- The Calvert Foundation’s Relief and Recovery Initiative allows donors to contribute to programs providing relief and recovery in Iraq, Afghanistan and other war-torn regions. The foundation is absorbing the administrative costs of the grants and passes 100 percent of funds raised to groups that are drawn from the membership of InterAction, a coalition of U.S. relief and development agencies working internationally.

- Bristol-Myers Squibb products were included in a shipment by Direct Relief International for a hospital and orphanage in Baghdad. The company also provided financial and product support for the USO Operation Care Package Program, which sends consumer items to U.S. troops in Iraq and other overseas locations.
- The Altria Group, Inc., made a contribution to AmeriCares to purchase medicines and medical supplies for hospitals in Baghdad and northern Iraq. In addition, Kraft Foods North America, a division of Altria, contributed snacks and beverages through the American Red Cross to U.S. troops being mobilized for duty in Iraq.
- The United Nations Foundation in Washington, DC, has announced \$1 million in grants to support the reconstruction of Iraq. The foundation awarded \$800,000 to support the World Health Organization’s efforts to repair the Iraqi healthcare system and \$200,000 for a project to rebuild the country’s legal system.

If you know of any Iraq-related grants, the Council’s International Programs Department is interested in learning about them. Please contact Stephen Dau at 202/467-0386 or via e-mail at [daus@cof.org](mailto:daus@cof.org).

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## Council on Foundations Community Foundations Conference

Under the theme of “Diversity, Difference and Community Philanthropy,” the Council’s 19th Fall Conference for Community Foundations will convene at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland, from October 27–29, 2003.

Sessions and events with an international aspect include:

- **Crossing Borders: How International Experience Helps to Tackle Local Problems**, Tuesday, October 28, from 9:00–10:30 a.m.
- **Youth around the World—Making a Difference in Community Philanthropy**, Tuesday, October 28, from 10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
- **International Programs Reception**, Tuesday, October 28, from 6:00–8:00 p.m.

For information about the conference including session descriptions, accommodations and logistics, visit the Council’s website at [www.cof.org](http://www.cof.org).

The Council on Foundations is pleased to announce that the Mott Community Foundation Scholarship Fund—made possible with the generous support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation—will again offer financial support to enable representatives from community foundations and community foundation support organizations outside the United States to participate in the Fall Conference. Guidelines describing eligibility requirements, use of scholarship funds, award criteria and the application process will be forthcoming. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, please contact Heather Scott, Fall Conference Coordinator at [scoth@cof.org](mailto:scoth@cof.org).



## International Grantmaking FYI

- The Center for the Study of Philanthropy at The Graduate Center, City University of New York, is accepting applications for its spring 2004 International Fellows Program. Topics for 2004 will be *community foundations* and *diaspora philanthropy*. The deadline for applications is September 30, 2003. See the Center's website at [www.philanthropy.org](http://www.philanthropy.org) for details.
- Now available in Spanish: *Disaster Grantmaking: A Practical Guide for Foundations and Corporations*. Developed jointly by the Council on Foundations and the European Foundation Centre, this is a free publication that can be ordered by contacting Stephen Dau by e-mail at [daus@cof.org](mailto:daus@cof.org) or by telephone at 202/467-0386.
- The King Baudouin Foundation recently awarded the 2002 King Baudouin Development Prize to Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International (FLO) and its members for "their pioneering role in giving disadvantaged producers and workers in the developing world the opportunity to participate directly and at fair trade conditions in international trade, through a system of certification, producer support, business facilitation and consumer education."
- The *2003 Community Foundation Global Status Report* by Eleanor Sacks is now available on the WINGS website ([www.wings-cf.org](http://www.wings-cf.org)). The report, funded by WINGS-CF and the Council on Foundations, is an update of the Council's 2000 report *The Growth of Community Foundations Around the World*.
- The Foundation Center's *Guide to Proposal Writing* by Jane C. Geever is now also available in Spanish and can be ordered for \$34.95 by calling toll-free 800/424-9836 or by visiting The Foundation Center's website at [www.fdncenter.org/marketplace](http://www.fdncenter.org/marketplace).
- The Synergos Institute is accepting applications for its Senior Fellows Program that begins in 2004. Fellows with at least ten years experience in organized philanthropy at the executive leadership or management level take part in a variety of peer learning events, global and regional meetings and other knowledge-sharing activities over a three-year period. Application deadline is October 1, 2003. For eligibility and application information, check the Synergos Institute's website ([www.synergos.org](http://www.synergos.org)) or call 212/517-4900.

## Notes from the Chair

*continued from page 1*

Many are stretching reduced resources to maintain commitments in a troubled international environment marked by war, terrorism, intolerance and new forms of disease. With some of the fundamental values of democracy, pluralism and internationalism under severe strain, the underlying struggles for poverty reduction, social justice, peace building and human dignity have never been more urgent.

Because of the great challenges we now face, I readily accepted the opportunity to lead the International Committee. I look forward to working closely with all my colleagues in the committee and the International Programs staff in continuing our tradition of serving the needs and interests of the growing field of international grantmaking.

## Affinity Grantmaking

*continued from page 5*

The report also shows that many groups are making their way into the international arena. The Disability Funders Network's board, for instance, is discussing its approach to global issues, contacting organizations abroad and beginning to get in touch with groups like Grantmakers Without Borders—a working group of the National Network of Grantmakers that facilitates workshops on international giving and offers advice and support to new and potential international funders.

Generally, affinity groups' most common approaches to the international arena start with convening sessions involving international speakers, discussing international issues among members and boards and participating in international events or conferences. Many affinity groups have a permanent dialogue with organizations abroad, promoting international grantmaking and supporting international initiatives and programs.

Increasingly, International Programs has become engaged with some of these groups through participation in their conferences or developing collaborative projects. For a copy of the full report, log on to the International Programs section of the Council's website ([www.cof.org](http://www.cof.org)), and click on "International Affinity Group Report.doc" under International Publication.