



INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

Issue 65

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Notes from the Chair

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

As we begin 2003, many international grantmakers are dealing with the sobering realities of declining financial resources and stricter government regulation. The economic slump of the past three years has reduced endowments and corporate profits, resulting in painful cutbacks in many of our grants budgets. In some cases, staff has been cut, as well. Maintaining ongoing commitments, while making room for important new initiatives, has become a delicate balancing act.

At the same time, government actions to address the threat of international terrorism in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, are placing new demands on grantmakers. Of course, we all want to ensure that grant funds intended for charitable purposes do not find their way inadvertently into the hands of terrorists and their organizations. In reaction to the events of September 11, the USA Patriot Act, executive orders and other regulatory actions by various U.S. government agencies have added a new layer of due diligence for international grantmakers. For most of us, this is unfamiliar territory and the challenge we face is to comply fully with these new legal requirements, while continuing to meet our philanthropic objectives with grantees at home and abroad.

Beyond the economic and regulatory challenges, the double-edge sword of globalization continues to shape the environment in which

international grantmaking occurs: global movement of goods, information, capital flows, technology and civil society activism are part of the new reality, but so are the rapid spread of disease, environmental threats, illegal activities and terrorism.

At our last meeting, the Council's International Committee held a roundtable discussion to look at how globalization is affecting our philanthropic work. Iftekhar Zaman of the Bangladesh Freedom Foundation made the point that there is no sense in debating whether globalization is good or evil. The main point, in his view, is to make the best and most equitable use of the potential of globalization in a way that pays adequate attention to the interests of the weak, disadvantaged and deprived. Iftekhar said the key is to incorporate ethical considerations into the ways one does business in this era of globalization and establish a level playing field, the absence of which contributes to actions by governments, corporations, and even individuals, that create or perpetuate conditions of poverty and inequality on both regional and international levels. Excerpts of this roundtable discussion can be found in this issue of *International Dateline* (see page 6).

In this complex environment, international grantmakers will be called upon during the coming year to be—all at once—more alert, more diligent, more accountable, more responsive and more efficient. It's a tall order, in which our network and our ability to support each other in our grantmaking efforts will have an important role to play. If you have not already done so, please check out the newly designed U.S. International Grantmaking website at www.usig.org.

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.



A CONVERSATION WITH...

Russ Abraham

Many Americans have a strong personal bond to another country. The nation's burgeoning population of ethnic minorities and the rise in their available wealth has prompted family foundations to take an interest in making grants that support activities in those homelands as well as in the United States. Russ Abraham, director of the Kapoor Charitable Foundation, talked with Council staff writer Isabelle Mack about John Kapoor's grantmaking in his homeland, India.

WHO FOUNDED THE KAPOOR CHARITABLE FOUNDATION?

John Kapoor was the founder; he formed a company called LyphoMed, which he sold to a Japanese company in 1989. I'm sure as they looked at the assets from the sale of LyphoMed the thought occurred to Mr. Kapoor to put together a foundation for charitable causes.

HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

I began working for Mr. Kapoor at LyphoMed in 1987, as the assistant to the president. Over time, we developed a working, as well as a personal, relationship. I worked approximately 10 years with Mr. Kapoor in various enterprises. When I decided I was going to retire, I talked to him about becoming involved with the foundation, since I knew its focus.

WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION'S MISSION AND PROGRAM FOCUS?

The primary focus is basically one of children's issues, although we address issues on education, health and social services, and we try to make our focus as broad as possible, so we don't limit ourselves. We try to look at hardship situations, especially as they revolve around children. Because Mr. Kapoor is from India, we want to give something back to his roots. Therefore, we have made it a point to focus on anything that has to do with improving the quality of life in India.

AS THE LONE STAFF FOR THIS FOUNDATION, HOW DO YOU MANAGE THE FOUNDATION'S WORK?

I set my priorities and try to act accordingly. For example, early this morning, I was on e-mail with a fellow from India who was assisting me in locating an attorney in Bombay. It is our intention to set up a foundation in India;

Mr. Kapoor's relatives have agreed to be the trustees and make grants in the Bombay area.

In the meantime, rather than ignore any current requests in India, I go through an intermediary organization that services India and is an approved charitable organization in the United States. Mr. Kapoor forwards any requests he receives directly to me. As long as they are approved in the United States and have a 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, I will consider them for a grant. Even though I haven't been able to visit the country, I exercise due diligence to the best of my ability.

Could I get staff? Yes. Do I feel that we're large enough to need a staff? No, I don't think so. Mr. Kapoor still has an office in Lake Forest, and any time I need clerical assistance, they are kind enough to assist me.

DO YOU EVER MAKE USE OF CONSULTANTS TO ASSIST YOU?

Not at this time. I've been at this for about a year, and I'm working my way through it. I got some guidance by talking with staff at the Council on Foundations, but I feel that my business background from the corporate world and my desire to do the right thing helps me get the work done. Am I missing some opportunities? Well, you can turn every corner and every sheet of paper that you might ever see and find numerous difficult causes, as there is no want for needy causes. Recently, I asked CARE to help me do some things in Bombay. Consequently, they are putting together a plan that I am supposed to receive shortly.

WHAT PERSONAL ENRICHMENT DO YOU GET FROM MAKING GRANTS TO INDIA?

I have spent a lot of time talking to Dr. Kapoor about the conditions in India. It is obvious that the situation is far beyond what we would ever be able to imagine. Poverty is at a difficult level, and the lack of sanitation as well as the lack of government cohesion, as far as trying to correct some of the social ills, is frustrating. We're talking about a population living far below our poverty level. I believe our grants are making a small difference.

DO YOU DO ANY DIRECT GIVING?

We've only made direct grants to the University of Bombay at this time. We had one instance in India where we gave a significant amount to the University of Bombay because Dr. Kapoor knew the individual we were speaking with and



knew approximately what the grant was going to be used for. However, I did ask for a tremendous amount of backup information to be sure that the funds were to be used appropriately. All other grants are made through intermediary organizations, which are approved in the United States. The intermediaries are responsible for securing the necessary financial reports from the grantees.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO EXPAND YOUR GRANTMAKING IN INDIA?

The main thing is to set up a separate foundation in Bombay, India. This is a very tedious process when trying to do it from a distance. I've identified lawyers in the Bombay area, the Council on Foundations has given me some referrals, and Holt International has made some referrals. I've contacted some of these attorneys, and I've narrowed them down to a couple. Kapoor family members will actually visit these attorneys and do the necessary background checks. Once that is done, we'll set up the foundation there by cutting a separate check for that foundation. Hence, two trustees in Bombay who are members of the Kapoor family

will govern that foundation. They will be responsible for administering the grantmaking there.

ANY WORDS OF WISDOM FOR YOUR COLLEAGUES WHO WISH TO MAKE A GRANT TO THEIR HOMELAND?

I think the obvious scenario is to identify a reputable intermediary organization in the United States that can watch how the money is spent. If you want to do direct grantmaking, then it requires you to be a bit more aggressive in your interaction with the grantees and become somewhat familiar with the laws of the country or have someone in that country to assist you.

For more information contact:

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International Grantmaker Spotlight: The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

As a new feature, International Dateline will highlight the work of a different international foundation in each issue, with the goal of bringing the important work of the Council's international members to the attention of a wider audience.

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) was established in 1986 to contribute to the welfare of humankind and world peace by "conducting activities fostering international understanding, exchange and cooperation." The Tokyo-based foundation with a Washington, DC office uses its \$400 million endowment to operate a range of programs designed to bring people from different cultures closer together. SPF, which operates through a combination of grantmaking and self-operated activities, received its endowment from the Nippon Foundation (formerly the Sasakawa Foundation) and the Japanese motorboat racing industry. Specifically, the foundation works to (1) promote dialogue across cultures, (2) improve capacity within the nonprofit sector, and (3) promote East Asian renewal programs. To foster its overall peace-building activities, SPF oversees four funds aimed at particular geographic areas within its issue area mandate: The Sasakawa Pacific Island

Nations Fund, The Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Fund, The Sasakawa Central Europe Fund and the Sasakawa Pan Asia Fund.

Within each of its issue areas, SPF undertakes a range of activities including convening conferences and workshops, issuing reports and publications, and making grants in support of its mission. Among its recent publications have been *Islam and the IT Revolution*, the result of a cooperative effort between SPF and the Waseda University Institute of Egyptology in Tokyo; *Multinational Cooperation on the Korean Peninsula*, in collaboration with the Mongolian Institute for Strategic Studies; and *Capacity Building for Development in Central Asia and the Caucasus*, with the Center for Effective Economic Policy in Uzbekistan.

Recently, the foundation established a series of themed discussions in Washington, DC, titled "Asian Voices: Promoting Dialogue between the U.S. and Asia." This ongoing series has covered U.S.–South Korea relations, security arrangements in Asia and Chinese foreign policy. SPF has also supported discussions and seminars on various other topics throughout Asia, Central Europe and the Middle East.

If you are interested in obtaining more information—including reports, newsletters and themed discussion transcripts—about the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, it is available on the SPF website at www.spf.org.



International Grantmaking and the Florence MacFarlane Martin Memorial Foundation

By Ann Martin Bowler

When the Florence MacFarlane Martin Memorial Foundation began 12 years ago, its board debated whether it should restrict its grantmaking to local programs or reach out to people around the world. Being a small, family run foundation, the board wanted to see and feel the impact of its projects. As a result, they often have become directly involved in the foundation's projects through further fundraising efforts, board memberships and by volunteering their time. Unable to see how they could have this type of involvement with international grants, the board kept most projects close to home in the foundation's early days.

The foundation seeks to help disadvantaged children and their families, improve conditions for children with no permanent families, support expectant women in need and empower the handicapped; huge goals for a small foundation with limited financial resources. The board soon saw needs everywhere, in the foundation's own backyard and across the world. But over time, the board came to understand that such needs were far greater overseas. They saw that their small donations went further overseas and could make an incredible impact in the lives of people far from the foundation's home. Because of this, the foundation has increased its international grantmaking.

The board continues to be cautious about the international projects the foundation takes on; as it still wants to see and feel the impact of the foundation's work. How is this done now that the foundation has projects on almost every continent? It becomes involved with projects of which a board member has firsthand knowledge and is willing to sponsor for the board to consider it. Sponsorship means a board member agrees to stay directly involved with the organization and track the project's progress through visits and other forms of contact.

Though its grants are generally small, they have had an amazing impact on people around the world who wish for a better life but lack the resources to help themselves. The Martin family and its board have been deeply touched by the foundation's involvement in international projects, especially when the projects' results can be seen firsthand.

Among the projects the foundation currently supports are:

Hogar Infantil la Gloria, an orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico, which provides long-term foster care in a country that has no such system. Without the orphanage, Hogar's

children, whose parents are in jail or otherwise unable to care for them, would be on the streets of Mexico selling illegal goods just to survive. Because of Hogar, the kids live in a safe, clean and caring environment. They attend school each day; a few hard-working kids have graduated from college, thanks to donations to Hogar. There are more than 50 similar orphanages in the Tijuana area alone, and churches run most of them. All look for support, both in terms of money and volunteer time, from their northern neighbors to keep their doors open.

In Hogar's early days, Florence MacFarlane Martin lined up sponsors and brought down loads of clothing, toys and shoes. In her memory, the foundation continues to support the orphanage, and many Martin family members have volunteered at Hogar over the years.

Another program the Martin Foundation supports is Childreach, an organization that strives to improve the quality of life of impoverished children in developing countries around the world. Four years ago, Jack and Jane McSorley, friends of the Martins, decided they wanted to



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see Childreach's work firsthand. They traveled to the high mountains of Honduras and saw families living in severe poverty. They found that in the walls of the families' mud and straw houses lived the Chagas bug. The bugs bite people while they sleep and release a substance that causes headaches, stomach pain, and sometimes, even cardiac arrest. Almost half the babies born there with congenitally acquired Chagas die in their first year.

Because the most effective way to combat Chagas is to attack their habitat, Childreach and the McSorleys developed a plan whereby villagers could construct more adequate housing. Jack McSorley asked his friends to help him rebuild one small Honduran village. Among the new supporters was the Martin Foundation.

Four years later, the project is almost complete: 31 small homes with bug-proof walls have been built as well as showers, latrines and wells providing clean drinking water. The health of the villagers is improving; more are able to work and children are attending school.

Childreach is hoping to rebuild other villages in Honduras. For more information, call 800/556-7918.

WINGS and WINGS-CF Secretariats Move to Brussels—New Director Takes Over

Effective 1 January 2003, both the WINGS and the WINGS-CF Secretariats are located at the European Foundation Centre (EFC), the new host organization for WINGS in Brussels. Gaynor Humphreys, formerly the Executive Director of the Community Foundation Network in the UK, has taken over responsibilities as the Director of WINGS. John Richardson and the staff of the EFC have been involved in the transition process and look forward to supporting the work of WINGS over the next three years. New staff will be hired during the first part of 2003. Additional information about WINGS programs for 2003-2005 will be forthcoming. Gaynor can be contacted at wings@efc.be

Council on Foundations Unveils New Website to Aid International Grantmakers

Grantmakers funding internationally are confronted with a host of challenges ranging from communicating across cultures to fluctuating exchange rates to complying with government counter-terrorism regulations. Fortunately, grantmakers interested in funding projects across international borders have a new "one-stop shop" for links to information, organizations and resources that can aid their efforts. The newly redesigned and augmented U.S. International Grantmaking (USIG) website (www.usig.org) features a wide range of links to organizations and information pertinent to legal, administrative, operational and accounting issues facing donors who wish to fund in other countries.

The website is primarily a tool for U.S. grantmakers, although it includes information that may be useful to any grantmaker that funds internationally. The new site contains a series of 30 Country Notes, which contain detailed

summaries of the nonprofit legal and regulatory environment in specific countries as well as links to English translations (where possible) of each country's nonprofit laws. Additionally, links to a number of intermediary grantmaking organizations active in specific geographic or issue areas are presented as well as a section devoted to educational resources for those new to international grantmaking.

The new website is broken down into six areas for easy navigation:

- **International Grantmaking 101** gives an introduction to the practice of international grantmaking.
- **Foundation Types** includes resources grouped according to type of foundation: family, community, corporate, etc.
- **Resources** has a series of downloadable forms, model documents and links to people, organizations, and other information of interest to international grantmakers.

- **Issue Areas** provides resources organized into three categories based on the types of issues faced by most international grantmakers: legal, operational/administrative and accounting.
- **Country Information** is a direct link to the 30 detailed Country Notes.
- **For Grantseekers** contains information useful to individuals and organizations seeking funding for their project(s).

USIG is a longstanding project of the International Programs Department of the Council on Foundations in cooperation with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL). Its goals are to educate and inform grantmakers and grantseekers about the legal and practical issues of international grantmaking, provide links to relevant resources and share best practices in the field.



Roundtable Explores Philanthropy's Response to Globalization

The following are excerpts from the International Committee's Roundtable Discussion on Globalization and Philanthropy's Response to it, which took place October 8, 2002. These excerpts highlight some of the major themes and viewpoints expressed during the discussion:

- Globalization is a tension between the values, conditions and laws of nation states and a trend toward regionalization, as with the EU, NAFTA and MERCOSUR. At the same time, there is a tension between community-based laws and those at the multinational level.
- While globalization is not the primary factor in worldwide poverty, underdevelopment, disparity and inequality, it can exacerbate these problems when the acts of governments, corporations and individuals are devoid of ethical considerations. There should be less concern with expansion of market relations and more concern for strengthening social infrastructure in developing nations—democracy, education and economic development opportunities.
- Economic activity devoid of ethical considerations that are masked under label of a nameless, faceless process of globalization poses a major challenge to some of the basic values of philanthropy such as democracy, fundamental freedoms, civil liberties, justice, rule of law, human rights, tolerance, accommodation and pluralism. How could we promote the core values of philanthropy more effectively than we have done so far? Our challenge is to refocus attention and redouble efforts in several areas, such as: providing economic safety nets; mitigating the effects of extremism; providing public education and awareness on pluralism, secularism and human rights; and facilitating democratic institution building.
- Living conditions for people in underdeveloped countries have gone from bad to worse. The impact of economic globalization and the failure of development promotion strategies are forcing us to focus our attention on local issues as a platform to address many of the problems confronted by poor countries. Is a new social pact necessary? How are we to conceive sustainable and integral development in a community? These questions should be addressed by returning to local development and a "social globalization" that builds from the local

toward the global and not the other way around.

- It is critically important that local governing elites be addressed. When the economic crisis swept across Asia, it was as much the result of nepotism, cronyism and the failure of central banks to enforce their own rules as the opportunistic capital fund managers in Western countries. No community exists in a vacuum, and if you ignore local elites, the work done at the community level can be undone with the stroke of a pen.
- One of the primary ways that philanthropy can be effective is by bringing together those at the local, national and international levels to discuss the issues around globalization and by educating across all levels.
- While corporations are responsible for some of the problems resulting from globalization, they are also well-positioned to be part of the solutions.

International Sessions at the Council's Family Foundation Conference

The Council's 2003 Family Foundation Conference will take place February 24–26 at the Fairmont San Jose in San Jose, California. Two sessions, in particular, may be of interest to current and potential international grantmakers:

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 9:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M.

- **"Why Give Overseas? The Need for Borderless Giving"** The Global Philanthropy Forum and Northern California Grantmakers will provide an in-depth introduction to the numerous funding opportunities available for international causes.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 3:00–4:30 P.M.

- **"Diaspora Philanthropy: Family Foundations Giving Back to the Homeland"** Several family foundations will discuss why "diaspora philanthropy" is an important part of their grantmaking.

For more information or to register for the 2003 Family Foundation Conference, visit the Family Foundations section of the Council's website at www.cof.org, or contact Colleen Reed at 202/467-0436 or reedc@cof.org.



PHILANTHROPY AROUND THE WORLD

Council on Foundations International Fellows Program 2003–2004

THE COUNCIL ON FOUNDATIONS

The Council on Foundations, an association of foundations and corporations, serves the public by promoting and enhancing responsible and effective philanthropy. The Council is located in Washington, DC, and has more than 2,000 member grantmaking organizations.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

The mission of International Programs is to assist the Council to promote and enhance responsible and effective philanthropy worldwide. A summary of International Programs can be viewed online at www.cof.org/whatis/types/international/index.htm.

THE FELLOWS PROGRAM

The International Fellows Program consists of a 12-month position designed for a professional, working in philanthropy outside the United States, who is interested in learning about the Council and the work of its members. The fellow will also contribute experience and ideas to the work of the Council. It is expected that the fellow will return to his/her former responsibilities after the fellowship and apply the experience gained to promote philanthropy and enhance the capabilities of the foundation or association from which he/she has come.

All of the fellow's duties are carried out under the auspices of the Council's International Programs department. Previous fellows have been from Australia, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Jamaica and the Philippines. The next fellowship will begin during the fall of 2003.

The Council pays for the cost of the fellow's air travel to and from the United States. The fellow is paid a salary in the high \$20,000 to mid-\$30,000 range, depending on qualifications and experience. He/she also participates in the Council's health insurance program for the year of the fellowship. The Council does not cover housing or other expenses for the fellow.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

A detailed job description for the International Programs Fellow is available by calling +1 202/467-0442. The fellow will be engaged in the various program activities of the International Programs department.

CRITERIA AND APPLICATION PROCESS

The fellowship is open to the staff of grantmaking foundations or associations that serve grantmakers outside the United States. Applicants must be fluent in spoken and written English. A valid passport is essential. The Council will handle the details associated with obtaining the appropriate

visas necessary for participating in the fellowship program.

Candidates should submit the following:

- Current contact information including name, title, organization, address, phone, fax and e-mail
- A curriculum vitae indicating past and present employment, education experience and any published works
- An essay that discusses how the fellowship would enhance his or her career plans
- Two letters of recommendation from supervisors or professional colleagues.

Applications should be submitted by March 15, 2003, by mail, fax or e-mail to:

*Rob Buchanan, Director
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Council on Foundations
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Phone: +1 202 467-0391
Fax: +1 202 785-3926
E-mail: buchr@cof.org*

World Bank Hires Community Foundation Specialist

Dr. Juraj Mesik of Slovakia has been selected to be the World Bank's Senior Community Foundation Specialist as part of a World Bank/Council on Foundations joint initiative funded in part by the Ford and C.S. Mott foundations. In 1994, Dr. Mesik founded the Banska Bystrica Healthy City Community Foundation, one of the first community foundations in post-communist Europe, and he chaired the foundation's board until 2002. Dr. Mesik also served for eight years as Director of the Ekopolis Foundation—Environmental Partnership for Central Europe in Slovakia. He is a medical doctor and former member of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly. His responsibilities at the World Bank will include educating staff about the community foundation concept and identifying appropriate mechanisms for bank support of community foundations in developing countries.



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 PDF version of the full newsletter, published on the Council on Foundation's website.

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@hotmail.com) with the words "newsletter subscribe" in the subject box.

International Sessions at the Council's Annual Conference

Here is a quick preview of sessions and events at the Council's Annual Conference that may be of interest to international grantmakers. The conference will be held in Dallas, April 28–30, 2003. A full description of these sessions, as well as registration information, is available on the Council's website at www.cof.org/conferences/ac2003/index.htm.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

- International Programs Reception and Dinner

MONDAY, APRIL 28

- "Our Global Future: How Two International Companies Look at the Future and Why It Matters to Grantmakers"
- "Collaboration with International Grassroots Organizations as a Means to Local and Global Security"
- "The World's Water: How to Protect Our Most Precious Resource"

- "Post-9/11 Collaborations in Arab, Muslim, South Asian and Sikh Communities"

- "Collaborating across Cultures"

TUESDAY APRIL 29

- "The Road to Citizenship: Organizing New Immigrants"
- "Micro-Credit for International Development: Does It Work?"
- "The Impact of Globalization on Low-Wage Sectors in the United States"
- "Collaboration for Impact: A Cross-

Border, Cross-Sector Approach"

- "The Human Rights Challenge: What Does Human Rights Have to Do with It—Our Grantmaking"
- "Working Partners: Responding the Capacity-Building Needs of AIDS Organizations"

WEDNESDAY APRIL 30

- "Effective International Grantmaking: Perspectives from Three Continents"
- Marta Sahagun de Fox, First Lady of Mexico, at the closing Plenary Luncheon

CALENDAR

February 24–26

COUNCIL ON FOUNDATIONS
Family Foundation Conference
Fairmont Hotel San Jose
San Jose, CA
Colleen Reed, 202/467-0436
reedc@cof.org

March 9–10

4TH ANNUAL
E-PHILANTHROPY CONFERENCE
Oakland Marriott City Center
Hotel
Oakland, CA
www.e-philanthropy.org

March 29–April 1

JEWISH FUNDERS NETWORK
International Conference
San Jose, CA
Arin Frome, 212/726-0177

April 28–30

COUNCIL ON FOUNDATIONS
54th Annual Conference
Hyatt Regency Dallas
Dallas, TX
Angelique Wilkins, 202/467-0295
wilka@cof.org

June 1–3

EUROPEAN FOUNDATION CENTRE
14th Annual General Assembly
(AGA) and Conference
"Foundations for Europe:
The Citizen Facing Challenges of
Globalisation"
Lisbon, Portugal
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