



## International Development Program

## Spring 2005 Brown Bag Lecture Series

1619 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Room 200

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

No RSVP Required

Friday, January 28

Ecotourism: A Cure for Development Woes?

Dr. Martha Honey, Executive Director, The  
International Ecotourism Society

Ecotourism is widely hailed as the fastest growing sector of the tourism industry. Development agencies and developing countries view ecotourism as an important tool for poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation. Billions of dollars in development assistance are flowing into projects around the world that incorporate ecotourism as part of their efforts. Yet doing ecotourism well is challenging, and many community-based projects do not succeed. Dr. Martha Honey will discuss the origins and growth of ecotourism, its potential and pitfalls, and several important current trends.

among development agencies, financial institutions, and private enterprises for many years. This practice effectively upheld the status quo in which corruption was acceptable and continually threatened human rights, the environment, and sustainable development.

Transparency International has been instrumental in raising awareness of the detrimental effects of corruption not through criticism of corrupt practices but rather through coalition-building with businesses. Susan Cote-Forman will describe the work of Transparency International and the means used to determine their Corruption Perceptions Index, which measures the degree of corruption that international and domestic business communities perceive in countries.

### Microfinance and Capital Markets Series

Friday, February 4. Investment in Microfinance: the State of the Industry. Rome 200. 12:30-2:00 pm.

Thursday, March 3. Managing Risk in Microfinance. Rome 200. 5:30-7:00 pm.

Tuesday, April 5. The Future of Investment in Microfinance. Kenney Auditorium. 5:30-7:00 pm.

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The United Nations has declared 2005 the Year of Microcredit, highlighting the growing importance of microfinance. The industry has captured the attention of capital market investors with its operational success; its strong track record of loan repayment; and a growing, unfulfilled demand for micro-loans - all for the benefit of poor people. Demonstrating this growing attraction, microfinance institutions have recently experienced a surge in capital market transactions. Does the viability of future microcredit practices depend upon this investment? In hopes of answering this question, the Grameen Foundation USA and the SAIS International Development Brown Bag Lecture Series present a special series of events on Microfinance and Capital Markets. With participants from a wide spectrum of the industry, the series will address key issues such as the current state of investment in microfinance, risk factors to investments in microfinance, and the future of these efforts.

Friday, February 11

Cooperatives in Failed and Conflict States  
Ted Weihe, Executive Director, U.S. Overseas  
Cooperative Development Council

Cooperatives are independent, member-owned, and democratically governed businesses, whose members accept both the risks and benefits of participation. Cooperatives encourage common goals and a shared identity; characteristics often lacking in nations torn by conflict. These organizations have been effective at bridging ethnic groups and, in contrast to other development efforts, at creating enabling environments of self-sufficiency. Ted Weihe will describe recent examples of how cooperatives have achieved economic and social development in countries as diverse as Rwanda, East Timor, and Mozambique.

February 18

Corruption and Developing Countries: An Inevitable  
Union?

Susan Cote-Forman, Transparency International

Ignoring or accepting corruption as inevitable in  
developing countries has been a common practice

February 25

Gender, Conflict, and Development  
Ian Bannon, Manager of the Conflict Prevention and  
Reconstruction Unit, Social Development Department of  
the World Bank

How are the seemingly disparate issues of gender and conflict linked in the context of development? Ian Bannon recently co-authored a World Bank book entitled *Gender, Conflict, and Development* which provides a comprehensive review of how these issues are critically related and what policy relevance they have. He will address the gender dimensions of intrastate conflict and focus on themes such as warfare, sexual violence, formal/informal peace processes, legal frameworks, livelihood, rehabilitating social services and community driven development. He will also describe policy options for building more equitable societies in post-conflict situations.

Friday, March 4

Crisis in Darfur: What Hope Remains  
Representative from Refugees International

Refugees International has been following the crisis in  
Darfur, Sudan continuously since February 2004.

Despite a global outcry regarding persistent human rights violations by Sudanese government troops, allied militia, and, more recently, rebel groups, the human rights and humanitarian situation continues to be dire. RI staff will present their findings from their February 2005 mission to the Darfur region and discuss possible ways to resolve the crisis.

**Wednesday, March 9**

**Promoting Democracy, Peace, and Stability: Complementarities and Contradictions**  
Patrick Merloe, Senior Associate and Director of Programs on Election and Political Processes, National Democratic Institute

Should pursuit of political reform necessarily embrace democratic development? What is the relationship between establishing stability and a democratic political process in countries emerging from military rule, a one-party state, and/or conflict that negates the state's ability to exercise its basic functions? Drawing from his recent experience monitoring the Ukrainian elections, Patrick Merloe will discuss how this relationship can best be approached in authoritarian and democratic governments, as well as the ethical basis for international activities to promote political development.

**Friday, March 25**

**THE ABCs of NGOs**  
Aimee Breslow, Senior Administrator, SAIS International Development Program

What exactly is a Non Governmental Organization? What do they do? Why should we care? Non Governmental Organizations are playing an ever-increasing role as "non-state actors" in today's world. However, there are varying definitions of what NGOs are, as well as disagreement as to when they pose problems or offer solutions to challenges in international development. Aimee Breslow, who has studied, created, and worked for NGOs, will shed light on these issues as she discusses the history of NGOs, current trends in NGO activity, and the problems and challenges that NGOs face today.

**Friday, April 1**

**The Feasibility of the Vast Middle Ground: Small to Medium Enterprise Investment Abroad**  
Hubertus van der Vaart, President/CEO, SEAF  
Jonathan Aldonas, Managing Director, OPIC's Small & Medium Enterprise Finance Division

Development literature often details the importance of microenterprise development or large corporation investment, but often discounts or ignores the growing significance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in development efforts. Much cited and lauded as the backbone of industrialized economies, SMEs are only starting to gain recognition abroad. Organizations such as the Small Enterprise Assistance Fund and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, however, are recognizing their importance and devoting more resources toward increasing the viability of SMEs in developing countries. The speakers will address the lending and equity sides of investing in SMEs abroad, and the wider development benefits of SME investment.

**Friday, April 15**

**Education During Emergencies: Eritrea's Repatriation Experience**  
Eric Eversmann, Education Technical Advisor, UNHCR

Between May 2001 and June 2004, UNHCR Eritrea and the government of Eritrea oversaw the repatriation of 65,000 former refugees from Sudan. To integrate this population successfully into the existing Eritrean populace, the Eritrean government and UNHCR undertook a massive investment in physical and social service infrastructure, including the education sector. Eric Eversmann will discuss the issues surrounding education and the integration of returning populations. He will compare and link these issues with the educational challenges that refugees face during their displacement and with UNHCR's work in Eritrea concerning refugee education in asylum and repatriation situations.

**Friday, April 22**

**Social Entrepreneurship: The Need for Pioneers**  
Diana Wells, Vice-President of Venture Integration, Ashoka

Social entrepreneurs create revolutionary solutions to societies' problems. Identifying and solving large-scale social problems requires a social entrepreneur because only the entrepreneur has the committed vision and inexhaustible determination to persist until they have transformed an entire system. Social entrepreneurs go beyond the immediate problem to transform communities, societies, and the world. Diana Wells will discuss how Ashoka identifies and supports social entrepreneurs and describe the impact they are making worldwide.



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