



Spring 2009 Development Roundtable

Thursday, January 29, 2009

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Kenney Auditorium, Nitze Building

Co-Sponsored by The Project on Middle East Democracy

Foreign Assistance in a Time of Crisis: Priorities for a New Administration

The incoming Obama administration had pledged to double foreign assistance during its term in office, but during the Vice Presidential debate, Vice President Biden suggested that foreign aid would be the first item to be axed due to the financial crisis. With economic performance continuing to weaken, the trajectory of U.S. government foreign assistance remains unclear. At the same time, nongovernmental organizations are suffering cutbacks as their endowments shrink in the falling stock market.

In this panel discussion, speakers will explore questions about the current predicament and future prospects of foreign assistance. How will the economic crisis affect the incoming administration's foreign assistance priorities? Is the next president likely to increase or decrease aid to the Middle East? Will the institutional frameworks established under the Bush administration, such as the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), be preserved, and if so, in what form? Which development institutions have been most effective on political reform-related criteria? What lessons about foreign assistance have been learned during the last eight years?

Panelists for this event will include **Jim Kolbe**, Member of the United States House of Representatives, 1985-2007, and **Navtej Dhillon**, Director, Middle East Youth Initiative, Brookings Institution.

Friday, February 13, 2009

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

Rome Auditorium

Paying for Progress: The Cash on Delivery Approach to Development Assistance

Nancy Birdsall

President, Center for Global Development

With the current global financial downturn, there is a heightened need to justify additional aid and to ensure that it is provided in an efficient and effective manner. Nancy Birdsall and colleagues at the Center for Global Development (CGD) are developing a new aid modality entitled Cash on Delivery (COD) Aid that will both ensure that donors pay only for measurable progress and promote recipient country ownership of development strategies. Dr. Birdsall will discuss how the approach addresses many of the shortcomings of traditional aid, and elaborate on the application of the COD Aid approach to primary schooling. Prior to launching CGD, Dr. Birdsall served for three years as Senior Associate and Director of the Economic Reform Project at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. From 1993 to 1998, she was Executive Vice-President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Before joining the IDB, she spent 14 years in research and operational management positions at the World Bank, most recently as Director of the Policy Research Department.

Friday, February 20, 2009

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

Kenney Auditorium, Nitze Building

Water and International Development: A Dialogue with Geoff Dabelko and Aaron Salzberg

Geoff Dabelko

*Director of Environmental Change and Security Program,
The Wilson Center*

Aaron Salzberg

*Lead for Water and Head of Interagency Working Group
on Water, US Department of State*

An interview style discussion will focus on the role of water in international development and developing and implementing policies to advance U.S. efforts on water and sanitation. Geoff Dabelko is the Director of the Environmental Change and Security Program at the Woodrow Wilson Center – a non-partisan, non-advocacy forum for research and debate. Dr. Dabelko manages the WWC's Navigating Peace and Water Initiative, which examines the future of water conflict and cooperation. Dr. Dabelko also leads the WWC's efforts to bring together key policymakers and stakeholders to debate policy approaches to advancing U.S. engagement on international water and sanitation issues. Aaron Salzberg is the Special Coordinator for Water Resources at the U.S. Department of State. He is the first person to hold this position. Mr. Salzberg leads the development and implementation of U.S. foreign policy on drinking water and sanitation, water resources management, and transboundary waters. He also leads the U.S. Administrations' response to the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act. This discussion will be moderated by **Professor Cinnamon Dornsife**, Associate Director, SAIS International Development Program.

Friday, February 27, 2009

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

Rome 200

Faith-Based Organizations in International Development

Ken Hackett

President, Catholic Relief Services

Former President George W. Bush's Faith-Based and Community Initiatives raised the profile of religiously affiliated organizations that are involved in social welfare and international development. However, many of these organizations have a long history of collaboration with U.S. government agencies and have received public funding for years. Ken Hackett, President of Catholic Relief Services, will explore the various roles faith-based organizations play in international development. He will lead a discussion that seeks to answer the following questions: What do these organizations bring to the table? How are they different from secular organizations that have a similar function? What are some of the pitfalls they face? Mr. Hackett brings the perspective of his agency's more than 65 years of experience in responding to disasters and working to foster sustainable development in more than 100 countries around the world. He joined Catholic Relief Services in 1972, starting his career in Sierra Leone, and has since served in posts throughout Africa and Asia, as well as in a variety of positions at Catholic Relief Services headquarters.

Friday, March 27, 2009

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

Rome 200

Gender, Politics, and Poverty

Ritu Sharma

President and Co-founder, Women Thrive Worldwide

Is poverty an economic problem, a social issue, or a cultural phenomenon? Or is it about power and politics? Why are the majority of the world's 2.3 billion poor people women and their children? Ritu Sharma, President and Co-founder of Women Thrive Worldwide, a global poverty advocacy organization targeting the U.S. government, will explore these questions as well as potential solutions during this interactive lecture. Ms. Sharma is a leading voice on international women's issues and U.S. foreign policy. She continues to build and grow diverse coalitions that link women's organizations from around the world with U.S. businesses, think tanks, and NGOs to rally their efforts to help women in poverty. She is the author of *An Introduction to Advocacy: A Training Guide*, which has been translated into six languages and is a primary reference for advocates around the globe.

Friday, April 24, 2009

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

Rome 200

Revisiting Design: Developmental Strategy as Implementation

Ashraf Ghani

Chairman, Institute of State Effectiveness

The international aid system is based on a planning paradigm that ensures that operations take place within a problem-solving framework. This involves detailed and well-established procedures, products, templates for activities, and staff-centered processes. In contrast, a design approach focuses on problem setting and the development of understanding. Each approach has major implications for the implementation of international development. Dr. Ashraf Ghani will demonstrate the important distinctions between planning and design. Additionally, he will explain how breakthroughs in development have taken place when teams of creative and committed leaders have approached aid from a design perspective. The current complexity of aid coordination arises from the constraints of a planning paradigm. If approached from a design perspective, the problem of international aid can be framed in different ways, thereby offering new solutions to the issue of implementation.