



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Save the Date for Chief of Party (COP) Conference

The International Development Group (IDG) will hold its third annual COP Conference from June 23 to 27, at the home office in Research Triangle Park (RTP), NC. Thirty-one COPs, regional office directors, and other overseas staff will attend. Most of the meetings will take place in the Cox Multipurpose Room. All IDG staff are invited to attend sessions that target their specific interests and responsibilities.

For COP Conference program materials, go to: [http://staffnet.rti.org/research/idg/initiatives/COP\\_Conference/](http://staffnet.rti.org/research/idg/initiatives/COP_Conference/).

### Zanzibar President Leads Delegation to RTI International's Washington, DC, Office



*RTI President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Victoria Haynes escorts President of Zanzibar Amani Abeid Karume during a tour of RTI's Washington, DC, office.*

The President of Zanzibar Amani Abeid Karume and First Lady Shadya Karume led a May 12 delegation that visited RTI's Washington, DC, office to express their appreciation for RTI's efforts to help control malaria in Zanzibar. The delegation included Ambassador of Tanzania Ombeni Sefue and his wife Mrs. Anita Sefue, Principal Secretary in Zanzibar's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare Mohamed Jidawi, and Zanzibar Minister for Education and Vocational Training Haroum Ali Suleiman.

**Dr. Victoria Haynes** and **Aaron Williams**, vice president of International Business Development, welcomed the delegation, provided the visitors with an overview of RTI, and hosted the group for lunch. Other special guests included Admiral Tim Ziemer, coordinator of the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI); Earl Gast, senior deputy assistant administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/Africa; and Pamela White, mission director, USAID/Tanzania. About 20 of RTI's senior technical staff in Washington, DC, attended the luncheon.

**Gene Brantly**, Center for International Health (CIH) senior environmental scientist, briefed visitors on RTI's Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) program in Zanzibar, an island region that is a semiautonomous part of Tanzania. Since 2006, as part of PMI, RTI has helped Zanzibar conduct 3 rounds of spraying, providing malaria protection for approximately 1 million people.

Zanzibar previously introduced three other proven interventions to prevent or control malaria. The combined effect of all interventions has dramatically reduced the

prevalence of malaria to less than 1 percent of the population.

RTI has recently helped launch a new and unique reporting system to gather up-to-date information on malaria cases from sentinel sites around the islands. Clinic staff report new cases weekly using text messages on cell phones. The system has already identified one possible malaria outbreak, to which investigators have been deployed.

President Karume expressed his deep gratitude for RTI's efforts in Zanzibar. The Minister of Education also noted that reducing malaria has noticeably increased school attendance and students' ability to learn. The event ended with an exchange of gifts and promises to continue working together to improve the human condition of people living in Zanzibar.

### USAID Launches New Program

USAID Administrator Henrietta Fore recently launched a new program, the Development Leadership Initiative, aimed at hiring significant numbers of new Foreign Service Officers. An estimated 300 new officers will be hired to address critical staffing needs in the areas of program and planning; executive management; contracting; financial management; legal, health, and economic growth and trade; alliance building; education; and democracy, conflict, human rights, and governance. These new officers represent an investment in building a new generation of development leaders at USAID, and will contribute to the strengthening of the U.S. government's foreign policy triad of defense, development, and diplomacy.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

The first class of 40 new officers were sworn in on May 27. As part of their orientation, a 4-person panel of former senior Foreign Service officers that included **Aaron Williams** spoke to them on this first day of their new careers. Each panelist—all former Mission Directors—described his or her initial career aspirations upon joining USAID, the most challenging and/or rewarding situations faced, and offered some career advice for the new entrants.

### RTI Donates \$10,000 to China Earthquake Relief Efforts

In support of relief efforts following the May 12 earthquake in China, RTI has donated \$10,000 to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The toll of the earthquake in China's Sichuan Province has posed many challenges to the country, including providing shelter for 5 million individuals now homeless. RTI has several projects

in China, including in HIV/AIDS prevention and air quality research. Based on information provided, no RTI staff members are reported to have been harmed.

In the past, RTI has made corporate donations to disaster relief efforts in countries where we have projects, including Indonesia; Pakistan; and the United States.

Although the recent cyclone in Myanmar has left the country in significant need, the Myanmar government's resistance to international aid is making it difficult for donors to ensure the contributions are reaching the people in need. Furthermore, RTI does not have any current projects in Myanmar.

### President's Forum Highlights Recent RTI Accomplishments

Among the topics of the May 20 President's Forum were highlights from the first half of fiscal year 2008 (FY08), including

progress toward institute-level annual objectives. According to **Dr. Victoria Haynes**, RTI is on track to achieve its objectives for FY08 and, in the process, has improved the human condition, from protecting 17 million people from malaria to helping choose next year's flu vaccination.

The video stream of the session is available at: <http://staffnet.rti.org/about/strategy/forums.cfm>.



*Dr. Victoria Haynes speaks at the 2008 President's Forum.*

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## PEOPLE

### Staff News

**Sonia Diaz**, CIH financial-administrative manager; **David Kraus**, former program and grants manager (now working in Iraq); **Meerelin Hernández**, Guatemala Strategic Alliances for Social Investment (*Alianzas*) office assistant/secretary; and **Karla Menéndez**, *Alianzas* office specialist, of RTI's Guatemala office were presented with an RTI Team Award for their excellent administrative and financial work. As a result of their efforts, the Guatemala office received high marks during an internal Building Accountability through Strong Internal Controls (BASICs) compliance evaluation.

BASICs is a disciplined approach to documenting, evaluating, testing, and remediating RTI's internal controls over financial reporting. David O'Brien, Office of Finance, spent a week in the Guatemala office evaluating banking and



*David Kraus, Iraq LGP 2 regional economic advisor*



*From left to right, Sonia Diaz, Karla Menéndez, and Meerelin Hernández.*

cash management, procurement practices, fixed asset controls, payroll activities, administrative policies and procedures, and grants administration practices.

"We did very, very well on all aspects that David reviewed," said Guatemala COP **Tere Ligorria**. She further noted that despite having one of the most complex grants programs in IDG, the office's grants

team had everything in order and the program was found to be in "great shape."

O'Brien has specifically recommended that the office's fixed asset inventory control program, developed by Sonia, be evaluated by IDG's International Finance (IF) team to see if it can be leveraged across other IDG programs.

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## PEOPLE (continued)



Alexandra  
Minnis

**Alexandra Minnis**, research public health analyst for the Women's Global Health Imperative (WGHI), and **Nancy Padian**, WGHI senior research public health analyst, were among the coauthors of a study published in the May edition of the *American*

*Journal of Epidemiology*. The study looked at 237 sexually active females 14 to 19 years of age from predominantly Latino neighborhoods in San Francisco and examined the relationship between gang exposure and pregnancy for a 2-year period between 2001 and 2004.

According to a recent study, teenage girls whose boyfriends are gang members are nearly twice as likely to become pregnant as those not dating boys involved with gangs.

"The significant role of partner's gang membership in increasing pregnancy risk highlights the importance of addressing the reproductive health needs of gang-involved youth," said Alexandra, who was an assistant professor at the University of California, San Francisco, when the study was conducted. "Our findings suggest that focusing on pregnancy intentions, including those of male partners, remains an important area for intervention."

*Additional information about this research can be found in Reuters (<http://www.reutershealth.com/archive/2008/05/16/eline/links/20080516elin005.html>).*

The Egypt Girls' Improved Learning Outcomes (GILO) project was featured in the *Triangle Business Journal*. The story can be accessed at: [http://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2008/05/19/daily10.html?f=et85&ana=du\\_B](http://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2008/05/19/daily10.html?f=et85&ana=du_B).

**Pablo Torres**, information systems analyst/programmer for the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) group, organized the second internal RTI bike challenge in May. Teams of RTI employees in RTP, NC, and Washington, DC, based on their research

## Letter to the Editor: IDG Organizational Changes



Bert Maggart,  
IDG interim  
executive vice  
president

May 16, 2008

Effective yesterday, I asked Gary Bland to assume a new role supporting IDG's international business development effort under the leadership of Aaron Williams. At the same time, I asked Stephen Dunn to assume

leadership of a new group made up of the Center for Democratic Governance and the Public Finance and Economic Growth program area. We will carefully choose a new name for this new organization in time. I believe that these changes will strengthen our business development capability, better align our strengths and talents, and create better opportunities for synergy across these and other IDG Program Areas.

In addition, the IDG Senior Leadership Team (SLT) is taking a close look at the way we are structured and how we work together and across the institute, along with a detailed review of our processes and policies, to ensure we are as effective and efficient as we can be to achieve our organizational strategy and objectives. It is important that we look at developing our strengths to improve our competitive advantage. I'm committed to see through this process, which will take some time. I will need not only the help and leadership of the IDG SLT but also of all of you to make IDG as successful as possible.

If you have any questions on these changes or other thoughts and suggestions, please let me or your SLT member know.

Thank you,

Bert

or administrative groups, challenged each other to ride their bikes to work.

Six IDG staff participated in the challenge: **Rose Evans-Storms**, drug development analyst for Global Health Technologies; **Shari Budihardjo-Weigant**, program area coordinator for the Public Finance and Economic Growth group; **Dan Goetz**, senior public administration analyst for the Center for Democratic Governance (CDG) and leader of the Europe and Eurasia Geo Team; **Erin Newton**, editor/writer for International Communications; **Mitch Rakusin**, program development coordinator for Education Policy Systems (EPS); and Pablo.

The IDG team rode 570 miles for 30 days in May, improving the human condition by staying healthy; lowering their gas expenses; improving air quality in the Triangle; and reducing their carbon footprint.

Compared to the October 2007 biking challenge, RTI staff more than doubled the miles ridden and the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> not emitted. For more information on bike

commuting efforts, visit: <http://staffnet.rti.org/employee/recreation/cycling/>.



The RTI AIDS WALK + RIDE 2008 team.

On May 3, **Jennifer Hansel**, proposal manager in IDG's Business Proposals group, joined the RTI team to participate in the AIDS WALK + RIDE 2008 in Raleigh, NC. **Shawn Aldridge**, CIH health policy analyst, was a "virtual walker." RTI employees raised \$1,350 for the event.

AIDS WALK + RIDE 2008 is sponsored by the Alliance of AIDS Services—Carolina (<http://www.aas-c.org/>), one of RTI's Community Partnership-sponsored organizations.

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## PEOPLE (continued)



Wanda and Bert Maggart

**Bert Maggart** and Wanda Maggart were married on April 18 in Bolivia, NC. Wanda is the senior vice president of Institutional and Student Support Services at Durham Technical Community College (DTCC) in Durham, NC.

Bert met Wanda when he was the RTI representative to the dedication of the Phail Wynn Jr. building on the DTCC campus, an event that Wanda led. "I kid her by saying that I found her and in fact that she did not even notice me at the ceremony. We are married today because I took the time to come talk to her," Bert said.

**Doug Campbell**, project administration specialist, traveled to Ukraine with Triumph, a saxophone quartet of which he is a member. The group performed with the Kyiv Saxophone Quartet at the National Philharmonic Hall of Ukraine in Kyiv on May 3. The quartet also performed at the Selmer Paris Competition at the Lviv Conservatory

on April 29 and at the Organum Music Festival at the Sumy Philharmonic Society Hall on May 1. Throughout their Ukraine tour, Triumph's three female saxophone players—unusual sights among Ukraine's mainly male saxophone players—attracted a lot of attention. Doug plays the soprano and alto saxophone. For more information, visit Triumph's Web site at: <http://www.triumphsaxquartet.org>.

In June, the following milestones were celebrated:

- **Gordon Cressman**, senior director, ICT (25 years)
- **Ahmed Al-Harazi**; institutional development specialist; Conflict Management, Mitigation, and Reconstruction (CMMR) (5 years)
- **Jill Martin**, senior manager, IF (5 years)

### Staff Features



Mauricio Monterroso, Guatemala

**Mauricio Monterroso** joined CIH's *Alianzas* project in March as a program/grants manager. In this role, Mauricio oversees all grants processes and compliance with USAID and RTI regulations and performs all administrative processes related to the program's management.

He has extensive consulting experience in USAID, United Nations Development

Programme, and World Bank projects, as well as corporate, private sector experience in senior management for industrial companies.

Prior to joining RTI, Mauricio served as assistant country director for the USAID-funded International Executive Service Corps, which provided technical assistance to Guatemalan companies and promoted bilateral trade between Guatemala and the United States. He matched and brought to Guatemala volunteer retired professionals from the United States to aid local enterprises; various chambers; and nonprofit organizations in 120 projects, primarily in Latin America. Mauricio was also responsible for searching for potential beneficiaries among local enterprises.

Mauricio holds an MS degree in industrial administration from Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN, and a BS degree in geological engineering from the University of Arizona in Tucson. He is a native Spanish speaker and is fluent in English.

He is married to Matilde, an archeologist, with whom he has two sons. Mauricio is an Honorary Citizen of Tucson, AZ, and has traveled to over 30 states of the United States.



Sarah Pouezevara, France

**Sarah Pouezevara** joined the ICT program in April as an eLearning specialist. Sarah worked with ICT over the last 2 years as an e-teacher training consultant. Under the USAID Local Governance Project in Morocco, she currently supports capacity-building efforts

of the *Direction Générale des Collectivités Locales* in developing multimedia-enhanced information products for a diverse audience of local government officials. As an eLearning specialist, Sarah strengthens RTI projects by using ICT to enhance access to and quality of education and training and to improve communication among stakeholders.



Doug Campbell (left) performs with members of the Triumph Saxophone Quartet.

**PEOPLE** *(continued)*

Sarah comes to RTI with more than 10 years' experience as an education and development specialist with the United Nations, multilateral and bilateral donors, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), universities, and foundations. A common element of Sarah's work has been fostering professional and personal learning networks, such as online communities of practice, that are based on mutual support and sharing of experiences.

She graduated from Teachers College at Columbia University, NY, with an MA degree in international educational development, and has country experience in Asia and Africa.

Sarah works remotely from her home office in Chamonix, France, where she lives with her husband and two young daughters. In her free time, she enjoys the many outdoor activities the region offers.



*Leena Sushant, India*

**Leena Sushant**, health consultant, joined the RTI India regional office in New Delhi in March. In the first year of setting up operations in New Delhi, Leena will focus on leveraging RTI's and her networks of relationships in the Indian health sector to raise RTI's profile

among international donors, government agencies, research institutes, and

foundations. This face-to-face marketing will help identify new business opportunities and generate a range of proposal activities.

Leena will also coordinate RTI's efforts to acquire office space; work to identify key personnel for project activities; and, as needed, support the final steps to complete RTI's corporate registration in India. Over time, as RTI hires more staff in India, she will take on health project work.

Leena comes to RTI from the International Clinical Epidemiology Network, where she worked as a program consultant, providing technical and administrative support to various health evaluations. The key area of her work has been policy-relevant health research.

Leena holds a PhD in public health from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi and a Master of Science degree in anthropology and a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology from Delhi University. She speaks fluent English and Hindi and understands a few other Indian languages. Her training in essential epidemiology and research methods is an added advantage to her qualifications.

Leena lives in New Delhi with her husband and 5-year-old son. She enjoys listening to music, playing games with her son, and reading short stories.

**In Memoriam: Edi Siswanto**



*Edi Siswanto, Local Governance Support Program (LGSP) district coordinator, East Java, Indonesia*

**Edi Siswanto** died in a highway accident on May 16. He is survived by his wife and two children.

Edi began working for LGSP in September 2005. His graciousness, sincerity, hard work, and commitment to good governance made him an

extremely effective partner with stakeholders and local government in the Kabupaten Probolinggo district.

During his career, Edi made significant contributions in the areas of transparent and participatory local development planning, local budget preparation, public service management, and technical capacity building. "Our fight is far from finished, is what Edi always said. His struggle has now become the stakeholders' struggle in Kabupaten Probolinggo," said Dina Limnanto, LGSP regional coordinator for East Java.

"What he stood for during his life will always be remembered. We extend to his family our deepest sympathy. He will be missed by his friends and colleagues."

**PERSPECTIVES**

**Quality Improvement in South African Education**

*by Melinda Taylor and Luis Crouch*



*Melinda Taylor, COP, Integrated Education Program (IEP)*



*Luis Crouch, vice president of Finance, Education, and Information Technology, EPS*

From 2004 to 2008, RTI, in partnership with the South African Department of Education; 10 local NGOs; and 5 universities, targeted 17 districts in four of South Africa's nine provinces to improve student performance in numeracy, literacy, mathematics, and science in participating primary schools. Through training and school-based support provided to teachers and members of School Management Teams and School Governing Bodies, IEP reached 21,000 teachers, education officials, and community members and an estimated 513,473 students in 1,284

participating schools. IEP also supported the work of the national Department of Education (DoE) through the provision of technical assistance in education finance and reform, education management information systems, and human resource planning. The \$23 million, USAID-funded program will conclude later this year.

As part of the program's wrap-up, IEP staff members Melinda Taylor and Saeeda Anis-Prew, program management and monitoring director, were recently invited to share IEP's successes and

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## PERSPECTIVES *(continued)*

lessons learned with South Africa's Council of Education Ministers, chaired by the Minister of Education. Highlights include the following:

### Accomplishments

- An average 21 percent improvement in IEP student test results across all areas: literacy, 16 percent; numeracy, 35 percent; mathematics, 27 percent; and science, 4 percent
- 34 percent improvement on average in the subject matter knowledge of teachers
- 68 percent of IEP-funded bursary students completed pre-service teacher training programs
- Substantial improvement over baseline (between 19 and 32 percent) in education management and planning
- 100 percent satisfaction registered in IEP's support to the national DoE

### Lessons Learned

- Strong teachers should teach in early grades and be supported regularly: there is a higher chance of success when a solid foundation is laid; scholastic backlog at grade 6 is greater and more difficult to bridge than in early grades

- Content knowledge training for teachers is essential: it is meaningless to train teachers on methodology if their basic grasp of subject knowledge is weak
- Time-on-task plans and pace setters should be instituted for teachers and regularly supported and monitored by the DoE
- There is urgent need to: 1) set goals on the time devoted to reading and writing; 2) promote reading and increase the frequency of writing sentences and passages; and 3) increase the frequency of work on complex math problems
- Student support material (practice workbooks and textbooks) are key to improving learner performance
- In cascade training programs, teachers who are instructional leaders (e.g., principals, heads of department) should be targeted for master teacher training, and strict selection criteria must be enforced
- School-level intervention is essential: IEP was able to directly impact teaching and learning because it supported project schools directly and regularly

South Africa has made significant progress in improving access to education since

the end of apartheid. While programs such as IEP and its predecessor, the District Development Support Program (1998–2003), have helped the DoE make inroads in terms of quality, much remains to be done. South Africa's expenditure on education as a proportion of gross domestic product and its income per capita are, respectively, 30 and 180 percent higher than in the rest of Africa. On international standardized testing (including TIMMS and SACMEQ), South Africa routinely performs at the same level or below some of its African neighbors (e.g., Kenya, Tanzania, and Ghana).

RTI recently developed a bid for USAID funding to strengthen the technical college system in South Africa by working to improve student support, internships and tracking, improving ties of colleges to industry, and imparting better life skills to students. If successful, RTI will continue its work in strengthening South Africa's educational system, alongside a solid network of South African institutions, and assisted by several international organizations.

## OUT AND ABOUT



*Napoleon Graham, COP of the Ghana IRS program, outlines program activities.*

On April 2, the IRS program in Ghana held a regional stakeholder meeting in **Tamale**, in the Northern Region of Ghana, with about 100 participants. Attendees included health workers, district coordinating directors, and environmental health officers from all the 20 districts in the Northern Region. Also present were representatives of USAID, the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP), development partners, and RTI staff.

Northern Regional Coordinator of the Roll Back Malaria Initiative and representative of the Northern Regional Director of Health Services, Dr. John Abenyeri, explained the burden of malaria on the Ghanaian economy. He indicated that the annual cost of treating malaria

alone in Ghana is more than the annual budget of the Ghana Ministry of Health. Dr. Abenyeri described IRS as one of the effective malaria vector control methods and appealed to all the participants to contribute in diverse ways to make the Ghana IRS program a success.

**Napoleon Graham** introduced RTI to the participants. He outlined the activity plan of the Ghana program and welcomed the various stakeholders to participate in its implementation.

The meeting was very interactive, with significant inputs from the experienced and enthusiastic participants.

## OUT AND ABOUT *(continued)*



*Participants receive practical training at the Anglogold malaria training site.*

Residents of Obuasi in the Ashanti Region of Ghana are experiencing the fifth round of IRS, courtesy of Anglogold Ashanti. For the past 2 years, Anglogold Ashanti has been spraying homes within the Obuasi Municipality as part of the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) program. With the Anglogold experience, RTI organized a training of trainers (TOT) workshop at the Anglogold malaria training site in **Obuasi** on April 15–19. Participants included various staff from the Ghana IRS program.

To help build the capacity of the Ghana Health Service staff, disease control officers from all the five beneficiary districts were present at the TOT workshop. Also present were district environmental health officers, officials from the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Department of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and staff of the Environmental Protection Agency.

To reinforce the partnership between RTI and the Ghana Health Service, officers of the NMCP and staff of the Northern Regional Health Directorate were present. The Senior Advisor of the PMI and representatives of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also participated in the training. Significant emphasis was given to the practical sessions focusing on spray technique and cleansing of equipment.

**John Chimumbwa**, RTI's IRS technical director based in Nairobi, Kenya, served as the lead facilitator at the TOT, with support from Anglogold Ashanti staff.

The ICT program has recently developed good contacts with private sector CSR programs, including Cisco Systems; Intel; Microsoft; and Qualcomm. The result has been support for substantial cost share contributions on several IDG proposals. Cisco, Intel, and Microsoft have mature CSR programs. Each has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with USAID and works with a variety of USAID contractors. In addition, there has been a significant commitment from Intel to the GILO project in Egypt and a Qualcomm-funded project to use 3G mobile phone technology to improve management of antiretroviral pharmaceutical supplies in Kenya.

As part of an initiative to strengthen partnerships with the private sector, **Gordon Cressman** and **Niamh Darcy**, ICT program manager, visited RTI's office in **San Francisco** on April 25–30. They met with several ICT private sector organizations on the West Coast, including Cisco Systems; Intel; Sun Microsystems; Green-WiFi; and Inveneo. Gordon and Niamh also met with researchers at the University of California at Berkeley's School of Public Health.

The meetings included discussion of RTI's experience and capacity and how these align with the needs and priorities of these organizations. The meetings were very positive and have generated many follow-up activities. Over the next few months, the ICT group will continue to strengthen these relationships and explore specific opportunities resulting from these meetings.

For more information on the potential of private sector CSR in the ICT industry and related nonprofit organizations that might contribute to your projects, contact Gordon (gmc@rti.org) or Niamh (ndarcy@rti.org).

On April 30, the Iraq Local Governance Program (LGP) 2's Women's Leadership Program Team conducted a training in **Erbil** on *Political Participation of Women*. The session, conducted by the local Women's Leadership Program Advisor, highlighted women's political participation strategies. The strategies covered included



*Participants discuss the roles of women in decision making.*

voting and voter education, candidacy in national and local elections, lending support to candidates with gender-sensitive agendas, campaigning against those who have policies that are anti-women's rights, and advocating for the integration of a women's rights agenda in the platforms of candidates and government.

Twenty participants attended the training, including Erbil Provincial Council (PC) members; women activists in public and private sectors; the head of the Women's Union Organization; and university academics. A Kurdistan National Assembly (KNA) Legal Committee member delivered a presentation on "Women and the Constitution," which showed recent facts and figures on Iraqi women who occupy positions in executive and legislative branches of government. He also highlighted women's rights and roles as outlined in the Iraqi and Kurdistan constitutions.

The event also featured a presentation by the head of the Women's Union Organization, titled "History of Renowned Kurdish Women in Politics."

On May 6, an MOU for a \$152,900 contract was signed between the Ninewa Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) and Ninewa Geographic Information System (GIS) Center, as a result of LGP inputs in preparation for the Quick Response Fund to support the LGP GIS Base Project initiative.

The contract will enable the Ninewa GIS Center to hire an additional 20 engineers; purchase ortho-rectified satellite images

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## OUT AND ABOUT *(continued)*



The Ninewa PRT and Ninewa GIS Center signed an MOU in May.

of 0.6 m resolution; develop a geo-database of city parcels, blocks, and roads; conduct map geo-referencing; purchase office materials; and collect additional information for GIS city base mapping such as layers, boundaries, and parcels from the service-delivery and other line departments involved in the GIS program.

On May 13, **Aaron Williams** and **Phil Gary**, senior director of CMMR, were invited by USAID to brief General Terry Wolff at the National Security Council on the Iraq LGP 2. General Wolff is the special assistant to the President and senior director for Iraq and Afghanistan Policy Implementation.

The discussion focused on the results of RTT's long-term, 5-year role in supporting decentralized, democratic governance in Iraq, and the importance of developing Iraqi capacity and empowering Iraqis to manage their local government at the provincial council, district, and subdistrict level.

On May 16 and 17, two members of the Sulaymaniyah LGP Team—the trainer and the local project management advisor—conducted the final 2-day training sessions on *Project Lifecycle* for 10 planning directors of Sulaymaniyah service delivery departments. The training was designed to enhance participants' skills in administering contracts and closing out projects. Participants were also instructed on how to use feasibility studies in project implementation and the on the process of Sulaymaniyah's provincial development strategy.

Attendees will be awarded with letters of appreciation for their outstanding participation and effective contribution in the training.



Participants at the Project Lifecycle training in Sulaymaniyah.

The Iraq LGP 2 North region Local Governance Team in **Erbil**, in coordination with the LGP Public Finance Team's Local Public Finance Advisor, conducted nine training sessions on *Public Budgeting and Auditing* and *Accounting and Internal Audit* for 26 KNA key accounting, auditing, administration, and finance officials. The training sessions took place over 3 weeks, from May 5–21. The proposed training was designed to improve the understanding of budgeting and capital improvement budgets and will allow the finance department staff to be more efficient and effective in assisting the KNA members and their constituents.



Participants at a 3-day session on accounting and internal audits in Erbil.

On May 21, CDG cosponsored, with the United States-Indonesia Society, a Washington policy forum, titled *Outlook for Indonesian Parliamentary Strengthening and Indonesian Electoral Reform*. The forum discussed the progress of major institutions and other leading issues in the democratic development of Indonesia.

The presenters were **Gordon West**, COP for the Democratic Reform Support Program (DRSP); Dr. Greg Fealy, senior lecturer at the Australian National University and a consultant to DRSP; and Eric Bjornlund, president of Democracy International, one of DRSP's implementing partners, and a participant on the recent USAID Democracy and Governance Office's Indonesia assessment team. The event was well-attended and highly informative. All speakers clarified that they were speaking in a personal capacity and not on behalf of USAID.

Gordon focused on reform in the Indonesian parliament, noting that the institution is weak and remains dominated by the executive branch. The level of parliamentary debate, however, and the nature and quality of the laws has improved considerably. Gordon pointed out that the open, sincere discussion of human rights, gender rights, and other issues is exciting in such an important, heavily Muslim country. The relationship between the regional parliamentary bodies and the central government is a major issue given the immense need for improved public accountability at all levels of government.

Dr. Fealy explained that the parliament's low standing with the public is a serious issue for democracy and reflects real problems of corruption and scandal, as well as an indication of the weak institutional position in which legislators find themselves. With little staff support and executive control over the legislative process and the personnel budget, among other pressures, parliamentarians' hands are often tied.

Finally, Bjornlund noted that 2009 will mark the third set of elections since the Indonesian transition to democracy began. The vote will also

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## OUT AND ABOUT *(continued)*

be marked by the third set of electoral rules, which are complicated and constantly in flux. A third, newly overhauled election commission will be managing the process, and the newly appointed commissioners think national electoral experience is a worry.

On May 21, RTI hosted the board meeting of the U.S. Global Leadership Campaign (USGLC) in the **Washington, DC**, office.

The USGLC is a unique, broad-based nationwide coalition of businesses, NGOs, and community leaders that advocates for a strong U.S. International Affairs Budget. Member organizations include Save the Children, Boeing, Chemonics, DAI, Caterpillar, CARE, Microsoft, Procter & Gamble, and Motorola. Members of the USGLC—a vibrant, influential network of organizations and individuals—engage policy makers in the nation's capital and educate the public around the country to build support for these essential programs.

On May 22, **Aaron Williams** and **Derick Brinkerhoff**, senior fellow and team leader for health governance on the Health Systems 20/20 project, hosted a group of senior Army officers from the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks at the RTI office in **Washington, DC**. The officers were briefed on the history and current status of the Iraq LGP 2. This lecture is part of the War College's year-long international development course for officers, titled "International Development: The Third Leg of the National Security Triad."

On May 23, **Aaron Williams** participated in a special partners meeting at USAID headquarters in **Washington, DC**, with Chris Crowley, mission director for USAID/Iraq. Crowley briefed the various USAID partner organizations on the key political and security issues that impact the implementation of USAID's project portfolio in Iraq and the progress being made by USAID as part of the overall U.S. Government assistance to that nation.



*Iraq LGP 2 North region employees raised different questions following COP Ross Wherry's presentation.*

On May 27, **Ross Wherry** visited the North region of Iraq. He spoke at the **Erbil** headquarters about his perspective on the LGP program's future and LGP 2's main focus for June through December. There were more than 30 LGP North region headquarter employees present, including regional departmental managers, provincial program managers, and local and expatriate advisors.

In his presentation, Ross touched upon basic program principles that need attention in the coming 90 days, including the Provincial Powers Law; budget execution and implementation; Provincial Development Strategy; urban planning and GIS; anticorruption and accountability; and economic development.

Ross also discussed program progress and performance to date. He used work plan-based items to illustrate his points and show the positive response of local government officials toward the LGP.

On May 29, **Aaron Williams** briefed USAID's new group of PRT representatives who will deploy to Iraq in June. The briefing focused on the Iraq LGP 2, providing an historical perspective on the evolution of local governance assistance since LGP 1, and the implementation of LGP 2 under the U.S. Government's current PRT strategy/program.

The Ghana IRS Information, Education, and Communication Team held stakeholder meetings in 23 subdistricts across the five selected districts for the Ghana IRS program in March. These meetings will continue through the end of the spray operations in July or August. The meetings are intended to sensitize community leaders about the IRS program; seek their participation; and inform them of their expected roles before, during, and after the spraying exercise. Meeting participants included chiefs, assembly members, unit committee members, women leaders, religious leaders, health workers, environmental officers, heads of departments, and other civil society leaders. Participant feedback has been positive and encouraging.

During a stakeholder meeting at **Nanton** subdistrict, the chief of Nanton, Nanton Naa Sulley, expressed his gratitude and thanks to the Government and people of the United States for the IRS program and the entire PMI.



*Chiefs, assembly members, and other leaders at a stakeholder meeting in Savelugu/Nanton District.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued from page 2)*

### Iraq LGP 2 Launches New Accountability Program



*An Accountability Program staff member engages with Iraqi PC officials at the Local Government Association conference.*

The Iraq LGP 2 has received an additional \$6.5 million from USAID to launch its newest initiative, the Accountability Program. This program is designed to help USAID create greater accountability and transparency at the governorate and district levels. Accountability and transparency hold the key to building public trust in local government, increasing citizen participation, and strengthening acceptance of the new institutions and practices being developed across Iraq.

The Accountability Program is building a team of international experts and Iraqi professionals based in the provinces. This program team will reach out to provincial council officials and their oversight committees in the field to assess local needs and to develop accountability practices specifically targeting those needs. In addition, consultative meetings are underway with key PRT and embedded PRT (ePRT) officials to gather the accountability requirements of the areas in which they serve.

During the coming months, the program will strengthen accountability practices using three parallel approaches: 1) training; 2) mentoring; and 3) education.

The program will be launched in Baghdad governorate this summer. Once successfully implemented in Baghdad governorate, similar programs will be rolled out across the remaining governorates of Iraq.

To learn more about LGP's new initiative, or to find out how you can help, please contact: [accountability@lgp-iraq.org](mailto:accountability@lgp-iraq.org).

### Kirkuk LGP 2 Team Receives Grant for Wastewater Treatment



*A view of the Kirkuk Al Rashid Wastewater Treatment Plant.*

On May 15, the Kirkuk LGP Infrastructure Team was awarded \$1.5 million for the Water in a Box Program and \$300,000 for the Al Rashid Wastewater Treatment Plant Project by the U.S. Brigade and Iraqi Commanders' Emergency Response Program.

The Water in a Box Program will bring clean, safe, and affordable drinking water to communities most at risk in the governorate. The program has the potential to impact 200,000 provincial residents in Kirkuk.

The Al Rashid Wastewater Treatment Plant, located in the Domez Section of Kirkuk City, will provide wastewater treatment to the southern section of the city and will directly impact 15,000 rural residents.

Other groups involved in the project include the Kirkuk Director General (DG) of Water and DG of Wells, along with the 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division; 418th Civil Affairs Division, Alpha Company; Kirkuk PRT Infrastructure Section; and advisors for the LGP PRT in Kirkuk and ePRT in Fallujah.

### Municipal Budget Reform (MBR) Project Spin-off Emerges as Sustainable NGO in Ukraine

As a result of a February 2007 USAID Local Government Assessment report, USAID asked RTI to modify its MBR project contract to develop and institutionalize an indigenous capacity, using Ukrainian experts from the MBR project to continue providing analytical training and technical assistance to the national government and municipalities after the project ended. In response to USAID's request, the Institute for Budgetary and Socio-Economic Research (IBSER) was established and registered in Ukraine as a nonprofit, public organization, in June 2007. In September 2007, IBSER received a grant from RTI to continue the MBR project's objective to promote budget reform and fiscal decentralization.

In less than a year, MBR project and IDG home office staff have built IBSER's administrative and managerial capacity to enable it to qualify for direct funding from USAID. They have also developed IBSER's capacity to bid on and win other donor-funded contracts or grants in order to procure self-financing and sustainability. To date, IBSER has received two grants as subcontractors from SlovakAid and East-East Partnership Beyond Borders Program, funded by the Open Society Foundation.

In April, Deloitte and Touche conducted a Capacity and Compliance Assessment to determine IBSER's ability to comply with USAID and federal-wide policies. IBSER was rated 82 percent fully compliant, 18 percent partially compliant, and 0 percent noncompliant. By comparison, other similar NGOs in Ukraine have scored, on average, 20–30 percent fully compliant, 50–60 percent partially compliant, and 10–15 percent noncompliant.

Work to build IBSER's capacity will be finalized by September 30. While many challenges remain, IBSER has emerged over the past year prepared and positioned for success in a complex and highly competitive Ukrainian market.

*continued*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

In the fall of 2008, USAID is expected to announce three open tenders for Ukraine. MBR's in-country presence through September will provide RTI and IBSER with an important strategic advantage in transitioning to one or more of these new projects.

*A comprehensive article on IBSER's success story will be featured in the September brIDGe Project Supplement.*



*From left to right, Halyna Karp, director, Department of Local Budgets, Ministry of Finance of Ukraine; Ella Libanova, director, Institute for Demographics and Social Research, National Academy of Sciences Ukraine, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ukraine; Iryna Shcherbyna, director general, IBSER; Pavlo Rozenko, deputy minister of Labor and Social Policy of Ukraine; and Andriy Nesterenko, project management specialist, Office of Economic Growth, USAID MBR Cognizant Technical Officer.*

## AWARDS

### Wins

RTI has been awarded the following projects during May 1–31. The list includes only contracts and agreements that have been signed. Data provided include project name, client, project manager (COP if add-on), and award amount.

- Presidential Malaria Initiative Indoor Residual Spraying Activities in Kenya, USAID, Gene Brantly, \$14,996,567

- Malaria Control in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, USAID, Gene Brantly, \$1,250,000
- Qualcomm Kenya Antiretroviral Therapy Pharmaceuticals System Add-on, Qualcomm, Inc., Gordon Cressman, \$200,000
- Peru Recurso III; World Bank; Luis Crouch, EPS; \$4,609

### Losses

The following proposals were either canceled or rejected during May 1–31.

- Transforming Sierra Leone: Linking Democratic Governance, Economic Growth, and Natural Resource Management, While Empowering Women and Building Institutional Capacities; USAID
- Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria, U.K. Department for International Development

## NEW RESOURCES

### Marketing Materials

The following new brochure is available:

- Experience in China

For more information or for copies of this brief, contact **Haden Springer**, analyst, Strategic Business and Marketing (hspringer@rti.org).

### IDG Quarterly Business Report (QBR) Available

The IDG QBR for Quarter 2 is now available on the IDG Web site at: <http://staffnet.rti.org/research/idg/index.cfm?fuseaction=QBRListing>.

### Guidelines for Submissions to the brIDGe

**Text:** Whenever possible, please send your text submissions in an attachment (Word, PDF, txt) rather than as a part of your e-mail message.

**Photos:** Whenever possible, please attach the **original** files to your e-mail when submitting photos to the brIDGe. While the brIDGe is able to use photos embedded in your documents or e-mails, the original files will produce the highest quality images. When taking digital photographs, set the camera to the highest possible resolution before taking photos.