proposed AC by contacting the person named above under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

Comments Invited

Interested parties are invited to submit such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Comments must identify the AC and submit comments to the address specified above. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments will be considered by the Standards Staff before issuing the final AC. Comments may be inspected at FAA, Aircraft Certification Service, Small Airplane Directorate, Standards Office, ACE–110, Suite 900, 1201 Walnut, Kansas City, Missouri, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays, except Federal holidays.

Background

In its Safety Recommendation A–95–13, dated February 7, 1995, the NTSB shared some of their safety concerns about tundra tires with the FAA and requested that the possibility of problems with tundra tires be investigated. The NTSB stated: ''Since the early 1960s, hundreds of airplanes operating in Alaska have been equipped with tundra tires, and dozens of versions of tundra tires—some exceeding 35 inches in diameter—have been marketed. The Safety Board is concerned that filed approvals and STC's have been granted for use of these tires without flight test or other data on the aerodynamic effects of the tires and wheels. The Piper PA–18 is the airplane most frequently equipped with tundra tires. The Safety Board believes that the FAA should conduct a demonstration flight test to determine the effects of tundra tires on the PA–18's flight characteristics, including cruise, climb, takeoff, and landing performance; and, in both straight and turning flight, stall warning and aircraft stability at or near the critical angle of attack. Further, if the tests of the PA–18 indicate the need, the FAA should take corrective action and expand testing to other airplane types equipped with oversized tires.''

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 20, 1996.

Henry A. Armstrong,

Acting Manager, Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 96–16416 Filed 6–26–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–M

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

International Education and Cultural Activities—Discretionary Grant Program

ACTION: Notice; Request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Citizen Exchanges (E/P) of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award program. Public or private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)–1 may apply to develop projects that link their international exchange interests with counterpart institutions/groups in ways supportive of the aims of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended, Public Law 87–256, also known as the Fulbright Hays Act.

The purpose of the Act is ''to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries * * *; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations. * * * and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world.'' Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Application Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

Interested applicants should read the complete Federal Register announcement before addressing inquiries to the Office of Citizen Exchanges or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, the Office of Citizen Exchanges may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until after the Bureau program and project review process has been completed.

ANNOUNCEMENT NAME AND NUMBER: All communications concerning this announcement should refer to the Annual Discretionary Grant Program. The announcement number is E/P–97–1. Please refer to title and number in all correspondence or telephone calls to USIA.

Deadline for Proposals: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on Friday, October 11, 1996. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked on October 11, 1996, but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each grant applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline. This action is effective from the publication date of this notice through October 11, 1996, for projects where activities will begin between January 1, 1997 and December 31, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Interested organizations/institutions must contact the Office of Citizen Exchanges, E/PL, Room 216, United States Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, (202) 619–5326, to request detailed application packets which include award criteria; all application forms; and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget. Please direct inquiries and correspondence to USIA Program Officer *Laverne Johnson,* E-Mail {LJohnson@USIA.GOV}.

TO DOWNLOAD A SOLICITATION PACKAGE VIA INTERNET: The Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at http://www.usia.gov/ or from the Internet Gopher at gopher://gopher.usia.gov. Under the heading ''International Exchanges/Training'' select ''Request for Proposals (RFPs).'' Please read ''About the Following RFPs'' before beginning to download.

ADDRESSES: Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Application Package and send only complete applications with 15 copies to:

U.S. Information Agency, REF: E/P–97–1 Annual Discretionary Grant Competition, Grants Management Division (E/XE), 301–4th Street, SW., Room 336, Washington, DC 20547.

Applicants must also submit to E/XE the ''Executive Summary'' and ''Narrative'' sections of each proposal on a 3.5″ diskette, formatted for DOS. This material must be provided in ASCII text (DOS) format with a maximum line length of 65 characters. USIA will transmit these files electronically to USIS posts overseas for their review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to get posts' comments for the Agency's grants review process.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. ''Diversity'' should be interpreted

in the broadest sense and encompass differences including but not limited to ethnicity, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle both in program administration and in program content. Please refer to the review criteria under the ''Support for Diversity'' section for specific suggestions on incorporating diversity into the total proposal.

Overview

The Office of Citizen Exchanges works with U.S. private sector, non-profit organizations on cooperative international group projects that introduce American and foreign participants to each others' social, economic, and political structures, and international interests. The Office supports international projects in the United States or overseas involving leaders or potential leaders in the following fields and professions: urban planners, jurists, specialized journalists (specialists in economics, business, political analysis, international affairs), business professionals, NGO leaders, environmental specialists, parliamentarians, educators, economists, and other government officials.

Guidelines

Applicants should carefully note the following restrictions/recommendations for proposals in specific geographical areas:

Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Newly Independent States (NIS): Requests for proposals involving the following countries will be announced in separate competitions: CEE—Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, and Slovenia; NIS—Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Proposals involving these regions WILL NOT be accepted under this competition.

Western Europe and Canada (WEU): Priority consideration will be given to the following themes and target countries/subregions:

(1) Conflict Resolution: Northern Ireland

Theme: Facilitation of grass-roots conflict resolution relating to both Northern Ireland and cross-border issues between communities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

(2) Conflict Resolution: Cyprus

Theme: Conflict resolution through increased inter-communal communication by means of Internet access and computer-assisted negotiations, aimed at journalists, academics, politicians, and government officials in both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

Project: In order to improve their professional skills, increase access to research materials and international news sources, and to stimulate inter-communal communication via Internet, journalists, academics as well as politicians and government officials need to be able to access information electronically. The project would include a seminar and workshop on each side of the green line as well as technical help to set up viable systems of electronic communication.

Exchange: American experts in Internet access and conflict resolution to set up seminars/workshops in the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities and to ensure viability in those communities and to ensure viability in those communities of electronic communication.

(3) Promoting a Civil Society: Italy

Theme: In helping to develop a new ''civic consciousness'' and to form a greater partnership in Italy between the public and private sectors, the project would study the American model of volunteerism, training, and civic service.

Project: A two-way exchange program involving Italian representatives from the Ministry of Social Services, selected regions and municipalities and non-governmental organizations, and American representatives from Federal and state organizations involved in civic service programs.

Exchange: Phase I of the program would involve a small group of Italians visiting the U.S. to learn about the American model of civic/volunteer service. Issues to be addressed would include: organizational structure/administration of civic service programs; fund-raising, including administration of federal funding; evaluation and control criteria; training; cultural/social context in which programs thrive.

Phase II would involve visits to Italy by American representatives of selected civic services programs relevant to the Italian experience. These representatives would work directly with the Ministry of Social Services and regional projects to develop Italian pilot projects based on the American model.

(4) Local Government: Turkey

Theme: To study the issues involved in decentralization in order to promote regional development and citizen empowerment.

Project: An exchange of 10 mayors from Southeastern Turkey, the site of a new and massive irrigation project, with U.S. municipal leaders involved in regional development issues.

Exchange: Initial visit to selected American cities, with a focus on regional development and provision of local services. Follow-up visit by American representatives relevant to the Turkish experience.

(5) Wetlands Management Program: Greece

Theme: Wetlands management, mapping, and restoration program.

Project: To assist Aristotle University in Thessaloniki and the Greek Wetlands Center in establishing a program of general wetlands managements, including the technical aspects of conservation, legal issues, and public relations techniques.

Exchange: Two-way exchange of experts: Americans to help the Center and University establish a Wetlands program; Greeks to visit the U.S. for first-hand observation of NGO work and university programs.

E/P contact for WEU programs: Chris Miner, 202/401–7342; E-Mail {CMiner@USIA.GOV}

East Asia and the Pacific (EA): Priority consideration will be given to the following themes and target countries/subregions:

The Organization of NGOs

(EA regional project or single country project for Japan)—Projects should address the important role that non-governmental organizations, citizen's groups and grassroot institutions play in a democracy. Priority will be given to projects that study management and fund-raising strategies of NGOs in the U.S., rather than projects that focus exclusively on the objectives or themes of specific organizations.

Economic Development and Intellectual Property Rights

(EA regional project to include participants from South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and/or the Philippines)—Projects should underscore the importance of IPR protection to economic development. Participants would include business reporters, executives in the private and public sector with an interest in IPR and/or legal experts.

Intellectual Property Rights

(China)—Projects would show members of China's business creative community how their U.S. counterparts protect their own intellectual property rights.

Rule of Law

(China) Projects would help Chinese provincial and municipal judges understand how U.S. state judiciaries function to understand how Federal and state judiciary systems interact.

Market Economics

(Vietnam, Cambodia, and/or Laos)—Projects would give a better understanding of market economics and international trade to executives from the state and private sector. Priority will be given to projects that reach a wider audience through use of workshops, training seminars or follow-up publications for entry-level entrepreneurs.

The Sustainable Urban Environment

(EA regional project)—Projects should explore the challenge of balancing economic growth with environmental health in large cities. Participants would include city managers, government officials, NGO activists, academics or journalists with an interest in urban planning. The project should not only look at the experiences of U.S. cities coping with rapid growth, but also address the role of citizen participation in identifying creative solutions or finding acceptable compromises.

E/P contact for EA programs: Steve Koenig 202/260–5485; E-Mail {SKoenig@USIA.GOV}

American Republics (AR): Priority will be given to projects in (1) Civic education (which might focus on such issues as curriculum development, civic journalism, citizen activism, and volunteerism); (2) sustainable development; (3) rule of law/administration of justice; and (4) diversity in the Americas experience (African and other ethnic/racial aspects of culture shared in the Western Hemisphere). Projects should involve either Brazil, or one more of the following countries. Argentina, Dominican Republic, Panama, Uruguay, Venezuela. Projects should include collaborative programming with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in these countries.

E/P contact for AR programs: Laverne Johnson, 202/619–5337; E-Mail {LJohnson@USIA.GOV}

Africa (AF): Preference will be given to proposals focusing on international trade and privatization issues—including Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), World Trade Organization (WTO), and regional arrangements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)—with the Southern African Development Community (SADC); rule of law, alternate dispute resolution, or judicial reform in one subregion; and civic education/civil society (especially the role of elections, or promotion of citizen participation, human rights, or values of tolerance, pragmatism, cooperation, and compromise). The Office is also interested in proposals for electronic connectivity, but USIA funds may not be used for purchase of equipment. These proposals should target organizations responsible for promoting either rule of law or trade and business development and must demonstrate commitment to use and capacity to maintain equipment. All proposals should include programming in at least three countries. Other themes may be proposed, but those listed above will receive preference.

E/P contact for AF programs: Stephen Taylor, 202/205–0535; E-Mail {STaylor@USIA.GOV}

North Africa, Near East and South Asia (NEA): Priority will be given to regional or single-country exchange projects that focus on conflict resolution, domestic or international; rule of law, focusing on legal system reform or the introduction of alternative dispute management into the adjudication process; the promotion of civil society/democratic government, which might include the enhancement of formal civic education, parliamentary or civil service development, or the development of greater competence/professionalism/responsibility among journalists; human rights, including the empowerment of women and/or the protection of children and ethnic minorities; education development, including curricular reform; teacher training; development of skills and professionalism among administrators; and natural resource (environmental) awareness and management, including water resource management, the establishment of formal and informal education projects focused on the environment, and increasing public awareness of the impact of environmental degradation on the quality of life.

E/P contact for NEA programs: Tom Johnston, 202/619–5325; E-Mail {TJohnston@USIA.GOV}

The Office of Citizen Exchanges strongly encourages the coordination of activities with respected universities, professional associations, and major cultural institutions in the U.S. and abroad, but particularly in the U.S. Projects should be intellectual and cultural, not technical. Vocational training (an occupation other than one requiring a baccalaureate or higher academic degree; i.e., clerical work, auto maintenance, etc., and other occupations requiring less than two years of higher education) and technical training (special and practical knowledge of a mechanical or a scientific subject which enhances mechanical, narrowly scientific, or semi-skilled capabilities) are ineligible for support. In addition, scholarship programs are ineligible for support. The Office does not support proposals limited to conferences or seminars (i.e., one to fourteen-day programs with plenary sessions, main speakers, panels, and a passive audience). It will support conferences only insofar as they are part of a larger project in duration and scope which is receiving USIA funding from this competition. USIA-supported projects may include internships; study tours; short-term, non-technical training; and extended, intensive workshops taking place in the United States or overseas. The themes addressed in exchange programs must be of long-term importance rather than focused exclusively on current events or short-term issues. In every case, a substantial rationale must be presented as part of the proposal, one that clearly indicates the distinctive and important contribution of the overall project, including, where applicable, the expected yield of any associated conference. No funding is available exclusively to send U.S. citizens to conferences or conference-type seminars overseas; nor is funding available for bringing foreign nationals to conferences or to routine professional association meetings in the United States. Projects that duplicate what is routinely carried out by private sector and/or public sector operations will not be considered. The Office of Citizen Exchanges strongly recommends that applicants consult with host country USIS posts *prior* to submitting proposals.

Selection of Participants

All grant proposals should clearly describe the type of persons who will participate in the program as well as the process by which participants will be selected. It is recommended that programs in support of U.S. internships include letters tentatively committing host institutions to support the internships. In the selection of foreign participants, USIA and USIS posts abroad retain the right to nominate all participants and to accept or deny participants recommended by grantee institutions. However, grantee

institutions are often asked by USIA to suggest names of potential participants. The grantee institution will also provide the names of American participants and brief (two pages) biographical data on each American participant to the Office of Citizen Exchanges for information purposes. Priority will be given to foreign participants who have not previously travelled to the United States.

Additional Guidance

The Office of Citizen Exchanges offers the following additional guidance to prospective applicants:

1. The Office of Citizen Exchanges encourages project proposals involving more than one country. Pertinent rationale which links countries in multi-country projects should be included in the submissions. Single-country projects that are clearly defined and possess the potential for creating and strengthening continuing linkages between foreign and U.S. institutions are also welcome.

2. Proposals for bilateral programs are subject to review and comment by the USIS post in the relevant country, and pre-selected participants will also be subject to USIS post review.

3. Bilateral programs should clearly identify the counterpart organization and provide evidence of the organization's participation.

4. The Office of Citizen Exchanges will consider proposals for activities which take place exclusively in other countries when USIS posts are consulted in the design of the proposed program and in the choice of the most suitable venues for such programs.

5. Office of Citizen Exchanges grants are not given to support projects whose focus is limited to technical or vocational subjects, or for research projects, for publications funding, for student and/or teacher/faculty exchanges, for sports and/or sports related programs. Nor does this office provide scholarships or support for long-term (a semester or more) academic studies. Competitions sponsored by other Bureau offices are also announced in the Federal Register.

For projects that would begin after December 31, 1997, competition details will be announced in the Federal Register on or about June 1, 1997. Inquiries concerning technical requirements are welcome prior to submission of applications.

Funding

Although no set funding limit exists, proposals for less than $135,000 will receive preference. Organizations with less than four years of successful experience in managing international exchange programs are limited to $60,000. Applicants are invited to provide both an all-inclusive budget as well as separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity in order to facilitate USIA decisions on funding. While an all-inclusive budget must be provided with each proposal, separate component budgets are optional. Competition for USIA funding support is keen.

The selection of grantee institutions will depend on program substance, cross-cultural sensitivity, and ability to carry out the program successfully. Since USIA grant assistance constitutes only a portion of total project funding, proposals should list and provide evidence of other anticipated sources of financial and in-kind support. Proposals with substantial private sector support from foundations, corporations, other institutions, et al. will be deemed highly competitive. The Recipient must provide a minimum of 33 percent cost sharing of the total project cost.

The following project costs are eligible for consideration for funding:

1. International and domestic air fares; visas; transit costs; ground transportation costs.

2. Per Diem: For the U.S. program, organizations have the option of using a flat $140/day for program participants or the published U.S. Federal per diem rates for individual American cities. For activities outside the U.S., the published Federal per diem rates must be used.

Note. U.S. escorting staff must use the published Federal per diem rates, not the flat rate.

3. Interpreters: If needed, interpreters for the U.S. program are provided by the U.S. State Department Language Services Division. Typically, a pair of simultaneous interpreters is provided for every four visitors who need interpretation. USIA grants do not pay for foreign interpreters to accompany delegations from their home country. Grant proposal budgets should contain a flat $140/day per diem for each Department of State interpreter, as well as home-program-home air transportation of $400 per interpreter plus any U.S. travel expenses during the program. Salary expenses are covered centrally and should not be part of an applicant's proposed budget.

4. Book and Cultural Allowance: Participants are entitled to and escorts are reimbursed a one-time cultural allowance of $150 per person, plus a participant book allowance of $50. U.S. staff do not get these benefits.

5. Consultants: May be used to provide specialized expertise or to make presentations. Daily honoraria generally do not exceed $250 per day. Subcontracting organizations may also be used, in which case the written agreement between the prospective grantee and subcontractor should be included in the proposal.

6. Room rental, which generally should not exceed $250 per day.

7. Materials Development: Proposals may contain costs to purchase, develop, and translate materials for participants.

8. One working meal per project. Per capita costs may not exceed $5–8 for a lunch and $14–20 for a dinner, excluding room rental. The number of invited guests may not exceed participants by more than a factor of two-to-one.

9. A return travel allowance of $70 for each participant which is to be used for incidental expenditures incurred during international travel.

10. All USIA-funded delegates will be covered under the terms of a USIA-sponsored health insurance policy. The premium is paid by USIA directly to the insurance company.

11. Other costs necessary for the effective administration of the program, including salaries for grant organization employees, benefits, and other direct and indirect costs per detailed instructions in the application package.

Note: The 20 percent limitation of ''administrative costs'' included in previous announcements does not apply to this RFP. Please refer to the Application Package for complete budget guidelines.

Review Process

USIA will acknowledge receipt of all proposals and will review them for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines established herein and in the Application Packet. Eligible proposals will be forwarded to panels of USIA officers for advisory review. All eligible proposals will also be reviewed by the program office, as well the USIA geographic regional office and the USIS post overseas, where appropriate. Proposals may also be reviewed by the USIA's Office of General Counsel or by other Agency elements. Funding decisions are at the discretion of the USIA Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) resides with USIA's grants officer.

Review Criteria

USIA will consider proposals based on their conformance with the objectives and considerations already stated in this RFP, as well as the following criteria:

1. Quality of Program Idea: Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to the Agency mission.

2. Program Planning: Detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive undertakings and logistical capacity. Agenda and plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above.

3. Ability to Achieve Program Objectives: Objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the program objectives and plan.

4. Multiplier Effect: Proposed programs should strengthen long-term mutual understanding, including maximum sharing of information and establishment of long-term institutional individual linkages.

5. Value to U.S.-Partner Country Relations: Proposed projects should receive positive assessments by USIA's geographic area desk and overseas officers of program need, potential impact, and significance in the partner country(ies).

6. Institutional Capacity: Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program's or project's goal.

7. Institution Reputation/Ability: Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Agency grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

8. Follow-on Activities: Proposals should provide a plan for continued follow-on activity (without USIA support) which ensures that USIA-supported programs are not isolated events.

9. Evaluation Plan: Proposals should provide a plan for a thorough and objective evaluation of the program/project by the grantee institution.

10. Cost-Effectiveness: The overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate.

11. Cost-Sharing: Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

12. Support of Diversity: Proposals should demonstrate the substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity. Achievable and relevant features should be cited in both program administration (selection of participants, program venue, and program evaluation) and program content (orientation and wrap-up sessions, program meetings, resource materials, and follow-up activities).

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by USIA that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the need of the program and the availability of funds.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been fully appropriated by the Congress, allocated, and committed through internal USIA procedures. Awarded grants will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: June 20, 1996.

Dell Pendergrast,

Deputy Associated Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 96–16325 Filed 6–26–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230–01–M