public interest groups, and major players such as public and private schools, government, religious institutions, public libraries, private organizations, and parents. A civic education linkage might also address political practices such as the balance of individual rights and group rights; reconciliation and compromise within the democratic process; the philosophy and practice of majority rule and minority rights.

Projects promoting civil society and civic education may combine one or more of the academic disciplines listed below in order to pursue an affiliation whose activities are those of the overall College and University Affiliations Program—namely teaching, lecturing, faculty development, curriculum development (e.g., for teacher training), collaborative research, and community outreach.

Eligible Academic Disciplines

(1) For Law Projects

Law (may include Constitutional, Comparative, Administrative, Regulatory, and Civil Law, Conflict Resolution, and Intellectual Property Rights)
Political Science/Government/Public Policy/Public Administration
Area Studies (in combination with one or more of the academic fields listed here)

(2) For Media Projects

Journalism (Broadcast, Print, Electronic)
Communications Law
Area Studies (in combination with one or more of the academic fields listed here)

(3) For Projects in Civic Education

Secondary-Level Curriculum Development and Teacher Training
Sociology
Government
History
Social Studies Education
Area Studies (in combination with one or more of the academic fields listed here)

Eligible Countries/Localities

Africa: Ethiopia, Ghana, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda;

American Republics: Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic (All projects for the preceding countries are limited to Civic Education and Law); Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.

Priority will be given to proposals that focus on civic education, ethics in government, grassroots democracy and citizen participation, women and leadership, the administration of justice, judicial reform, and alternative dispute resolution.

East Asia and Pacific: China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, South Korea (all projects for the preceding countries are limited to Civic Education and Law); Taiwan (Media projects only); Vietnam (Civic Education only);

East Europe, Central Europe, and the New Independent States: Armenia (Civic Education and Media projects only), Bosnia (Media projects only), Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Moldova (Law only), and Slovakia;

North Africa, Near East, and South Asia: The following are eligible for bilateral or trilateral affiliations: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Gaza, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank, Yemen;

Lebanon: USIA welcomes proposals for bilateral linkages in Lebanon which include the use of distance education and/or Internet to facilitate two-way communication since, at this writing, only one-way travel (from Lebanon to the United States) is currently advisable.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by an USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency 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 needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Dated: September 27, 1997.

John P. Loiello,

Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 97–26151 Filed 10–1–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230–01–M

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

College and University Affiliations Program (CUAP)

ACTION: Notice—requests for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Academic Programs of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award program. Accredited, post-secondary educational institutions meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may apply to develop a partnership with (a) foreign institution(s) of higher education in specified fields and themes within the humanities, social sciences, business, and environmental studies.

Subject to the availability of funding, awards will be made to support free trade and market economies, and/or the environment and sustainable development.

A second Request for Proposals in this issue of the **Federal Register** solicits proposals in support of democratic institution-building and/or civic education.

Grants are subject to the availability of funds for Fiscal Year 1998.

Proposed projects must be eligible in terms of country(ies)/localities and themes as described in the section entitled ''Eligibility'' below.

Participating institutions exchange faculty and administrators for a combination of teaching, lecturing, faculty and curriculum development, collaborative research, and outreach, for periods ranging from one week (for planning visits) to an academic year. The FY 98 program will also support the establishment and maintenance of Internet and/or e-mail communication facilities as well as interactive distance learning programs at foreign partner institutions. Applicants may propose other project activities not listed above that are in keeping with the goals and activities of the College and University Affiliations Program.

The program awards up to $120,000 for a three-year period to defray the cost of travel and per diem with an allowance for educational materials and some aspects of project administration. Grants awarded to organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to $60,000.

Overall grant-making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Education and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87–256, as amended, 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.'' The funding authority for the program cited above is provided through the *Fulbright-Hays Act.*

Projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. The POGI, a document describing College and University Affiliation Project Objectives, Goals, and Implementation, is included in the Solicitation Package.

Announcement Title and Number: All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the College and University Affiliations Program and reference number E/ASU–98–03.

Deadline for Proposals: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on Friday January, 16, 1998. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked on January 16, 1998, but received on a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure compliance with the deadline.

Approximate program dates: Grants should begin on or about September 1, 1998.

Duration: September 1, 1998–August 31, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Office of Academic Programs; Advising, Teaching, and Specialized Programs Division; College and University Affiliations Program (CUAP), (E/ASU), Room 349, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, phone: (202) 619–5289, fax: (202) 401–1433. Send a message via Internet to: affiliat@usia.gov to request a Solicitation Package. The Solicitation Package includes more detailed award criteria; all application forms; and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget.

To Download a Solicitation Package via Internet: The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at http://www.usia.gov/education/rfps. Please read all information before downloading.

To Receive a Solicitation Package via Fax on Demand: The entire Solicitation Package may be received via the Bureau's ''Grants Information Fax on Demand System,'' which is accessed by calling 202/402–7616. Please request a ''Catalog'' of available documents and order numbers when first entering the system.

Please specify ''College and University Affiliations Program Officer'' on all inquiries and correspondence. Prospective applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before addressing inquiries to the College and University Affiliations Program staff or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, Agency staff may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

Submissions: Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and 10 copies of the complete application, including the documents specified under Tabs A through I in the ''Project Objectives, Goals, and Implementation'' (POGI) section of the Solicitation Package, should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref: E/ASU–98–03, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th St., SW., Washington, DC 20547.

Applicants must also submit the ''Executive Summary'' and ''Proposal Narrative'' and budget sections of the 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 U.S. Information Service (USIS) posts overseas for their review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to get posts' comments for the Agency's grant review process.

Diversity, Freedom and Democracy Guidelines

Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, projects 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, race, 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. Public Law 104–319 provides that ''in carrying out programs of educational and cultural exchange in countries whose people do not fully enjoy freedom and democracy,'' USIA ''shall take appropriate steps to provide opportunities for participation in such programs to human rights and democracy leaders of such countries.'' Proposals should account for advancement of this goal, in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

Eligibility

U.S. Partner and Participant Eligibility

In the U.S., participation in the program is open to accredited two- and four-year colleges and universities, including graduate schools. Applications from consortia of U.S. colleges and universities are eligible. Secondary U.S. partners may include relevant non-governmental organizations, non-profit service or professional organizations. The lead U.S. institution in the consortium is responsible for submitting the application and each application from a consortium must document the lead school's stated authority to represent the consortium. Participants representing the U.S. institution who are traveling under USIA grant funds must be faculty, graduate teaching assistants, or staff from the participating institution(s) and must be U.S. citizens. Please note that graduate teaching assistants are eligible for USIA-funded participation only if working as part of a team directed by a faculty member.

Foreign Partner and Participant Eligibility

Overseas, participation is open to recognized, degree-granting institutions of post-secondary education, which may include internationally recognized and established independent research institutes. Secondary foreign partners may include relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations, non-profit service or professional organizations. Participants representing the foreign institutions must be faculty, graduate teaching assistants, or staff who are citizens nationals, or permanent residents of the country of the foreign partner and be qualified to hold a valid passport and U.S. J–1 visa. Please note that graduate teaching assistants are eligible for USIA-funded participation only if working as part of a team directed by a faculty member.

Ineligibility

A proposal will be deemed technically ineligible if:

(1) It does not fully adhere to the guidelines established herein and in the solicitation Package;

(2) It is not received by the deadline;

(3) The length of the proposed project is less than three years;

(4) It is not submitted by the U.S. partner;

(5) One of the partner institutions is ineligible;

(6) The foreign geographic location is ineligible;

(7) It involves a request to fund exchanges between the United States and more than one country, with the exception of trilateral Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and trilateral North Africa, Near East, and South Asia (NEA) projects. Please see the section on eligible countries/localities for complete details;

(8) The theme or academic discipline is not listed as eligible in the RFP, herein;

(9) The amount requested of USIA exceeds $120,000 for the three-year project.

Eligible Theme, Academic Disciplines, and Countries/Localities

This request for proposals is limited to support for free trade and market economies and/or environment and sustainable development.

Please note the following explanatory details:

A. Eligible Academic Disciplines and Countries/Localities

Eligible academic disciplines and countries and localities are listed under each theme. Only those countries or localities and partnership configurations identified under each theme qualify. Specifics should be examined carefully before proposal preparation.

B. Inclusion of Area Studies

Area Studies are included as academic disciplines to engender a broader cultural understanding and context in which to pursue a linkage project within the stated theme. Area Studies may be incorporated into a given project but only in conjunction with one or more of the other academic disciplines listed under the theme. Area Studies includes U.S. and partner country history, literature, and social sciences.

C. Bilateral Projects—Except for NEA and APEC Trilateral Linkages

In most instances, the program invites proposals for bilateral projects only, involving the U.S. and one foreign country (as specified) only. The only exceptions are North Africa, Near East, and South Asia (NEA) and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation member nation trilateral linkages.

Eligible Theme

Support of free trade and market economies and/or the environment and sustainable development.

Under this theme, projects are solicited which promote higher education's role in economic development and the development of market economies, trade, investment overseas, through faculty and curriculum development, teaching and lecturing, and outreach. Projects which also focus on the environment should address the public policy aspects of sustainable development.

Affiliation projects in trade and economics are expected to establish or expand mutually beneficial academic programs in business and economics, and to promote international investment by strengthening institutional links to the private sector. Where possible, such affiliations should contribute to the formulation of more open and responsible trade policy. Where appropriate and relevant, plans and anticipated outcomes of these affiliation projects should reflect responsible stewardship of the environment. Business/economics/trade projects with the potential for having an adverse impact on the environment will have a low priority.

Environment/sustainable development projects should address environmental issues having an impact on U.S. and global interests. Such affiliation projects should help establish or expand environmental policy studies programs through faculty and curriculum development, teaching and lecturing, and outreach. For the designated countries listed below, projects are encouraged which link the study of free trade and market economies with the environment and sustainable development.

Whenever feasible, participants involved in either trade/economics policy projects or international environmental policy studies projects should make their training and personnel resources, as well as results of their collaborative research, available to government, NGOs, and business.

Eligible Academic Disciplines

Economics (Comparative and International)

Business/Business Administration/Business Management

International Marketing/International Trade

Commercial Law (including Comparative Law, International Treaties, Intellectual Property Rights)

Environmental Law and Regulation

Environmental Policy and Resource Management

Environmental Sciences/Natural Resource Sciences

Area Studies (in combination with one or more of the academic fields above)

Eligible Countries/Localities

Africa: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia;

American Republics: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay. Priority will be given to proposals that focus on economic development and free trade;

East Asia and Pacific: The following Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) member economies are eligible within a trilateral, NOT bilateral, affiliation between the U.S. and two APEC member economies: Australia, Canada (see the section on ''Western Europe'' below), China, Chile, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand;

In addition, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam; are eligible for bilateral projects only in the Environment and Sustainable Development category;

East Europe, Central Europe, and the Commonwealth of Independent States: Moldova (projects focusing on Free Trade and Market Economies only);

North Africa, Near East, and South Asia (NEA): The following are eligible for a bilateral or trilateral affiliation: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Gaza, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, SRI Lanka, Syria (Environment and Sustainable Development only), Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank, Yemen;

Lebanon: USIA welcomes proposals for bilateral linkages in Lebanon which include the use of distance education and Internet to facilitate two-way communication since, at this writing, only one-way travel (from Lebanon to the United States) is advisable.

Western Europe: Canada, eligible only in an APEC trilateral partnership. Proposals involving Canada and East Asian APEC nations are encouraged in recognition of the array of trade interests and environment/sustainable development issues that Canada and the United States share with Asian nations.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency 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 needs of the program and the

availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Dated: September 19, 1977.

John P. Loiello,

Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 97–26152 Filed 10–1–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230–01–M

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

International Visitor Program

ACTION: Notice—Request for Proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of International Visitors (E/V) of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces a competition for an assistance award. Public and Private nonprofit organizations *not* currently receiving Office of International Visitors assistance awards and meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may apply to develop programming for projects of one to twenty-five International Visitors nominated by U.S. Embassies abroad.

The intent of this announcement is to attract new organizations to the International Visitor (IV) programming process. USIA is seeking new organizations to provide diversity and an infusion of program experience to the IV program. The winning applicant will function as a national programming agency and will work closely with USIA staff members who will guide and mentor the applicant through procedural, budgetary or programmatic issues as they arise in a variety of International Visitor projects. This experience is expected to build the selected organization's capacity to compete for a continuing grant in IV project administration.

USIA is seeking a qualified applicant to develop over the course of fiscal year 1998 (October 1, 1997–September 30, 1998) the following series of projects: 25 Individual Visitor projects, 6 Single Country Projects (SCPs), 2 Regional Projects (RPs) and 1 Multi-Regional Project (MRP).

The objective of the International Visitor Program is to increase mutual understanding through communication and collaboration with professional counterparts in the U.S. Participants are current or potential foreign leaders in government, politics, media, education, science, labor relations, and other key fields. They are selected by American embassies abroad and approved by USIA in Washington, DC. Since the program's earliest inception in 1941, more than 120,000 distinguished visitors have participated in the program, and over 155 program alumni have subsequently become heads of state or government in their home countries.

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87–256, as amended, 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 Solicitation Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

Announcement Title and Number

All communications with USIA concerning this RFP should refer to the announcement's title and reference number *E/V–98–01*.

To Download a Solicitation Package Via Internet

The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at http://www.usia.gov/education/rfps. Please read all information before downloading.

To Receive a Solicitation Package Via Fax on Demand

The entire Solicitation Package may be received via the Bureau's ''Grants Information Fax on Demand System'', which is accessed by calling (202) 401–7616. Please request a ''Catalog'' of available documents and order numbers when first entering the system. Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals.

Bidders Conference

USIA will host a Bidder's Conference for this assistance award on November 5, 1997 at a USIA location in Washington, DC. Substantive questions about this RFP will be addressed at the conference. Interested applicants are asked to submit questions by mail, fax, or e-mail to the E/VC address given above. Questions must be received by COB Friday, October 31, 1997. Details of the Bidders Conference will be sent to responding applicants at a later date.

Submissions

Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and *10* copies of the application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: *E/V–98–01*, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

Applicants must also submit the proposal on a 3.5″ diskette, formatted for WordPerfect.

Deadline for Proposals

All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on *Monday, December 1, 1997.* Faxed or e-mailed documents will not be accepted at any time.

Documents postmarked by the due date but received at a later date will not be accepted.

Grants should begin *by mid-January 1998.*

To Request a Solicitation Package, Contact

The Office of International Visitors, Community relations Division, E/VC, Room 266, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, Tel: (202) 619–5234, 1–800–827–0804; Fax: (202) 619–4655, E-Mail address: rfp@usia.gov (available October 14, 1997).

Please request required application forms, and standard guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget.

Diversity, Freedom and Democracy Guidelines

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, race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical