



SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GROUP VISITS AREA

Upcoming Visitors and Topics of Study

United Kingdom (1);
United States Elections
Feb 6 – 10

Africa Regional Group
(12); Justice
Feb 7 – 12

Germany (4);
United States Elections
Feb 9 – 13

Czech Republic (6);
Transparency in Gov't
Feb 10 – 13

Japan (1); Weather
Feb 11 – 14

Africa Regional Group (7);
Accountability and Gov't
Feb 13 – 17

Serbia (3);
Local and State Gov't
Feb 17 – 20

Algeria (5); Health
Feb 17 – 20

Serbia (1); Art and Culture
Feb 21 – 26

Australia (1);
Trade Unions
Feb 24 – 27

Spain (4); Terrorism
Feb 27 – March 2

Iraq (9);
City Administration
March 5 – 9

In January, 18 International Visitor Leadership Program participants arrived in the city to meet with representatives from the Small Business Administration, the Good Work Network, the

Magazine St. Merchants' Association, Idea Village, and the Levy-Rosenblum Institute for Entrepreneurship. Although their time here was brief, their appointments inspired discussion & thought.



(above & left) The group interacts with Phyllis Cassidy of Good Work Network, a non-profit aiding the disadvantaged.

CALLING ALL CITIZEN DIPLOMATS

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES

It's that time of the year when we have to ask everyone to renew their commitment to citizen diplomacy. We thank all of you who sent in membership forms last month and would like to ask those of you who haven't had the time to do so to make it a

priority. Membership levels & their benefits are listed on pages 5 & 6 of this newsletter. Please send in your forms so that you can be included on our membership list.

As you know, citizen diplomats aid in changing the perceptions held around the world about the U.S. and its citizens, a task of the utmost importance. Visitors also give back to our community through classroom visits, speeches, and volunteer work. **In 2007 alone, approximately 120 of our visitors volun-**

teered with various rebuilding organizations. Also not to be overlooked is the significance of their post-Katrina visits in keeping the world informed about current conditions.

While we work with the U.S. Department of State and the Library of Congress, we are not a government entity. We must raise a significant portion of our budget through private sources.

Please consider becoming a citizen diplomat for your country as well as for your state.

“NCIV
[National
Council for
International
Visitors]
volunteers
represent
the
American
commitment
to work
towards a
lasting
peace”

- *President
Ronald W.
Reagan*

APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE!

Typical of the comments we receive are those from a recent IVLP Grassroots Democracy group of 14 who left no doubt of the positive impact of citizen diplomacy:

On **Anthony Radosti** and the **Metropolitan Crime Commission**: “I am excited that there’s an organization which is not purpose on profit at all. They want to help people in getting secure in life. They work for people without thinking about reward. That’s so impressive. It’s something new in my life because I never see a similar organization like this in...[Indonesia].”

On **Wes Gautreaux** and **Blueprint Louisiana**: As a politician, probably I can follow the way they do be-

cause there’s very rare of people who wanna ask to others...only for helping another one, and not for himself at all. I’ve been motivated by hearing Mr. Gautreaux’s experiences in doing his job.”

A Lebanese Commissioner of Elections on a visit to the polls with **John Exnicios** and **Betsy Williams**: “I learned a great deal about the way election goes in this state and hoping to try to advocate t h i s m e a n a n d transparency of election in my country.”

On taking a tour of New Orleans with **Wali Armstead** of **FEMA**: “Mr. Armstead gave us a general idea about FEMA and also showed how an individual volunteer may be a great assistant for the ones in need.”

And from a delegate from Lesotho: “It taught me that Katrina was about people not statistics.”

On **Vicki Weeks** and **Belle Reve**: “That’s very impressive experience for me. In my country [of Indonesia] people don’t care of persons who live with AIDS because the afraid that they will be addicted by HIV also. I was being motivated to do as much as I can.”

On **Tulane College Republicans**: “Youth spirits to build better system and to make people realize and aware to politic, especially election. They make good training for themselves.... I can motivate the youth members of my party to do like them bravely.”

January 2008 Figures

Total Visitors – 31

Total Room Nights – 146

Countries Represented

Albania, Algeria, Bahrain, Botswana, Bulgaria, Djibouti, Egypt, Haiti, India, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, West Bank

New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council

1215 Prytania Street, Suite 203

New Orleans, LA 70130

Tel: 504 / 529 - 1509

Mary Dennis, Director

Jeanne Foster, Program Coordinator

Rosemarie Fowler, Senior Program Officer

Jena Melançon, Program Consultant

Elissa Weingart, Program Officer

Citizen Diplomacy: Another Bridge Built

Last year, member and then-president Elizabeth Williams met with several IVLPs to discuss non-profit management. Ms. Williams, currently the NOCDC Board Immediate Past President, also serves as President and Director of the Southern Food & Beverage Museum.

During one of her IVLP meetings, a Japanese delegate mentioned a desire to combat drifting hopelessness among the youth in her country and the need to preserve traditional culture and values. As fortune would

have it, Ms. Williams also volunteers with Echoing Green, an organization based in New York which uses venture capital investment strategies to support sustainable social change. During its twenty year history, it has invested \$25 million with almost 450 entrepreneurs, or fellows, in forty different countries. In 2007, Echoing Green gave grants to twenty fellows, two of whom are currently working in New Orleans.

After hearing about the Japanese visitor's own NGO, Ms. Williams real-

ized that the delegate's work might be a good fit for an Echoing Green fellowship. She introduced the visitor to the group and our former IVLP participant is currently in the application process with that organization. We are pleased to see another example of citizen diplomacy in action and wish the best of luck to her in this endeavor.

To learn more about Echoing Green and the work it is helping to support in our community and around the world, visit their website at:

www.echoinggreen.org.

“Peace & friendship with all mankind is our wisest policy, and I wish we may be permitted to pursue it.”

- Thomas Jefferson

Much Obligated!

We try to avoid it, but sometimes we ask the same people to meet with multiple delegations within a short time. Although it puts us in an awkward position, occasionally we receive requests for specific resources or are asked to replicate past projects. In essence, we are victims of our own success as the quality of our programming is known in Washington, D.C.

It is therefore with heartfelt sincerity that we ex-

press our gratitude to WDSU-TV for saying “yes” each time we called this winter to find out if they could, in relatively quick succession, meet with three separate groups. Thank you for your flexibility & generosity.

Thank you also to our other popular resources who time and time again devote part of their workday towards citizen diplomacy. Programming in New Orleans would be impossible without you.

Please visit us at:

www.nocdc.com

**Thank You to Our
Corporate Sponsors**

**Redmellon
Southern Food Museum**

Professional Resources – Thank you to our professional resources & to their colleagues for meeting with our visitors

Federal Bureau of Investigation — **Jim Bernazzani, Sheila Thorne, Mark Gant, Amy Ford**

Good Work Network — **Phyllis Cassidy, Adele London**

Idea Village — **Emily Mitchell, Tim Williamson**

Joel Meyers — Member

KIPP McDonogh 15 School — **Heidi Campbell**

Louisiana State Police Crime Laboratory — **Howard Pentes**

Loyola University — **Dr. Ed Renwick**

Magazine St. Merchants Association — **Diane Lundeen**

New Orleans City Council — **Arnie Fielkow**

NOPD — **Anna Dugar, Captain Tami Brisset**

Registrar of Voters — **Sandra Wilson, Jacob Johnson**

Sidney Arroyo — Political Consultant

Small Business Association — **Eugene Cornelius**

St. Tammany Parish Public Schools — **Cheryl Arabie, Linda Roan, Regina Sanford**

Times Picayune — **Sarah Carr, Darran Simon**

Tulane University — **Dr. John Elstrott**

Home Hospitality – Thank you to everyone who welcomed visitors with home hospitality and sight seeing.

Rosemarie Fowler hosted a group of visitors from the Near East at a reception in her home.

WANTED: YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CITY & NOCDC



If you have digital photos of NOCDC events or of happenings around the city, please consider sharing them with us. We would like to populate our website & marketing materials with pictures so that potential visitors around the world can catch a glimpse of what the city has to offer. Please send photographs to jena1@bellsouth.net.



Photos courtesy Jason Hall

2008 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Individual, Couple, and Family Levels

\$35 - 74 ATTACHÉ

\$75 - 124 COUNSELOR

\$125 - 249 MINISTER

\$250 and above AMBASSADOR

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Thank you for supporting the New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council

Make check payable to:

New Orleans Diplomacy Council, 1215 Prytania St., Suite 203, New Orleans, LA 70130

As a 501 (c) (3) organization, donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please complete the renewal form and enclose it with your donation.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

All levels (*Attaché, Counselor, Minister & Ambassador*)

- Professional & home hosting opportunities
- Monthly email newsletter & invitation to NOCDC member events
- Hotel discounts based on availability with the *Drury Inn & Suites*, *Omni Royal Orleans*, and *Hotel Monteleone*. All reservations must be made through the NOCDC office. Hotels are subject to change.
- Discounted public events & email notification regarding other international events

COUNSELOR (*same benefits as Attaché plus:*)

- Discounted non-credit tuition for the UNO Critical Languages Program (i.e. Russian, Arabic, Vietnamese: <http://clp.uno.edu> call Mary Hicks at 504/280-6388 for more information)

MINISTER (*Same benefits as Attaché and Counselor combined, plus:*)

- NOCDC research of visitor alumni you may contact when traveling abroad

AMBASSADOR (*Same benefits as Attaché, Counselor, and Minister combined plus:*)

- Your choice of official NOCDC lapel pin or NOCDC logo shirt

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP FORM

CORPORATE SUPPORTER: \$250 - 499

- Logo on our website
- 2 individual memberships at the Minister Level

CORPORATE SPONSOR: \$500 - 999

- Logo on our website
- 4 individual memberships at the Minister Level
- Research of visitor alumni for contact when traveling abroad

AMBASSADOR CIRCLE: \$1,000 and above

- Logo on our website
- 8 individual memberships at the Minister Level
- Research of visitor alumni for contact when traveling abroad

Company Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

Website:

List representatives to be NOCDC members below:

Name:

Title:

Name:

Title:

Name:

Title:

Name:

Title:

Name:

Title:

Name:

Title:

Name:

Title:

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