



## IIE West Coast Center Winter Newsletter 2007

### YES, I WANT TO INVEST IN IIE WEST COAST CENTER

#### 2007 Facts

**Only 1% of American college students study abroad.**

This year, over 220,000 American undergraduates studied abroad, an increase of 8% over the previous year. While this is positive growth, it still means that only 1% of American college students have the opportunity to study in another country. **With your support, IIE West Coast Center is working hard to increase the number and diversity of American students who go abroad. We are also working hard to encourage study in regions of growing importance to the U.S., such as the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Latin America.**

**International students contributed \$14.5 billion to the U.S. economy this year.**

IIE plays an important role not only in enabling more Americans to study abroad, but also in encouraging international students to study in the United States. This is good for mutual understanding and for the world. It is also good for our national and local economies. You may be surprised to learn that international education is America's fifth-largest service export. More than 580,000 international students studied at U.S.

colleges and universities this year. And these numbers are rising. In California alone, international students contributed over 2 billion dollars to the local economy in 2006. **With your support, IIE West Coast Center is expanding membership, conference, and research services to help U.S. colleges and universities open America's doors even wider to international talent. This advances mutual understanding while also strengthening our nation's economy.**

## IIE West Coast Center - 2007 - Results

### **Fulbright Program:**

- Record 450 foreign Fulbright students from more than 100 countries in more than 50 schools for whom IIE WCC is responsible are studying on the West Coast.
- IIE West Coast Center is hosting 11 selection committees (each of which consist of three academics and one staff member) who will nominate U.S students for a Fulbright grant to study or do research in 150 countries.
- IIE West Coast Center staff has arranged more than a dozen cultural events for 250+ foreign Fulbright students studying in the greater Bay Area including SF Opera, Oakland Museum of California and a tour

of the Mission district murals.

### **Women in Technology (WIT):**

- WIT is funded by the Middle East Partnership Initiative of the U.S. Department of State and implemented by IIE WCC in collaboration with local partners in nine countries: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
- IIE West Coast Center provides capacity building to 58 local women's organizations in the Middle East. Women In Technology empowers local Partner Organizations, and the women they serve, with cutting-edge training in Business Planning, Professional Development and Information Technology
- WIT is creating a strong base of women with vital IT and Professional Development skills. The women gain access to new careers and training opportunities and begin to play an integral role in shaping their country's future. More than 1,500 women in the Middle East have been trained through WIT to date. That number will climb to more than 5,000 in the coming year.

### **Susan G. Komen for the Cure Global Initiative for Breast Cancer Awareness:**

- Launched in June, the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Global Initiative for Breast Cancer Awareness marries Komen for the Cure's expertise and leadership with IIE's experience in international education and training. IIE West Coast Center will help make the Komen outreach culturally sensitive in each country. With more than 30 local partner organizations across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East, IIE will help take the fight against breast cancer to a new level. Currently

our focus countries are: Ghana, India, Romania, Ukraine, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. An estimated 25 million women around the world will be diagnosed with breast cancer over the next 25 years. Up to 10 million women could die without a cure.

### **Leadership Development for Mobilizing Reproductive Health (LDM):**

- The LDM program, now in its eighth year, has identified and provided long term support to over 1200 reproductive health leaders in 5 focus countries: Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan and the Philippines.
- During the current phase, networks of Fellows in all five countries are participating in study tours to learn about best practices in other contexts, advocating for policy changes in reproductive health, and leveraging funds from many sources to improve maternal health outcomes for vulnerable populations.
- In 2007 LDM has administered over 30 mini-grants to enhance family planning service delivery and policy advocacy. A powerful example: in Katsina State, Nigeria a revolving micro-credit system has been established to support emergency obstetric support with the aim to decrease maternal mortality in the region by 50%.

### **International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP):**

- In 2007 IIE West Coast Center provided professional programming for more than 800 international delegates in various fields including journalism, business, politics, health and the arts. Our office ranked within the top three for number of programs among the 92 members of the National Council of International Visitors.

- Well over 35 volunteers generously helped the IIE staff to organize professional programs, home hospitality and classroom visits. During the year more than 500 school children in San Francisco public schools had the opportunity to interact with emerging international leaders from about 20 countries.
- More than 120 Bay Area families opened their home and hosted the foreign visitors forging new friendships across borders.

### **Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund (JFMF) Teacher Program:**

- In 2007 IIE West Coast staff organized program outreach in the West Coast states, facilitated six selection committees and coordinated spring and fall orientation meetings for 400 teachers. More than 6,800 American teachers and administrators have traveled to Japan for professional and cultural training through JFMF in the past 11 years.

### **Visit the World without leaving San Francisco - Visit the IIE West Coast Center**

For any visitor who comes to IIE West Coast Center, the energy, commitment and passion are palpable. The desire to make a difference gives a sense of unity to people who otherwise could not be more different. There are more than 40 staff persons, interns and steady volunteers from many different countries including the USA, Japan, Italy, Brazil, Germany, Egypt and at least 15 languages are spoken among them. Let's meet Sherif Hamdy who has joined IIE West Coast Center six months ago:

## **Sherif Hamdy**

Senior Program Associate, WIT/Komen Program

Hometown: Essen, Germany. Egyptian father and Korean mother

Academic Background: Undergraduate degree in Communication and graduate degree in International Relations, both from University of Indianapolis

Previous Work Experience: The Stanley Foundation, promoting multilateralism in international affairs

**An adjective you wish described you:** Intelligent **Recent Reads?** Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep (Phillip K. Dick), Taxi (Khaled el-Khamissi), Orientalism (Edward Said) **What's at the top of your playlist?** Tinawiren (Aman Iman: Water Is Life), Linda Thompson (fashionably late), John Coltrane (Ole), various podcasts **The most recent cause you volunteered for?** Susan G. Komen for The Cure who do amazing work on breast cancer. I participated in their fundraising run in San Francisco. **Web site you visit most often:** My Google Reader page **The one world problem you'd most like to see solved:** Global poverty **What are you passionate about?** International relations - especially the Middle East, travel, music and soccer. **When did you figure out what you wanted to do with your life?** While doing my graduate coursework in International Relations **Why IIE?** I absolutely believe that cultural exchange and public diplomacy are indispensable especially in our times. Working in an organization that has an amazingly diverse and talented staff, with a truly global reach is certainly a bonus.

**Please join with Sherif and the IIE West Coast Staff in bringing the Bay Area to the World and the World to the Bay Area. Thank you for supporting our work.**

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