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INTERNATIONAL LEADERS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM (ILEP)

EDUCATION | INDEPENDENT MEDIA | CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT



KEY ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES

- To enhance teachers' expertise in their teaching discipline and equip them with a deeper understanding of best practices in teaching methodologies, lesson planning, and the use of technology in teaching
- To create among educators a more nuanced understanding of the United States
- To develop productive and lasting relationships and mutual understanding between the United States and international teachers and their students
- To contribute to improving teaching in participating countries by preparing participants to serve as teacher leaders



IREX SCHOOL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS

IREX has been working to improve the quality of primary and secondary education around the world for over 10 years. IREX has also been managing international academic, research, and professional exchange programs since 1968.

To date, IREX's primary school development programs have reached nearly 50,000 students in more than 500 urban and rural schools. Since 1998, IREX programs have trained 7,000 teachers, school administrators, and pre-service education faculty, developed numerous teacher curriculum and methodological manuals, and established a Teacher Trainer Corps.

ILEP PROJECT HISTORY

Initiated in 2005, the International Leaders in Education Program (ILEP) brings outstanding secondary teachers from the Near East, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa, and Latin America to the United States to further develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge about the United States. ILEP is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the US Department of State.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- **Teacher Training:** ILEP participants attend a semester-long, graduate-level academic program at US universities, which includes coursework and intensive training in teaching methodologies, curriculum development, and the use of technology for education. The program includes an eight-week internship at a US secondary school to actively immerse participants into the American classroom environment. The program builds teacher leadership skills and provides experience that can be shaped for their home teaching environments.
- **US Teacher Reciprocal Visits:** 20 US secondary school teachers will have the opportunity to participate in a two-week reciprocal visit to an ILEP fellow's home country. Any teacher from host US secondary schools, past or present, is eligible to apply for this opportunity.
- **Small Grants for Professional Development and Education:** In addition to the US-based training component of ILEP, the program provides small grants to build partnerships among international and American participants. The creation of professional networks for educators sustains the impact of the program while promoting international understanding and collaboration.



IREX is an international nonprofit organization providing leadership and innovative programs to improve the quality of education, strengthen independent media, and foster pluralistic civil society development.

Founded in 1968, IREX has an annual portfolio of over \$60 million and a staff of 500 professionals worldwide. IREX and its partner IREX Europe deliver cross-cutting programs and consulting expertise in more than 50 countries.



**US Department of State
Bureau of Educational and
Cultural Affairs (ECA)**

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) fosters mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through international educational and training programs. ECA does so by promoting personal, professional, and institutional ties between private citizens and organizations in the United States and abroad, as well as by presenting U.S. history, society, art and culture in all of its diversity to overseas audiences.



International Educators Program Contributes to United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

While diverse in culture, language, and religion, the Near East, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa, and Latin America share many similar problems including poverty, unemployment, outdated teaching methodologies and low levels of democratic stability. The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) include objectives for improved education, gender equality, and women's empowerment. The MDGs emphasize the essential role of education in building democratic societies and creating a foundation for sustained economic growth.

Professional training and development is a key mechanism for teachers to stay informed and educated about changes and advancements in their disciplines. Through academic study, experiential learning, and professional networks, educators learn new ways to present content and assimilate innovative methods for teaching students from diverse social backgrounds.

Such opportunities continue to be limited for educators in the Near East, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The opportunity for these skilled teachers, who often teach under difficult conditions, to develop their teaching skills and share their experiences with American colleagues prepares them to be educational leaders in their home countries, where they can directly contribute to the economic and social development of their communities.

Participating Countries: *Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, Venezuela*