

NEWSLETTER ... 2008

# Oklahoma City International Visitors Council

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Website: [www.ivcokc.org](http://www.ivcokc.org)



## NEXT IVC MEETING THURSDAY, June 5, 2008

11:00 – 12:30  
Ann Lacy Bldg.  
Oklahoma City University  
Corner of N.W. 24 & Blackwelder  
2501 N. Blackwelder

Call 341-3169 for information

Dear IVC Members:

It is most unusual for the IVC to have two programs in a row that feature the same country. In May we had a wonderful update on Ruanda by Larry Edwards. I am sorry for those of you who missed it.

Our June 5 IVC program will also have a connection with Ruanda but from a very different perspective. I think our June 5 program will be one of the most delightful human interest type programs ever. Our program will be brought to us by three couples who are truly making a difference in our world. These three couples are all good friends and active in the same Church. Each couple has adopted small children from Ruanda. These couples are going to share with us the struggles involved in an international adoption such as theirs. They will also share the joys and the concerns they have had since getting their little sons and daughters to Oklahoma.

I do hope each of you will encourage some of our less than regular attendees to be present for our June IVC meeting. You will be glad you came. We will be meeting people who make us proud to be Oklahomans.

***Looking forward to seeing each of you  
on June 5.***

Ron Paddack

*"The majority is made up of those who complain about their government officials after they've let the minority elect them."*

## State Department Visitors Expected in June

***May 29 – June 4***

Lecturer - International Law Department  
University Hassanudin , Indonesia

The goals of the project, as determined by the U.S. Department of State, are to:

- Promote the understanding of freedom of information, privacy protection, free press, and first amendment rights in a democracy;
- Examine the legal process as it pertains to protecting the rights of journalists;
- Establish an understanding of the role of watchdog and NGO organizations in regulating journalistic ethics, best practices, and public accountability;
- Learn about education and training of journalists pertaining to legal issues; and
- Introduce the topic of transitional justice as it affects rule of law in the United States.

***\*\*\* Home Hospitality requested\*\*\****

***June 7 – 11***

**ANTI-TERRORISM STRATEGIES IN THE  
UNITED STATES**

A Project for Poland

***\*\*\* Home Hospitality requested\*\*\****

**June 22-24**

## **Youth Ambassadors from Indonesia**

In recognition of the growing importance of ASEAN, the Indonesian Department of Foreign Affairs (DEPLU) competitively selected a group of university-age students to promote ASEAN awareness and Indonesian culture to the rest of the world. Over 450 candidates applied for the chance to serve a yearlong term. DEPLU chose the 20 finalists based on their academic achievements and leadership. In July 2007, the selection process culminated in a televised competition, with the finalists answering complex political and economic questions, in English, posed by Indonesian President Yudhoyono's spokesperson. Recognizing the caliber of the 20 finalists, and their role as Indonesia's future leaders, the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta selected 13 of them to participate in a special three-week visit to the United States under the International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP). The attached information provides further details about the ASEAN Youth Ambassador Program, the delegation's upcoming IVLP project, and the youth ambassadors themselves.

## **Sister Cities International**

**Dateline: Oklahoma City**

### **"Sister Cities Intl OKC's Language Exchange Program**

begins again this year with a Senior from OCU studying Spanish in Puebla, Mexico. As part of an exchange program between several of our sister cities and a wonderful partnership with the ELS Language Center at Oklahoma City University at least 2 teachers from two of our cities, Puebla, Mexico and Ulyanovsk, Russia will begin English immersion on June 30 at the ELS. Both of these teachers will be placed in Oklahoma homes as part of the exchange so they can live as we do and increase their English proficiency. Additionally we will support their home stay family by taking them out on weekend outings and will make business appointments for them at their requests. A first for the program this year is the exchange of an Oklahoma Student/teacher attending a Spanish immersion school in Puebla. Rachel Jackson is currently in Puebla studying Spanish, but not just studying it, she too is deeply immersed in it. She's living with a Mexican family where no English is spoken and everything she does requires her to speak Span-

ish. Her class started May 19 and she has already written to say she is in love with Puebla and its people. Our goal is to increase the exchange each year by adding an additional city for our teachers or students to experience.

Additionally we are in the planning stages of taking a **Sister Cities/Business delegation to visit Ulyanovsk, Russia** in early October 2008. Mayor Cornett has agreed to lead this delegation to Ulyanovsk where we will sign the Official Sister Cities Agreement. Olga Tarasov, Russian American Business Magazine Editor is the Chairman of the Ulyanovsk Sister Cities committee and she, along with her committee, has begun making arrangements for this trip. If interested in attending please contact Melissa Graffigna @ 243-6275 or [melissa.m.graffigna@faa.gov](mailto:melissa.m.graffigna@faa.gov). More detailed information will be available soon.

Lastly, SCI OKC is planning its first annual **"Global Vision Awards"** ceremony honoring an outstanding individual from our community. This is a program that Tulsa Global Alliance has done for many years and we decided that we should be doing the same thing for our community too. And since mimicking is the best form of flattery I feel quite certain that TGA won't mind us using their idea --- The award will recognize and honor an individual that has made significant contributions to citizen diplomacy and global understanding. We are in the planning stages so a date has not yet been confirmed. More information will be available soon or feel free to contact Sister Cities International at the address above. "

### **Friendship Force looking for volunteers**

**OKC Friendship Force hosts 12 ambassadors from Mt. Gambier, Australia May 18 – 25.**

The next inbound group will be arriving from Greater Orlando Florida on June 4th-11th. While in OKC they will participate as volunteers at the Red Earth Festival.

### **RED EARTH FESTIVAL -- June 6-8, 2008**

The Red Earth Festival is just around the corner (June 6-8) and once again we have an opportunity to tell people about our Oklahoma Friendship Force while working as a Volunteer at Red Earth. As a volunteer, you will receive admission to the events the day you volunteer and a discount on merchandise. If you have any questions, please call Linda Kenney at (405) 373-2096. Her e-mail address is [rl3641@gmail.com](mailto:rl3641@gmail.com).

