

NEWSLETTER ... July 2010

Oklahoma City International Visitors Council

Editor – Kay Bickham
Website: www.ivcokc.org



NEXT IVC MEETING THURSDAY, July 1 2010

11:00 – 12:30

Meinder's School of Business—Room 107
Oklahoma City University
Corner of N.W. 24 & Blackwelder
2501 N. Blackwelder

CALL 341-3169 FOR MORE INFORMATION

July 1 meeting

Speaker: Mark Elam –

After learning about human trafficking in 2005, Mr. Elam traveled to India, South Asia and the Philippines to work with organizations that rescue girls from sex trafficking. His international organization, Angel Eyes, helps support safe houses and prevention centers in Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines with teams on the ground working to rescue and restore victims of sex trafficking. While raising awareness and support for the global problem, Mr. Elam discovered that human trafficking and child sex-trafficking is happening here in America as well.

Mr. Elam visited several of the Dept. of Justice Task Force cities to learn from them what our federal government is doing to combat this problem here in America... and then implemented that plan here in Oklahoma July 2008, forming the Coalition O.A.T.H. – Oklahomans Against Trafficking Humans.

In the first year of operation O.A.T.H. has partnered with over 60 federal, state and local organizations to service victims of trafficking found here in Oklahoma. In February of 2009 O.A.T.H. was asked to become the state-wide coalition to bring awareness, education and training about the subject of human trafficking and to assist in networking law enforcement agencies, service providers,



NGO's, business leaders and the faith community in providing care for trafficking victims.

Additionally Mr. Elam schedules and moderates the FBI Human Trafficking Task Force that meets monthly in Oklahoma City where they are currently working active cases within our Oklahoma borders. Mr. Elam is available for awareness 101 presentations and conducts human trafficking training workshops around the state for law enforcement, DHS, OJA, shelters, health clinics, social workers, college campuses, schools and churches.

Office at the United Way of Central Oklahoma 1444 NW 28th St. , Oklahoma City, OK (405) 523-3508

Thanks to

MARK HERRIN, Assistant Vice President of Wellness & Sport - UCO for the June program focused on the International Sitting Volleyball Olympic Games scheduled to begin on July 10 at UCO in Edmond. There will be men's and women's teams from more than 25 countries including: Morocco, Rwanda, Kenya, Egypt, Libya, Iraq, Iran, China, Korea, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Russia, Germany, Ukraine, Serbia, Hungary, Croatia, Netherlands, Brazil, Canada, Great Britain, India, Kazakhstan, Poland, Uganda, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Lithuania ...

These games will all be held at UCO and the public is invited to attend. Most of these participants have lost limbs – many in war zones. They range in age from 16 to 62.

FAA expects students from the following countries during July and August.

Contact Edgar.DeLeon@faa.gov if you are interested/available to meet any of these students. Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, India, Israel, Japan, Korea, Nigeria, Senegal, UAE, Argentina, Benis, Cameroon, Chad, Honduras, Macedonia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Thailand, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Micronesia, Mongolia, Taiwan, Turkey, Mexico, New Zealand, Croatia, China

June 10-14, 2010

Oklahoma City hosted 13 city officials from twelve countries including 4 Mayors. They were from Afghanistan, Ghana, Hong Kong, Iraq, Jordan, Lithuania, Namibia, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, and Venezuela.



Pictured above is the group with Nathan Hart at the American Indian Cultural Center which is being constructed on South Eastern Avenue at the intersection of I-35 and I-40. In addition to learning about Governance in the Native American community, they were hosted by Jane Sutter at ACOG and Larry Stevens, City Manager of the City of Edmond. Thank you to David Holt in Mayor Cornett's office for arranging for them to receive an invitation to a reception at the National Conference of Mayors which was being held in OKC.

Oil Industry Officials from Brazil expected in late July

OKC will tentatively host two government officials from Brazil who play important roles in the nation's developing oil and gas industries.

Bi-Regional State Department Group expected in early August.

Crisis Management: Preventing or Responding to Disasters.

Participants in the next group are expected from Bangladesh, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, and Taiwan.

For your Calendar....

July 31 – Hispanic Expo at the State Fair Grounds.

The U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy

headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa, is organizing a **U.S. Summit on Global Citizen Diplomacy, November 16-19, 2010 in Washington, D.C.** The Summit will bring together leaders from the business, private, public, and nonprofit sectors to develop strategies to promote citizen diplomacy and global engagement throughout the United States. Sherry Mueller, President of NCIV, and Patrick Madden, President of Sister Cities International, co-chair the Community-Based Organization Task Force that is seeking ideas to present at the summit on how to better inform and engage American citizens in citizen diplomacy.

The Community-Based Organizations Task Force is seeking proposals for initiatives that can leverage the expertise of our networks to advance this strategic objective of better informed, more active American citizens. It might be an existing program within your organization or one that can be scaled up with additional resources. Alternatively, perhaps you have created a new project that needs to be further developed and piloted. The Summit will showcase the best proposals for ways that U.S. community-based international organizations can help the American people become more knowledgeable about other cultures and increasingly engaged with the world around them.

The deadline for these brief proposals **has been extended to Thursday July 1, 2010**

Part of what I really believe, as I work on difficult problems around the world, is if we can get people to start looking at each other with mutual respect, with a mutual awareness that we do have so much more in common, treating someone as you would wish to be treated, not as the other but as a fellow human being, it's not going to solve all the problems but it creates a more - more possibilities that we can find some common ground. And I hope that each of you goes back home with the idea that even in your families, your neighborhoods, your communities, there's - there are opportunities for trying to find those commonalities, for bringing people together, seeking that common ground."

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

[Remarks to the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study \(YES\) Program](#)

June 16, 2010

FYI : Here is a web site for finding the right pronunciation: <http://hearnames.com/>

