



Newsletter March 2014

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello!

I hope everybody is surviving this cold winter! Luckily, we can look forward to many exciting projects. Our Libyan Rule of Law Program has been postponed, and we expect the first delegation of judges from Libya to arrive in April. CIP is working with the Ohio Supreme Court to plan a three-week training program for two groups of judges that will introduce the delegates to the role of various courts throughout Ohio, law enforcement, and overall legal processes in the United States.

In addition to the Libyan Rule of Law Program, we have been working on an Ecotourism Program for the fall. CIP will host a delegation of international professionals to learn about ecotourism practices in Ohio and to use their experience to enhance ecotourism organizations in their home countries. This fall we also plan to host a delegation of professionals from India for our India Youth Advocacy Program. This program will expose Indian professionals to American services focused on children with hearing disabilities. We hope that the delegation will learn new practices that they can use to improve the standard of living for children with hearing impairments in India.

With our mission of promoting international understanding, CIP is excited about the “Welcoming” movement spreading across the United States. In 2005, Nashville launched an initiative called “Welcoming Tennessee” to transform the state into a welcoming environment for immigrants and saw positive results. Inspired by the success in Nashville, many cities across the country have promoted similar programs. Dayton, Ohio, passed a “Welcoming Dayton” plan in 2011 and surveyed leaders in fields such as education, health, and business to see how the city could better meet the needs of immigrants. The city provided language classes for Dayton teachers, researched ways to help immigrants gain credit for the skills and education acquired in other countries, and started the Dayton World Soccer games. To learn more about the “Welcoming” movements, visit this [New York Times article](#).

Memberships are extremely important to us, and we are grateful for the one hundred people who have renewed or obtained their CIP memberships. The second reminder notice to renew your CIP membership has just gone out, and we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to renew your membership. Members receive discounts to cultural events, the International Taste of Columbus, and the 5K Race/Walk and have the unique opportunity to interact with international professionals. You may also renew your membership online [here](#).

CIP is looking forward to recognizing 40 years of service with a celebration on May 22. Additional details are available on [page 5](#). I also encourage you to visit this page to see other upcoming events. We hope you can join us in our various cultural activities in the next few months.

Sincerely,

Mark Poeppelman, Executive Director



LIBYAN RULE OF LAW PROGRAM

In February, CIP prepared to host the first of two delegations of judges from Libya for the Libyan Rule of Law Program in partnership with the Ohio Supreme Court. Visa complications have shifted the dates of this program, and we now expect to host the first delegation in April.

The Libyan Rule of Law program is designed to provide an intensive, high-quality, customized group experience that provides an overview of the legal system in the United States. The delegation will consist of a group of esteemed judges from the Libyan Ministry of Justice. Two groups of judges will participate in a three week training program that will introduce the delegates to the role of various courts throughout Ohio, law enforcement, and the overall legal process and transparency of the legal system in the United States. The program will also highlight the technological information aspect of court and case management in Ohio. The delegation will have the opportunity to visit multiple courts that use state-of-the-art tools to coordinate case management activities.

In addition to working with the Supreme Court, the Libyan judges will spend time at Courts of Appeals, County Courts, Municipal Courts, and Local Courts. The Libyan delegates will meet with law enforcement officials and city officials that will provide an overview of how the law affects their communities and how they collaborate with members of the legal system. The ultimate goal of the program is for the participants to gain insight into the legal system and practices in the U.S. and use those skills to reform the legal system in Libya.



ECOTOURISM IN OHIO TRAINING PROGRAM

From September 8th to September 20th of this year, CIP will provide a customized ecotourism training program to enhance ecotourism in participants' organizations and home countries. The delegation will include ten to fifteen professionals employed in ecotourism and economic development, such as zoos, natural history museums, local governments, welcome centers, university departments of natural resources, and private tourism enterprises.

The program will incorporate site visits, and each site will offer both the public and behind-the-scene tours. The group will visit venues that are relevant to their particular interests, and locations include animal and nature preserves, zip lines, bicycle and walking paths, botanical gardens, historical sites, and amusement parks. Each site visit will include a

presentation on topics such as the venue's history, ownership, business plan, management policies, and marketing strategies. The delegation will also participate in classroom vocational training, including seminars and workshops by site professionals, government officials, and university professors. For additional information, visit www.EcoTourismOhio.org.



INDIA YOUTH ADVOCACY PROGRAM

In June 2013, CIP launched the India Youth Advocacy pilot program with participant Meena Singh. Meena engaged in a short-term intensive training program with local organizations that provided speech and hearing impairment services. Meena gained valuable skills through interaction with youth service professionals, educators, and sign language interpreters that were implemented upon her return to India. Based on the success of the pilot program, CIP will expand the India Youth Advocacy Program to host more Indian delegates in September 2014.

Through an intensive three-week training program, a delegation of six to eight Indian professionals will learn about the services provided for children with disabilities, with an emphasis on the hearing impaired, in the U.S. and acquire skills that will allow them to provide similar services in their communities in India. CIP will also be collaborating with the Columbus Chapter of the United Nations Association to meet their millennium development goals which include achieving universal primary education and global partnership for development. Participants will interact with seasoned youth service professionals, experienced educators, and sign language interpreters to develop a thorough understanding of the options available to youth with disabilities in America. Participants will understand the methods for creating an inclusive setting for children with hearing impairments in public schools and study American Sign Language (ASL) to develop more uniformity in International Sign Language. For additional details and information, visit www.cipcolumbus.org/india-youth-advocacy.



Thank you to everybody who donated to our *Hear a Heart* fundraiser in February to jumpstart this program!

MEET CIP'S NEW BOARD MEMBERS

CIP is happy to welcome two new board members: Elizabeth (Elsa) Donovan and Jun (James) Liu.

Elsa is new to Columbus and thrilled to be getting involved with CIP. She is a Psychology Post-Doctoral Fellow at Nationwide Children's Hospital in the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders and Auxiliary Faculty in the Department of Behavioral Pediatrics at OSU. She has worked in schools and mental health facilities in the U.S., Germany, and the Middle East. Elsa engages in outreach with minority groups in Columbus (especially Somali and Arab families) to raise awareness and decrease the stigma of disabilities such as autism. Elsa looks forward to developing programs with CIP to train international professionals in the mental health and education fields. She can be reached at elizabeth.donovan@nationwidechildrens.org.



James began his career at China Telecom and Postal and rose to the position of Vice Director of Finance and Accounting. He earned his Masters in Business Administration from OSU and worked for the Kroger Company as co-manager at the Westerville store after graduation. He then returned to OSU as assistant director for the language flagship program. Since 2006, James has founded two companies: Qingdao Xinda, LLC, and SharpTrust Software, LLC. He is the co-owner of JPAC Trading, LLC, which specializes in trade between the U.S. and China. He is also the cofounder of ALPPS Ltd that specializes in helping international students apply for American colleges. James bridges the divide between America and Asia with his lifetime of experiences across both cultures. He and his wife, Sunny, and their two sons, Jeffery and George, live in Dublin, Ohio. He enjoys playing and coaching boys soccer, visiting beaches, and enjoying delicious food.



UPDATES FROM PAST PARTICIPANTS

Angela Mattner, a participant in the German Social Work Program this November and December, trained at the National Youth Advocate Program in Columbus and has started a new project at home based on her experience in Columbus. She is in the process of building a connection between an after-school program in Columbus and an after-school program in Germany. She is excited to see how the children will learn about another culture from each other through email and Skype.

Oliver Lock, also a participant in the German Social Work Program, recently welcomed a baby boy into his family! His name is Mats Johann Hunecke, and he is a very relaxed baby. He falls asleep while drinking his milk and rarely cries. Oliver has been reflecting on his experience in Columbus and likes to remember conversations about understanding American culture and comparing the U.S. and Germany. He misses his friends and coworkers in Columbus and wishes there was not so much water between Columbus and Berlin!



Oliver wanted us to share this picture of Mats

Lorna Reid, a member of the Social Work and Art Therapy delegation that visited Columbus in July 2013, has applied her experience in Columbus to the Cayman Islands. She has delivered Art-as-Therapy and De-Stress programs to primary school teachers, and has been invited to join a team of professionals who work with students who have special needs. Lorna has appreciated the opportunity to interact with host families and professionals in Columbus and is happy to use her experience to serve those who most need her services.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Richard Stengel, appointed Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs on February 14, 2014, has issued a notice to the public diplomacy community. The report shows the State Department's dedication to public diplomacy and explains the direction of American public diplomacy efforts:

“[...]Public diplomacy and public affairs have a vital role to play in our foreign policy and national security. We will continue to make sure that our public diplomacy is focused on advancing our foreign policy objectives and goals. To that end, I'm looking at a few priorities vital to our national interests.

First, two larger points about youth and technology that affect everything else.

- With nearly half the world's population under the age of 30, we need to forge new and deeper connections with young leaders so that they see America as a beacon and as an ally.[...]
- Social media and mobile technology are transformational tools. We need to move toward a digital-first strategy. That doesn't mean digital only; far from it. It means that our content and programs and messaging should build out from an integrated digital platform.[...]

Now some specific areas of focus: Entrepreneurism[...], Educational Diplomacy[...], Environmental Diplomacy[...], Countering Violent Extremism [...], and Professional Growth[...]

These are big issues that require a focused alignment of resources, and sustained effort. I aim to reinvigorate public diplomacy, ensure our practitioners are on the forefront of technology, and keep public diplomacy an integral part of our larger policy goals. [...]You are part of a broad public diplomacy network and your partnership is critical to successful, dynamic American public diplomacy.”



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 25TH

Bringing the World to You—International Culture Night

Join us for an evening of culture, dance, music, and food with CIP's exchange participants. Mark will present, and we will raffle an international themed tote and a Pakistani gift basket.

7:00 PM —8:00 PM

Grandview Heights Public Library

1685 West First Avenue

Columbus, OH 43212



No registration necessary

April 8TH

The Dresden Sister City Organization's Annual Membership Meeting

After the meeting, the Dresden Sister City welcomes you to their monthly Stammtisch. Come for dinner or refreshments and conversations with others who share German interests.

6:30 PM—8:30 PM

Mozart's Bakery & Piano Café

RSVP to dresdensistecity@gmail.com

4784 N. High Street

Columbus, OH 43214

April 26TH

The Annual Columbus International 5K Run/Walk

CIP and the Kiwanis Club of Columbus host this event to raise funds for the elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus.

REGISTER

9:00 AM

Registration before April 4th is \$30.00

Scioto Audubon Metro Park

\$10.00 per person discount for groups of three or more and for CIP members

400 W. Whittier Street,

Columbus, OH 43215

Registration after April 4th is \$35.00 with a \$10.00 student discount

May 22ND

Celebrating 40 Years of International Service

Join CIP staff, members, friends, and our founder Ruth Schildhouse for dinner and an anniversary cake as we celebrate forty years of international service.

6:00 PM — 7:30 PM

Mozart's Bakery & Piano Café

RSVP to cipcols@aol.com

4784 N. High Street

Columbus, OH 43214

Save the Date! More details to come:

July: Chinese Youth Program

August: International Taste of Columbus

September: India Youth Advocacy Program

September 9: "A Stammtisch" with Dresden Sister Cities"

October 24: "A Kenyan perspective" by Ken Wafula

November 20: CIP Annual Meeting

December 11: "Bangkok to Columbus" by Wanrada Kajornataweechai

CURRENT INTERNS

Bethlehem Aderajew

OSU Student, Bachelors in International Studies with minors in General Business and Studio Art

Sonya Afanasyeva

OSU Student, Masters in Public Administration

Melissa Barrett

OSU Student, Bachelors in Anthropology and International Relations with a minor in Professional Writing

Emily Brown

OSU Student, Bachelors in Psychology and International Studies

Brian Lim

OSU Student, Bachelors in International Relations and Diplomacy, Minor in Korean Studies

Melanie Moore

OSU Student, Bachelors in Social Work

Niny Rosso-Reyes

OSU Student, Masters in Social Work

Robby Southers

OSU Student, Bachelors in Political Science and Spanish with a minor in Professional Writing

CIP TRIVIA

**What month will CIP host a delegation
for the Ecotourism in Ohio Training
Program?**

One lucky winner will receive

**Two \$10.00 gift certificates to Juergens
German Village Restaurant, Bakery &
KaffeeHaus**

Submit your answers by email to
cipcols@aol.com

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US!



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