

# 2012 Global Diaspora Forum :

## Networks of Diasporas in Engineering and Science (NODES)

The Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State (STAS), in partnership with the Department of State's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES), the Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP), the Global Partnership Initiative (GPI), and USAID's Office of Innovation and Development Alliances (IDEA) will host *Networks of Diasporas in Engineering and Science (NODES)*, part of the second annual *Global Diaspora Forum* in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, July 25 and Thursday, July 26, 2012.

This conference will highlight the contributions of science diasporas to economic growth in the United States and to the development of their ancestral countries of origin through research, innovation and education. *NODES* will showcase the power of "whole-of-society" science diplomacy as an important mechanism to build knowledge- and innovation-based societies around the world and to spread scientific values such as meritocracy and transparency that support economic growth and democracy. We look forward to discussions on how to build new partnerships, to share experiences, and to find new ways to tap into the potential of science diasporas to build partnerships between the U.S. and communities around the world.

### Science and Technology Diaspora Networking Reception

July 25, 2012, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Venue: National Academy of Sciences, Great Hall, 2100 C Street, NW

Sponsored by: The International diaspora Engagement Alliance (IdEA)

This two-hour event will feature remarks by Deputy Secretary of State William J. Burns, and Under Secretary Tara Sonenshine, the signing of the Science, Technology and Innovation Expert Partnership MOU, and a science and technology diasporas networking reception convening conference participants who are interested in networking on issues facing diaspora knowledge networks. The reception will be held in the Great Hall of the National Academy of Sciences.

### Science Diaspora Conference

Thursday July 26, 2012, 2:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Venue: Ronald Reagan Building, USAID, Atrium Ballroom A, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

2:30pm - 2:35pm Introduction, William Colglazier, Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State

2:35pm - 2:40pm Opening Remarks by Jonathan Margolis, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Science, Space & Health

2:40pm - 3:25pm Panel 1: Education and Research Programs as Tools for Diplomacy and Development

Moderator: John Boright, Executive Director of International Affairs,  
National Academy of Sciences

Panelists: Farouk El-Baz, Director of the Center of Remote Sensing,  
Boston University  
John Vaughn, Executive Vice President,  
American Association of Universities

Scientific collaborations among scientists and engineers across nations to address common problems facing humanity are of increasing importance, and are a contribution of science to diplomacy. This panel will discuss ways in which the large number of talented and highly trained scientists and engineers from other countries, who are now in US universities as faculty, researchers, and graduate students, can effectively leverage the strength of their connections both in the United States and abroad to develop and advance scientific and institutional linkages with individuals and universities in other countries. This panel will attempt to answer how diaspora

scientists and engineers can best contribute to this effort by joining in a unified effort across the globe to identify and address the scientific challenges that humanity is facing in this century.

3:30pm - 4:15pm **Panel 2: Mechanisms for Engaging Science Diasporas**

**Moderator:** Vaughan Turekian, Chief International Officer,  
American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)  
**Panelists:** Charles Dunlap, Associate Program Director of Centers and Institution Building,  
CRDF Global  
Michael Cheatham, Head U.S. Representative Office, Indo-US Science and  
Technology Forum

Engaging with Diaspora Knowledge Networks takes place through both formal and informal channels. There are a number of well-known mechanisms for achieving such efforts. Among these are American Universities in countries of origin, which draw on diaspora leaders as faculty and visiting experts. In addition, official cooperative arrangements between governments can be a useful means for funding interactions between diasporas and scientists in the country of heritage. This session will examine two such activities - The American University in Armenia, which engages the U.S.-Armenian Diaspora to educate and train Armenian university students, and the Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum, which has had great success in building science linkages between the U.S. and India, while also developing connections with diaspora communities.

4:15pm - 4:30 pm **Coffee Break**

4:30pm - 5:15 pm **Panel 3: Women Scientist Diaspora as Mentoring Networks**

**Moderator:** Jonathan Margolis, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Science, Space &  
Health  
**Panelists:** Shirley Malcom, Head of Education and Human Resources,  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
Bradley Miller, Director of International Activities, American Chemical Society

This panel will be an interactive discussion on the value of diasporas as mentoring networks for women scientists and the unique opportunities for women scientists to connect with counterparts in their countries of origin. The panel discussion will explore ways to make these programs accessible for established scientists looking to give back as well as for younger scientists seeking mentorship from women in their research field.

5:20pm - 6:00 pm **Panel 4: The U.S. Visa Process: Myths and Realities**

**Moderator:** William Colglazier, Science & Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State  
**Panelists:** Jim Herrington, Director of the Division of International Affairs,  
National Institutes of Health  
Gary Sheaffer, Director of the Office of Public & Diplomatic Liaison, Bureau of  
Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State

International exchanges of students and skilled professionals in science and engineering benefit both the sending and receiving countries. The U.S. science and engineering research enterprise depends heavily on international students and scholars. Some changes in visa application processes have been made to address a number of the concerns of the scientific and engineering community; However, further issues remain today. Panelists will discuss some aspects of visa application processes for scientists, including what has changed in recent years and what future changes are expected. Panelists will also address strategies for applicants that could minimize difficulties and delays.