

enabling them to more effectively promote the interests of private enterprise in Ghana. The project should provide U.S.-based activities for approximately 8–10 members of Ghanaian associations. The project also should provide in-country workshops or consultancies to assist the participating organizations implement strategies to enhance their organizational structure and advocacy activities. The project should establish linkages between Ghanaian and U.S. business associations to promote dialogue on issues of common concern. The program should begin in summer/fall 1996. Consultation with the U.S. Information Service (USIS) post in Accra, Ghana, in the development of the project proposal is encouraged.

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87–256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is “to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries * * *; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations * * * and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world.”

Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

Announcement name and number: All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the above title and reference number E/P–95–45.

DATES: Deadline for proposals: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m., Washington, D.C. time on Friday, March 17, 1995. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked on March 17, 1995, but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Africa/Near East/South Asia Division of the Office of Citizen Exchanges, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Room 220, Washington, D.C. 20547, tel. 202–619–5319, fax 202–619–4350, Internet

address STAYLOR@USIA.GOV, to request a Solicitation Package, which includes more detailed award criteria; all application forms; and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget. Please specify USIA Program Officer Stephen Taylor on all inquiries and correspondence. Interested applicants should read the complete Federal Register announcement before addressing inquiries to the Office of Citizen Exchanges or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, the Office of Citizen Exchanges may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

ADDRESSES: Applicants must follow all instructions provided in the Solicitation Package and send fully completed applications. Send the original and 14 copies to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/P–95–45, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 336, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20547.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Bureau’s authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. “Diversity” should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including but not limited to race, gender, religion, geographic location, socioeconomic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle.

Overview

Background: The government of Ghana has initiated policies liberalizing its economy and gradually has produced a climate more hospitable to the emergence and development of private sector associations. Entrepreneurs are free to form virtually any type of business association in pursuit of their interests. Historically, there have been three dominant associations—the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI); the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce (GNCC); and the Ghana Employers Association (GEA). These organizations developed during a period when Ghana maintained an essentially protected economy. AGI represented highly protected manufacturers. GNCC primarily represented the trading sector and GEA represented a mix of entrepreneurs from various sectors.

During the mid-1980s, the government of Ghana began to liberalize and open up the economy. New policies helped spur the formation of several

producer associations representing exporters. Among about fifteen such organizations, five are particularly active: The Ghana Association of Women Entrepreneurs, the Ghana Federation of Business and Professional Women, the Horticultural Association of Ghana, the Association of Seafood Exporters and the Association of Assorted Foodstuffs. In addition to these groups, two important umbrella organizations have emerged over the course of the past two years. The Federation of Associations of Ghanaian Exporters lobbies Ghana’s executive and legislative branches of government. The Private Enterprise Foundation is an umbrella group representing all private sector organizations. It also lobbies government and has organized forums for business leaders. Many of these organizations likely will gain strength and influence.

Program Overview: The Office of Citizen Exchanges (E/P) proposes development of a two-way exchange project designed to assist Ghanaian business associations develop strategies to increase their voice in the formulation of public policy affecting business growth and economic development. Participants would observe how the American business community promotes business interests, contributes to public debates and interacts with legislative bodies, federal agencies and community groups. This two-way exchange also would make available U.S. specialists to conduct in-country activities for Ghanaian business associations. The project should be designed to establish linkages between U.S. and Ghanaian counterpart organizations. The program should begin in summer/fall 1995.

Project Objectives

The project should be designed to:

- Examine the potential role of professional business associations in the context of a democratic political system. Using the U.S. experience as a model, the program would demonstrate how such groups promote their interests while operating within established social and legal norms.
- Examine strategies to contribute to public debate over the direction of business development.
- Analyze the organizational structure, financing resources and planning strategies of U.S. business groups and relevant political action committees.
- Examine networking and public relations strategies. Activities would help identify those areas of public concern most effectively addressed by business groups and develop