

## Report on The Fulbright Association International Alumni Workshop, October 10, 2002, and Global Fulbright Alumni Seminar, October, 13, 2002

This report is an edited version of one prepared by Alison Gardy, a member of the Fulbright Association's Board of Directors, for posting on the Fulbright Association's new international listserv. The report contains the following sections:

- I. List of International Participants in the Fulbright Association Workshop and/or 25th Anniversary Conference
- II. Five discussion group summaries from the modified Open Space Technology session of the Oct. 10 workshop
- III. Best practices and ideas shared at the Global Fulbright Network seminar on Sunday, Oct 13
- IV. Next Steps--concrete projects for alumni to work on together

### **I. International Participants in the Fulbright Association Workshop and/or 25th Anniversary Conference Events, Oct. 10-13 (with an asterix\* by the names of those who attended the international workshop on Thursday, Oct 10)**

**Brazil**, Marcos Mauricio Toba,\* Fulbright Alumnus, observing for Brazilian Fulbright Association

**Chile**, Gilberto Calvo,\* President, Fulbright Association Chile

**Egypt**, Ahmed M. ElKhashab,\* Director, Cultural and Educational Bureau, Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt

**France**, Michele Van de Roer, President, France Fulbright

**Germany**, Michael Schefczyk, President, Fulbright Alumni e.V.; Birgit Klocke,\* VP International and Returnees, Frankfurt; Wiltrud Hammelstein, immediate past President; Dagmar Schreiber; Oliver Steinmetz; Petra Steinmetz; Fred Stabe

**Greece**, Rita Panourgia,\* President, Hellenic Fulbright Alumni Association; Anastasia Papaconstantinou,\* Past President

**Indonesia**, Mappa Nasrun, Education and Culture Counselor, Embassy of Indonesia (Fulbright alumnus)

**Ireland**, John Hurley, Vice-President, Irish Fulbright Alumni Association

**Japan**, Toshio Shono,\* Secretary General, Tokyo GARIOA/Fulbright Alumni Association

**Korea**, Bokcha Yoon,\* President, Korea Fulbright Alumni Association; Sung Hack Kang,\* Vice President, Korea Fulbright Alumni Association; Moon Hwan Kim,\* Vice President, Korea Fulbright Alumni Association; Oryang Kwon,\* Secretary General, Korea Fulbright Alumni Association

**Mali**, Mahamane Bania Toure, First Counselor, Embassy of the Republic of Mali (Fulbright alumnus)

**Malaysia**, Donald McCloud,\* Executive Director, Malaysian-American Commission on Educational Exchange (Fulbright Commission)

**Mexico**, Elda Monica Guerrero,\*; Fulbright alumna

**Moldova**, Ilie Costas,\* President, Moldovan Fulbright Association

**Morocco**, Si Bennasseur Alaoui,\* Fulbright alumnus; Najat Sebti,\* Fulbright alumna

**Nepal**, Dilli Devi Shakya,\* President of Fulbright Alumni Association Nepal (FAAN)

**Norway**, Dorthe Bakke,\* Current Fulbright Grantee recommended by the Fulbright Commission in Norway to attend

**Peru**, Margarita Imano,\* President, Friends of Fulbright Association

**Poland**, Malgorzata Bonikowska, Fulbright alumna

**Romania**, Cecilia Vass,\* President, Fulbright Association of Romania

**Thailand**, Wajuppa Tossa, Fulbright alumna

**United Kingdom**, Anna Tilley,\* Chair, British Fulbright Scholars Association

**Uzbekistan**, Lola Gulyamova,\* Chair, Fulbright Association of Uzbekistan

### **U.S. Participants in International Fulbright Alumni Workshop**

Fulbright Association (U.S.) Board of Directors  
Richard O. Lundquist, President  
Marilyn Berg Callander, Secretary  
Alison L. Gardy, Chair, Membership Committee  
Linda Scanlan, Chair, Chapter Development Committee  
Niara Sudarkasa  
Anthony Viscusi\*

Staff

Jane L. Anderson, Executive Director

Speakers

Charles Dambach, Senior Consultant, Board Source  
David N. Levin, Senior Program Manager and Fulbright Alumni Liaison, U.S. Department of State  
Arthur P. Dudden, Founding President, Fulbright Association

Guest

Ellen Bryson, Director, Governing Board Programs, Council on Foundation

**II. Five discussion group summaries from the modified Open Space Technology workshop**

***Guiding Question: How Can We Support Fulbright Exchanges, Serve Current Grantees, and Enhance Alumni Interaction?***

**Group A: Regional Networking and Partnerships**

Participants: Margarita Amano (Peru), Bokcha Yoon (Korea); Moon Hwan Kim (Korea), Lola Gulyamova (Uzbekistan), Anna Tilley (United Kingdom), Marcos Mauricio Toba (Brazil), Onyang Kwan (Korea)

Summary:

We need to:

- 1) Define what a regional organisation is:
    - what boundaries we should adopt
    - what size is manageable; 5 to 6 surrounding countries were suggested
    - what criteria should we use to define those regions
  - 2) We should have a liaison officer on each board responsible for developing that connection and maintaining links with those countries, possibly using a distribution list.
  - 3) US Association coordinating on international distribution list?
- Proposal.
- Centralizing the global network--succession of regional distribution lists should be overseen/coordinated by the US Association.
- 4) We should promote awareness of [www.fulbright.org](http://www.fulbright.org) as an international resource for Fulbright alumni.
  - 5) We should use the web and current distribution lists to create and generate conferences both on preparing meetings and to share information about our own events. In this way, we can promote awareness of our various Alumni Associations and the different activities that we engage in, and strengthen the links between Associations.

**Group B: Regional/International Periodic Conference**

Participants: Najat Sebti (Morocco), Dilli Devi Shakya (Nepal), Birgit Klocke (Germany), Anastasia Papaconstantinou (Greece), Linda Scanlan (US)

Summary:

Proposal:

--Conference on an international "professional" level every four years depending on the country the Olympic games are happening at. The participants of this conference can elect the members of the board organizing and planning the following international meeting.

--Apart from that, it would be useful for structural reasons to set up a regional meeting in a not-as-well-developed area after two years. (The Olympic Games meetings could also raise money for the Fulbright meetings in not well-developed areas.)

--New Century Scholars (link to international topic). Contact CIES Judy Pehrson [jpehrson@cies.iie.org](mailto:jpehrson@cies.iie.org)  
When do they present? Where? Idea to bring them together at the global meetings for a presentation. The international meetings can be connected with the international topic, for example, the increase of communicable diseases and the causes of ethnic conflict. 25 people.

--Focus on a particular problem in a regional area.

Regional chapters are going to be held in a "developing country" according to the need of financial and structural help. The idea is they present on an international level a helping concept and "We come in and find out."

### **Group C: How to Motivate Alumni Activity**

Participants: Si Bennasseur Alaoui (Morocco), Cecilia Vass (Romania), Dorthe Bakke (Norway), Donald McCloud (Malaysia), Oryang Kwon (Korea), Najat Sebti (Morocco)

#### Summary:

\* The group focused on what makes alumni not interested or not committed to the Fulbright movement, and thought about ways to make them more involved in the future.

--Because most grantees are highly motivated and bright in their field of expertise, they are solicited and there is a high demand on them. So, either they are already busy with their jobs and/or involved in other activities.

--Within each country, alumni are spread in a large geographic area, and it is difficult to coordinate any event that would attract a large number of them.

--Within each country, Fulbrighters have different background in terms of their professional interests. It is therefore hard to gather them under a unique association.

--Some alumni had a negative experience with the Fulbright program, and they will be hard to convince and get interested in an association of Fulbrighters.

--Some former Fulbrighters still look for a job opportunity, and they have the feeling that they are left alone to deal with the problem.

\* In order to address all these constraints, the group proposed the following:

1. There is a need to establish a detailed database of all Fulbrighters within each country. Information regarding their area of expertise, their career and current profession should be updated annually. This will allow for facilitating contacts and seeking support when it's needed from anyone of the alumni.
2. Activities (social, cultural, or professional) should be planned in order to attract the maximum number of alumni. The subject of any activity should be broad to attract as many people as possible.
3. Because new grantees are informed several months before their departure dates, they should be informed of the existence of a Fulbright Association. By doing this, grantees become aware from the beginning of their privilege of being a Fulbrighter and help them take more advantage of the opportunity during their stay in the US.
4. There is a need to establish a mentor relationship between the new grantees and those who are already in the States.
5. There is a need to deal seriously with negative experiences in order to diagnose the source of the problems and to look for ways to address them promptly to avoid their recurrence in the future.
6. It is necessary to advise Fulbrighters who are in search for a job to make them feel they belong to the Fulbrighter community. Feelings of belonging to a community always help during difficult times.
7. It is also interesting to look for sponsors in order to succeed in the organization of any event. Sponsors could be at a national or international level.
8. There is also a need to organize Fulbrighters in regional and field-of-expertise chapters to promote more involvement from the big majority of Fulbrighters.

**Group D: Financial Support for Alumni Activity**

Participants: Dilli Devi Shakya (Nepal), Rita Panourgia (Greece), Ilie Costas (Moldova), Toshio Shono (Japan)  
Summary:

Financial problems are different country by country, depending on the stage of development of associations. The Republic of Moldova's Fulbright Association (1st stage) will depend on funding from US government sources. Associations in the second stage can depend on US government and partner country government funding. Associations such as those of Japan and Greece (3rd stage) depend less on US government funding, and more on partner country government funding, alumni donations, and other funding sources.

**Group E: Alumni as Independent Intellectual Resource**

Participants: Gilberto Calvo (Chile), Anthony Viscusi (US)

Summary: Fulbright alumni as an advocacy group for international, educational and cultural exchange whose aim is the common good. By enhancing understanding and respect for differences, this position (logic) could play a role as a reference group for decision-making in different aspects of public and private life of the countries.

**III. Best practices and ideas shared during the conference, especially the Global Fulbright Network seminar on Sunday, Oct 13:**

Global Fulbright Network Panelists\*

Jane Anderson, Executive Director, Fulbright Association

John Hurley, President, Irish Fulbright Association

Michael Schefczyk, President, German Fulbright Association

Michele Van de Roer, President, France Fulbright

(\*Panelists drawn from international representatives unable to attend the workshop on October 10, 2002.)

\* It is important to be sensitive to the fact that different Fulbright Associations exist in very different contexts. In Romania and Uzbekistan, for example, the top priority of an alumni association cannot be only focused on holding cultural events, but also must be focused on helping returning Fulbright alumni find employment. Contacts: Cecilia Vass (Romania); Lola Gulyamova (Uzbekistan)

\* Bring together alumni from a number of different countries to work together on a social or sustainable development project with concrete benefits for a specific community, as has been done in Morocco. Contact: Si Bennisseur Alaoui

\* Include activities such as Global Classroom, in which Fulbrighters do presentations about their culture (or their US experience) to school classrooms either in another country or in their home country. Contact: Marcos Mauricio Tobas

\* Importance of structural organization and transparency. The Fulbright Alumni e.V. (German Fulbright Alumni Association), for example, which was founded in 1986, has four national events each year: 1) a welcome meeting, 2) a ball, 3) a family weekend of hiking in Saxonia (includes but is not limited to families with children), and 4) a pow wow (to discuss controversial matters of transatlantic importance). Because these four events happen every year, the procedure for each even is predictable (for example, when invitations have to be sent out), though the locations may change. With this kind of transparent organization, rotations of officers proceed smoothly. The German Fulbright Association is an alumni association of 1000 members (most of whom are in their 30s), with a main office in Frankfurt and 13 regional chapters that have their own events. There is a president, three vice-presidents, and a treasurer. Everyone involved is a volunteer except for one student assistant who works a half-day a week on administrative matters. The purpose of the association is also made clear: It is a network for Fulbrighters as well as a charity in terms of its donations to the German Fulbright

Commission. (There are plans to merge with another non-Fulbright international exchange organization with intentions to keep the Fulbright flavor of the overall organization.) Contacts: Michael Schefczyk, President, German Fulbright Association; Birgit Klocke, Vice President, German Fulbright Association

\* Involve key government officials and top businesspeople in Fulbright Association events and fundraising. For example, the Irish Fulbright Association, which has 200 active members (with attendance of 80 to 100) at events, has the following four core events each year: 1) An annual dinner at Dublin Castle, where Fulbright scrolls are presented as awards to Irish grantees going to the US. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and US Ambassador attend. A bronze medal of distinguished service goes to someone who has greatly helped the Irish Alumni Association. 2) An event hosted by the Irish Foreign Ministry. 3) Thanksgiving dinner--which rotates in different universities; and 4) an Assembly of General Membership event. One of the most successful events featured the Indonesian gamelan, a musical band. The great fundraising event is a golf tournament in which CEOs of large corporations have a round of golf with the US ambassador, and then go to the ambassador's home for dinner. CEOs pay a large amount of money for the privilege of playing golf. Contact: John Hurley, Vice President, Irish Fulbright Association

\* Link a Fulbright meeting to a huge public event. The Greek Fulbright Association is planning a meeting to coincide with the Olympic Games in Athens in 2004. Contacts: Rita Panourgia, President, Hellenic Fulbright Alumni Association; Anastasia Papaconstantinou, Past President

\* Send information about Fulbright alumni from your country to Rhonda Boris, the Fulbright Program Impact and Strategic Communication Officer for the US Department of State. She is trying to build a worldwide database of accomplished Fulbright alumni, not just the great Nobel Prize winners, but everyone else, too! Contacts: Jane Anderson, Executive Director, US Fulbright Association; Rhonda Boris at [rboris@pd.state.gov](mailto:rboris@pd.state.gov)

\* There is interest in establishing a worldwide host program. The Europeans have started trying it on a regional level, with success in the United Kingdom. Contact: Anna Tilley, Chair, British Fulbright Scholars Association

\* Many Fulbright Associations worldwide have different fees for different kinds of members (for example, regular fee, student fee, institutional fee). Contacts: Michele Van de Roer, President, France Fulbright; Michael Schefczyk, President, German Fulbright Association; Anna Tilley, Chair, British Fulbright Scholars Association; others

\* Formation of regional associations. Many European Fulbright Associations gathered at a conference in Toledo, Spain in 2000. They have begun regional communication since. The South Korean Fulbright Association has reached out to Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, and the People's Republic of China. Contacts: European and South Korean Fulbright Association representatives.

\* Institutionalize the preconference international workshop as part of the U.S. Fulbright Association's annual conference events, preferably holding the events around the same time and organizing publicity early. Also try to widen the number of countries which are represented. Contact: Jane Anderson, Executive Director, U.S. Fulbright Association

\* Need for international access to the soon-to-be-fortified US Fulbright Association website at [www.fulbright.org](http://www.fulbright.org). International access to the password-protected areas of the new US website (the online directory, job postings and job listings) is essential if a global confederation is to be formed. How to address the issue of fee-based access to the US site? One suggestion is that the president of each non-US Fulbright Association have no-fee access to password-protected areas. Another suggestion is that there be a fee sliding

scale, depending on the maturity and finances of each Fulbright Association. It is important to continue this dialogue as we enter the implementation stage for the new website.

Contact: Jane Anderson, Executive Director, US Fulbright Association

\* Need for a comprehensive and coordinated database and for timely flow of information to international Fulbright Associations and to the chapters of the US Fulbright Association. Such information would include lists of Fulbright grantees who are going abroad before they leave their home countries and lists of returning alumni. The Fulbright universe consists of a constellation of organizations, and crystal clear communication needs to be established between them for the sake of cooperation. The same is true for the various Fulbright-related web sites. Communication must be good enough to ensure that they do not overlap and, consequently, cause confusion and frustration.

Contact: Jane Anderson, Executive Director, US Fulbright Association

\* Encourage close collaboration with Fulbright commissions and active involvement of alumni to provide enrichment opportunities for current Fulbright grantees from the U.S.

Contact: David Levin, Senior Program Manager and Fulbright Alumni Liaison, U.S. Department of State

\* How to best connect and coordinate worldwide alumni with common interests? Suggestions heard: 1) a listserv generated by the leadership of national and chapter associations on both the US and non-US ends. 2) a country-specific web page to be hosted on the [www.fulbright.org](http://www.fulbright.org) site, to be created and maintained by the leadership of national and chapter associations on both the US and non-US ends. 3) access to the online directory on the new US Fulbright Association website (one can search the database by Fulbright grant country and by present-day address). Contacts: Jane Anderson, Executive Director, US Fulbright Association; Alison Gardy, Membership Chair and Deputy Chair of Ad-Hoc International Relations Committee, Fulbright Association Board of Directors

#### **IV. Next Steps--a concrete project to work on together**

\* At the Global Fulbright Network seminar on Sunday, it was decided that an international Fulbright alumni conference will be held to coincide with the Olympic Games in Athens, Greece in 2004. The organizers of the conference, Rita Panourgia (President, Hellenic Fulbright Alumni Association) and Anastasia Papaconstantinou (Past President) will be assisted by a committee of other international Fulbright alumni leaders who volunteered to help at the seminar.

\* Listserv for Fulbright Alumni Organizations Worldwide

The US Fulbright Association has set up a listserv that subscribes all the international participants at the conference plus the international contacts listed on our web site. Several postings have been made, including this report and a photo report by the German Fulbright Association.

Contact: Marshall Ellis, Membership Coordinator, US Fulbright Association Staff