



March 7-12 – MRP – Women in Entrepreneurship (24 Participants + 4 Liaisons)

- Examine examples of entrepreneurial efforts in the U.S, particularly those initiated or managed by women; dt b
- Explore the essential role of non governmental and grassroots organizations in supporting and empowering the development of women owned businesses;
- Explore the social, economic, and political factors that influence and encourage the development of private enterprise in the U.S.;
- Examine strategies for job creation;
- Discuss societal barriers facing entrepreneurs, especially women and other disadvantaged groups, and best practices in overcoming these restrictions; and
- Explore various business models, support mechanisms, and innovations that bolster businesses such as micro lending, multi level marketing, use of the internet, mentoring programs, and others.
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March 10-14 – SCP – Russia - Silviculture: Sustainable Forestry in the United States (6 participants + 2 interpreters)

Russian environmental NGO representatives, forest rangers, parkland managers as well as logging industry representatives, and local government officials will examine silviculture, the applied science of forest ecology and management in order to shift the paradigm from unsustainable logging.

March 16-21– MRP – Rule of Law and the U.S. Judicial System (23 participants + 4 liaisons)

This project examines the U.S. commitment to the promotion of transparency, ethics, and judicial independence in a democracy. Meetings and site visits will highlight the judiciary’s role in preserving democratic practices such as due process, trial by jury, the right to representation and a fair trial, the role of the public defender, the appeals process, judicial appointments/ elections, and governmental accountability. Participants will learn about the federal and state judicial systems under the U.S. model of federalism. In examining the workings of an independent judiciary in criminal and civil proceedings, the participants will observe trials and court procedures and assess new technologies in court administration

March 29 – April 6 – Open World – Kyrgyzstan – Financial Security (5 Participants + 1 Facilitator + 1 Interpreter)

Emerging Leaders in financial security in Kyrgyzstan, all with responsibilities related to shaping national financial policy, will learn about the U.S. financial system and the interaction between government and financial institutions at the federal and local level. Focuses will include banking

regulations and public private partnerships for economic restructuring in response to economic crises.

March 30-May 25 – Taiwan – International Trade Experts (30 Participants)

2019 Overseas Study Program sponsored by the Taiwan External Trade Development Council. The program will consist of 30 participants traveling to Charlotte, North Carolina and provides them opportunities to gain valuable international internship experience in the United States by immersing them in internships with host organizations, homestays, and weekly cultural activities throughout the program.

March 30 – April 1 – MRP – Global Health Security (25 Participants + 3 Liaisons)

- Promote international cooperation on the common challenges facing the global community in preventing, treating, and managing infectious diseases spread from animals that affect general populations;
- Examine state and local efforts aimed at developing integrated information systems (IIS) to predict outbreaks of greatest public health concerns;
- Assess public awareness campaigns and outreach efforts about water related or vector borne illnesses and health issues;
- Network with professional counterparts (both U.S. and international) to increase information sharing and to promote transparency in discussing global health issues.

April 14-17 – Russia – Establishing Sustainable Ecotourism (7 Participants + 3 Interpreters)

This program will demonstrate U.S. strategies for managing national parks, state parks, and other natural heritage sites to meet the often-conflicting goals of natural and cultural resource protection and viable local economic development. The meetings with U.S. counterparts will emphasize public engagement and community-led planning for tourism development.

April 13-17 – Georgia – Higher Education in the U.S. (10 participants + 2 interpreters)

- Examine U.S. higher education, including its structure, administration, and management;
- Explore innovations in teaching and curriculum design, as well as practices to support faculty development and collaboration;
- Demonstrate the varying functions of universities, community colleges, distance learning and certificate programs, and vocational/technical schools; and
- Explore best practices for the internationalization of higher education, including institutional and faculty linkages and partnerships

April 24-27 – MRP - Towards A More Safe And Secure World Cooperative Efforts In Combatting Transnational Crime – (6 Participants + 1 liaison)

- Provide an understanding of the American criminal justice system and the legal framework for combating a range of transnational crimes; Explore the role of law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities at the federal, state, and local levels to detect, investigate, and prosecute various transnational crimes, such as financial and organized crimes, the trafficking and smuggling of people and goods, and terrorism;
- Explore initiatives that seek to identify and address root causes of crime, such as poverty and lack of educational opportunities; and
- Identify ways in which American policy makers and law enforcement agencies can collaborate with international partners to counter transnational threats.

May 8-11 – RP Western Hemisphere – Transparency and Accountability in Government (17 Participants + 4 interpreters)

This project will examine how transparency and accountability in government ensure public trust in the integrity and fairness of elected officials and public servants. In addition to highlighting mechanisms for transparency in government in the United States, the project will address the roles of civil society and the media as watchdogs and catalysts for the creation and maintenance of transparent and accountable government. The project will incorporate case studies that illustrate whistle blower protections and current and ongoing transparency investigations.

May 19-22 – RP Africa – Women, Leadership and Social Entrepreneurism (6 participants + 1 liaison)

Six exceptional women will examine the role of women as leaders in social and political change, and how opinion leaders include the views of women in political dialogue. The project will explore the roles of civil society organizations in supporting women leaders. It will also examine best practices in the United States for advocating for rights of women and girls, including finding spaces for men and boys.

May 29-June 1 – MRP – Combatting Trafficking in Persons (9 Participants + 1 liaison)

This project will examine best practices in combating trafficking in persons, focusing on both slave labor and the sex trade. Participants will examine U.S. legislation; visa regulations; enforcement against and prosecution of traffickers; initiatives to identify, protect, assist, and provide services for trafficking victims; efforts to raise awareness through the media; and local, national, and international cooperative efforts to combat trafficking in persons. Participants will meet with local, state, and federal government agencies, law enforcement officials, educators, NGO leaders, faith based organizations, and advocacy groups to understand how the U.S. public and private sectors are working to end trafficking, both domestically and internationally.

June 8 -12- SC- Paraguay – Infrastructure Development and Delivery (11 Participants + 2 Liaisons)

Key objectives for the program include the following:

- Exposing Paraguayan infrastructure decision makers to U.S. processes, encouraging increased transparency.
- Hearing best practices from U.S. experts, helping the visitors learn to avoid common, expensive pitfalls.
- Building efficiencies in Paraguay's public construction contracting process, making the bidding environment more attractive to U.S. bidders.
- Giving visitors face time with U.S. infrastructure companies, building familiarity ahead of the tender process.
- Increasing U.S. companies' chances of applying for and winning Paraguayan infrastructure bids.

July 1-6 – MRP – Corporate Social Responsibility (11 Participants + 2 Liaisons)

- Examine corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs and their local, national, and global impact;
- Explore business strategies that ensure the sustainability of both the business and the community in which it operates;
- Discuss human and civil rights policies with experts, community activists, and organizations; and
- Understand the networks of local government and community groups attracting businesses and ensuring community integrity.

July 20- 24 –Japan – Women's Leadership in STEM (8 Participants + 3 Interpreters)

This project aims to support Japan's efforts to increase women in STEM fields across business and academia. The group has proposed the theme of "fostering women in STEM workplaces." Through in depth discussions of how companies address mobility, salary, networking, and workplace culture in general, participants will bring back ideas that enable them to take on changer roles in their own companies

July 30-August 3 –Pakistan - Responsible Municipal Management (10 Participants + 3 Interpreters)

This project will provide participants with the opportunity to observe, examine, and discuss with municipal leaders and other policy makers, think tanks, academia, NGOs, business associations, public private partnerships, and other stakeholders, the U.S. experience with urbanization and how Americans have and/or are seeking to address challenges posed by rapid urbanization, population density, urban sprawl, waste management, transportation networks, noise pollution, air, water, and overall environmental degradation, land use and zoning and building regulations, access to public services, including education, health, and emergency services, efforts to attract investment, sustainable economic development, and jobs, to create public community spaces, and efforts to involve citizens in decision making processes and to engage youth and other vulnerable populations; and, overall best practices for responsible municipal fiscal policy planning, resource management, and revenue generating measures.

August 3-7 – United Kingdom – Youth Empowerment and Civic Engagement (8 Participants + 2 Liaison)

The project will bring together eight recent Patchwork Foundation alumni to meet with thought leaders on youth empowerment, particularly on the topics of diversifying economic opportunities and encouraging political engagement. Discussions will focus on new and innovative approaches to ensuring young persons from disadvantaged backgrounds are empowered to be active members of society.

August 7-10 – Mexico – Police Professionalization Exchange Program (17 Participants + 3 Liaison)

Funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), through the U.S. Embassy in Mexico, the Police Professionalization Exchange Program is designed to provide training and professional development to 3,900 Mexican police officials from 2017-2019. The Program will provide participants with direct exposure and access to U.S. police professionals and experts. Participants will receive training and professional development via online lectures, training academies, professional study tours in the U.S. and participation in a Mexico-based training institute facilitated by U.S. law enforcement experts and professionals.

August 8-12 – MRP- Promoting Cyber Security (7 Participants + 1 Liaison)

This project will illustrate the importance of cybersecurity to U.S. economic and national security, highlighting how laws and policies on cybersecurity are made and why they require constant updates to keep up with technological evolution. Participants will explore initiatives aimed at increasing cybersecurity coordination between governmental agencies, the private sector, and academia. They will examine the roles and best practices of each sector in preventing and recovering from cyber-attacks, educating the public, and ensuring that civil liberties are not jeopardized.

August 21-24 – Kyrgyz Republic- Combatting Trafficking in Persons (8 Participants + 3 Interpreters)

This IVLP tour would consist of six to ten Kyrgyz government officials who would use the exchange to gain a greater understanding of U.S. efforts to counter trafficking in persons, the U.S. referral system to support victims of trafficking, and the proactive identification of victims. Officials representing the following Kyrgyz government bodies would participate: the State Migration Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs directorate responsible for trafficking in persons crimes, Prosecutor General's Office division that oversees TIP-related investigations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Consular Officials, investigating and trial judges, and the Ombudsman's office. This tour would be particularly relevant for the Kyrgyz Republic since the government is considering the adoption of a National Referral Mechanism policy that would standardize identification of victims and enable victims of trafficking to receive social benefits. Outside of the Kyrgyz Republic, the government has taken steps in recent years to provide greater protection to its large population working abroad, estimated to consist of one million Kyrgyz citizens.

August 28-31 – SRP Western Hemisphere- Minority and NGO Participation in the Democratic Process (16 Participants + 4 Interpreters)

This project will examine locally based initiatives through both established NGOs and grassroots organizations that promote citizen, including minorities', participation in the democratic process. The participants will witness how minority groups, community, political organizations, and community organizations organize local and regional partnerships and mobilize volunteers for engagement. The project will examine public private partnerships between civil society, government, the private sector, and community leaders to foster civic engagement in the democratic process. They will also explore the policies, programs, and institutions that facilitate integration of the multi cultural roots of American society and the laws, agencies, and watchdog groups that combat discrimination.

August 29-September 4 – SRP South America – Combatting Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons (11 Participants + 3 Interpreters)

This project will examine best practices in combating smuggling and trafficking in persons, focusing on both slave labor and sex trafficking. Participants will examine U.S. legislation, visa regulations, enforcement against and prosecution of traffickers and smugglers, initiatives to identify, protect, assist, and provide services for trafficking victims, efforts to raise awareness through the media, and local, national, and international cooperative efforts to combat trafficking in persons. The participants will also discuss strategies to end trafficking, both domestically and internationally, with local, state, and federal government agencies, law enforcement officials, educators, NGO leaders, faith-based organizations, and advocacy groups. The participants will explore efforts to strengthen safeguards against falsifying information such as familial relationships and investigate and prosecute smugglers of people both across and within the borders of the United States

September 11-14 – Azerbaijan - Supporting Financial Markets Regulation and Supervision (8 Participants + 2 interpreters)

- To provide a broad overview of the nature and function of financial markets and institutions in the United States, as well as exposure to issues relevant to the effective functioning of the global financial markets;
- To illustrate the essential roles of the Federal Reserve and state regulators in supervising the U.S. banking system;
- To highlight how U.S. banks use strong internal controls and collaborate with regulators to implement “know your customer” rules and combat money-laundering;
- To highlight the latest and most innovative trends in the United States, including through new market activity and technological and financial innovation.

September 14-18 – RP Africa – Rule of Law and U.S. Judicial System (21 Participants + 4 liaisons)

This project examines the U.S. commitment to the promotion of transparency, ethics, and judicial independence in a democracy. Meetings and site visits will highlight the judiciary’s role in preserving democratic practices such as due process, trial by jury, the right to representation and a fair trial, the role of the public defender, the appeals process, judicial appointments/ elections, and governmental accountability. Participants will learn about the federal and state

judicial systems under the U.S. model of federalism. In examining the workings of an independent judiciary in criminal and civil proceedings, the participants will observe trials and court procedures and assess new technologies in court administration

September 18-21 – MRP – Advancing an Open, Reliable, and Secure Digital Economy (25 Participants + 4 liaisons)

This project will explore the digital economy and current and potential policies to advance an open and secure Internet. Participants will meet with both public- and private-sector representatives from the information and communications technology (ICT) arena. Private sector experts, NGO representatives, and government experts from relevant agencies, such as the Federal Communications Commission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, will discuss the U.S. model of Internet policy, details of governance, and regulatory environments. The project will also focus on U.S. efforts to combat cybercrime and increase the capacity to respond to cybersecurity threats through a more secure ICT infrastructure and strong public-private partnerships.

September 25-28 – RP Europe – Current U.S. Social, Political and Economic Issues for Young European Leaders (21 Participants + 3 liaisons)

This project will expose participants to current political, economic, and social issues at the federal, state, and local levels in the United States and the historic and constitutional basis of U.S. policies. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the pluralistic nature of the United States through exposure to all levels of the political system and to key social and economic issues, such as climate change, environment, energy, ethnic and gender equality and rights, education, regional economic challenges, social welfare, health care, immigration, and security. Visitors will also explore the role and impact of various actors and influences on U.S. foreign and domestic policy formation such as government bodies, NGOs, academia, and the media.

October 19-27- Egypt - Economic Development USAID + AMIDEAST Project (25 Participants + 5 Staff Assistants and Liaisons)

October 10-17 – RP Western Hemisphere – Civic Activism and NGOs in the Democratic Process (24 Participants + 4 liaisons)

This project will examine locally-based initiatives through both established NGOs and grassroots organizations that promote citizen participation in the democratic process. Participants will witness how citizen groups, community, and political organizations, and social entrepreneurs organize local and regional partnerships and mobilize volunteers for engagement. The project will examine public-private partnerships between civil society, government, the private sector, and community leaders to foster civic engagement in the democratic process. Participants will also explore the interplay among special interest groups, local communities, and the media and how these actors influence the public agenda, including through new technologies. Discussions and site visits will examine resources such as social media, and new technologies for advocacy and youth civic engagement, as well as day-to-day management practices in successful non-governmental organizations

October 22-26 – RP Africa – Advancing Women in STEAM Fields (15 Participants + 4 liaisons)

This project will examine women's contributions to science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM) through research and development, education and teaching, leadership, and public policy formulation. The project supports the Department's strategic goal of enhancing economic growth through the contributions of women. It will focus on advances in women's employment in STEAM fields, including the role of professional development societies and organizations in advancing women in scientific, engineering and digital technology, art, design, and open source careers. Participants will explore the critical inclusion of women in these fields as active participants rather than passive users, designing solutions that take into account the needs and interests of women and girls. They will also explore effective education and mentorship programs that encourage girls and young women to pursue STEAM careers.

November 1-6 – RP Africa – Women Leaders – Promoting Peace and Security (11 participants + 3 liaisons)

This project, part of a global initiative, will showcase the vital role that women play in preventing conflict and building peace in countries threatened and affected by war, violence, and insecurity. Participants will learn how women leaders and organizations in the United States actively engage in mediating disputes arising from political, socioeconomic, ethnic, religious, and regional differences. The project will examine how women are leading in interventions and negotiations to end international conflict and to promote and sustain peace. It will explore women's awareness of the potential for violent conflict and the critical role they can play in preventing it. This project will also familiarize participants with strategies for directing positive political, social, and economic change in a democratic society. Participants will examine and share essential leadership skills needed to balance divergent social demands and interests when confronting political, social, and economic challenges and to participate effectively in international fora to end conflict and sustain peace.