

Dear International Grantmaker:

The Council on Foundations is pleased to invite you to participate in a one-day meeting focused on the U.S. International Grantmaking Project (USIG), which seeks to facilitate responsible and effective international grantmaking by easing legal, administrative and informational barriers. USIG is a joint project of the Council and the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL).

The meeting will take place **December 8, 2005 from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm at the Embassy Suites Hotel O'Hare-Rosemont**, 5500 North River Road, Rosemont, Illinois, near Chicago's O'Hare International Airport (telephone: 847/678-4000). The purpose of the gathering is to review the accomplishments of the USIG Project to date and to explore how we can address more effectively current and anticipated challenges to international grantmaking. Significant progress has been made in some areas, notably the wealth of legal and practical information now available on the USIG website (www.usig.org) as well as clarification of certain IRS rules. But there is clearly more that needs to be done, both to develop the website further and to tackle outstanding issues facing international grantmakers such as anti-terrorism compliance, measuring effectiveness and ensuring accountability. An agenda for the December 8th meeting follows this invitation.

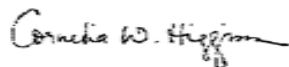
In 1996 a group of international grantmakers and legal experts met in New York with the Council on Foundations to discuss how they could work together to overcome obstacles to international grantmaking. Out of this initial discussion, the USIG Project was born. Four years ago the Council convened a USIG meeting in San Francisco where the input we received about barriers to international grantmaking as well as key legal and operational challenges was invaluable in shaping the USIG strategic plan for 2002-2005. It is now time to strategize about the next three years of USIG, and we hope that you will join with other international grantmaking leaders, program officers, grants administrators, board members, legal advisors, affinity groups, and others interested in this topic to advise us on how we can make the USIG Project even more responsive to your needs and the realities of international giving.

Because of the technical nature of some of these issues, each grantmaking organization is encouraged to send a program person, grants administrator and/or in-house legal counsel, if you have one. We hope you will participate in this meeting. **Please RSVP by November 18 to Patricia Marshall** (email: marsp@cof.org, telephone: 202/467-0442). If you have any questions about the meeting or the USIG Project, contact Rob Buchanan by phone at 202/467-0391 or by email at buchr@cof.org.

With best wishes,



Rob Buchanan
Director, International
Programs
Council on Foundations



Cornelia Higginson
USIG Co-Chair
Acting President
American Express
Foundation



Josh Mintz
USIG Co-Chair
Vice President and General
Counsel
John D. and Catherine T.
MacArthur Foundation

