



1992

AGENCY CENTER FOR UNIVERSITY COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT

The Agency Center for University Cooperation in Development is an operating unit of A.I.D. and is the support staff for the presidentially-appointed Board for International Food and Agricultural Development and Economic Cooperation (BIFADEC). It has been in operation since October 1991.

Recognizing the U.S. system of higher education as an extraordinary asset, the Center seeks to broaden and deepen the involvement of U.S. colleges and universities in international development. Through them, it is hoped that developing country higher education institutions can increase their effective participation in and contribution to local and national development.

Four basic assumptions underlie the University Center's role and purpose: (1) developing country higher education institutions are essential contributors to the development process; (2) U.S. higher education is a great asset which is widely respected in the developing world; (3) A.I.D. has made major investments in building higher education institutions in developing countries; and (4) A.I.D. will miss a unique opportunity to enhance development fundamentally if it does not build on its previous investments.

Support to BIFADEC

BIFADEC is the only Presidentially-

appointed board to advise and assist the A.I.D. Administrator in developing and implementing the official U.S. foreign assistance program. Created in 1975, its seven members are drawn from various professional backgrounds and serve without compensation. A majority is from the university community, including four presidents. The University Center provides support services for the BIFADEC.

HBCU Research Grants

The Research Grants Program for historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) was established in 1983 to encourage HBCU faculty members to become involved in international development activities supported by A.I.D. It is part of the Agency's response to a presidential executive order directing federal agencies to provide opportunities for HBCUs. Participation is determined through a formal A.I.D. review process.

Twenty-eight research projects were funded in fiscal year 1992 for \$1.9 million. Of 160 funded projects, 120 have been completed. A compendium of abstracts of 72 completed projects was published recently on activities in agriculture and health in 25 developing countries and the United States.

UDLP Awards

Began in 1991, the University Development Linkages Project (UDLP)

is designed to support and encourage long-term linkages between U.S. and developing country institutions, collaborating in broad areas in harmony with A.I.D. development interests. The linkages help strengthen developing country higher education institutions to meet more effectively their societal needs and contribute to the internationalization of U.S. higher education institutions.

The funded linkages are multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral with an emphasis on quality, innovation and sustainability. Among the subject areas are health, business and management, environment, agriculture, technology transfer, legal education, child survival, and democratization. A stringent external peer review process helps with the selection from among many proposals.

A total of 28 matching grants, totalling \$3.2 million were awarded during the first two years. These grants are for projects in 23 countries and involve 33 U.S. and 33 developing country institutions of higher education. During the five-year life of these cooperative grant agreements, A.I.D.'s contributions will be matched or exceeded by the grantees.

HEAD Planning Project

A Higher Education and Development (HEAD) Planning project has been authorized to begin in 1993. Its purpose is to plan a project to assist developing country higher education institutions increase their role in and contribution to development.

The project has three components. A needs assessment will seek to identify the constraints and problems affecting the ability of developing country higher education institutions to contribute to development and the role of U.S. higher education institutions in assisting them. A pilot network will be used to assess and encourage strategic planning, financing and management of higher education institutions. An external evaluation will help determine the feasibility and utility of future activities of this kind.

ALO Cooperative Agreement

The University Center has a cooperative agreement which makes available the resources of the six major higher education associations, which represent the broad spectrum of U.S. colleges and universities. The associations have formed an Association Liaison Office (ALO) as the focal point to coordinate relationships, dialogue among the associations, maintain contact with the University Center, and help with program planning and implementation.

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