



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*

**STRENGTHENING THE REPRESENTATIVE BRANCH:  
An American and Egyptian Legislative Exchange**

**Final Report**

March 11, 2007 – September 10, 2008

*Cooperative Agreement No. 263-A-00-07-00025-00*

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) is an association dedicated to serving the state lawmakers and legislative staff of the U.S.'s fifty states, its commonwealths, and its territories. NCSL was founded in the belief that legislative service is one of democracy's worthiest pursuits. NCSL's International Programs department has over 20 years' experience in organizing and conducting study tours, workshops, seminars, and long-term internships. NCSL drew upon this experience in designing the exchange program between U.S. state legislatures, Egypt parliamentarians, and senior staff of Egypt's Majlis Al-Shab and Majlis Al-Shura entitled "Strengthening the Representative Branch: An American and Egyptian Legislative Exchange."

**Program Objectives:**

The original vision of the exchange consisted of two U.S. study tours for members and staff of the Egyptian National Parliament as well as a series of workshops or technical assistance programs to be carried out in Cairo. The project had the following goals:

- Promote a more transparent, accountable, and responsive legislative branch;
- Strengthen the institutional capacity of the Majlis Al-Shab and Majlis Al-Shura;
- Encourage democratic processes in Egypt;
- Foster mutual dialogue and understanding between the U.S. and Egypt;
- Build lasting personal and professional relationships; and
- Promote public confidence in the legislative branch.

Shortly after the contract was signed, two staff members left NCSL International Programs. Although the organization's seasoned assessment team was prepared to go to Cairo and make appropriate contacts, USAID Cairo decided to wait until new staff were in place. When the recruitment selection was complete, NCSL met with Project Officer Bruce Abrams while he was in D.C. in September. He emphasized the need for an in-country partner organization or

individual to assist with continuity and presence in Cairo. Because of the late start of the project, NCSL noted its intention to ask for an extension of the project. Although, it proved difficult to officially launch the program, the following two activities contributed positively to the original goals of the project.

### **Program Description:**

#### **Phase 1: Week Reconnaissance and Assessment visit to Cairo and the Parliament**

As the first phase of the program, a three member delegation participated in a familiarization trip to Cairo to discuss program development. From October 20 - 26, 2007, the delegation spent time in Cairo familiarizing themselves with the program environment and conferring with USAID Cairo.

#### *Program Agenda*

The program that occurred was an alternative to what was originally planned. One week before the trip, NCSL was informed that the Speaker of the Majlis Al-Shab and many other Parliamentary officials would be in China during the dates of the scheduled trip. As this fact made the original goals of the trip unachievable, NCSL adjusted accordingly.

The original intent was to secure the support of Parliamentary leadership for the project and to investigate local NGOs or individuals to partner with for the duration of the program. The last minute change resulted in a delay in officially presenting the program to the Parliament and thus a delay with the overall execution of the program as support from the Parliamentary leadership was the necessary first step. However, the change did allow NCSL to gain familiarity with Egypt and make initial contacts.

The delegation was pleased to meet with personnel at USAID Cairo, as well as many experts and knowledgeable individuals who contributed to NCSL's growing understanding of possibilities of ways to implement the program. The delegation met with representatives from:

- The Center for International Private Enterprise Egypt;
- The U.S. Embassy;
- Cairo University;
- IFES - Egypt;
- America-Mideast Educational and Training Services;
- Inc., America's Development Foundation;
- The Ford Foundation - Cairo;
- UNDP Egypt; and
- The MidAmr Group.

Ms. Blitz, NCSL Program Specialist, was privileged to meet the Honorable Farkhonda Hassan, a member of the Shura Council and Secretary General of the National Council for Women. This meeting is discussed below.

A copy of the final itinerary for the meetings is attached at the conclusion of this report.

### *Participants*

This program enjoyed strong support from NCSL senior staff, including an expert outside of the International Programs department. The three person delegation consisted of Mr. Tim Storey, Senior Fellow, NCSL Legislative Management Program; Ms. Ann Driscoll, Program Manager, NCSL International Programs; and Ms. Jennifer Blitz, Program Specialists, NCSL International Programs. All three are key individuals within NCSL who made significant programming decisions. Delegation bios are attached at the conclusion of the report.

As a result of the last minute change, the Honorable Jeff Wentworth, Texas State Senator and Mr. Bruce Feustel, Senior Fellow, NCSL Legislative Management Program agreed to postpone their participation in the program, anticipating an alternative opportunity in the future.

### *Time and Place*

It was decided that the trip would take place in October 2007, to accommodate dates the Majlis Al-Shura and Majlis Al-Shab were in session. Additionally, Ramadan and Aid Al-Fitr had occurred earlier in the fall. The exact dates of October 20 - 26 were a result of internal logistics and coordination of personnel schedules.

### *Evaluation*

Overall, the trip proved to be very useful and successful in relation to the revised goals. During the trip, the delegation was exposed to a variety of circumstances that had the potential to arise while working with the Parliament. Additionally, key individuals were contacted and information was shared with the delegation that was essential to allow an increased appreciation for working with the Egyptian Parliament. This new information proved valuable to the advancement of the project.

One particular meeting worth drawing attention to was the meeting with Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Dr. Mostafa El Feki of the Majlis Al-Shab. NCSL is extremely grateful to U.S. Embassy Political Officer Yael Lempert who secured the appointment. Dr. El Feki responded positively to the program, saying, "I support this project." He said that he would speak to Majlis Al-Shab Speaker Fathy Sorour after his return from China about the program. Dr. El Feki would ask the Speaker to agree to a meeting at which an NCSL team would formally present the program proposal.

The delegation confirmed other information that was previously gathered from a combination of on the ground sources.

- The program needed to support organizations and individuals with strong National Democratic Party (NDP) ties.
- It would be necessary to get approval from the Speaker to further work on the project. A working relationship with the Parliament needed to be established before moving forward with any plans, even distributing publications in-country.
- The program needed to include work with both the Majlis Al-Shab and the Majlis Al-Shura. The programming needed to be pursued on parallel tracks rather than including members of both bodies in the same activity.
- The success of the program would not be easily shown. Minor, incremental steps would open the door to future engagement and potentially future programs.

- The parliament would not be open to projects that included concepts relating to 'technical assistance,' 'assessments,' or 'democracy and governance assistance.' These terms would alienate the Parliament's leadership.

From information the delegation gleaned and based on Dr. El Feki's offer, USAID Cairo asked NCSL to submit a lengthy draft letter suitable to be edited. Following the trip, Ms. Driscoll sent a draft letter to USAID Cairo on October 31, 2007. The letter explained NCSL's background and program proposal that USAID and the Embassy could use in following-up on a request for a meeting with Speaker Fathy Sorour.

The other options that NCSL determined to be worthwhile to pursue were reported in a Quarterly Report. One of these suggestions was to bring U.S. state legislators to Egypt for in-country academic or professional seminars or conferences. Other suggestions were meant to establish a working relationship with the Parliament and to engage the public in the Parliamentary process. Unfortunately, NCSL did not receive any feedback from USAID Cairo, the U.S. Embassy, nor Dr. El Feki. With the lack of approval from USAID Cairo and the U.S. Embassy, NCSL needed to wait for the presentation of the letter to the Speaker.

### **Phase 2: The Global Centre for Information Technologies in the Parliament Conference**

The second phase of this program came in the form of a rare opportunity. Ms. Kathy Brennan Wiggins, Director, NCSL International Programs, was asked to identify a speaker for a conference put on by the Global Centre for Information and Communication Technologies hosted by the Egyptian Parliament. As noted in the Quarterly Report for October - December 2007, NCSL was more likely to raise its profile by contributing to a professional or academic conference. The conference took place June 5 and 6, 2008 in Cairo, and Speaker Fathy Sorour conducted the proceedings.

The Global Centre was established by the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to help elected assemblies carry out their missions more effectively with the use of information technology. The purpose of the conference was to establish an organization that would promote the sharing of information technology related knowledge, experiences, and best practices among its member parliaments. NCSL sent a senior staff member to speak on NCSL's experience using information technology to strengthen legislatures.

NCSL sent an additional two person delegation to Cairo from June 2 - 6, 2008 to pursue openings for the program with the Parliament.

#### *Program Agenda*

In addition to attending many meetings and functions of the conference, the delegation met with Mr. Sami Mahran, Secretary General, the People's Assembly; Dr. Sherif Omar, Chair, Education Committee, The People's Assembly; and Dr. Mostafa Al Saeed, Chair, Economic Committee, the People's Assembly.

Ms. Driscoll and Speaker Cummings met with U.S. Embassy Political Officer Yael Lempert toward the end of their visit and debriefed her on the meetings they held. A copy of the final itinerary for the meetings is attached at the conclusion of this report.

### *Participants*

The delegation consisted of Mr. Gene Rose, Co-Director, NCSL Communications, who spoke at the conference; the Honorable Glenn Cummings, Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives; and Ms. Ann Driscoll, Program Manager, NCSL International Programs.

### *Logistics*

NCSL, with the help of USAID Cairo, U.S. Embassy staff, and a retired senior Parliamentary research staff member who continues to socialize with present staff members of the Parliament, organized all program logistics outside of the conference. NCSL thanks the personnel of these two offices and the retired staff member for their assistance and advice in this stage of the program. Ms. Driscoll was responsible for the day-to-day management of the trip.

The UN paid for Mr. Rose's travel and hotel. NCSL, with USAID Egypt's agreement, used grant funds to pay for Speaker Cumming's and Ms. Driscoll's travel.

### *Evaluation*

Phase two was very critical to the advancement of the program. It led to the identification of a potential in-country partner, key contacts within the Parliament, and established a good name for NCSL within the Parliament.

The retired staff member proved to be very valuable to NCSL in preparing for the trip. As a result of the usefulness and ease of working with her, NCSL was considering requesting for her to become an in-country partner. Having such, especially one with contacts such as she has, would be invaluable to facilitating future phases of the program, as she would be able to coordinate communications and plans with the Parliament easily. During the trip, the delegation had the opportunity to get to know her quite well, and was very excited about the possibility of working with her further.

Ms. Elah, arranged the most productive meeting of the trip, with Secretary General Sami Mahran,. The Secretary General welcomed the idea of working with NCSL on staff development. He recommended that NCSL return to Cairo in October to formally present the proposal for an exchange to Speaker Fathy Sorour. The delegation agreed that NCSL would send a letter to the Speaker through the U.S. Embassy to request the meeting.

The delegation made another important contact who made a point of introducing Speaker Cummings to Speaker Sorour while attending events of the conference. Dr. Mohamed Nagib Abou-Zaid is a member of the Senate and a scientific advisor to Speaker Sorour; he is also the Membership Secretary of the NDP and a professor of engineering at the American University in Cairo. He arranged for Speaker Cummings to meet Speaker Sorour during a coffee break the first morning of the conference. Later the same day, he arranged for Speaker Cummings to join Speaker Sorour for dessert at lunch.

Speaker Cummings took advantage of these meetings and emphasized NCSL's presence at the conference. These meetings were valuable and quite prestigious to obtain as Speaker Sorour had many other demands on his time. The relationship established by these meetings would have assisted NCSL in meeting with the Speaker during a return trip.

Unfortunately, in August, 2008, a fire occurred in the Senate Building damaging it. As Speaker Sorour's office is housed in the Senate Building, as is the Secretary General's, they both became pre-occupied with the aftermath of the fire. NCSL sent letters of condolence to Speaker Sorour and the Secretary General, attempting to continue the relationships established with these influential individuals.

Unfortunately, this natural disaster and the lack of reply caused NCSL to continue to wait to hear from USAID Cairo and the U.S. Embassy for clearance to continue the program activities. As NCSL had still not heard from either regarding the letter drafted in 2007, NCSL was unable to move forward without a new alternative. Unfortunately, the grant period closed September 10, 2008. NCSL requested a no-cost extension, which was denied despite potential for the program to move forward.

### **Results:**

NCSL organized this program leveraging multiple resources to the betterment of the program to establish long-term relationships. These relationships have survived beyond the program. Given the design and scale of the program, NCSL maintains that the following examples are some of the results that can be attributed in whole or in part to this program.

The program was intentionally organized in more of an exchange format than in a long-term technical assistance format. As learned in the first phase, the success of the program would not be easily shown. Minor, incremental steps would open the door to future engagement. Connections have been made and relationships established for further work with the Parliament, as developing relationships of trust was critical in moving forward. Speaker Sorour is aware of NCSL, what the organization does, and has a positive impression of it.

With Speaker Sorour's attention and approval, a future program could be carried out. The initial goal of the program to foster mutual dialogue and understanding between the U.S. and Egypt was met through NCSL's presence and interaction. This is primarily accomplished from Speaker Cummings association with Speaker Sorour at the conference, as well as the meeting with Mr. El Feki.

Other key contacts would also support future work with the Parliament, including Secretary General Sami Mahran and Dr. Mohamed Nagib Abou-Zaid. It could be assumed that if pursued correctly, Dr. El Feki would offer assistance to future programs as well. These contacts accomplish another goal set in the original proposal of building lasting personal and professional relationships. After analyzing the accomplishments, given the set-backs and obstacles overcome, NCSL is pleased with what was accomplished and sees potential for future work with the Parliament of Egypt.

### **Criticisms and Lessons Learned:**

The program underwent many changes and encountered many obstacles. The first obstacle came very quickly after the project was awarded. It took several months before NCSL was able to begin to work on the project in September. Unfortunately, NCSL lost two key personnel shortly after the project got started, and in an effort to obtain the best staff for the job, it took some time to find replacements. Despite this initial setback, NCSL personnel provided undaunted support to the initiative. All of these circumstances led to a very slow start of the program. This was not beneficial as the program itself was not planned for a long period of time in relation to the goals it had set.

#### *Lack of Relationship Building*

NCSL learned that additional time and meeting opportunities should be built into the program for relationship building. In a country such as Egypt with a preexisting attitude toward the U.S. Government and a lack of desire to be seen as taking advice from the U.S., substantial efforts needed to be made to build relationships and trust within the Parliament. This was especially critical as NCSL did not have very many pre-existing contacts to draw upon.

#### *Topics*

NCSL considered many topics to pursue with the Parliament throughout the program. The more the program developed, the more NCSL was able to refine options and develop topics that were appropriate. More emphasis needed to be placed on the program being an exchange rather than technical assistance.

#### *Political Circumstances*

Since the original proposal was written, Egypt has gone through incremental reforms and an amendment in 2007 to the Constitution, which expanded the role of the Majlis Al-Shab in the country's budgeting process. It remains to be seen whether the reform will become fully operational and provide the Parliament with opportunities to become a more significant force in Egyptian political life. However, many observers note the growing social, political, and economic frustration of the Egyptian people.

### **Ideas for Future Programs:**

After the interaction that resulted from the program, NCSL believes that other programs would have further success if significant contact with the Parliament is made before the actual launching of program activities. There are a number of ways these programs could be carried out.

NCSL envisions potential areas of programming in the institutional areas of media relations and public outreach. Given the attitude of the general public toward the Parliament, media relations and outreach may have significant impact on relations with Egyptian citizens. There is clearly a lot of work that could be done in these areas. Other potential topics that might be considered include crisis communication and information technology. One topic that could be used immediately would be restoration, applicable to the recent fire in the Shura Council.

Such topics could be used as gateways to discussing basic concepts such as legislative budgeting. Egypt's relatively new constitutional amendment expands the Parliament's budgetary authority over the executive's implementation of the national budget. Fully assuming this new authority can be a challenge, especially since the executive has wielded so much control in the past. A workshop focused on models for legislative budgeting and specific ways to determine spending priorities may be useful.

If the Egyptian Parliament becomes interested in exploring models for legislative budgeting, it could potentially give rise to greater transparency and accountability of Parliamentary activities, two objectives of this project. Furthermore, inclusion of the media and constituent outreach on this topic would provide synergy between the Parliament's activities and its constituents.

A program focused on the skills and capabilities of legislative staff continues to be a viable option, as staff often play a key role in Parliamentary governance. Finally, a program geared to the promotion of Egypt's information technology initiative, particularly in the Parliament, might be interesting to the leadership.

NCSL strongly believes future programming should be pursued quickly as to not lose any connection with the contacts resulting from this program. The activities need to appeal to the interests and perceived needs of the Parliament. Additionally, it should allow adequate time and activities for strengthening bonds between NCSL and the Parliament. In sum, NCSL believes that future programming would be successful if time is spent in relationship building.

*Prepared by Kathy Brennan Wiggins, Director, and Maggie Lamborn, Staff Assistant, International Programs  
Submitted to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Cairo, December 10, 2008*



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*

National Conference of State Legislatures  
Assessment Visit to Cairo  
October 21 – 25, 2007

**Tim Storey**  
**Senior Fellow**  
**Legislative Management Program, NCSL**

Tim Storey is a Senior Fellow in the Legislative Management Program of the National Conference of State Legislatures in Denver, Colorado. He specializes in the areas of elections, redistricting, and legislative organization and management. He has staffed NCSL's Redistricting and Elections Committee since 1990 and authored numerous articles on the topics of redistricting and elections. Every two years, Tim directs 'StateVote,' NCSL's effort to collect and analyze state election results. He has participated in, and led, studies of legislative operations and structure for more than 20 state legislatures as well as the parliaments in Ghana and Algeria and the Iraqi National Assembly. He currently serves on the advisory board for the Election Reform Information Project and represents NCSL on the Secretary of Commerce's Decennial Census Advisory Committee. He attended Mars Hill College in western North Carolina as well as North Carolina State University and received his master's degree from the Graduate School of Public Affairs of the University of Colorado. Prior to joining NCSL, he worked for the North Carolina General Assembly and an ABC television affiliate, WLOS-TV, in Asheville, North Carolina.

**Ann Driscoll**  
**Program Manager for the Middle East and Africa**  
**International Programs, NCSL**

Ann Driscoll has almost two decades of experience in working with international exchanges and informational and cultural programs. As a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Information Agency from 1984 to 1998, she served in the public affairs offices of U.S. embassies in Rome, Amman, Algiers, Colombo, and Ulaanbaatar. She subsequently worked for the Jennings Randolph Fellowship Program of the U.S. Institute of Peace and for Admissions Consultants, an educational consulting company in northern Virginia. As Program Manager for the Middle East and Africa for NCSL's International Programs office, she manages legislative exchange and professional development programs for elected members and legislative staff from elected assemblies in that region.

Ms. Driscoll holds a bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of South Florida and a master's degree in public communication from American University.

**Jennifer Blitz**  
**Program Specialist, Middle East and Africa Programs**  
**International Programs, NCSL**

Jennifer Blitz is a Program Specialist in NCSL's International Programs department where she manages international parliamentary training and exchange programs for the Middle East and Africa. Her responsibilities include the management of a legislative strengthening program for Saudi Arabia and a multi-phase exchange program for women policymakers from South Africa. Ms. Blitz has designed and implemented democracy and governance programs in the Middle East since 2002. From 2003 through 2005, she managed the National Democratic Institute's Iraq program support office in Amman, Jordan where programs included governance, NGO capacity building, political party strengthening and elections and political processes. In addition, Ms. Blitz has organized regional forums in Jordan and Qatar including training for women leaders from the Gulf and Yemen supporting women's political participation. She has also previously worked with the Academy for Educational Development on a multi-year, USAID-funded English language training program in Egypt. Ms. Blitz has served as a board member for the Washington, DC chapter of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and as a volunteer grant writer for Coptic Orphans, a U.S.-based organization dedicated to improving the lives of orphans and other vulnerable children throughout Egypt by providing for their basic needs and education. Ms. Blitz holds a B.A. in International Affairs from Hollins University. She speaks Arabic and French and has lived and traveled in South Africa.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*

**Assessment Trip for Legislative Exchange  
With Egypt**

*October 20 - 26, 2007*

**Schedule (As of Oct 24)**

<b>Saturday,</b> Oct 20	ARRIVALS:  1:00 pm – Jennifer Blitz, via Lufthansa 382 from Frankfurt 8:00 pm – Tim Storey and Ann Driscoll, via EgyptAir 788 from Munich  HOTEL: Sheraton Cairo Hotel Midan el-Gala (Gala Square) Tel: 3336.9800 Fax: (20)(2) 33364601
<b>Sunday,</b> Oct 21	AM: Ann will call people to confirm appointments for the rest of the week  10:00 Team meeting
<b>Monday,</b> Oct 22	<b>10:00 - Intercontinental Hotel – Sales Office</b> Garden City, Cairo  Look at guest and meeting rooms for possible future program use.  <b>11:30 - Ms. Randa Al-Zoghbi</b> Program Director CIPE Egypt 4 New Marwa Buildings – Floor 10 Heliopolis, Cairo (Next to Girl's College in Heliopolis) Tel (cell): 2012 2138.971  <b>1:00 - Mr. Bruce Abrams, Director</b> <b>- Ms. Madeline Williams, CTO for NCSL Project</b> Democracy & Governance Office USAID New Maadi, Cairo Tel: 20-2-2522-6811

	<p>Cell: 20-2- [01?]- 2787-1875  Call Admin Asst Ms. Noha Yacoub for directions if needed: 2522.6816</p>
<p><b>Tuesday,</b>  Oct 23</p>	<p><b>10:00 - Ms. Yael Lempert, POL/ECON</b>  <b>- Ms. Madeline Williams, USAID</b>  U.S. Embassy  8 Kamal El-Din Street  Garden City, Cairo  Tel (M William's cell): 012 787.1875  Embassy switchboard: 2797.3300</p> <p><b>12:30 - Dr. Ali Sawi</b>  Professor of Political Science  Faculty of Economics and Political Science  Cairo University  Sharia Sarwat, Dokki  Tel (from webpage): 5736608-5728116-5728055  (Chairman's office?: 202-5711020 )</p> <p><b>3:00 - Dr. Bruce Lohof, Director</b>  <b>- Ms. Nevine Gad El Mawla, Egypt Program Manager</b>  Binational Fulbright Commission of Egypt  21 Amer Street (off Dokki Street)  Messaha, Dokki  Tel: (202) 3359717 /3357978</p>
<p><b>Wednesday,</b>  Oct 24</p>	<p><b>10:00 - Mr. Jeffrey Carlson</b>  Country Director  IFES - Egypt  20 Gezira Street, 2nd Floor, Apt. 4  Zamalek, Cairo  Tel: 20-22-736-6677</p> <p><b>11:15 - Mr. Stephen Hanchey</b>  Country Director, Egypt  AMIDEAST  23 Mossadak Street  Dokki 12311, Giza, Cairo  Tel: 19263 (Outside Egypt: +20-2-19263)</p> <p><b>12:00 Mr. Thomas McClure</b>  Country Director  America's Development Foundation  79 Mosadak Street, Dokki – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  (Next to Misr Bank, across from Citibank)  Tel: Office Manager Howaida Nagy at 2 337 3018</p> <p><b>1:00 - Mr. Eberhard Kienle</b>  Program Officer, Governance and Civil Society  The Ford Foundation – Cairo  1, Osiris Street – The Tagher Building  Garden City, Cairo  (On the Corniche; entry is from the side street  leading to US Embassy)  Tel: (+20) 2-2795-2121</p>

<p><b>Thursday,</b> Oct 25</p>	<p><b>11:30</b>     <b>- Mr. Mounir Tabet</b> Country Director <b>- Ms. Naglaa Arafa</b> Program Analyst, Democratic Governance UNDP Egypt 1191 Corniche El Nil – World Trade Center Boulac, Cairo Tel: 394.9016 (direct) or 578.4840 to 4846</p> <p>12:30        Return to Sheraton Hotel to pick up second car &amp; driver</p> <p><u>Tim Storey &amp; Ann Driscoll:</u></p> <p><b>12:45</b>       Depart Sheraton for USAID, for 3:00 meeting:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>The Hon. Mostafa El Feki</b> Chair Foreign Relations Committee The Majlis Al-Shab</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">USAID: See Monday schedule for directions &amp; phone numbers</p> <p><u>Jennifer Blitz:</u></p> <p><b>1:30</b>        <b>The Hon. Farkhonda Hassan</b> Member of the Shura Council and Secretary General of the National Council for Women 1113 Corniche El-Nil – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Cairo (Near Tahrir Square?) Tel: (202) 574.7758 (try 02 574.7758 on mobile) or (202) 574.8708 (try 02 574.8708 on mobile)</p> <p><b>3:00</b>        <del><b>Mr. Lance Lindabury</b></del> [Meeting was cancelled] Training Consultant PADCO 21 Misr Hilwan Road Maadi, Cairo Tel: 01-0658.8242</p> <p><u>Storey, Blitz, &amp; Driscoll:</u></p> <p><b>7:00</b>        <b>Mr. Samuel Tadros (for dinner)</b> (He has another appointment at 8:00) Abu Siid Egyptian Food City Stars Mall – top floor Heliopolis</p>
<p><b>Friday,</b> Oct 26</p>	<p><b>11:00</b>       <b>Mr. David Dumke</b> The MidAmr Group The Sheraton</p>

	<p><b>Departures:</b></p> <p>4:30 am Tim – Lufthansa 585 to Frankfurt</p> <p>3:13 pm Ann – Air Algerie 4039 to Algiers</p> <p>(Jennifer is staying through Sunday)</p>
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NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*

**International Programs Cairo Trip**  
(Global Centre for ICT in Parliament Conference)

JUNE 1 - 6, 2008

Cairo, Egypt

**Schedule (As of May 30)**

<p><b>Sunday,</b> June 1</p>	<p>ARRIVALS OF NCSL TRAVELERS:</p> <p><b>2:15 pm – Ann Driscoll, via UA 9106 from Frankfurt</b></p> <p>Ann will go from the airport to USAID for a meeting with Madeline Williams and then go to the hotel. She will try to come out to the airport with the Dorcas Safari driver to meet the 9:45 flight.</p> <p>Madeline Williams Democracy &amp; Governance Office USAID New Maadi, Cairo Tel: 20-2-2522-6811 Cell: 20-2- [01?]- 2787-1875 (Call Admin Asst Noha Yacoub for directions if needed – 2522-6816)</p> <p><b>9:45 pm - Glenn Cummings and Gene Rose, via EgyptAir 778 from London</b></p> <p>TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT TO HOTEL:</p> <p><b>Mr. Mohammed Khairy</b> <b>Dorcas Safaris</b> Cell phone: (20) 10 16 78 289 (In Cairo, try dialling: 1 16 78 289)</p> <p>*** Mr. Khairy or another Dorcas staff member will be waiting outside the baggage claim area. He'll have a sign with your name on it.</p> <p>If you do not find anyone waiting for you, please take a limousine to the airport hotel. Limousine companies have desks in the area just outside the baggage claim.</p> <p>HOTEL: The Shepherd Hotel Corniche El Nil - Garden City Cairo, Egypt Front Desk: (202) 2792 1000 - Fax: (202) 2792 1010 E-mail: <a href="mailto:nagwan.khairy@shepherd-hotel.com">nagwan.khairy@shepherd-hotel.com</a> (Mrs. Khairy is the hotel staff member the Global Centre gave as a contact for</p>
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	<p>conference attendees)          Hotel URL: <a href="http://www.shepherd-hotel.com">http://www.shepherd-hotel.com</a></p> <p>Your room is being charged to Ann Driscoll's NCSL credit card. You may be asked to present your own credit card when you check in, for phone calls and other personal expenses.</p>
<p><b>Monday,</b> June 2</p>	<p>*** Monday morning would be a good time to plan sightseeing, as I don't expect to have any meetings confirmed before the afternoon.</p> <p>Times and places TBC by Ann on arrival in Cairo:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mme. Wafaa Ali Abdel Elah</b>          Formerly a senior member of the Research Service of the          People's Assembly          Tel: 00202-24155664</p> <p>Mme. Wafaa worked closely with former Library of Congress staffer Bill Robinson on a CRS-People's Assembly exchange in the 1990s. Bill put us in touch with her, and she has been of enormous help to us in arranging meetings for us at Parliament.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- Dr. Sherif Omar</b>          Chair, Education Committee          The People's Assembly</p> <p>Dr. Omar is a surgeon who did part of his training in the U.S. Ann met him briefly when he spoke at a roundtable in Washington, DC in March. He mentioned that his committee is very interested in knowing what other countries are doing in the areas of educational reform and finance. He also mentioned that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- About 4.4% of Egypt's GNP goes to education and 1.8% to health. There's awareness that that's not enough, but the question is where additional funds would come from.</li> <li>- The Parliament is actively trying to "think of another system" to fund education.</li> <li>- Parliament recently created a new agency to raise the quality of education.</li> <li>- Parliament is acting to raise faculty salaries by 50%.</li> <li>- Parliament has created an academy to train educators. Teachers who complete the academy qualify for a promotion that will double their salary.</li> <li>- Parliament is considering a similar body to review and improve standards of health care.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tuesday,</b> June 3</p>	<p><b>10:30</b>      <b>- Dr. Mostafa Al Saeed</b>          Chair of the Economic Committee          The People's Assembly          On the Parliament premises (Ann needs to get details from Mme. Wafaa)          Secretary: Galila (she's a friend of Mme. Wafaa's)</p>

Dr. Al Saeed is also a professor of economics at the Faculty of Political Science of Cairo University, and has served as Egypt's Minister of the Economy. He may be able to introduce us to Mr. Sami Mahran, the Secretary General of the People's Assembly.

To be confirmed:

**- Mr. Abdel Ghaffar**

Deputy Secretary General  
The People's Assembly

Mme. Wafaa may be able to schedule a meeting with him for us on Tuesday.

**- Ms. Yael Lempert, POL/ECON**

**- Ms. Madeline Williams, USAID**

U.S. Embassy  
8 Kamal El-Din Salah Street  
Garden City, Cairo

Madeline's cell phone: 012-787-1875

Embassy switchboard: 2797-3300

(The meeting with Yael Lempert and Madeline Williams may be moved to June 4)

Ann is also trying to reach:

**- Dr. Zein Abdel Hady**

IT Advisor to the Arab Organisation for  
Administrative Development (ARADO)

Tel: 010 - 1552116

Dr. Abdel Hady is a friend and colleague of:

**- Dr. Ali Sawi**

Professor of Political Science  
Faculty of Economics and Political Science  
Cairo University  
Sharia Sarwat, Dokki

Tel (?): 5736608-5728116-5728055

(Chairman's office?: 202-5711020)

Dr. Sawi has worked extensively on Parliamentary staff development projects. Ann and two other NCSL staff (Tim Storey and Jennifer Blitz) met him in Cairo in October 2007. Dr. Sawi is on a trip to the Gulf until June 9. He asked me to call Dr. Abdel Hady while I'm in Cairo. (Glenn, Gene – you can skip this meeting if you like. I think what Dr. Abdel Hady and I would be talking about is

	a query from Dr. Sawi about NCSL providing trainers for a project he's working on for the Bahraini Parliament.)
<b>Wednesday,</b> June 4	<b>Time TBC: Global Centre on ICT in Parliament Conference</b>
<b>Thursday,</b> June 5	<b>5:25 a.m. Gene Rose</b> departs Cairo via LH 585 to Frankfurt <b>Time TBC: Global Centre on ICT in Parliament Conference</b>
<b>Friday,</b> June 6	<b>Departures:</b> <b>5:25 a.m. Glenn Cummings and Ann Driscoll</b> depart Cairo via LH 585 to Frankfurt