

RELEASE IN FULL

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Judith:

Wanted you to be aware of the latest from ECA in terms of support for Tunis. Our folks had a conference call today with Embassy Tunis & PD Surge Team Tunis. Below are the action items and who's doing what. Maintaining good internal communication and consistent coordination will be key to making this work. Thanks. Adam.

1. Fulbright Specialist Status

- a. Post has asked for Fulbright Specialist assistance for four Tunisian institutions: Tunis Business School, ESPRIT Engineering School, University of Sfax and IPSI (Journalism School in Tunis). Areas of focus include: English language curriculum development; business specialists to teach seminars on entrepreneurship, incubators, etc.; overall curriculum development; university management.
- b. **Next steps:**
 - i. Per post's request, ECA will suspend its standard procedure for the Specialist request process to help take the load off post by contacting the four institutions to get more information about their needs, timing and how they can support Fulbright specialists with housing or other support, etc.
 - ii. ECA will validate information through Embassy Tunis PAS before proceeding to recruit specialists.
 - iii. Post will identify a project officer and provide monitoring and oversight of the projects throughout. They will use the online communication system established for the Fulbright Specialist program that allows posts, ECA and the NGO grantee organization to communicate.
 - iv. ECA, post and host institutions will identify doable timeframe for project implementation.

2. Fulbright Scholar / Student Status:

- a. ECA/A has identified four Fulbright scholars who will arrive in Tunisia in time for academic year 2011-2012.
- b. ECA/A has identified one Fulbright graduate-level researcher who will arrive in Tunisia in time for academic year 2011-2012. She is in the process of revising her proposal for a placement in Tunisia. ECA is working closely with post to secure a research clearance from the Tunisian government before her arrival.

3. English Language Specialists:

- a. Post has requested English language specialists to assist with curriculum development for ACCESS teachers with their six partners in country.
- b. Post has requested English language specialist assistance in developing English language curricula for various Tunisian academic institutions.
- c. **Next steps:**

- i. Post/RELO will submit requests for English language specialist(s) to work with ACCESS teachers. ECA will then identify appropriate specialists and aim to get them to Tunisia starting in early fall.
- ii. RELO will work with post/local partners to coordinate among program options and determine whether Fulbright specialists, English language specialists, or English language fellows would be the best fit for developing English language curriculum at academic institutions.

4. English Language Fellows:

- a. ECA will provide three fellows to Tunisia for the upcoming 2011-2012 academic year.
 - o Fellow #1 will work on curriculum and teacher training in Tunis.
 - o Fellow #2 will train teachers in La Manouba Faculty of Letters.
 - o Fellow #3: The RELO with responsibility for Tunis is now developing the third project proposal for Sfax. Final approval is pending the EL Fellow grant amendment paneling and approval.

5. Mobile English project:

- a. ECA will seek L approval to formally establish a public-private partnership with Tunisiana, the main mobile carrier in Tunisia, to provide a 90-day promotional period of their mobile English platform. The U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia would sign the proposed Letter of Intent with Tunisiana.
- b. An English Language Specialist has been identified to create and support content, and can begin in late July or as soon the Letter of Intent (LOI) is signed. Once content is designed and created for the early stages, the three ELFs can contribute to future phases of the project.

6. Tunis Business School (TBS) counterparts in U.S.:

- a. TBS launched just a year ago and is the only business school in Tunisia with a U.S.-based curriculum modeled on Stanford University's Business School.
- b. Embassy Tunis will work with USAID/Higher Education for Development (HED) to help promote post's RFA for U.S.-Tunisian university linkages to interested U.S. academic institutions. ECA will also review potential contacts in our own networks. Partners for a New Beginning (PNB) may be another option to explore.

Adam Ereli / Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary / Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs / Department of State / (202) 632-9444