Administration of the Humphrey Fellowship Program

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The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program was initiated in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter to honor the late senator and vice president, a long-time advocate of international cooperation and understanding. The program brings accomplished mid-career professionals from designated countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Europe, and Eurasia to the United States for one year of non-degree graduate study and related practical professional experience.

Fellowships are granted competitively to professional candidates with a commitment to public service in both the public and private sectors. Applications are made in the applicant's country where the first-level screenings are conducted. Fellows are nominated by the United States Embassy or Fulbright Commission, based on their potential for leadership. Final selection is made in the U.S. by panels of experts, and the J. William Fulbright Scholarship Board makes awards.

In the last 26 years, over 3,000 professionals representing more than 120 countries have participated in the Humphrey Program. This year, 175 Humphrey Fellows are spending the academic year, in groups of seven to 15, at 15 universities across the United States. UC Davis hosted the Humphrey Program from 1986 until 1996, and again since 2001. The UC Davis Humphrey Fellows will concentrate on agricultural development, environmental science, and economics. In addition to the individual course-work, research, and co-curricular activities, a series of seminars on topics of mutual interest to the participants is offered to the Fellows, providing an opportunity to share new perspectives with U.S. colleagues and specialists. With the assistance of UC Davis faculty mentors, the Fellows undertake individualized programs of academic and professional development and leadership.

The Fellows also travel throughout the U.S. to visit public and private agencies related to their professional fields, attend meetings, and network with colleagues.

By providing these future leaders with a shared experience of U.S. society and culture and of current U.S. approaches to the fields in which they work, the Humphrey Program provides a basis for lasting ties between the citizens of the U.S. and their counterparts in other countries. The Humphrey Program fosters the exchange of knowledge and mutual understanding. The U.S. joins developing countries in a significant partnership through this program.

University Outreach and International Programs

Established in 1998, the Vice-Provost Office of University Outreach and International Programs (UOIP) provides campus leadership and coordination for two increasingly important academic program areas: continuing and lifelong learning, and international research and educational activities. The mission of UOIP is to facilitate, coordinate, stimulate and provide leadership for the UC Davis faculty, students, and staff to pursue educational outreach and international programs and activities. The office has primary responsibility for all international institutional cooperative agreements and official international visits, Services for International Students and Scholars (in conjunction with the Office of Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs), the Summer Sessions and University Extension International Programs. It also works collaboratively with many other international programs on campus such as the Education Abroad Center, Internships and Career Center, and the colleges' international programs. University Outreach and International Programs, International Programs Office of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and University Extension, jointly administer the Humphrey Fellowship Program.

Faculty Mentors for 2004 – 2005 Humphrey Fellows

Professor Patrick Brown
Department of Pomology

Professor Colin Carter
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Professor John Dewey
Department of Geology

Associate Professor Frank Hirtz
Department of Human and Community Development

Professor Emeritus Alex McCalla
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Associate Professor Joan Ogden
Department of Environmental Science and Policy

Professor Wesley Wallender
Department of Land, Air and Water Resources

Professor Ruihong Zhang
Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering
Mr. Malick Souleymane Diene
Energy Engineer/Technical Assistant
National Directorate of Energy
Dakar, Senegal

Mr. Diene is an energy engineer at the National Directorate of Energy, Senegal. He has been working as a Technical Assistant in charge of developing regional exchanges under the RTPES program (Regional Program for the Traditional Energy Sector, World Bank). Mr. Diene holds a degree in Applied Mathematics and a M.S. degree in Energy Engineering from the University of Bordeaux-I, France. As a Humphrey Fellow, Mr. Diene will focus on Environmental Impact Assessments and how environmental initiatives can help finance sustainable energy projects in his country.

Mr. Leungo Kelebopile
Senior Renewable Energy Engineer
Botswana Technology Centre (BOTEC)
Gaborone, Botswana

Mr. Kelebopile holds an MSC in Renewable Energy Systems Technology from Loughborough University, UK. He works as a senior renewable energy engineer for the Botswana Technology Centre (BOTEC). BOTEC is a research and development institution whose vision is, "to be the best in the innovative application of science and technology for the development of Botswana and her people." Before he came to the University of California, Davis, he was managing a project on the installation of a solar thermal testing facility. The facility tests solar water heaters according to ISO standards. As a Humphrey Fellow, Mr. Kelebopile will broaden his knowledge and technical expertise in the design and manufacturing considerations for solar water heaters. He will also acquire project management and leadership skills, establish contacts with other professionals in the area of solar water heaters, and carry out a professional affiliation at an institution involved in the testing of solar water heaters.

Ms. Khaing Wah Wah Maw
Township Coordinator
Integrated Community Development Project
United Nations Development Programme
Yangon, Myanmar

Ms. Maw holds a Bachelor’s degree in Agriculture from the University of Agriculture in Yezin, Myanmar. She also holds a Master’s degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the Institute of Economics in Yangon, Myanmar. Currently, she serves as a Township Coordinator under the Integrated Community Development Project of the United Nations Development Programme in Myanmar. During her Humphrey year, Ms. Maw plans to strengthen her knowledge and skills in the field of Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management. She would also like to improve her professional skills in the fields of participatory community development and gender in development.

Mr. François Njomo
Permanent Secretary of the Technical Committee for the Coordination and Monitoring of Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiatives
Ministry of Agriculture
Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Mr. Njomo is an agricultural engineer who graduated from the National Advanced School of Agriculture of Cameroon in 1987. He also holds a Master’s degree in Finance and Economic Policy Management from the Faculty of Economics and Management of the University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon. As a Humphrey Fellow, Mr. Njomo will focus on Agricultural Policy issues through academic coursework and interactions with U.S. professionals and leaders of public and private institutions, as well as with federal and international organizations dealing with agricultural development. After the completion of the program, he intends to bring new ideas and experiences to enhance economic growth through the establishment and implementation of adequate and appropriate agricultural policy back home.

Mr. Suman Sijapati
Senior Divisional Engineer
Chief, Water Management Branch
Department of Irrigation, HMG
Lalitpur, Nepal

Mr. Sijapati is an irrigation engineer from Nepal. He has a Master’s degree in Irrigation Engineering and Management from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). For the last seventeen years, he has been working for His Majesty’s Government of Nepal in the Department of Irrigation. Presently, he is the chief of the Water Management Branch of the department. He has worked in different parts of Nepal, both in the mountains and the Terai. He was the chief of District Irrigation Offices in Sattah and Rasik, has worked on the Special Program for Food Security (SPFS) conducted by the FAO, and was the National Coordinator of the On-farm Water Management Project, which was funded by the World Bank and received technical assistance from the FAO. He has carried out research work in collaboration with international organizations like the IWMI and the FAO, and has written many publications to his credit. He is an active member of many social and professional organizations such as the Society of Irrigation Engineers, the Nepal Engineers’ Association, and the International Network of Participatory Irrigation and Management, Nepal.

Ms. Tahsas Wondemneh
Senior Manager of Marketing and Sales Services
ELFORA Agro Industry P.L.C
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Ms. Wondemneh holds a Master of Science degree in Economics from the Byelorussian State Institution. She works as a senior manager at a private agricultural company responsible for planning, organizing, controlling and evaluating marketing and sales activities of the company. As a Humphrey Fellow, Ms. Wondemneh will improve her skills in marketing and sales management so that her company will benefit from enhanced export quality and better livestock products.

Mr. Di Yu
Head of Solid Waste Management Department
Dalian Environmental Protection Agency
Dalian, China

Mr. Yu holds a Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science from Liaoning University, China. He has been working for the Dalian Environmental Protection Agency for almost 20 years in different departments; and has been responsible for many pollution-control management projects, including co-operational projects between China and Japan. As a Humphrey Fellow, Mr. Yu will strengthen his capacity in environmental-protection management and will learn more about environmental engineering and policy. He would like to establish a co-operative relationship between an American counterpart and the Dalian EPA, and develop his professional networking among specialists in the field of environmental management.