



November 20, 2008

Gayle Smith and Aaron Williams, Co-Leads
The President Elect's Agency Review Team
for Foreign Assistance
Transition Team Headquarters

Dear Ms. Smith and Mr. Williams:

The USAID Alumni Association, an organization of more than 500 former and retired US Government development professionals, extends its congratulations to the incoming Administration of President-elect Barack Obama.

Our Association was recently formed to support the effective use of foreign assistance and a strong US development agency. Our charter promotes three complementary goals:

- (1) To harness the experience and expertise of the USAID alumni community for to provide sound and timely professional counsel and public education in support of U.S. foreign assistance to promote effective international development;
- (2) To serve as an independent voice to support USAID and its development mission by facilitating professional staff development and the exchange of knowledge related to the effective use of foreign assistance; and,
- (3) To foster a network of former USAID employees who wish to utilize their public service skills to promote effective international development in their current community.

As the transition team examines options for strengthening, streamlining and reforming foreign assistance our Association would be pleased to serve as a resource. Our members, many of whom have served across administrations in senior positions in Washington and overseas, have first-hand knowledge and experience of how foreign assistance works. The benefit to the transition team is the opportunity to interact with practiced veterans who can offer pragmatic, grounded advice and feedback on proposals to reshape the role of USAID and foreign assistance.

Although we are not affiliated with any advocacy organization, we are currently housed inside the Society for International Development (SID). Our Association is non-partisan and independent, supported by volunteers and donations from our membership. We believe our objectivity and extensive on the ground experience are our greatest assets.

We look forward to the opportunity to sit down with you and share our perspectives on the future of foreign assistance.

Very Truly Yours,



Hank Bassford
Co-Chair



Patrick Fine
Co-Chair

UAA is not affiliated with the U.S. Agency for International Development

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