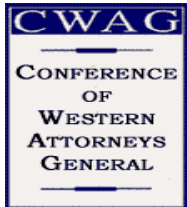


U.S. – MEXICO STATE ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIP



Report of Activities

*Combination of April 1 – June 30, 2009 and
July 1 – September 31, 2009 Quarterly Reports*

U.S. – Mexico State Alliance Partnership

Quarterly Report

Third Quarter, April 1 – June 30, 2009 &
Fourth Quarter, July 1 – September 31, 2009

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ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIP BACKGROUND

On September 23, 2008, the Council of State Governments (CSG) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) entered into a three-year cooperative, jointly funded agreement to implement the U.S. – Mexico State Alliance Partnership. The cooperative agreement was subsequently modified to extend activities to five years, September 23, 2009 – September 30, 2013.

The U.S. – Mexico State Alliance Partnership is a collaborative, multi-branch alliance comprising the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Council of State Governments (CSG) and its Western and Southern regional offices, Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG), National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), National Association of State Treasurers (NAST), National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) and other officials aimed at strengthening cooperation among state officials and institutions of the United States and Mexico. The Alliance Partnership promotes and convenes binational exchanges and workshops among border legislators, attorneys general and treasurers that enhance the role of state officials in addressing shared public policy concerns that transcend international borders.

The Alliance Partnership promotes the integration of activities and outreach with other binational mechanisms, as well as policy institutes and research universities, so that concrete policy objectives and reforms can be achieved through a strategic, multi-branch and multi-jurisdictional approach. The Alliance partners, their respective members, networks and linkages comprise a broad and influential coalition that can affect change. The Alliance Partnership is an innovative mechanism of cooperation that enables dynamic synergies and cross-jurisdictional cooperation.

REPORT OVERVIEW

This report highlights the activities of the third and fourth quarters for FY 2008-09 by CSG and the Alliance partners to promote and implement binational state exchanges as defined by the objectives of the U.S. – Mexico State Alliance Partnerships. The activities were carried out with the support of the USAID Mexico mission.

PROGRESS EVALUATION

The activities highlighted in this report illustrate CSG and its partner's continued effort to make significant progress in achieving the program's objectives, which are the following:

- Contribute to the objectives of the Merida Initiative related to continuing police education insofar as USAID has determined that "police" shall include state justice personnel;
- Strengthen and further expand binational exchanges and activities among state attorneys general of Mexico and the United States through the alliances established by CWAG, the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), and Mexico's National Conference of Attorneys General, particularly through investigative and prosecutorial capacity training seminars;
- Enhance the ability of U.S. and Mexico border state legislatures to identify and enact strategies aimed towards performing an expanded policy role in addressing common concerns along the 2,000 mile border region through the ongoing implementation of the Border Legislative Conference (BLC); and
- Establish binational economic development forums among state executive branch officials, including Lt. Governors, Treasurers and others aimed at exchanging "best practices" and linkages in public finance strategies, infrastructure planning, access to capital and tourism, among others.

BORDER LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Participation at Border Governors Conference

On September 2-4, 2009, BLC Chair, Diputado Francisco Cantu Torres, and BLC program staff attended the Annual Border Governors Conference in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. BLC staff participated in three work table meetings, including the Environment Work Table; Logistics and International Crossings Work Table; and the Security Work Table. BLC staff provided an update on activities and expressed the BLC's commitment to working with the Border Governors Conference by announcing a financial commitment of \$30,000 annually, until 2013, for joint collaborative forums among the BLC and the Environment and Logistics and International Crossings Work Tables. The financial resources are provided by the existing grant by the U.S. Agency for International Development to the Council of State Governments.

BLC program staff, accompanied by Colorado Attorney General John Suthers and the Executive Director of the Western Conference of Attorneys General (CWAG), also announced \$500,000 in Merida Initiative Funds, as part of the Alliance Partnership, to support binational exchanges and capacity training opportunities among border attorneys general and the Public Safety Work Table of the Border Governors Conference. The Public Safety Work Table of the Border Governors Conference is comprised of the public safety ministers of the 10 U.S. – Mexico border states.

The Border Governors adopted a joint declaration, as well as a document titled “Strategic Guidelines for the Competitive and Sustainable Development of the U.S. Mexico Transborder Region,” which outlines a development strategy for the border region. The Strategic Guidelines were developed by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF). BLC members will be briefed by the authors of the document during the 20th BLC in San Antonio.

BLC Washington DC Delegation

On September 23-25, 2009, the BLC Chair and Vice Chair, Diputado Francisco Cantu Torres and Senator Denise Moreno, respectively, led a delegation of 16 BLC members to Washington DC. The BLC delegation visit, which was organized in conjunction with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, included a meeting with the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and members of the Congressional Border Caucus. Moreover, the visit included a Border Issues Forum that convened at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars that focused on border transportation and coordination that included speakers from the U.S. State Department, Department of Commerce, Mexico’s Embassy, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. General Services Administration, and the Federal Highway Administration.

Participating BLC members were also briefed by Dr. Andrew Selee, Director of the Mexico Institute of the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, regarding the “Strategic Guidelines for Competitive and Sustainable Development of the U.S. – Mexico Transborder Region,” document adopted by the Border Governors Conference. BLC members expressed the interest in having the Woodrow Wilson Center’s Mexico Institute conduct focused research and legislative-driven recommendations on three topic areas within the document. These topics include economic competitiveness, work force development and public safety.

Ongoing Outreach

BLC program staff has maintained ongoing communications with a wide range of individuals and cross border governmental and non-governmental organizations that focus on U.S. – Mexico relations in an effort to further promote cross-border collaboration.

Announcement of Agreements with the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars

On June 15, 2009, the Council of State Governments announced that it entered into agreements with Arizona State University’s North America Center for Transborder Studies (NACTS) and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars – Mexico Institute in Washington DC aimed at strengthening legislative research capabilities and state – federal relations. Both agreements are for a period of one-year and supported by grant funds from the U.S. Agency for International Development – Mexico.

Overview of agreements:

ASU North American Center for Transborder Studies

As a follow up to the recently convened joint BLC – BGC Environment Work Table meeting in San Francisco in March 2009, the BLC will work with ASU NACTS and its partners to identify concrete, state led policy actions to better manage waste tires and other common environmental concerns along the U.S. – Mexico border region. The partnership with NACTS will strengthen the BLC’s legislative research capabilities by having dedicated staff to 1) identify relevant state laws, regulations and practices in each of the border states, as well as pertinent federal statutes; 2) recommend state legislative solutions pursuant to the environmental goals outlined by the members of the BLC; 3) in coordination with BLC staff, develop and recommend 10 state legislative strategy and partnership synergies; and 4) develop research publications. In addition, NACTS will assist CSG-WEST in its efforts to promote North America Competitiveness and cross-border cooperation among state and provincial leaders from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

While the initial stages of the BLC – ASU partnership will focus on the joint efforts of the BLC – BGC Environment Work Table, it is the aim of the BLC to be able to expand similar efforts to other border topics such as border crossings; economic competitiveness; agriculture and health.

Woodrow Wilson Institute

The objective of the CSG – Woodrow Wilson Institute agreement is to strengthen the Alliance Partnership’s presence and dialogue with federal legislators and agencies in Washington DC. The partnership will provide state border legislators, attorneys general, treasurers and other state officials a platform to convene joint federal and state exchanges with targeted Congressional Committees. Additionally, it is envisioned that through these exchanges there will be direct dialogue with key federal officials from agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Commerce, White House Intergovernmental Affairs, and others.

The CSG – Woodrow Wilson Center agreement will also support broad public policy research on several cross-border issues such as border management, public security, the environment, and other topics.

BLC Staffing

New BLC Program Director

In June 2009, Martha Castañeda was named Director of the Border Legislative Conference. Martha will be administering and, in conjunction of the BLC officers and members, be providing direction of the BLC. Martha had been the Program Associate for BLC for nearly four years and has done a magnificent job in that position which grew into other CSG-WEST activities such as coordinating our regional education and health efforts, as well as representing our office in CSG National programs. Martha has played a significant role in the ongoing evolution of the U.S. – Mexico State Alliance Partnership which includes cross-border cooperation among attorneys general, legislators, and treasurers. Her ascendance to the position is a natural progression of her hard work, determination and experience.

New BLC Program Associate

On September 8, 2009, Paul Somerhausen joined the staff of the Council of State Governments – West to serve as Program Associate of the Border Legislative Conference. Prior to joining CSG-WEST, Paul was a Program Consultant in the California Senate Office of International Relations where he, among other things, planned and arranged substantive multi-day programs for 800, plus dignitaries that visited the California Senate each year. Additionally, he acted as a liaison between the Senate and all of the California Consulate Generals, as well as conducting research for Senate members and staff on foreign countries. Paul is trilingual in Spanish, Dutch and English, and proficient in French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Catalan.

Deputy Director of CSG-WEST

Edgar Ruiz, the Deputy Director of the CSG-WEST, will continue to be involved in the ongoing development of the BLC. Edgar will primarily focus on the oversight and policy coordination / strategies of the different elements of CSG's U.S. – Mexico State Alliance Partnership. The Alliance Partnership includes exchanges among border legislators (BLC), attorneys general, treasurers, Lt. Governors and academic partnerships with Arizona State University's North America Center for Transborder Studies and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

CONFERENCE OF WESTERN ATTORNEYS GENERAL

2nd Binational Forum of the Attorneys General

On July 31 – August 2, the Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG) and Mexico's National Conference of Attorneys General convened the 2nd Binational Forum of Attorneys General in Boise and Sun Valley, Idaho. The Forum was attended by approximately 26 state attorneys general from Mexico, along with Mexico's Attorney General, Eduardo Medina Mora, and 15 U.S. western attorneys general. Moreover, the meeting was also attended by high-level officials from U.S. and Mexico federal law enforcement agencies, including the U.S. Justice Department, U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and others.

The forum resulted in the signing of letters of intent between CWAG and Mexico's National Conference of Attorneys General on illegal firearms, combating organized crime, and narcotics trafficking. Additionally, participating attorneys general agreed on other areas of cooperation as part of the forum's conclusions. Finally, the Attorneys General of Baja California and Utah signed a Memorandum of Understanding during the Forum aimed at, among other things, exchanging best practices and information in the area of criminal investigations, forensics, educational exchange programs and capacity training among investigators and prosecutors of both states.

Capacity Trainings for Investigators and Prosecutors

CWAG has been involved in the ongoing planning and execution of trainings for Mexico state prosecutors and investigators. The investigator trainings provide participating Mexico officials the opportunity to learn about U.S. state justice system and techniques on the collection and preservation of evidence in a crime scene, as well as mock crime scenes. The prosecutorial trainings are aimed at exposing Mexico officials to prosecution techniques and courtroom advocacy. Training instruction has included an introduction to courtroom advocacy, opening statements, direct examinations, cross-examinations, alternative case resolutions, victim rights, and defendant's rights.

Among the trainings held since April thru September include the following:

- A prosecutors training convened by CWAG and the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) was held on April 3-4, 2009 in Austin, Texas. There were a total of 26 attendees from the Mexican states of Oaxaca, Baja California and Chihuahua.
- A joint investigator – prosecutor training on advanced investigation techniques was held in Denver, Colorado June 22-26, 2009. There were a total of 22 attendees from the Mexican states of Baja California, Oaxaca, Zacatecas and Morelos.
- An investigator training on advanced investigation techniques was held in Boise, Idaho on August 2, 2009. There were a total of 56 Mexico participants from various states who were attending the 2nd Binational Forum of Attorneys General.
- An investigators training was held August 28-29, 2009 in Boise, Idaho. A total of 21 attendees from the State of Baja California.
- An investigator training on advanced investigation technique was held in Seattle, Washington on September 21-25, 2009. A total of 24 participants from the Mexican states of Morelos, Oaxaca, Baja California, Puebla, and Mexico.

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Conference

On April 14-15, 2009 CWAG facilitated the attendance of a delegation of Chihuahua investigators to attend the Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Conference hosted by the New Mexico Attorney General's Office. The conference provided Chihuahua investigators the opportunity to learn and hear about investigation/intervention strategies for high risk victims; victim services; and successful state and federal collaboration. Additionally, Mexico participants were provided a perspective by U.S. state, local and federal law enforcement officials on the dynamics of sex trafficking, including the characteristics and profile of the victim/child prostitute and the pathway to victimization and recruitment techniques.

Texas and Nuevo Leon AG's Sign MOU

On April 17, 2009, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott and Nuevo Leon Attorney General Luis Carlos Trevino Berchelmann signed a memorandum of understanding that memorialized both states' commitment to work cooperatively and collaboratively to combat transnational crime. Under the agreement, the Texas and Nuevo Leon attorneys general agreed to jointly focus on strengthening social and legal assistance to children; coordinating law enforcement

communication to help address crime on both sides of the border; exchanging information and criminal intelligence about human trafficking, drug smuggling, crimes against children and financial crimes; collaborating to combat cross-border crimes against children and human trafficking; exchanging crime prevention best practices; and offer law enforcement educational exchange programs between the neighboring states.

CONATRIB Forum in Guanajuato, Mexico

In September 2009, Susan Lustig, Administrative Director of CWAG Trainings, made a presentation to the 9th Joint Meeting of the CNPJ and CONATRIB (Attorneys Generals and Presidents of Supreme Courts) - Guanajuato, Mexico. The presentation provided an overview of the U.S. – Mexico State Alliance Partnership and specifically of the prosecutorial and investigator trainings aimed at assisting Mexican states as they undergo judicial reform.

Facilitation of Baja California External Advisory Council Visit to Sacramento

On April 6-7, 2009, CSG-WEST and CWAG facilitated the visit of 15 members of the Baja California External Advisory Council to Sacramento, California. The Advisory Council is comprised of attorneys, university professors, business leaders and others from Baja California that provide advice and recommendations to the Baja California Attorney General. The purpose of the visit was to learn about California's judicial system, particularly oral arguments in criminal trials.

Attendees visited and received an overview of California's judicial system by the Sacramento District Attorney's Office, the California Attorney General's Office and California's Third District Court of Appeals. They also visited the United States District Court, Eastern District and the Sacramento Superior Court. During their visit to the Sacramento Superior Court, Council attendees witnessed closing arguments during a criminal murder trial, as well as observed preliminary hearings and were briefed by Superior Court judges. Finally, Council members visited the Sacramento County's Forensic Lab where they were provided a tour of the facilities and information of their operations.

CWAG Chair Signs Letter of Intent with Border Governors Security Work Table

On September 1-3, 2009, Colorado Attorney General John Suthers and Karen White, the Executive Director of the Western Conference of Attorneys General (CWAG), along with CSG-WEST staff, attended the Border Governors Conference that convened in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. During the Conference, Attorney General Suthers and the co-chairs of the Border Governors Conference Border Security Work Table signed a letter of intent expressing their commitment to convene joint meetings and other exchanges between border attorneys general and members of the Border Security Work Table. The Border Security Work Table is comprised of the public safety commissioners and ministers from the 10 U.S. – Mexico border states. The letter of intent announced \$500,000 in Merida Initiative Funds, as part of the Alliance Partnership, to support these binational exchanges.

NATIONAL LIETENANT GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

The National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) engaged in two planning conversations with USAID and a USAID suggested partner, Abt Mexico on June 29, 2009 and September 17, 2009. In addition, an Abt representative attended the July 2009 NLGA Annual Meeting. The representative briefed several lieutenant governors on work in Mexico and simultaneously surveyed members regarding areas of expertise and interest.

Through this grant, NLGA is providing a panel speaker (*Nevada Lt. Governor Brian Krolicki*) for the November 5, 2009, “Strengthening Economic Competitiveness” panel at the Americas 2020 International Trade and Transportation Summit of U.S. and Mexico officials. A tentative goal of work with AMSDE was reached, with further conversation to occur in November.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE TREASURERS

Continued Relationship Building

On June 26-27, 2009, after meeting with ACS in Lexington, KY to discuss property tax collection efforts, a delegation of Mexican treasurers stopped in Atlanta, GA where the Georgia Treasurer, Dan Ebersole, and his wife Sarah continued to build personal relationships.

Meeting with Mexico’s Ministry of Finance and Public Credit

On July 29-30, 2009, Georgia Treasurer Dan Ebersole, NAST Executive Director Jon Lawniczak, and Chairman of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Robert Attmore meet with Hacienda officials in Mexico City. The purpose of the meetings were to share with Hacienda and other officials United States experience in bringing together federal, state, and local accounting standards (The U.S. only does state and local, federal standards are set separately). This was timely because of the new Mexican law requiring the harmonization of federal, state, and local accounting standards, along with standard budgeting mechanisms.

Mexico Participation at NAST Public Finance Institute

On August 1-6, 2009, two Mexican treasurers and a private sector representative attended the NAST Public Finance Institute. The Institute offers training at the Treasurer and Senior Deputy level on all aspects of Treasury functions. The Mexicans fully participated in the sessions including Q&A.

Treasurer Ebersole Travel to Mexico

On October 3, 2009, Georgia Treasurer Dan Ebersole – at his own expense – traveled to Mexico for a personal event. While there, he renewed his relationships with Treasurer Suarez, Revenue Director Angula, and others.

On-going Development

Strategic discussions between NAST Leadership and USAID have been ongoing to determine best mechanisms for re-energizing Mexican treasurers and expand value of program.

WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS

Tempe Meeting Follow-Up

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars conducted post-meeting follow-up activities after its June 17-18, 2009, meeting in Tempe. This meeting brought together project collaborators to discuss border research trends across a variety of issue areas. Conference proceedings and research will inform the report that will be drafted at the conclusion of the project.

Preparation for Washington, DC Border Issues Forum and Private Meeting

Over July and August, project coordinators began work on conceptualizing and organizing a meeting in Washington, D.C., to be held in September. This meeting would consist of a private meeting between members of the Border Legislative Conference and Members of Congress belonging to the Congressional Border Caucus. Additionally, the meeting would include a semi-public “Border Issues Forum,” held at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. This semi-public conference would include the attendance of agency representatives from the federal level, members of the Border Legislative Conference, as well as other individuals from the research, academic, and policymaking communities who follow issues of border transportation infrastructure.

ASU’S NORTH AMERICAN CENTER FOR TRANSBORDER STUDIES

Personnel Support

In June 2009, ASU NACTS interviewed candidates and formally hired Erin Maupin, a second-year student at ASU’s Sandra Day O’Connor School of Law to serve as NACTS Legislative Issues Intern. Ms. Maupin’s main objective would be to complete the CSG-WEST database on laws dealing with waste tires for California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

In July 2009, ASU NACTS formally hired Israel Diaz Arcos, a staff member at the city of Nogales, Sonora’s Institute of Municipal Planning and a former COLEF Ciudad Juarez researcher to consult on legal research relating to waste tire management legislation in Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, and Tamaulipas. Mr. Diaz Arcos’ main objective would be to complete the CSG-WEST database on Mexican border state waste tire management laws, gathering information from a variety of sources both personal and institutional.

Highlight of Monthly Activities

July 2009

- Completed first draft of updated CSG-*WEST* database on waste tire management legislation on U.S. states.
- Completed first draft of updated CSG-*WEST* database on waste tire management legislation on Mexican states.

August 2009

- Met with Israel Diaz in Nogales, Sonora to discuss various components of the waste tire project.
- Completed executive summary of initial project findings (English and Spanish versions).
- Completed executive summary of overview of Arizona utilization of rubberized asphalt (English and Spanish versions).

September 2009

- Participated in several conference calls with planning committee for the CSG-*WEST* North American Summit.
- Presented initial project findings at Border Governors Conference meeting of environmental worktable and received feedback from the states of Texas, Baja California, Nuevo Leon and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Participated in follow up calls with the states of Texas and Nuevo Leon.
- Participated in CSG-*WEST*/Border Legislative Conference visit to Washington, DC. Presented initial project findings at Border Issues Forum organized by the Mexico Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC and consulted with U.S. and Mexican legislators on project.
- Developed format for new NACTS policy analysis review series using waste tire legislation executive summary as prototype.
- Developed format and outline for November version of report.
- Participated in conference call with CSG-*WEST* and the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Held initial discussions with BLC on possible areas of expansion for NACTS/BLC partnership, including:
 - CSG/BLC/NACTS Water project
 - NACTS Cross Border Collaboration and Action Scorecard.
 - May 2010 MegaMeet in Tempe.
 - Outreach to BLC's Arizona Delegation.