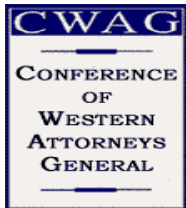


U.S. – MEXICO STATE ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIP



Report of Activities

*April 1, 2010 – June 30, 2010
3rd Quarterly Report (updated 8/17)*

U.S. – Mexico State Alliance Partnership

Quarterly Report

Third Quarter, April 1, 2010 – June 30, 2010

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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 quarter for FY 2009-10 by CSG and the Alliance partners to promote and implement binational state and local 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);
- 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.
- Strengthen legislative research capabilities and state – federal relations of the program through strategic partnerships and linkages with academic institutions and policy think tanks, including the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars and the North America Center for Transborder Studies at Arizona State University; and
- Support the U.S. and Mexico federal governments in the implementation of their joint strategy, as part of the next phase of the Merida Initiative, to strengthen and create resilient border communities by establishing partnerships with local border stakeholders and groups, such as The Paso del Norte Group. Such partnerships will assist in the convening of local and regional binational exchanges that integrate local/regional policy objectives with state and federal decision-makers.

BORDER LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

21st Border Legislative Conference

Legislators from the U.S. – Mexico border states convened April 16-17, 2010 in Tempe, Arizona for the 21st Border Legislative Conference. Attending legislators had the opportunity to participate in joint meetings with two work tables of the Border Governors Conference. These included the Environment and the Logistics and International Crossings Work Tables, as well as with the Border Governors Conference Representatives one day prior to the opening activities of the 21st Border Legislative Conference.

Participating members heard updates from the joint meetings, as well as a report from the newly formed Border Research Partnership comprised of El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF), the North American Center for Transborder Studies (NACTS) at Arizona State University, and the Mexico Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Ways to create a future of sustainable energy, federal perspectives on U.S.-Mexico border issues, scrap tires recycling to create asphalt rubber paving for roads, and the need for cross-border legislation on juvenile issues were also discussed.

For their part, the members of the BLC expressed support of the recommendations identified during the joint meeting with the Border Governors Conference Environment Work Table, including the development of Phase II of the ongoing scrap tire efforts, the encouragement of a public awareness campaign, highlighting renewable energy models, strengthening federal legislative integration, and ensuring the integration of best legislative and regulatory practices, among others.

BLC members also adopted the recommendations from the joint meeting with the Border Governor Conference Logistics and International Crossings Work Table. The recommendations included the support for the development of a regional and border-wide joint Master Plan, analysis of border wait times, and promoting greater collaboration with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Mexico's Customs Agency on mitigating traffic concerns caused by southbound inspections.

BLC members were informed of a proposal to enhance the efforts of the BLC and the Alliance Partnership aimed at strengthening local/regional border communities. The objective is to work with BLC members and local border stakeholders to 1) convene/facilitate local/regional binational exchanges aimed at promoting strong and resilient border communities; and 2) strengthen binational mechanisms of cooperation that integrate local/regional policy objectives with state and federal decision-makers.

This proposal, which is being considered by USAID, will build upon the existing U.S. – Mexico State Alliance Partnership and accelerates binational activities under the existing USAID – CSG Cooperative Agreement and further integrates such efforts so that concrete policy objectives and reforms can be achieved through a strategic, binational, multi-branch, multi-regional, and multi-jurisdictional approach.

The Officers of the Border Legislative Conference and a delegation of the Northern Border Affairs Committee of Mexico's Federal Senate signed a joint declaration pledging to maintain binational dialogue and collaborate on issues of mutual importance to improve the border region.

The members of the BLC agreed to convene the 22nd BLC in Sonora in the fall of 2010.

U.S. – Mexico Binational Health Councils – Planning Workshop II

On April 19-20, 2010 BLC program staff attended this event jointly hosted by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission (USMBHC) at the Wyndham Airport Hotel in El Paso, Texas.

Workshop I was held June 25-27, 2008, in San Antonio, Texas at which time the participating Binational Health Councils created strategic plans. *Workshop II* was convened to expand the strategic plans into operational plans that each of the 15 Binational Health Councils may use to justify support from external sources for implementation of projects. A key component of this meeting included linking local public health leaders and establishes collaborative partnerships with major border health organizations working on behalf of the U.S.-Mexico border region. BLC program staff joined other organizations in sharing our organizational structure; mission and vision; funding sources; significant calendar events for 2010-2011; and opened the door to consider border wide opportunities to better communicate, coordinate, and collaborate.

Mexico Advocacy Day

BLC program staff collaborated with Consul General of Mexico in Sacramento, Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez, and his staff in Sacramento, California in carrying out the first ever "Mexico Advocacy Day" on May 12, 2010. The day-long program consisted of legislative visits by a delegation headed by Consul General Gonzalez to various leadership and member offices,

including Senate President Pro Tempore, Darrell Steinberg; Minority Leader Dennis Hollingsworth; Republican Caucus Chair, Bob Huff; Latino Legislative Caucus Chair, Gil Cedillo; Speaker of the Assembly, John A. Perez, among others. This was followed by a working lunch held at California Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters hosted by Secretary, Linda Adams, and then a Hearing of the California Senate Select Committee on California-Mexico Cooperation.

The hearing was moderated by Committee Chair, Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny. There was a brief overview of the publication “*Strategic Guidelines for the Competitive and Sustainable Development of the U.S. – Mexico Border Region*” followed by a discussion on *California – Baja California Emergency Management and Disaster Coordination: Identification of Potential Binational Strategies* during which both California Emergency Management Agency Secretary, Matthew Bettenhausen and Baja California State Director of Civil Protection (Disaster Coordination), Alfredo Escobedo, both spoke. The hearing closed with a panel on *California – Mexico Border Crossings: Opportunities and Challenges to Facilitate Cross-Border Trade and Competitiveness* which San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Executive Director, Gary Gallegos; Central Administrator of Customs Planning in Mexico’s Customs Administration (AGA-SAT), Gad Neumann Neuhahn; and Sean Carlos Cazarez Ahearne, Deputy Director General for Border Affairs spoke on.

Mexico Advocacy Day ended with a joint reception at the Leland Stanford Mansion in the spirit of joining the interagency Mexican delegation, state officials, and business leaders devoted to fostering the Mexico-California relationship and in conjunction with the Consulate General of Mexico in Sacramento, the California Senate Select Committee on California-Mexico Cooperation, the California Latino Legislative Caucus, the California-Mexico Border Relations Council, as well as the Border Legislative Conference.

Baja California Judicial Study Tour in Denver, Colorado

BLC program staff assisted the Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG) in serving as staff lead and accompanying the delegation from Baja California throughout the duration of the two-day program. Agenda included visits to Brighton/Adams County Courthouse, a tour of the 17th Judicial District, District Attorney’s office, observation of court proceedings, a discussion with judges, a tour of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, visit to the Jefferson County Courthouse, observation of proceedings in that County, and further discussions with Judges.

Third Annual Americas 2020 Site Visits

BLC program staff traveled to Dallas on June 28-29, 2010 and met with Texas Department of Transportation Conference Planners to visit five properties in the greater Dallas area in advance of the November 11-12, 2010 event. Negotiations are currently underway to secure a property for this forum which focuses on international trade and transportation.

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.

CONFERENCE OF WESTERN ATTORNEYS GENERAL

Programming Successes

Facilitation by CWAG Attorneys General and other Alliance Partnership members have allowed for the rapid escalation of institutional relationships and law enforcement trainings. Fifteen U.S. state Attorneys General and thirty Mexican state Attorneys General and their personnel have spent hundreds of hours in trainings, and, through interpersonal and email communications, have shared information and techniques which can address the illegal activities of criminals and cartel members in the United States and Mexico. CWAG has now received participants from every Mexican jurisdiction, including all 31 states, the Federal District, Military Justice and the federal government.

Personal meetings between individual Western Attorneys General and Attorney General Arturo Chavez Chavez, Mexican State Attorneys General and representatives of the Secretaría de Seguridad Pública have allowed for relationships built on communication and trust to propel Alliance Partnership prosecutor, investigator, judicial, financial crimes and forensic trainings forward with amazing speed and expansive results.

Binational Exchange Program

CWAG Attorneys General have remained active at various Alliance Partnership trainings during the second quarter. Rhode Island Attorney General Patrick Lynch spent many hours meeting with Mexican prosecutors during the week-long prosecutor training held in Providence in May. Representatives from the Colorado Attorney General's Office met with Tabasco Attorney General, Rafael Gonzalez Lastra, during an investigator and prosecutor training held in Denver, Colorado in June. Sinaloa's Attorney General Alfredo Higuera Bernal also attended the May Los Angeles Prosecutor training in order to observe the participation of members of his staff engaging in oral advocacy exercises.

We've been heartened by the fact that Mexican State Attorneys General are comfortable approaching the Alliance Partnership with specific training requests. Former Attorney General from the State of Mexico, Alberto Bazbaz Sacal, requested specialized training in Mexico for an elite state task force of prosecutors, forensic experts and investigators, which will take place in Q3 and Q4. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the State of Mexico, as the new Attorney General, Alfredo Castillo Cervantes, attended CWAG Prosecutor Training in Portland, Oregon, in November 2009.

Capacity Building for Mexican Justice Professionals

The state of the art bilingual Alliance Partnership Website www.cwagweb.org/ap provides password-protected access to meeting, educational and archived materials. It also serves as a figurative “411” and “911” of active and responsive Alliance Partners. The recent launch of the Forensics sub-site allows both U.S. and Mexican law enforcement to retrieve and receive academic information in both basic and advanced forums.

Judicial

CWAG’s Judicial Training Program implementation gained momentum this quarter with an invitation to meet with the President of the Comisión Nacional de Tribunales Superiores (CONATrib), Rodolfo Campos Montejo, in Villahermosa, Tabasco in May. This meeting yielded a fruitful connection with the Mexican state courts, including an invitation to address the greater legal community of the State of Tabasco in August at a symposium exploring the basic concepts of the adversarial criminal justice system. It also led to the planning of CWAG’s first Judicial Training Course, designed to assist Mexican judges with courtroom management issues related to an oral advocacy system. The initial Judicial Training Program will be in November 2010 in San Diego, CA, with the assistance and coordination of bilingual retired New York Supreme Court Judge Laura Safer Espinoza, who worked for many years with the Chilean justice system as that nation reformed its justice system.

Prosecutors and Investigators

Various Attorneys General’s offices, with support from the Alliance Partnership, hosted prosecutor and investigator trainings throughout the quarter. The Attorney General’s office of Rhode Island hosted a Prosecutor Training for 26 participants from 9 different states in Mexico, which included visits to the Attorney General’s office and the Supreme Court.

The Arizona Attorney General’s office hosted CWAG’s first Mock Trial course, for 19 prosecutors from Baja California, who had previously completed CWAG’s introductory oral advocacy course.





The South Dakota Office of the Attorney General hosted 24 Investigators for a week of Advanced Investigative Techniques, while an additional Prosecutor Training for 40 people was held in Los Angeles, California. In June, the Colorado Attorney's General Office hosted a group of 58 prosecutors and investigators for a dual training, as well as receiving 10 participants from the Baja California legal community for a judicial study tour.



And in July, 30 prosecutors attended oral advocacy training in Santa Fe, New Mexico, which benefitted from participant interaction with New Mexico Attorney General Gary King, Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard, and Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden, as well as MALDEF Board Member and former New Mexico Attorney General Patricia Madrid.

With the coordination and support of state Attorneys General's Offices, the Alliance Partnership successfully hosted its first in-country training with 40 prosecutors in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico in May, followed by a course for 42 prosecutors in Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico, in June.

Tools and techniques that support successful prosecutions in adversarial justice systems were discussed, modeled and practiced. Experienced U.S. law enforcement and prosecution officials, along with experienced trial attorneys, shared information on a variety of topics. Investigators received lectures and practice on crime scene management, from responding to the initial call to writing case reports to presenting oral testimony in court. Prosecutors learned the basics of oral advocacy, and practiced handling a case from opening statements to closing arguments, including direct and cross-examination of witnesses. Sample agendas from the Denver trainings are attached to this report, and other training documents are available on the website at www.cwagweb.org/ap.

Support from CWAG member states and Attorneys General in this project allows for numerous partnerships with other law enforcement agencies. CWAG states collaborated with the Phoenix Police Department, U.S. Marshals Service, Portland Police Department, South Dakota DCI, Rhode Island State Police, as well as Colorado agencies including Colorado Bureau of Investigations and personnel from Adams and Jefferson Counties. Retired FBI agents also contributed to various trainings throughout the quarter.

Forensics

The forensic training and technical assistance element of our forensic programming ran in full force this quarter. With the assistance of the New Mexico Attorney General's Office, a Forensic Crime Scene Investigation training course was held at the Playas Regional Training Center in New Mexico in April for 29 forensic experts. Twenty-seven government experts took part in a DNA Statistics course, led by world-renowned population geneticist, professor Ranajit Chakraborty (Health Sciences Center of the University of North Texas, Professor and Director, The Center for Computational Genomics, The Institute of Investigative Genetics, Department of Forensic and Investigative Genetics) in Mexico City, with the support of the PGR's Coordinator of Forensic Laboratory Services, Miguel Oscar Aguilar Ruiz. A forensics Chain of Custody Course was also held in Mexico City, hosting 29 PGR Forensic laboratory directors from across the country in an effort to address various important aspects of proper chain of custody, and provide support and guidance under Mexico's new Chain of Custody laws and regulations.

The Forensics program held its first Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Course in Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico, in June for 30 blood-spatter experts from various jurisdictions in Mexico. The course, led by Kenneth Jones, Criminalist for the Portland Police Department and Cheryl Kanzler, Forensics Training Instructor, was delivered with strong support from PGR Regional Laboratory Director Sergio Alvarado Reyes and the Cancun PGR Delegation office.

CWAG Forensics Program Director Lance Gima was invited to attend the Conferencia Nacional de Procuración de Justicia's 18^a Reunión Nacional del Grupo de Servicios Periciales y Ciencias Forenses in June, and addressed the group of state forensic laboratory directors on Chain of Custody, as well as introducing CWAG's online forensic training courses, and mapping out plans for various future forensic trainings.

Additionally, the bilingual forensic training materials and website funded and developed by the Alliance Partnership is utilized by Mexican states to obtain education and certification-level studies in specialty forensic areas. A comprehensive list and statistics on the use of the online training will be available by the end of the fourth quarter of this fiscal year. In the meantime this site is the premier Spanish-language resource for Mexican forensic scientists. Content includes Spanish-language online scientific course content on DNA for Prosecutors, DNA for Investigators, and Fingerprints for Forensic Technicians. This resource allows for widespread access to this valuable forensic information by essentially all Mexican state Attorneys General's Office personnel. Other courses are also being considered for future offerings.

Additional Trainings and Programming

The Alliance partnership, in conjunction with various U.S. and Mexican Attorneys General's Offices hosted two additional trainings this quarter.

In June, The New Mexico Attorney's General Office held a one-day Anti-Human Trafficking course, led by Maria Sanchez Gagne, Assistant Attorney General, Border Violence Division, with 13 participants from the border state of Chihuahua. Sessions addressed creating more cross-border relationships to assist in the prevention of human trafficking.

In conjunction with PGR's Organized Crime Division (SIEDO), Hacienda y Crédito Público's Financial Intelligence Unit (SHCP-UIF) and the Arizona Attorney General's Office, an Asset Forfeiture and Anti-Money Laundering course was held for 47 participants in Mexico City in April, led by Cameron "Kip" Holmes.

The Alliance Partnership also took initial steps to explore the development of live, interactive distance learning technology, to support increased delivery of capacity building programs to Mexico. Using a sophisticated video-conferencing platform, CWAG is developing the ability to deliver high-quality learning experiences to locations which are not either accessible or conducive to traditional presence-based learning activities.

CWAG Annual Meeting

The CWAG Annual Meeting took place in Santa Fe, New Mexico, July 18 – 22, allowing Attorneys General from across the U.S. to collaborate on a variety of cross-border issues.

At the Joint Informational Meeting with CWAG and the Border Security Work Table of the Border Governors' Conference, various border issues and the involvement of the Alliance Partnership in supporting efforts to combat substantial law enforcement concerns were addressed.

Discussions took place regarding the formation of a Joint Task Force on Money Laundering, led by Cameron Holmes of the Arizona Attorney General's Office, to include U.S. state and federal

and Mexican collaboration. A Joint Task Force development meeting also took place with Cameron Holmes, Karyn Kenny (USDOJ Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Unit), Regina Martha Gonzalez (Mexico's Treasury Department's Financial Intelligence Unit, SHCP-UIF), to discuss further AG participation in the new Joint Task Force.

Combating cross-border firearms trafficking was also discussed at length with representatives from ATF, Woodrow Wilson Center, California Emergency Management Agency and the New Mexico State Police. Struggles with utilizing the E-Trace system within Mexico were discussed, leading to conclusions that additional training and resources need to be focused on training state-level law enforcement users in Mexico.

Through Merida Initiative funding, resources are ready and available to train local law enforcement to assist in the E-Trace system in order to foster greater state-level participation in inputting data into the system, thus becoming a greater resource to both U.S. and Mexico law enforcement professionals.

By utilizing the relationships that CWAG and the Alliance Partnership already have in place with state and federal Attorneys General in Mexico, discussions should begin immediately to address effective firearm tracing – and to begin taking a ‘bottom-up’ approach to training, in order to allow those seizing weapons in Mexico to input the necessary information into the E-Trace system.

Additional topics at the round table included prison release and deportation of undocumented immigrants, as well as state binational efforts to combat human trafficking.

Future Partnerships and Programming

The remainder of the 2009-2010 fiscal year will continue with 12 trainings in which at least 500 representatives from Mexican state Attorneys General's Offices and the PGR will experience CWAG's programming. We will also continue to bring program efforts from this quarter to fruition, and lay plans for trainings throughout the fiscal year. Several exciting endeavors are being developed which enlist the expertise and resources of a variety of institutions and people. A schedule of planned and proposed trainings is attached; as this is a fluid process, please contact CWAG for the latest scheduling information at any time.

Outreach to potentially collaborative individuals and organizations have been a primary focus of CWAG Executive Director Karen White in this quarter. CWAG's discussions with fellow Alliance Partnership members such as the National Association of Attorneys General, the Woodrow Wilson Center, The Border Governors' Conference and its Border Security Work Table, along with the Council of State Governments, is opening doors and creating collaborative opportunities between these organizations.

Several opportunities to meet with high-ranking United States and Mexican officials have utilized the opportunities to secure support for the development of a goal of the Western Attorneys General, a joint USDOJ, PGR, State AG and Border Law Enforcement Multi-Agency Anti-Money Laundering Prosecution Task Force. A July 7, 2010, meeting with the Mexican Ambassador to the United States Arturo Sarukhan was critical in securing support from the PGR for a late July discussion regarding a potentially game-changing joint money laundering task force.

CWAG's participation in the grant development process accessing the Southwest Border Alliance's / Western Union \$55 million dollar Settlement Fund is a cornerstone of the effort by the CWAG Attorneys General to combat cartel influence by supporting the development of a multi-faceted prosecution group. On July 21 at the CWAG Alliance Partnership Santa Fe Meeting, a USDOJ Asset Forfeiture Unit Representative, CWAG Alliance Partnership Director and Mexico Treasury Official met to begin the discussions regarding the formation of the group.

In sum, with the continued support of USAID, CWAG has been able to cultivate a wide range of contacts interested in supporting justice reform efforts in Mexico. CWAG is gathering and sharing program information through the Alliance Partnership website, accessible at www.cwagweb.org/ap. (Portions of the site are password-protected, due to security concerns. Access instructions are attached.)

CWAG continues to be a proud partner in this historic effort. Our interest lies in listening to the legal needs expressed by our counterparts in Mexico and connecting those requests with experts in the respective areas. CWAG is the grateful recipient of the abiding support of our USAID mentors, member Attorneys General and the intelligent, passionate and committed CWAG Alliance Partnership staff.

NATIONAL LIUTENANT GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

Lieutenant Governors Promote Economic Development thru Mexico Mission

Wisconsin Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton and Nevada Lt. Governor Brian Krolicki were representatives of the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) and The Alliance on an economic development mission in Mexico City July 5 – 9, 2010. The lieutenant governors opened dialogue at the federal, state, and local levels on economic development and energy. Mission goals were to promote exchanges between the U.S. states and lieutenant governors and Mexican officials on best practices in energy efficiency, opportunities for expanding renewable energy use, and economic development, in general. The lieutenant governors met with U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Carlos Pascual and with Mexico City Mayor Marcelo Ebrard. Discussions included work of a bi-lateral, presidential-level regulatory task force seeking to harmonize certain standards across the two countries to encourage economic development and stories of the city's success in implementing Metrobus, a dedicated lane, rapid transport, public bus system recognized internationally for its contributions to sustainability.

All discussions during the exchange centered on the close links between economic growth, competitiveness, sustainable development, and energy and on the roles states may play in these efforts. The lieutenant governors engaged in two days of conversation with high level representatives of Mexico's Energy Ministry (SENER), the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE), the National Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE), the National Commission for Energy Efficiencies (CONUEE), and Mexico's Foreign Relations Ministry (SRE). The delegates also advanced the value of including private sector perspectives in such conversations. At Bayer Mexico, the lieutenant governors were joined by Bayer Mexico executives and a delegation from the Border Legislative Conference for a roundtable with representatives from Mexico's Senate Committees for Northern Border Affairs, Environment, and Energy. NLGA anticipates discussions on this topic will continue through engaged conversation and member participation

in upcoming meetings with a state-level best practices exchange to occur possibly in the first quarter of 2011.

WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS

The Woodrow Wilson Center Mexico Institute (WWICS-Mexico) is a member of the U.S.-Mexico State Alliance Partnership, which is coordinated by the Council of State Governments-West. During the current reporting period, April 1 through June 30, 2010, WWICS-Mexico undertook the following activities as a Partnership member:

April 2010

Attended the planning meeting “10 States Retreat,” jointly sponsored by the Border Governors Conference (BGC) and Border Legislative Conference (BLC), over April 14-17, 2010, at Tempe, AZ. Participation at the meeting enabled WWICS-Mexico to deepen its relationship with the Council of State Governments-West, as well as with other U.S.-Mexico State Alliance Partnership members, such as the North American Center for Transborder Studies at Arizona State University and the BLC. At the meeting, representatives from WWICS-Mexico, NACTS, and El Colegio de la Frontera Norte introduced the Border Research Partnership, a think tank made up of the three institutions designed to offer commissioned and general border-related research to the BGC and BLC. In preparation for the “10 States Retreat,” WWICS-Mexico helped to produce a prospectus articulating the mission and goals of this partnership and also helped to create a PowerPoint presentation that was later shown to the BGC and BLC delegates.

May 2010

Submitted for the consideration of CSG-West an application to renew the current WWICS-CSG partnership and to continue WWICS’ membership in the U.S.-Mexico State Alliance Partnership. Formally, this application was made as an amendment to the existing subaward agreement, ending April 30, 2010 (agreement number: 09-SA-12-1517).

During the reporting period, the Wilson Center Mexico Institute also conducted normal administrative and follow-up tasks related to its membership in the Partnership.

Future Activities

The Mexico Institute will participate in Alliance Partnership activities going forward. In the upcoming quarter, July 1-September 30, 2010, these activities, among others, are expected to include WWICS-Mexico’s participation at the annual conference of the Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG), an Alliance Partnership member, in Santa Fe, N.M., over July 18-21. WWICS-Mexico will be asked to recruit speakers for the conference and to make presentations on topics to be discussed, including money laundering and arms trafficking. WWICS-Mexico will also assist fellow Alliance Partnership member CSG-West with preparations for its annual meeting at Sun Valley, ID, in September. Furthermore, over summer and fall 2010, WWICS-Mexico plans to dispatch staff and contractors to attend and participate in various border-related research conferences and meetings in both Mexico and the United States.

NORTHA AMERICAN CENTER FOR TRANSBORDER STUDIES, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Ongoing April-June:

- Coordinated with Border Research Partnership (NACTS, COLEF and Mexico Institute/Wilson Center) on implementation phase for *Strategic Guidelines for the Competitive and Sustainable Development of the U.S.-Mexico Transborder Region* for the Border Governors Conference.

NACTS activities related to U.S.-Mexico State Alliance Partnership areas of interest:

- Conducted research project commissioned by Motorola Corporation on border security communications issues
- Consolidated Water Innovation Consortium (ASU, Tec de Monterrey, Fundacion FEMSA, IADB)
- Concluded study on risk assessment for U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

April 2010

- Attended CWAG prosecutor training on asset seizure and forfeiture at PGR-SIEDO offices in Mexico City
- Attended joint Border Governors Conference and Border Legislative Conference environmental and logistics/transportation meetings in Tempe, Arizona on April 14-16
- Presented Border Research Partnership concept to the Border Governors Conference state representatives meeting in Tempe, April 15
- Attended Border Legislative Conference semiannual meeting in Tempe, April 16-17

NACTS activities related to U.S.-Mexico State Alliance Partnership areas of interest:

- Coordinated a collaborative effort in partnership with the Arizona-Mexico Commission and the Comision Sonora-Arizona to draft “A Shared Vision,” the new five-year strategic plan for the states of Arizona and Sonora, April 2010
- Director met with members, speakers, and attendees at U.S. Department of Interior Field Coordinating Committee. He presented a talk on interagency and inter-governmental cooperation on water, energy and biodiversity issues. DHS attended, April 21
- Organized and participated in panel on international migration at ASU conference, “Breaking Down the Walls: Increasing the Discourse in the American Foreign Policy Making Community”, April 2

May 2010

- “Soft” launch of new NACTS website, which includes descriptions of the scrap tire report conducted for the Border Legislative Conference as well as descriptions of the U.S.-Mexico State Alliance Partnership, CSG-WEST, and the BLC.

NACTS activities related to U.S.-Mexico State Alliance Partnership areas of interest:

- Presentation on book project, *The Story of Spanish*, by NACTS visiting Canadian Fulbright Julie Barlow, May 3
- Presented on NACTS North America Next report at UNAM conference, “North America in the 21st Century,” May 13

- Initiated planning with partner units at ASU on October 2010 event and book initiative on “Arizona’s Latino Politics, Immigration, and the U.S.-Mexico Binational Relationship”
- Director attended the two-day long BGC binational desalination conference. Future water projections were discussed and debated, May 26-27
- Led ASU student delegation to Triumvirate, The North American Student Parliament, Queretaro, May 30-June 4

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE TREASURERS

The National Association of State Treasurers (NAST) and CSG are working on an updated subaward agreement under the U.S. – Mexico State Alliance Partnership. The subaward agreement will provide an opportunity to maintain and expand binational exchanges among U.S. and Mexico state treasurers. It is envisioned that a new subaward agreement will be finalized by in August 2010.

THE PASO DEL NORTE GROUP

Ongoing activities April - June 2010

The Paso del Norte Group convened and facilitated multiple meetings with regional stakeholders in preparation for the Foro de Construccion Comunitaria to be held on August 11th in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua and the Border Security Conference in El Paso, Texas on August 12 - 13, 2010. The Paso del Norte Group has coordinated working groups comprised of regional representative to shape recommendations for the Paso del Norte Region concerning the development of model border ports and numerous economic and social development initiatives.

April 2010

The Paso del Norte Group along with representatives from various organizations from the region involved in border mobility, participated in a presentation to Commissioner Bersin on his visit to the area on Model Border Ports including the following topics:

- Streamlined process – recommendations for improving processes for passengers and pedestrian crossings;
- Cargo recommendations - including integrated entry and exist process for commercial traffic and revision of policies regarding CTPAT shippers;
- Personnel recommendations- including increased staffing at ports of entry, enhanced customer service and incentives for the facilitation of trade, commuter and pedestrian traffic in addition to incentives already awarded for interdiction activities; and
- New Technologies - implementation of existing technologies that improve security measures and move inspection of cargo away from the ports of entry to prevent bottlenecks.

May 2010

Interviews we held throughout the region to identify and organized the Ciudad Juarez and El Paso Regional Oversight Boards. Additionally, there was identification of priority areas by the Regional Oversight Boards.

Discussions were initiated with regional stakeholders to develop recommendations in the non-security areas of Beyond Merida including:

- Model Border Ports
- Economic Development
 - Alternative Energy
 - Bi-national Health
 - Small Business Development & Entrepreneurship
- Community and Social Development
- Education

Discussions were initiated with Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF) to facilitate a series of working groups scheduled for the months of June and July

June 2010

Regular meetings were held with representatives from UTEP and Congressman Silvestre Reyes in preparation for upcoming Border Security Conference.

Final OECD recommendations were reviewed by the education/ Innovation committees to shape next steps including work with Manpower International on a labor survey forecasting the demand and supply needs of the region.

Contract was signed with Phiston Technologies to undertake a three-month feasibility study for the development of a Certification Center for alternative energy products in the region.

Plans to host the Border Energy Forum in October 2011 and an additional one day program for Business development have started.

Discussions began with different stakeholders to identify the infrastructure necessary to support a Small & Medium Enterprises Program for Cd. Juarez.

Discussions began on Amor por Juarez, an awareness campaign to assist organizations serving the vulnerable youth in Juarez.