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IRC NEWS – 021

July 2008

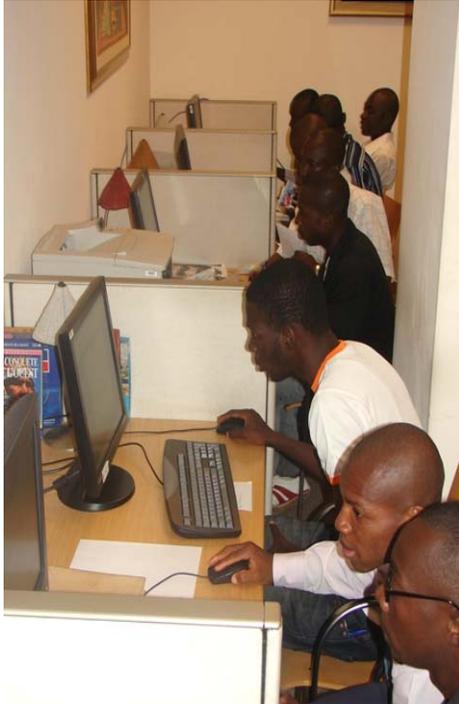


Table of Contents

Webchat on US Presidential Election 2008	02
Immersion Session with ESCAE	03
Book of the Month of July DVC on Tolerance	04
Ivorian Medical Association in the IRC	05
Coming soon	06

Please join the IRC team @ cca_ci@state.gov

Webchat on US Presidential Election 2008



Participants engaging in the webchat

On July 1st, PAS Abidjan participated to the webchat on *US elections*. The participants of course, appreciated the opportunity they were given to interact with the experts Michelle Austein and George Burkes on election issues, and especially US presidential election process. This webchat was appealing to the Ivorian audience because of the upcoming presidential elections in Cote d'Ivoire scheduled for November 30, 2008. One of the participants, an English teacher, reported that he was particularly lucky because he was provided with authoritative resources and information to deliver a lecture on US elections the following week.

At the end of the program, PAS distributed the 'america.gov' bookmarks, the IIP publication 'USA Elections in Brief', and the E-journals 'The long campaign: US Elections 2008'.



The PAO Sharon White, sharing information with the participants about the US electoral system

Immersion Session with the Polytechnic School of Yamoussoukro

PAS conducted an immersion session with thirty graduate students and their English teacher, a former Fulbright recipient from the Polytechnic School of Yamoussoukro early July 2008. The Public Affairs Officer, Sharon White welcomed the participants and introduced the program. The Information Resource Center staff provided a PowerPoint presentation focusing on the IRC services, products, print and online resources available for the visitors. They showed a deep interest in the State Department website www.america.gov

which is a gateway to authoritative information about the United States, and the rest of the world. Besides, the Educational Advisor and the Cultural Affairs Specialist entertained the students about studies in the United States and scholarship programs they might apply for.

During the IRC guided tour, the participants were impressed by the wealth of information they can benefit from. They took the opportunity to visit the webchat station, practice online research, and sign up for membership card.



PAO Sharon White, during her presentation



A partial view of the participants

Please contact the IRC staff @ (225) 22-49-42-49 or cca_ci@state.gov, to schedule an Immersion session to the IRC services for members of your institution.

Book of the Month of July: Digital Video Conference ‘On Tolerance’

On July 24, PAS Abidjan organized a lively DVC on tolerance with ARS speaker Dr. Susan Perry. Sixty participants included the Minister of National Reconciliation; representatives from the Presidency, Prime Minister’s office, the Ministry of Interior Affairs and the Ministry of Communication; and religious leaders, magistrates, presidents of women and youth associations, and media professionals. Chargé Cynthia Akuetteh stressed the importance of drawing on the talents of all groups in an ethnically diverse country such as the United States or Cote d’Ivoire. Dr. Perry addressed the principles and requirements of tolerance, the relationship between tolerance and democracy, and case studies from the United States and France.

Contributions and questions from the participants enriched the

conference. They raised concerns about the need to teach tolerance from the primary school level and noted the important role of parental responsibility. The Minister of Reconciliation underlined the importance of continuing dialogue in order to reinforce the peace and reconciliation process in which his ministry is engaged. He encouraged civil society leaders to remain politically committed and take actions to involve citizens in awareness campaigns that build tolerance. Participants praised Dr. Perry for her expert commentary and recommended a follow up DVC on similar issues. Ivorian National TV and radio broadcast programs that included a report on the conference and an interview with the Minister of National Reconciliation.



**Chargé Cynthia Akuetteh,
welcoming the Minister of National**



**Partial view of the audience
including the Minister of National
Reconciliation**

Immersion session with the Bureau of the National Medical Association.

To promote IRC resources in science and medicine, the IRC staff organized an Immersion session program with the members of the bureau of the Ivorian Medicine Association on July 31. Dozen of professors, doctors and medical scientists including the president of this institution visited the IRC. The IRC staff demonstrated reliable commercial databases such as Medline, GenSiIndex and SIRSResearcher, the science and Health headlines on

www.america.gov web site. The relevant resources on research and diseases surveillance impressed the audience particularly the article on '*Internet Latest Tool in Emerging Infectious Disease Surveillance*'. All of them registered for membership to borrow specially the materials on their interest and subscribed to the IRC e-services. Nouveaux Horizons books, IIP publications and the e-journal on '*Innovation*' were presented to the participants.



The Bureau of the Ivorian Medical Association, following the commercial database and www.america.gov demonstration.

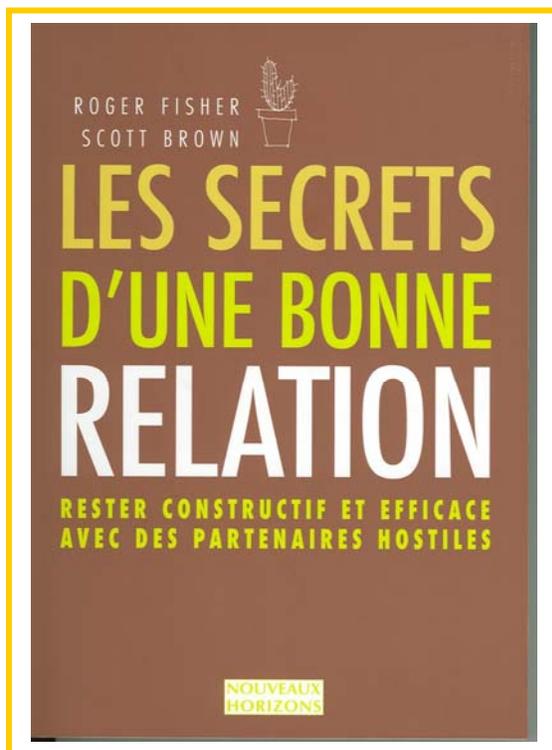
COMING SOON!!!

- September 3 @ 9:30 A.M.

IRC Abidjan will reopen to the public after its annual inventory. You are invited to come and discover our new programs and competitive products.

- September 18 @ 2:30 P.M.

The IRC will organize a conference on negotiation strategies based on '*Getting Together*' the sequel of the bestselling '*Getting to Yes*'. If you want to learn how to build constructive relationships, please join us on September 18 at 2:30 P.M. This program will be conducted in French.



Atteindre des objectifs dépend certes de notre capacité à négocier mais aussi et surtout, de la qualité de la relation entre les différentes parties en présence. Il faut pouvoir gérer ces différences, établir une bonne relation et parvenir à un accord satisfaisant les intérêts des uns et des autres. Ce livre propose une méthode pour mettre en place une relation efficace et opérante, quel que soit le domaine, à court comme à moyen terme.

Please contact the IRC staff @ (225) 22-49-42-49 or cca_ci@state.gov, to confirm your participation.

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