

IRC News

031 - September 2009

**Information Resource
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TABLE OF CONTENT

IRC reopening	p. 2
Immersion	p. 3
Leadership orientation	p. 4
Co.Nx Webchat	p. 5
Book of the Month	p. 6
IRC Internship Program	p. 7
Coming soon	p. 8

Please join the IRC team @ cca_ci@state.gov

IRC reopening Ceremony

After a four weeks closure for annual inventory, the Information Resource Center of the US Embassy organized a ceremony, on September 8, 2009, to resume its activities for FY 2010.

The event attracted more than 170 attendees including high level officials, representatives from the Ministry of Communication, the Ministry of National Education, religious and NGO leaders, heads of institutions, university teachers, students, kids, and the Media.

Ambassador Wanda Nesbitt delivered the opening words, focusing on the United States' dedication to strengthening mutual understanding between the US and the host country. She highlighted that PAS and IRC programs are designed to support the mission goals by offering a platform of discussions raising important issues to stimulate decision makers and community strategic thinking in order to address the problems undermining our society (More on our website)

The IRC Web site.

<http://abidjan.usembassy.gov/irc.html>.



Partial view of the 170 participants



Ambassador Wanda Nesbitt and DPAO Anna Maria Adamo

Mrs. Angoran Maria-Laure – IRCD introduced the books of the month program and the IRC facebook page.



Mrs. Rouamba Debora – IRCA highlighted the IRC Librarything page and webchats.



Mrs. Coulibaly-Kassi – IRCT exposed on the Young Readers Collection and the Rotating Library Project.



Mrs. Toyo Nina Renee – The Student Advisor introduced her department and its 2010 program plan.



The Information Resource Center (IRC) staff would like to thank all the participants to this program. Please read our patrons comments on the IRC facebook page.

Immersion Session with the Students of the University of Bouaké

On September 09, 2009, PAS received 45 members, including students and teachers, from the Association of the students in Communication of the University of Bouake for an immersion session. The program started with a presentation of the services, products and programs available for users in the IRC. The participants have been provided with a PowerPoint presentation to showcase print and online resources, the reliable and rich information sources accessible through the State Department homepage and the IRC new

Facebook home page as well. The participants were delighted with the session and particularly appreciated the conference on *“Mes conseils pour reussir”* presented by the IRCD. Mr. Coulibaly Sirabana, the president of the association, impressed by such valuable facilities and information available for them in the IRC suggested a follow up activity at the University of Bouake with a larger audience. Post presented 60 copies of the IIP E-Journal *‘Choosing a Career’* and some pamphlets on the United States of America.



Mrs. Kassi Coulibaly, the IRCT interacting with the participants in the IRC

Leadership strategies taught to the Students of the Department of Dabakala

On September 24, 2009, the Public Affairs Section (PAS) conducted an immersion session with twenty three students from the association of the students of the department of Dabakala, a town located 494 km north of Abidjan. The Public Affairs Officer, Sita Liane Chakrawarti, welcomed the participants and interacted with the students about leadership, and capacity building. She provided useful guidance for successfully planning of their education and career paths. Participants showed a deep interest in the State Department website, www.america.gov, which is a doorway to reliable information about the United States and the rest of the world. During the guided tour, the students were given the opportunity to discover the IRC Facebook homepage and to sign up for IRC membership cards. At the end of the session, PAS presented a set of pamphlets and 30 copies of the French version of the E-journals 'Choosing a career' and 'Entrepreneurship and small businesses'.



PAO Sita Liane Chakrawarti interacting with participants on leadership



Active participation from the audience



Group photo in the Information Resource Center

Co.Nx WEBCHAT



For more online discussions and webchats, please refer to Co.Nx: See the World

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Co-Nx-See-the-World/26365096875?ref=ts>

On September 23, 2009, post invited 20 members from the students' association 'African Americans Forum' to join the online discussion about '*Safeguarding the Seaways: Counterpiracy Update.*'

PAO Sita Liane Chakrawarti introduced the program to the participants, encouraging them to participate actively in this program on a global issue impacting the universal peace environment and especially the Somalian nation. The participants were mainly concerned about efficient measures and actions to be taken in order to stop, address, and prevent the development of this practice that jeopardizes trade. A first time participant admitted that this program provided him with first hand original information and awareness about piracy. After the online chat, the PAO engaged in a follow-up discussion with the participants, who took the opportunity to express their opinions about the issue and to suggest solutions.

This session resulted in an enriching exchange. The participants agreed that not only governments have to take actions, but every single citizen has a role to play in driving out this plague from the world. According to them, good governance, grassroots education on democratic practices, and awareness-raising campaigns against violence and wrong actions would strongly contribute to fight against piracy. The IRC presented, relevant articles selected from the State Department homepage to the participants.

Conference on 'Community Works: The Revival of Civil Society in America'

On September 30, 2009, PAS organized its eighth Book of the Month conference on '*Community Works: The Revival of Civil Society in America*' by E. J. Dionne. One hundred and ten attendees joined the program, including government officials, community and NGO leaders, religious leaders, youth, human rights advocates, civil society activists and media professionals.

PAO Sita Liane Chakrawarti in her welcome remarks insisted on the importance of the topic and its appeals to citizen responsibility. The panellists included Mrs. Fiadjoe Ida, president of a foundation, Mrs. Gnamba-Yao Carmen, NGO leader, and Mr. Honore Guie, president of the Research Group on the Democratic, Economic and Social Development in Cote d'Ivoire (GERDDES-CI) and president of the National Television Board of Directors.

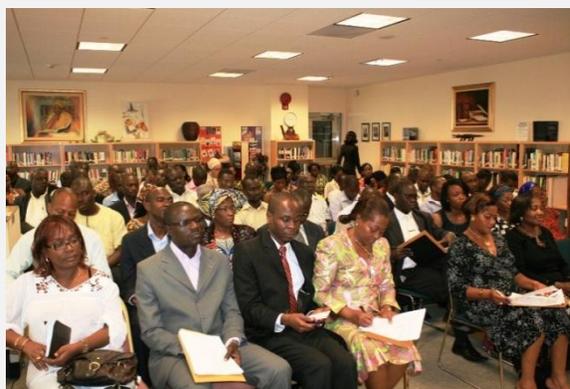
Mrs. Fiadjoe provided a comprehensive outline of the book focusing on the American experience and the boom of civil society communities as a result of social and economic crisis. The second panellist, Mrs. Gnamba-Yao stated that civil society

organizations need to be accredited. The efficiency of a civil society relies on virtues such as commitment, perseverance, expertise and dedication to serving others. Panellists proceeded to show the importance of civil society in the development of any nation. Its work should be complementary to the government's actions.

Contributions and issues raised by the participants confirmed the usefulness of the program. They recognized that an independent and highly engaged civil society is capable of addressing social issues by training and conducting grassroots education in moral values, ethics, solidarity, and volunteerism. They noticed that even though the civil society should be independent, it still needs support from governmental institutions. The attendees unanimously requested follow-up activities based on this event to empower the Ivorian civil society in an era of post-war reconstruction. The PAO encouraged the audience to continue the discussion inspired by the American civil society experience. The event was covered by national media.



From left to right: PAO Chacrawarti, Mrs. Gnamba-Yao, Mr. H.Guie and Mrs. Fiadjoe



Partial view of the participants

IRC YEAR ROUND INTERSHIP PROGRAM

Post initiated this program with the HR Office to provide young Ivorians with exposure to a professional and high standard American work environment. This project will also reinforce mutual understanding, capacity building and offer hope to the younger generation. The interns are trained to be professional librarians with good skills. Post invests in them by offering computer and English language literacy. Furthermore, Interns are invited to improve the IRC work with creative and innovative ideas.



Sie Essis Essane Edith joined the IRC on September, 10, 2009 as a trainee. She recently graduated from INSAAC (Institut National des Arts et de l'Action Culturelle). During the training period, she will essentially focus on the IRC following innovative programs: Young readers' collection, the IRC facebook page and the IRC page on Librarything.

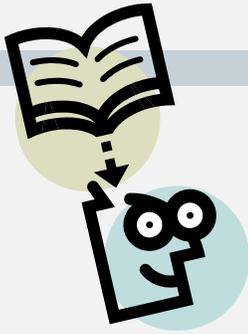
Before joining the IRC, Ms. Sie was a trainee at Campus Numérique Francophone d'Abidjan (CNFA).



Konan Alain joined the IRC on June 11, 2009 as a trainee. He will spend three months in the IRC to complete his professional training program. His agenda includes technical and advance library and documentation science activities such as Information Management, outreach activities, IRC program planning and web 2.0 initiatives. Before joining the IRC, Mr. Konan was a trainee at Peace Research Center CERAP (Centre de Recherche et d'Action pour la Paix).



On September 10, Mr. Konan received his Certificate of Appreciation presented by the HRO Judith Marcouiller for significant contributions during his internship with the U.S. Embassy in Côte d'Ivoire.



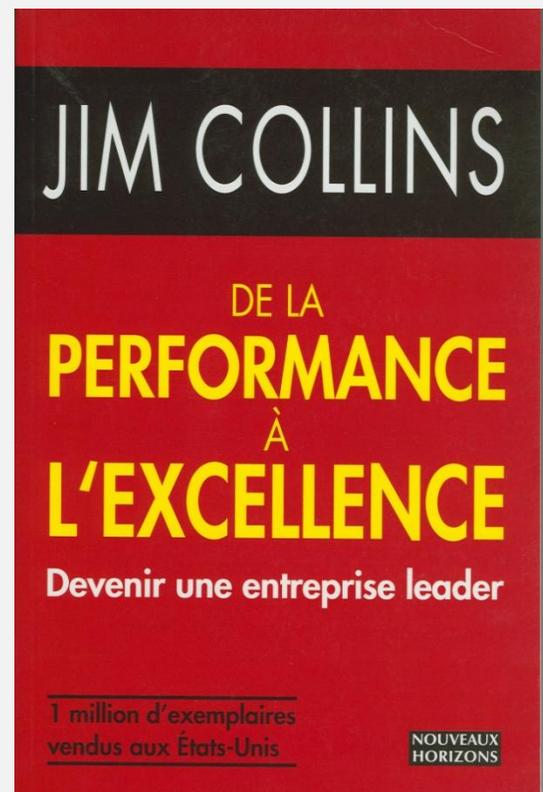
COMING SOON!!!

October 5 – 9 – Local Librarians workshop on Children collection management organized by the Goethe Institute Abidjan

October 15 – Immersion Session with the students of the English Department from the University of Cocody

October 22 – Book of the Month Program on *Good to Great / De la performance à l'excellence: devenir une entreprise leader*

You are invited to share your comment and analysis either in English or in French on the IRC home page on Facebook. Just click on this icon.



Please join the IRC community on Facebook @:
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Abidjan/Information-Resource-Center-Abidjan/78472454205?ref=ts>