

Proposed Appropriation Language

CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN-WESTERN DIALOGUE TRUST FUND

For necessary expenses of the Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue Trust Fund (*Hollings Center*), as authorized by section 633 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004 (22 U.S.C. 2078), the total amount of the interest and earnings accruing to such Fund on or before September 30, [2013]2014, to remain available until expended.

CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN-WESTERN DIALOGUE

Resource Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2012 Actual ⁽¹⁾	FY 2013 CR ⁽²⁾	FY 2014 Request	Increase/Decrease From FY2012
Positions - Enduring	0	0	0	0
Enduring Funds	840	845	90	(750)

(1) The FY 2012 level reflects the amount provided in the conference report to the FY 2012 Appropriations Act. Actual interest earned for FY 2012 is \$29,592.

(2) The FY 2013 CR is based on the annualized continuing resolution calculation for FY 2013 (P.L. 112-175).

Program Description

The FY 2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-199) created the Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue Trust Fund (Trust Fund) to support the operations of the Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue (Hollings Center). In fiscal years 2004, 2005, and 2006, Congress appropriated funds to the International Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue Trust Fund. These funds were appropriated to, and formed the principal of, the Trust Fund to support the operations of the Hollings Center. Funds in the Trust Fund are invested only in interest-bearing obligations of the United States or in obligations guaranteed by the United States as to both principal and interest. The interest and earnings from such investments are credited to the Trust Fund and are also made available, subject to annual appropriation, for operations of the Center.

The Hollings Center's mission is to promote dialogue between the United States and the nations of the Middle East, Turkey, North Africa, and Central, Southwest, and Southeast Asia, as well as other countries with predominantly Muslim populations in order to open channels of communication, deepen cross-cultural understanding, expand people-to-people contacts, generate new thinking on important international issues, and identify solutions.

The Hollings Center has established itself as an independent nonprofit and is convening meetings for U.S. and regional experts about key issues of Middle Eastern-Western concern. Conference dialogue topics have focused on universities and higher education through special colloquiums; two-part "Next Generation" dialogues bringing together emerging political, cultural, business and community leaders under the age of 40 from the United States and other countries; and regional topics including the Caspian Sea and its neighbors, unity and diversity in Iraq, and the future of Afghanistan. The Hollings Center will actively serve as a bridge between Iranian and U.S. scholars and experts by including Iranian citizens in its conferences when possible. The Hollings Center's Board of Directors continues to work to identify potential partners in the United States, and in the broader Middle East and North Africa regions, and make recommendations for program activities and institutional management of the Hollings Center. Dialogues have led to follow-on initiatives and other outcomes and results, including generating ideas and recommendations for policy debates; informing participants' research, writing, and public appearances; and building new relationships, networks, and collaboration between participants.

The Hollings Center has conducted program activities in Istanbul while seeking to establish a permanent office there. As of FY 2011, the Hollings Center became an officially recognized foreign organization operating in Turkey.

CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN-WESTERN DIALOGUE

Performance

This indicator will show both the impact and possibility of application of the new knowledge learned during the conferences held by the Hollings Center.

Strategic Goal 6: Advance U.S. interests and universal values through public diplomacy and programs that connect the United States and Americans to the world								
Strategic Priority		Shape the Narrative						
Active Performance Indicator		NEW APP INDICATOR: Percentage of participants who learned new ideas that they will be able to apply to their own work.						
Prior Year Results and Ratings					FY 2012		Planned Targets	
FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	Target	Result and Rating	FY 2013	FY 2014
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	95% strongly agree or agree	95% strongly agree or agree ◀▶ On Target	95%	100%
Impact		N/A						
Methodology		Evaluations are given at the conclusion of all conference dialogues. Participants are informed that the evaluation is voluntary but extremely useful for the Center. Participants are instructed to not put their name on the evaluations for anonymity. A participant is selected randomly to collect the evaluations from the other participants and return them to Center staff when completed. Center staff aggregate the data collected.						
Data Source and Quality		The end of conference evaluations are drafted by the Center. Evaluations consist of 16 to 18 quantitative questions and seven open ended questions for participants. Evaluations cover the conference outcomes, among other topics.						

Justification of Request

The FY 2014 Request reflects \$90,000 in estimated net interest earnings of the Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue Trust Fund, which is consistent to the earned interest reported in the most recent Treasury Combined Statement. Appropriated interest and earnings from the Trust Fund are allocated for the operations of the Hollings Center each year. These funds will be used for operations of the Center providing continued support for conferences, programs, and grants for ongoing research, professional development, and exchanges. In addition, funds previously made available to the Trust Fund in FY 2004-2006 for operation of the Center may be utilized to provide further support to the Hollings Center. For FY 2014 the Hollings Center's Board of Directors plans to use \$930,000 in principle and \$90,000 in earned interest from the Trust Fund to be used for the operations of the Hollings Center and related programming activity for initiatives that begin in January 2014.

CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN-WESTERN DIALOGUE

Funds by Object Class

(\$ in thousands)

Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue Program (CMEWD)	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 CR	FY 2014 Request	Increase/Decrease From FY2012
4100 Grants, Subsidies & Contributions	840	845	90	(750)
Total	840	845	90	(750)