



Opening Minds to the World The Tallest Little Building on First Avenue

The Institute of International Education has occupied premises across the street from the United Nations at 809 United Nations Plaza in New York City since 1964. To enable IIE staff to more effectively and efficiently design and administer the many programs IIE manages and supports, the building has been completely remodeled over the past two years, providing modern, appropriate working space and state of the art technology. The remodeling was made possible by the generous support of a number of benefactors, including the Estate of Mary Clark Rockefeller, the family of the late IIE Board member, Rodman Clark Rockefeller, Dr. and Mrs. Shoji Kimura, Bob and Gina Flynn, and IIE Board member Maryam Ansary. United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Richard C. Holbrooke spoke at the rededication ceremony, as had his predecessor, UN Ambassador Adlai Stevenson, when the building was originally dedicated in 1964. Congressman Benjamin Gilman, Chairman of the House International Relations Committee also participated in the rededication ceremony.

“To the relief of our neighbors, 809 UN Plaza casts no shadows. But it promises to have a very big impact on the landscape of this century. We are the tallest little building on First Avenue. Its contribution is already historic: on behalf of the Department of State, we have the honor to administer the largest and most significant movement of scholars across the earth since the fall of Constantinople.”

— IIE President and CEO, Allan E. Goodman

“While Congress generally supports greater understanding across borders it falls to the nongovernmental organizations to carry out meaningful programs. We are grateful for IIE’s years of dedication to meeting and adapting to the challenges of globalization. Well-designed exchange programs and training are clearly in our national interest. In my years of experience with our nation’s foreign policy, I see that the most enduring influence is achieved through our international exchange programs. Why is that?

It is because people-to-people contact – the seeing, doing and interacting – is how we learn to appreciate similarities, differences or other ways of doing things. Exchanges provide forums for new ideas, training opportunities, and the chance to build support networks.”

— Representative, New York, 20th District,
The Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman