

**what is iie?** The world's most experienced global higher education and professional exchange agency | Administrator of the Fulbright Program, the U.S. Government's premier public diplomacy initiative | Provider of training and leadership development programs for public and private sector professionals around the world | Organizer of democracy-building, civil society and human rights training initiatives in transitional societies | Initiator of projects that help students and scholars worldwide, including testing and advising, scholarships, and emergency financial assistance | Provider of international affairs programs and visitor and protocol services that enrich our communities and regions

**what is iie's mission?** An independent, nonprofit organization, the Institute is a resource for educators and institutions worldwide. Our goals are: | to promote closer educational relations between the people of the United States and other countries | to increase the number of students, scholars and professionals who have the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research outside of their own countries | to strengthen and internationalize institutions of higher learning in the U.S. and throughout the world | to expand the capacity of individuals and institutions to address global development challenges in the new millennium | to partner with corporations, foundations, and governments in finding and developing people able to think and work on a global basis

**why is international education needed?** Broadening the outlook of future leaders through academic and professional exchange strengthens their ability to think and act on a cooperative basis. Academic and professional exchange is also a critical means for transferring knowledge and skills across borders and preparing a new generation of global citizens. In this century, these activities will be more important than ever, since many of the world's problems can be solved only on a regional and transnational basis.



Henry Kaufman



Allan E. Goodman

**THE WORLD FACES THE PROSPECT OF AN EDUCATION DIVIDE AS** profound as the digital divide and with direct consequences for all societies. Ignorance and lack of educational opportunity not only affect the supply and quality of the labor force, but directly affect the level of conflict within and between nations. Winning the wars against poverty and HIV/AIDS is as important today as success in the war against terrorism. Victory in all three depends on education. By increasing access to it, businesses, foundations and governments can play a unique and strategic role. They will increasingly be called upon to do so.

The news from developing countries is alarming. Most face acute and rapidly growing shortages of teachers at a time of rapidly rising demand. In the industrialized countries, nearly 90% of the school-age population is enrolled in school. For the least developed countries, less than 40% is.

Access to higher education in the world's most populous developing countries is an opportunity few now have and one that will be increasingly scarce as more young people complete secondary education. In China last year, some five million high school students passed the examinations required for entry into a university. Less than half may actually find a seat. India can accommodate only eight million students in its colleges and universities today. By 2050, these same institutions will have to find room for 50 million students annually. Cairo University enrolls over 250,000 full-time students but has facilities and faculty designed for 50,000. In sub-Saharan Africa, World Health officials estimate that the mortality associated with the continent's HIV/AIDS pandemic will result in 40% fewer professors by the end of this decade.

The education divide cannot be eliminated by inexpensive computers, the provision of free courses over the Internet, or even substantial

increases in foreign aid to build schools. It takes human resources to train faculty, a process that takes years. And for those countries facing the scourge of HIV/AIDS it will take a massive infusion of faculty talent to staff classrooms that are not yet on the drawing boards.

The Fulbright Program (which the Institute has the honor of administering on behalf of the Department of State) is now the largest movement of scholars across the earth in history. Over 180,000 distinguished educators are alumni of the program. Yet each year, because of the scarcity of funds, less than 200 educators from all of Africa are able to take advantage of the program. The number for India is under 45.

Fulbright and foreign aid are public sector programs. Alone, they cannot bridge the education divide. Philanthropy — personal and institutional — and the creativity of organizations such as the Institute in creating programs and forging public-private partnerships are central to narrowing the divide.

If anything, events like 9/11 remind us that we cannot remain ignorant as well as safe. In the years ahead, increasing international educational opportunities through the projects you will read about in this report will be key to not only opening minds to the world but also to making it a less dangerous place.

  
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