CAPACITY BUILDING AT THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

Christopher Rothfuss

International Workshop on the Engineer's Role in Capacity Building for the Developing World

Engineers Without Borders – USA
2004 National Conference

September 22-23, 2004

Capacity Building at the U.S. State Department: MOTIVATION

Lt. General (R) Hank Hatch defines **CAPACITY BUILDING** as :

The building of human, institutional and infrastructure capacity to help societies develop secure, stable and sustainable economies, governments and other institutions through mentoring, training, education, physical projects, the infusion of financial and other resources, and most importantly, the motivation and inspiration of people to improve their lives.

U.S. State Department **MISSION**:

- *To create a more secure, democratic, and prosperous world for the benefit of the American people and the international community.*

Core areas of the 2004-2009 DoS / USAID Strategic plan are to:

- Achieve Peace and Security
- Advance Sustainable Development and Global Interests
- Promote International Understanding
- Strengthen Diplomatic and Program Capabilities

Capacity Building at the U.S. State Department: MOTIVATION Continued

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PROVIDES >>

Partnership Building

- Collaborative Efforts
- Mutual Benefit
- Establish confidence and trust
- Binding loyalties

Sound Investment

- Proactive planning versus crisis response

Sustainable Development

- Global environmental benefits

Security Interests

- Forging alliances and friendships
- Mitigating potential conflict issues

Capacity Building at the U.S. State Department: METHOD

U.S. Department of State

- Establish Development Policies and Goals
- Coordinate USG International Development Programs
- International Agreements
- Some Direct Development

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

- Direct Development and Project Funding
- On the Ground Assessment and Development Assistance

Successful Capacity Building By State/USAID Requires:

- Focus on Substance not Splash to build Trust and Confidence
- Multi-level engagement
- "Contextual Capacity Building"
- Sustained commitment
- Transitional "Sunset" Plan
- Follow-up assessment and / or feedback system
- Role of the Engineer…

Capacity Building at the U.S. State Department: PROGRAM EXAMPLES

S&T Umbrella Agreements

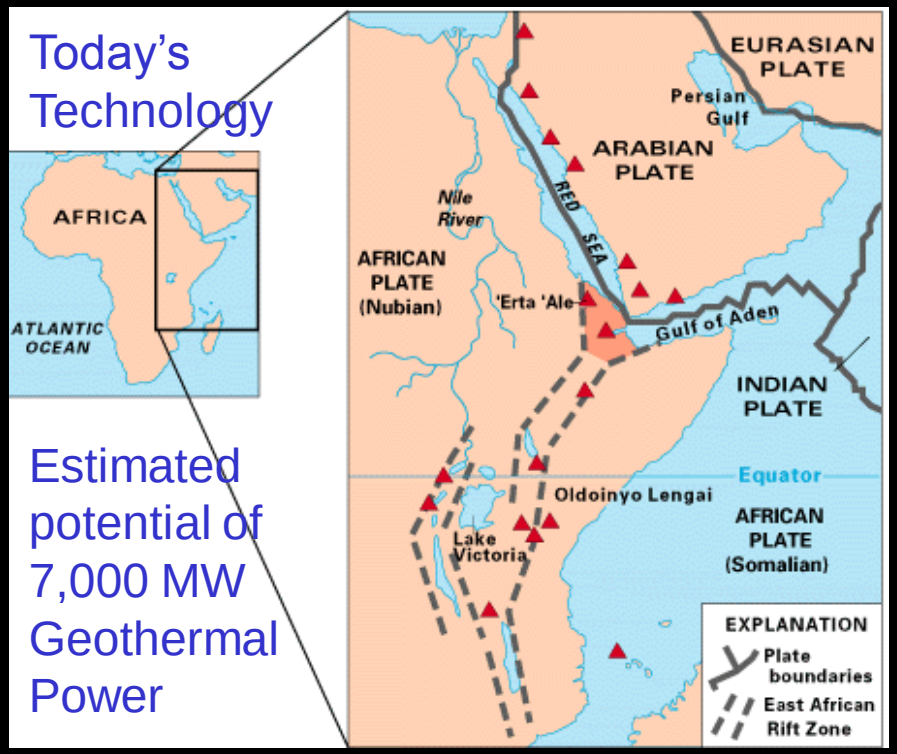
- Establishing S&T Agreements with Developing Countries to facilitate Sustainable Development and Capacity Building

Iraq ST&E Capacity Building

- Working to engage Iraqi scientists and engineers in programs to keep them working productively IN Iraq and to bring them up to speed on modern practices.
- "*Science, Technology and Engineering Capacity Building in Iraq*"
  - » March 29, 2004

Geothermal Power in Africa

- Working to develop Geothermal power use in the Rift Valley of Africa



African Rift System with Volcanic Centres (red triangles)