

2010

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

MERIDIAN
INTERNATIONAL CENTER

Global Leadership through
the Exchange of Ideas,
People, and Culture



MERIDIAN
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. About Meridian International Center	4
2. President and Chairman's Message	5
3. Meridian at 50	6
4. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS	
a. Ideas	8
b. People	13
c. Culture	23
5. Meridian Councils	30
6. International Partners	31
7. Meridian Ball	32
8. Our Campus	33
9. Meridian Leadership	37
10. 2010 Financial Report	
a. Statement of Financial Position	38
b. Statement of Activities	39
11. Board of Trustees	41
12. Meridian Counselors	43
13. Supporters	45

At Meridian we believe all citizens can be global leaders. Through the open exchange of ideas, culture, and experience, individuals from all sectors, backgrounds, and nations can lead more effectively in a complex global environment.

We at Meridian help public and private sector leaders of today tackle pressing issues, while preparing future decision-makers with tools to collaborate and understand the complexities of the 21st century.

We believe that bilateral and multilateral opportunities and challenges are not met through speeches and rhetoric but with honest, open debate, dialogue, and continuous lines of communication among peers across sectors.

Meridian understands that effective leaders and their governments, businesses, or organizations need to collaborate with their counterparts globally. Through Meridian's exchange, convening, and networking platforms, this understanding becomes possible.

Governor
James J.
Blanchard



Ambassador
Stuart W.
Holliday



Fifty years ago, Meridian was formed as a neutral, non-partisan platform for exchange, collaboration, and cultural understanding. Though much has changed in the world over those years, the important need for Meridian's work has not.

As we begin our next half century, we have taken stock of the many important contributions Meridian has made to diplomacy and international understanding since our founding. From the thousands of leaders participating in our exchanges, to the hundreds of cultural diplomacy exhibitions, to the many programs and dialogues on key public policy issues, our impact is recognized and appreciated worldwide.

In September, our leadership gathered at the U.S. Department of State for a dinner commemorating our 50th anniversary. At that dinner, Secretary Clinton spoke about the important role Meridian plays in the exchange and global networking goals of the Department, saying *"Even in this world of virtual reality where we can communicate instantaneously, nothing substitutes for personal relationship-building."* Presidents, prime ministers, diplomats, and legislators from around the world have echoed those sentiments, reminding us all of the unique and important role Meridian continues to play.

When Meridian was founded, our goal was to bring the world together in Washington to foster greater understanding of people, cultures, and policy. In many ways, we were ahead of our time. As we enter into the 21st century, the world is now connected in ways unimaginable at our founding, and Meridian is leading the way in combining our traditional means of exchange with new technologies to foster a greater global dialogue. Through our Emerging Leaders Program, we are able to define the "Meridian Model" of exchange and collaboration, providing a unique opportunity for current and emerging leaders to not only engage through traditional exchange and dialogue, but to define their own objectives and outcomes, and have the resources to ensure those goals are met.

We look forward to an exciting and important 50 years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James J. Blanchard".

Governor James J. Blanchard
Chairman
Meridian International Center

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stuart W. Holliday".

Stuart W. Holliday
President
Meridian International Center

3 MERIDIAN AT 50

*The Department
of State hosted
Meridian's 50th
Anniversary
Celebration in the
Benjamin Franklin
Dining Room*



As Meridian enters its sixth decade, we understand that our most critical work lies ahead. In the next half century, Meridian will advance its mission in direct response to the nation's pressing challenges. For 50 years, we have been dedicated to public diplomacy and global engagement. We embrace the power of face-to-face dialogue - how it



creates connections and brings the world closer together. In our next 50 years, we plan to further embrace our role as a convener, catalyst, and "do tank." We will continue to expand our reach, tap our expertise and experience, and touch the lives of people around the globe, while incorporating the tools of the 21st century.

3 MERIDIAN AT 50

Secretary Clinton Marks Meridian's 50th Anniversary

Secretary Clinton speaks at the Meridian 50th Anniversary Celebration



The highlights of Meridian's 50th Anniversary celebrations included a reception and dinner at the U.S. Department of State's Benjamin Franklin Room on September 30, and the Meridian Ball on October 1st.

At the dinner, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Assistant Secretary

of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Ann Stock thanked Meridian for its contributions to the United States and the world.

Our Public Diplomacy Award was given to The Honorable Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, Special Representative for Global Partnerships at the State Department. The award honors her outstanding contributions and ongoing commitment to strengthening our nation's public and cultural diplomacy efforts, including her extraordinary work on behalf of the United States for Expo 2010 in Shanghai.

His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic, received Meridian's Global Leadership Award, in recognition of his efforts to revitalize transatlantic relations, open up opportunities for U.S.-French collaborations, and improve international relations. Then French Ambassador to the U.S. Pierre Vimont accepted the Award on behalf of the President at the State Department dinner. The Award will be presented to the President personally in 2011.

Meridian hosts, co-hosts, or partners on hundreds of programs each year; we are recognized around the world for bringing the right leaders and the right participants together for substantive dialogue and debate.

Meridian's programs are focused around the basic theme of U.S. leadership in the world. Recognizing that the world looks to the United States as a benchmark of stability, reason, and diplomacy, Meridian's programs look to both impact U.S. understanding of key issues, and global understanding of U.S. policies. We at Meridian believe strongly that good decisions come from mutual understanding and dialogue across borders, and our role in the center of Washington's legislative and diplomatic communities makes us a unique and unbiased forum for these open exchange of ideas.

IDEAS

Launch of The U.S.-Global Leadership Project

GALLUP®

Panelists from left: Clive Crook, Editor of *The Atlantic* and columnist for *National Journal* and *The Financial Times*; Ambassador Wendy Chamberlin, President of the Middle East Institute and former U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan; and Senator Chuck Hagel, Co-Chairman of the President's Intelligence Advisory Board and Chairman of the Atlantic Council.



At Meridian's 50th Anniversary Celebration, Ambassador Vimont accepted the Global Leadership Award on behalf of President Nicolas Sarkozy.



In February, Meridian and Gallup launched The U.S.-Global Leadership Project (USGLP), a non-partisan assessment of U.S. leadership as seen through the eyes of world citizens. President Holliday moderated a discussion about international perspectives of U.S. leadership, with comments by Senator Chuck Hagel, Co-Chairman of the President's Intelligence Advisory Board and Chairman of the Atlantic Council; Ambassador Wendy Chamberlin, President of the Middle East Institute and former U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan; and Clive Crook, Editor of *The Atlantic* and columnist for *National Journal* and *The Financial Times*.

Panelists from left: Clive Crook, Editor of *The Atlantic* and columnist for *National Journal* and *The Financial Times*; Ambassador Wendy Chamberlin, President of the Middle East Institute and former U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan; and Senator Chuck Hagel, Co-Chairman of the President's Intelligence Advisory Board and Chairman of the Atlantic Council.

Meridian & Gallup U.S.-Global Leadership Project Roundtable Discussion On U.S.-African Relations

Following the USGLP launch, Meridian and Gallup hosted a regionally focused roundtable discussion. Forty leaders from the public and private sectors and the diplomatic community came together to discuss perceptions of U.S. leadership in Africa and key issues in the future of U.S.-African relations. Ambassador Vicki Huddleston, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs, and Congressman Ed Royce, former Chair of the Africa Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, discussed their impressions of key factors in the U.S.-Africa relationship, including economic partnerships, governance, and the global threat of terrorism.



His Excellency, the Nigerian Ambassador to the United States Adebowale Ibibapo Adefunye



Congressman Ed Royce, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee

Gallup Senior Analyst Magali Rheault presented the Gallup data from Sub-Saharan Africa on approval of U.S. leadership, which rose from an already favorable level in 2008 (75%), to an even higher 87% in 2009 - making it the region with the most positive view of U.S. leadership in the world.

Pre-G20 Leadership Insights Breakfast

H.E. Han
Duk-soo –
Ambassador
of the Republic
of Korea to
the U.S. and
Edward Gresser
– President
and Director,
Trade and
Global Markets
Project,
Democratic
Leadership
Council



The USGLP ended 2010 with a Leadership Insights breakfast that focused on discussing key issues from the October G20 meetings in Seoul, Korea. A select group of leaders from the U.S. Congress, U.S. government agencies, international financial institutions, and the diplomatic community, analyzed emerging trends and factors in U.S.-Korea relations; enhancing strategic economic cooperation; and key negotiating points and forecasted outcomes from the G20 discussions.

Engaging Iran: Challenges and Opportunities for Civil Society

In April, Meridian, in partnership with the Maxwell School at Syracuse University and the Public Diplomacy Council, convened key stakeholders at Meridian and via a video-link to Syracuse for the forum, *Engaging Iran: Challenges and Opportunities for Civil Society*.

Panelists and participants examined a host of key topics, including roles for civil society; opportunities and obstacles for strengthening a citizens' dialogue; digital innovations that could support long-term relations; how to protect human rights in Iran without endangering Iranian citizens; and other ideas to build institutions and long-term collaborations.

Fourth Annual Bridges of Understanding Conference

Ambassador
Karim Kawar,
Bridges of
Understanding
President, with
Chris Matthews
and Imam
Faisal



Meridian, in partnership with the Bridges of Understanding Foundation, hosted the Fourth Annual Bridges of Understanding Conference in December as a means to broadening understanding of key regional issues between the U.S. and the international community. In-depth discussions of topics included Islam in the U.S., Middle East affairs, and new trends in peace-building and diplomacy. Speakers presented views from the journalism, academic, and policy communities, and included Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, Chairman of Cordoba Interfaith Initiative; Chris Matthews, MSNBC; Dr. John J. DeGioia, President of Georgetown University; and HE Dr. Marwan Muasher, Vice President for Studies, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

2010 Democracy Video Challenge Awards

Democracy
Video Challenge
winners at the
United Nations
for a special
screening event
honoring their
films



Meridian served as the lead administrative and logistics coordinator of the *Democracy Video Challenge*, a public-private partnership initiative of the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs. The Challenge encouraged the world's citizens to start a global dialogue on democracy by submitting short videos that complete the phrase "*Democracy is...*" More than 700 entries from 89 countries entered the 2010 competition, with 18 finalists selected by an independent jury chaired by Hernando de Soto, President of the Institute for Liberty, and by the online voting public. Winners, representing Colombia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, and Spain, were awarded a 14-day visit to the U.S. that included special screenings of winning videos in Washington, DC, New York City, and Los Angeles; exposure to U.S. TV and film industry professionals; and meetings with democracy advocates from government, media, and civil society.

For years, Meridian has been a leader in conducting people-to-people exchanges that have a positive affect on the way the rest of the world sees the United States.

These programs work best when engaging both the public and private sectors. Programs range from one to three weeks and match international emerging leaders with U.S.-based cohorts to facilitate relationship building and peer-to-peer understanding across sectors. Recognizing that strong relationships develop over time, Meridian uses its technology platform to continue the conversation and thought-exchange long after the physical exchange concludes.

PEOPLE

4

SYNOPSIS OF GLOBAL LEADERSHIP EXCHANGES

PEOPLE

For 50 years, the U.S. Department of State has partnered with Meridian to conduct people-to-people exchanges through the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). This sustained partnership between the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State and Meridian has brought thousands of civic, educational, and professional leaders to the United States. To enhance the success of the IVLP, Meridian also designs, plans, and executes specialized and targeted exchange programs, professional study tours, and training programs for delegations from around the world. Our major clients include American embassies abroad, U.S. government agencies, U.S. private industry, as well as foreign public and private sector organizations such as governments, embassies, political parties, media outlets, and corporations. The graph below shows the scale of the IVLP and other exchange programs during 2010.

1. Exchanges contracted from U.S. embassies abroad include professional study tours for delegates selected by the Embassy. These also include study tours for private overseas organizations nominated by U.S. embassies, such as labor unions, political parties and industry.

2. USTDA: Orientation visits for foreign delegations from developing nations in a number of industry sectors, most recently energy and information technology

3. FPC and OBS: Administrative Support for foreign visiting journalists covering the United States.

Program	Individuals	Projects
Near East/South Asia	700	108
Eastern Europe	316	77
East Asia/Pacific	211	72
Western Europe	198	73
Western Hemisphere	309	62
Africa	186	31
IVLP	1,641	284
Voluntary Visitors	270	59
Professional Exchanges	1,920	352
United States Embassy Exchanges ¹	413	27
U.S. Trade and Development Agency ²	18	1
Foreign Press Center ³	156	10
Office of Broadcast Services ³	120	40
GlobalConnect	707	78
TOTAL:	2,627	430

International Visitors Experience U.S. Volunteerism Firsthand

*First Lady
of California
Maria Shriver
addresses
Volunteerism
Fellows in
March*



Inspired by the call from President Obama for renewed commitment to public service, Meridian designed and coordinated a major U.S. Department of State project, *Volunteerism: United We Serve*, which brought 103 community activists, government officials, nongovernmental organization leaders, educators, and journalists from 95 countries to experience and understand volunteerism in the United States.

This people-to-people exchange initiative of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' International Visitor Leadership Program (ILVP) – one of the largest ever created – highlighted America's vibrant volunteer spirit and demonstrated the importance of civic participation in developing a strong civil society. In addition to conceiving and implementing a complex program, Meridian enhanced the project by managing a public-private partnership with Visa Inc. and the Oracle Corporation.

The Meridian-secured Visa partnership allowed the creation of the Global Leaders Service Initiative, an online knowledge and networking platform for participants to share resources and best practices after they return home from their American experience. Meridian's Global Service Leaders Initiative is the first dedicated third-party hub to support post-program engagement among IVLP participants.



*Oracle-sponsored Service Day
at Golden Gate National Park*



*Volunteerism: United We Serve fellows
at Meridian in Washington*



*San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom
welcomes Volunteer Fellows to San Francisco*

VOLiNTEER

In the spring, Meridian launched VOLiNTEER, a new international non-governmental, non-profit network, connecting leaders from 97 countries to collaborate on growing their effectiveness in their home countries. VOLiNTEER is dedicated to developing social entrepreneurship movements focused on "high impact volunteering" through a knowledge network that combines "peer-to-peer" leadership exchange with online access to a marketplace of ideas and resources. VOLiNTEER was created by participants in a U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs project, *Volunteerism: United We Serve*.



The VOLiNTEER group with California's First Lady, Maria Shriver



For 50 years, Meridian has been a leading partner of the U.S. State Department through the International Visitor Leadership Exchange Program (IVLP), which builds strong, sustainable partnerships around the world through leadership and idea exchanges, cultural diplomacy, and virtual connections. This diversity of services makes Meridian a unique and important resource for both the international and domestic communities.

Meridian Administers the AGOA/African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP)

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on August 3 in Washington, DC with the AGOA delegation



Thirty-five leading female entrepreneurs representing their African countries participated in a 10-day professional program at Meridian during the summer. Each woman was chosen by the U.S. embassy in her country on the basis of her achievement and potential. By examining the American marketplace, its unique culture, standards, and expectations, they assessed and brainstormed capacity-building for trade with the U.S. market, thereby gaining an understanding of how American businesses build their own market capacity. Meeting with U.S. federal agencies, private sector experts, and international organizations offered participants the chance to learn about the financial resources that are available to African women-owned businesses.

Female African entrepreneurs from 35 different countries attended capacity-building workshops at Meridian in August.



Professional Exchanges Division International Visitor Leadership Exchange Program

Lower Mekong Initiative: Watershed Management: A Sub-Regional Project for Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam

*Representatives
from the
Mekong
River learned
American
watershed
management
practices*



In July, the Professional Exchanges Division (PED) designed and administered a three-week study tour for the U.S. Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI), a multi-agency effort to enhance the environment, education, health, and infrastructure in the Lower Mekong region. The project acquainted the group with tactics used and key players involved in water resource management in the United States, incorporating site visits

to hydropower facilities and protected areas, as well as introducing partnerships such as the data-sharing collaboration between the U.S. Geological Survey and Vietnam's Can Tho University.

Changing Demographics and Multiculturalism in the United States

In September, 16 participants representing 15 countries in professions ranging from NGO management, media, and journalism to policy formulation and law visited Meridian. The Jewish-Swiss NGO leader and the Muslim Palestinian-Australian attorney were not alone in noting at the program evaluation session that the diversity they observed among Americans encouraged them to embrace the diversity within their own group of international visitors. Many planned to return home and share ideas about increasing minority participation and representation in their countries.

Parks, Biodiversity, and Ecotourism Management



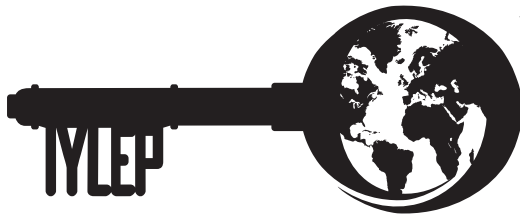
*Cambodian
IV with
Smokey Bear*

A Cambodian environmental NGO sent its director to participate in a multi-regional project on "Parks, Biodiversity, and Ecotourism Management." During the three-week-long program, he examined the national park system, trends in conservation, environmental protection, and tourism standards. Based on his observation of volunteerism in the U.S. National Park system, he returned to Cambodia and encouraged conservation efforts and the participation of others by enlisting Buddhist monks, who led educational campaigns, and Environmental Youth Groups, who patrolled the park.

The GlobalConnect division at Meridian designs customized leadership exchange programs, conferences, events, and training seminars for delegations and business leaders from around the world.

GlobalConnect U.S. Embassy Projects

Iraq Young Leaders Exchange Project (IYLEP):



For the second consecutive year, Meridian implemented a summer exchange project for 43 Iraqi high school students and four adult participants. Meridian partnered with Legacy International to arrange a summer camp with American high school students in rural Virginia and arranged homestays

with American families in cities throughout the country. Meridian also oversaw recruitment and selection of participants in Iraq.

Policymakers' Tour of Washington – A Project for the U.S. Mission to NATO

Ten high-level policymakers from NATO visited Washington, DC to look at U.S. foreign policymaking and U.S. policies toward Russia, Afghanistan, arms control, and NATO expansion. Meetings were arranged with high-level staff from the Executive Office of the President, Congress, and think tanks. Delegates also visited NATO's Allied Command Transformation (ACT), an integrated NATO command center, in Norfolk, Virginia.

GlobalConnect U.S. Embassy Projects

Qatar - Summer of Science and Service

Qatari and American students meet with Congressman Brian Baird (D-WA) to discuss U.S. foreign policy



Meridian implemented the Summer of Science and Service for Qatar Foundation International (QFI). This project brought together 40 high school students from Doha, Boston, and Washington, DC, who focused on scientific learning through visits to the Smithsonian Institution's Udvar-Hazy Center with PBS *NewsHour* correspondent, Miles O'Brien; a week at Kennedy Space Camp in Cape Canaveral, FL; educational physics programs at Walt Disney World; and a beach clean-up for the Gulf Horizon Oil Spill.

GlobalConnect
U.S. Department of State Projects

U.S. Congress –
Korean National Assembly Youth Exchange Program



*Korean students
with American
professionals in
San Diego*

For the 13th consecutive year, Meridian implemented this program, which offered Korean and American participants an opportunity to promote cultural awareness and political understanding by providing first-hand experiences of each other's country, people, and culture. Activities included lectures on the legislative process; the history of U.S.-Korean relations; current economic, political, and security aspects of the bilateral relationship, as well as opportunities for participants to form long-lasting personal contacts.

Art and culture exchanges are a powerful tool of diplomacy. To truly understand peers across borders, you must understand their history, background, and culture.

We host exhibitions of paintings, photographs, sculptures, videos, and crafts that reflect various aspects of international culture—and we circulate these exhibitions abroad to communities that rarely experience international art. Meridian's Art for Cultural Diplomacy Program is global in scope and has featured works from all regions of the world.

These creative presentations, linked to education guides and ancillary activities, are a unique way for viewers around the world to better understand the diversity of cultures and regions abroad.



CULTURE

Borders without Boundaries: Cultural Connections between Mexico and the United States

From left: Stuart Holliday, Meridian President; Jesús Silva-Herzog Márquez, Essayist and Professor, ITAM, Mexico; The Honorable Dana Gioia, Poet, Former Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts; and H.E. Arturo Sarukhan, Ambassador of Mexico.



In February, Meridian, in partnership with The Embassy of Mexico and The Mexican Cultural Institute, celebrated the Bicentennial of Mexican Independence by hosting a panel conversation *Borders without Boundaries: Cultural Connections between Mexico and the United States*. Held in Meridian's Cafritz Galleries, the panel, part of the ongoing *Art for Cultural Diplomacy* partnership between Meridian

and Mexico, featured H.E. Arturo Sarukhan, Ambassador of Mexico; The Honorable Dana Gioia, Poet and former Chairman National Endowment for the Arts; and Jesús Silva-Herzog Márquez, Essayist and Professor, ITAM, Mexico. Attendees viewed the exhibition, *Rufino Tamayo And The Mixografía® Years (1974 – 1990): A Cross Border Journey*, which featured 39 signed prints by this legendary 20th century Mexican artist.

Visitors filled Meridian's Cafritz Galleries for a discussion on U.S. – Mexico cross-border relations and to celebrate the bicentennial of Mexican independence.



Borders Without Boundaries Panelists. From left: H.E. Arturo Sarukhan, Ambassador of Mexico, Jesús Silva-Herzog Márquez, Essayist and Professor, ITAM, Mexico, and the Honorable Dana Gioia, Poet, former Chairman National Endowment for the Arts

Preservation by Design: Safeguarding the World's Cultural Heritage

March 20, 2010 – May 16, 2010

Preservation by Design featured photos by local photographers living near endangered sites in Cambodia, China, Colombia, India, Libya, Peru, and Turkey.



Meridian partnered with California-based Global Heritage Fund (GHF) to present an international photographic exhibition, *Preservation by Design: Safeguarding the World's Cultural Heritage*. The 77 images, which had never been seen before by the general public, showcased the artwork of talented local photographers living in or near archaeological and cultural sites in China, Colombia, India, Peru, and Turkey. Photographs from Cambodia and Libya, drawn from the Global Heritage Fund archives, were taken by GHF field staff intimately familiar with these locales and the difficulties the sites face.

"Preserving and protecting our global cultural inheritance is a responsibility that we all share. In recent years, we have seen the

tragic consequences of neglect and conflict on some of these irreplaceable treasures," said Ambassador Holliday.

To create this exhibition, a series of criteria was developed for the kinds of images each photographer should share, including people-to-people interactions, the tangible benefits of conservation work, and the ways in which problems endemic to each locale are being addressed through the efforts of GHF. The exhibition represented the partners' efforts to reach out to people from other countries and underscores the importance of cultural diplomacy in laying the foundation for increased global understanding.

The Wild Swans: Original Artworks by Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark

June 4 – July 3, 2010

Original artwork of Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark



An exhibition of original decoupage-set designs and costumes created by Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark for the recent film adaptation of the well-known Hans Christian Andersen tale, *The Wild Swans*, debuted at Meridian in 2010. His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Denmark inaugurated the exhibition on June 3rd in the Cafritz Galleries in the White-Meyer House.

The decoupage artworks, which were digitized and employed in the motion picture through green screen technology, form the background for the actors in an imaginative interface between art and cinema. Visitors experienced and understood how this approach was used to integrate Her Majesty's costumes and designs into the film.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Denmark poses with the artwork created for the film adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's *Wild Swans*.



Cut paper artworks created by Hans Christian Andersen in the mid-19th century were loaned from the Odense City Museums in Denmark, as well as images and texts about Andersen's life and times.

The Glory Of Ukraine: Sacred Images from the 11th to the 19th Centuries

October 20, 2010 – January 16, 2011

The ancient artifacts on display at the Glory of Ukraine covered a broad time frame and included pottery from the 4th millennium B.C., pieces of Scythian gold, and a small cross from the 12th-13th century.



The Glory of Ukraine: Sacred Images from the 11th to the 19th Centuries – a rarely seen collection of more than 70 objects including icons, liturgical objects, textiles, and rare crosses – was on view at Meridian's Cafritz Galleries from October 20, 2010 – January 16, 2011. Featuring some of Ukraine's most important national treasures from the National Kyiv-Pechersk Historical and Cultural Preserve and the National Museum in Lviv named for Andrei Sheptitsky, the collection traced the evolution of Ukrainian iconography from its early Byzantine roots through the Baroque and Renaissance periods.

Organized by the Foundation for International Arts & Education (FIAE) in Bethesda, Maryland, *The Glory of Ukraine* was presented in conjunction with the Embassy of Ukraine in the United States and the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council, The National Kyiv-Pechersk Historical and Cultural Preserve, and the National Museum in Lviv.

The exhibition was developed to acquaint American viewers with an insight into a distinctive Slavic, Ukrainian Christian culture, which dates from the 10th century, and the journey from the adoption of Orthodoxy to the emergence of a Ukrainian national ethos. Ukraine has long served as a crossroads between East and West, North and South, and the materials on display eloquently underscored this point.

Global Tour of "Jam Session: America's Jazz Ambassadors Embrace the World"

Jam Session: America's Jazz Ambassadors Embrace the World, organized by Meridian and presented worldwide by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State has or soon will reach 38 host venues in 27 countries in the Western Hemisphere, Africa, Central Asia, East Asia, Europe, and Eurasia.

The exhibition continues to provide U.S. diplomats an opportunity to create far-reaching community programming including concerts, symposia, and other outreach activities. A highlight of the *Jam Session* world tour was the display of a video with images from the show on the LED screen situated on the façade of the USA National Pavilion at the World Expo 2010 Shanghai.



Nawzad Hadi, Governor of Erbil (Iraq), surveys *Jam Session*



Jam Session on the Facade of the USA Pavilion at Shanghai's World Expo. Courtesy of Alison Batwin.

International Children's Festival

*Twenty-three
embassies
participated
in the
International
Children's
Festival*



Every May, the International Children's Festival brings together the local community and the diplomatic corps of Washington, D.C., as embassies host booths representing their country and culture, as well as vibrant music and dance performances from around the world. In 2010, Meridian was proud to partner with Cultural Tourism DC (CTDC) for the 4th Annual International Children's Festival, which was a highlighted event for CTDC's Passport DC program for the month.

Facilitated by Meridian's long-standing service to the local diplomatic community, embassies create exciting, interactive displays, crafts, and other activities highlighting their country's rich cultural heritage. These booths introduce families to the world's geography – engaging children of all ages to learn about the world and the importance of global citizenship. This year more than 1,000 attendees crossed Meridian's threshold to make crepes (France), paint Kente cloth (Ghana), and create origami (Japan) as they moved from country to country making their way around the world. Embassy representatives and international members of the community were present to answer questions and tell their stories as they shared their colorful cultures.

*Over 1,000
people attended
the 4th Annual
International
Children's
Festival*



5 MERIDIAN COUNCILS

AKIN GUMP
STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP



GALLUP



PONGSAN

Honeywell

Deutsche Bank



DCI
GROUP

ExxonMobil

KORN/FERRY INTERNATIONAL



Corporate Council

Cokie Roberts,
NPR Senior
News Analyst,
discusses the
112th Congress
at a recent
Meridian event.



The Meridian Corporate Council continued to provide a platform for exchange, dialogue, and networking on key global issues among diplomatic, public, private, and non-profit sector leaders. Meridian knows that a thorough knowledge of global affairs is essential for the success of many companies. Through Meridian's programs and exchanges, Corporate Council members further their understanding of global issues and international markets, are given opportunities to reach new audiences and interact with Meridian's net-

work of local, national, and diplomatic leaders. In addition, members add their unique perspectives to important discussions on global priorities, becoming part of Meridian's mission to promote global leadership through the exchange of ideas, people, and culture.

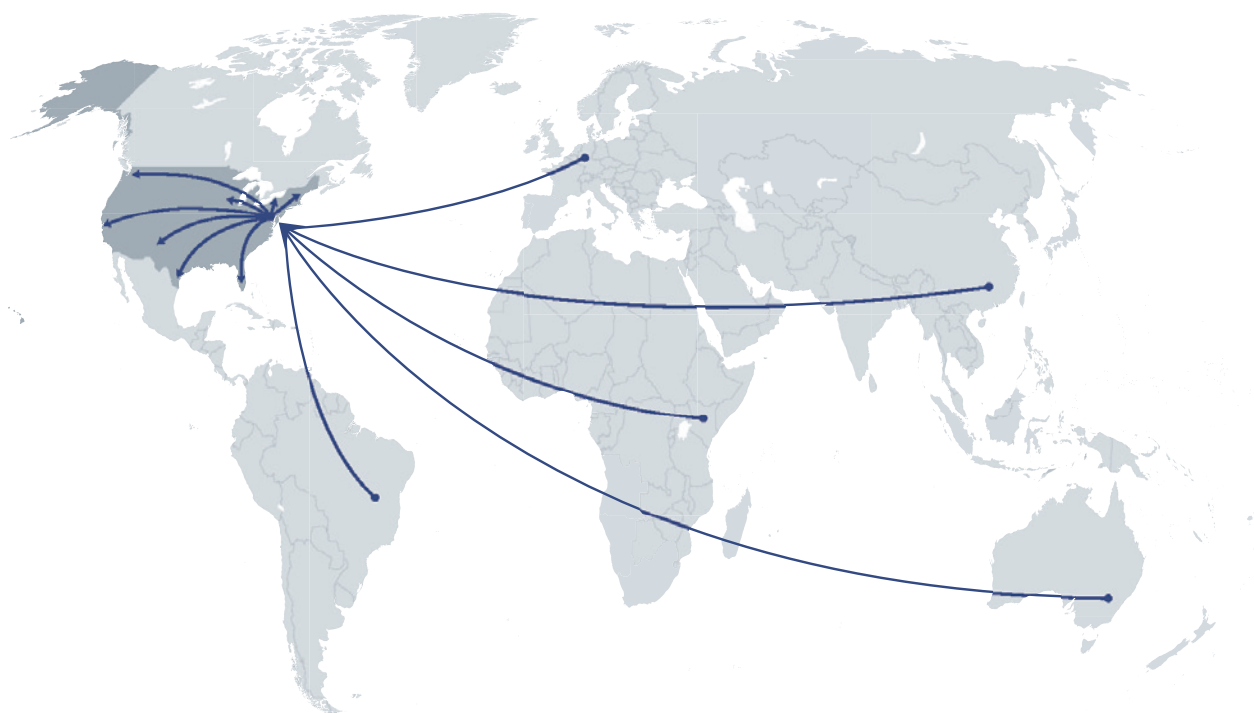
Women's International Leadership Council

Her Excellency
Chan
Heng Chee,
Ambassador
of Singapore
answers a
question from
Janet Howard of
Coca-Cola.



In June Meridian created the Women's International Leadership Council to promote leadership opportunities among a global network of women. Meridian believes that the perspective of female leaders is a key factor in addressing the multilateral challenges of the 21st century; and that engaging women from different sectors, backgrounds, and nations in cross-cutting, thoughtful debate is one of the most effective ways to create informed leaders and open lines of communication.

Throughout the year members participate in events and programs that focus on global issues relevant to women including entrepreneurship, global health, foreign policy, cultural diplomacy, and energy and the environment.



As Meridian enters its next 50 years, we will continue to broaden our relationships outside of the United States. We believe our role is to build bridges between nations and help leaders from around the world connect and understand each other. Meridian developed strong partnerships around the world that continue to help us extend our work beyond Washington, DC. In the past year, our partnerships have enabled us to develop exchanges and convenings with India, Qatar, Korea, Mexico, Iraq, Ukraine, Turkey, China, and numerous U.S.-based international organizations. Through our partnerships, our work is amplified around the world, providing our constituents an unparalleled forum for dialogue and debate, and unique access to international leaders.

7 MERIDIAN BALL



The 42nd Annual Meridian Ball was a highlight of our 50th anniversary activities. First Lady Michelle Obama served as Honorary Chair; with Chief of Protocol of the United States Ambassador Capricia Penavic Marshall an Honorary Sponsor; and Michelle Cross Fenty, serving as an Honorary Benefactor.

As is tradition, the evening began with intimate dinners at host embassies. This year dinners were held at the embassies of Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, and Yemen. Attendees then gathered at Meridians' historic mansions to mingle in the gardens, enjoy dessert, live music, dancing, and the company of friends and peers dedicated to Meridian's mission.



The participation of Congressional Chairs Mrs. Scott Brown and Mrs. James Oberstar; Ball Chairs Mrs. Huda Farouki and Mrs. Frederic Malek; and Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Holliday, President and CEO of Meridian, helped make the event a fitting tribute to our 50 years of international service.

8 OUR CAMPUS



While Meridian is known for its work throughout the world, everything begins at our historic campus in the heart of Washington DC. Conveniently located between the White House and Embassy Row, our four-and-a-half acre facility houses the city's most unique space for working and hosting programs and events.

As part of the Campaign for Meridian at 50, we continued to raise funds for The James R. Jones Fund for Meridian in order to restore and preserve Meridian's facilities and ensure that our programs continue to provide world leaders with an innovative forum for public and cultural diplomacy. Originally designed by famed architect John Russell Pope as two separate residences, the campus now unites the Meridian House and the White-Meyer House. Recently designated a National Historical Property, Meridian is a living, breathing part of American history.

Every day, our facility hosts groups from five to 500 participants, convening as part of an exchange, networking, or programming function. Meridian opens its doors to private functions as well, hosting a limited number of corporate and private events each year.

8 OUR CAMPUS

Gateway To America



Meridian is a gateway to America and a distinguished convening platform for thousands of international leaders each year. The campus provides international leaders with a beautiful and hospitable first impression of the United States.

An International Portal For Washington



Meridian also serves as a "embassy of the world" for Washington, DC. Cultural exhibitions, public programs and networking events allow visitors to engage on a truly global scale.

The Meridian Ball, Washington's premier diplomatic gala since 1968, welcomes the diplomatic corps, government officials, leaders in industry and private citizens to support our mission and work.

History & Architectural Heritage



Meridian House and White-Meyer House, both listed on the National Register of Historic Places, are surrounded by gardens and form a city block of extraordinary historic and architectural interest. Both properties were designed as residences for the families of two distinguished diplomats in the early 20th century by the renowned American architect John Russell Pope, who also designed the National Gallery of Art, the Jefferson Memorial and the National Archives.

Meridian House, considered by many experts to be the finest example of 18th Century French urban architecture in the United States, was built by Irwin Boyle Laughlin, a distinguished American ambassador and member of a Pittsburgh steel family. It became the home of Meridian International Center in 1960, thanks to major support from the Ford Foundation and many Meridian supporters.

White-Meyer House was the home of several distinguished families including American diplomat Henry White. Eugene Meyer, owner of The Washington Post, purchased the house in 1934. It was acquired by Meridian in 1987 through a capital campaign under the leadership of Roberto Goizueta, Chairman and CEO of Coca-Cola. The first floor serves as Meridian's premier art exhibition space, having been refurbished by the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.



Stewardship in Preservation and Restoration

Meridian House, White-Meyer House and their surrounding gardens began vital and extensive restorations in 2008 and continued throughout 2009 and 2010. Of critical importance was the replacement of the roofs of both houses – both of which were many decades old – to secure the integrity of the buildings' interior.

Both Meridian House and the White-Meyer House received exterior painting, stone, masonry, and wood restoration. Preservation work also included ironwork and hardware, structural repair, and refinishing of Meridian House's fire escape and shutters. Restoration of weatherstripping of windows of both houses has resulted in more energy efficiency.

Under the careful stewardship of the Board of Trustees and the President of Meridian, the work is of the highest quality of workmanship and materials befitting these national treasures.



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10 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Financial Position*

September 30	2010	2009
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,193,389	\$ 863,314
Accounts receivable-grants and other-net	\$ 2,697,319	\$ 2,769,894
Pledges receivable	\$ 503,800	\$ 179,300
Prepaid expenses and other	\$ 883,915	\$ 452,933
Investments	\$ 4,110,337	\$ 3,797,353
Property and equipment, net	\$ 5,569,462	\$ 5,574,260
Total Assets	\$ 14,958,222	\$13,637,054
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Line-of-credit	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,100,000
Term loan	\$ 1,274,000	\$ 1,330,000
Accounts payable	\$ 975,840	\$ 392,524
Accrued expenses	\$ 1,653,279	\$ 1,825,982
Capitalized leases	\$ 46,910	-
Deferred revenue	\$ 1,249,469	\$ 777,665
Total Liabilities	\$ 6,299,498	\$5,426,171
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$ 7,927,628	\$ 7,453,281
Temporarily restricted	\$ 65,285	\$ 190,285
Permanently restricted	\$ 665,757	\$ 567,317
Total Net Assets	\$ 8,658,724	\$8,210,883
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 14,958,222	\$ 13,637,054

* Preliminary

10 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets*

Year ended September 30, 2010

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Revenues and Investment Income				
Grants and contracts	\$ 28,924,956	-	-	\$ 28,924,956
Contributions	\$ 904,814	\$25,000	\$ 98,440	\$ 1,028,254
Event income	\$ 722,582	-	-	\$ 722,582
Special activities	\$ 985,879	-	-	\$ 985,879
Investment income	\$ 292,027	\$ 56,442	-	\$ 348,469
Membership dues	\$ 132,654	-	-	\$ 132,654
Other	\$ 107,666	-	-	\$ 107,666
Net assets released from restriction	\$ 206,442	(\$ 206,442)	-	-
Total Revenues and Investment Income	\$ 32,277,020	(\$ 125,000)	\$ 98,440	\$ 32,250,460
Expenses				
Direct program and department expenses	\$ 26,993,308	-	-	\$ 26,993,308
Fundraising	\$ 967,907	-	-	\$ 967,907
Support Services:				
General and administrative	\$ 2,236,851	-	-	\$ 2,236,851
Maintenance and operations	\$ 1,604,823	-	-	\$ 1,604,823
Expenses	\$ 31,802,619	-	-	\$ 31,802,619
Change in Net Assets	\$ 474,401	(\$ 125,000)	\$ 98,440	\$ 447,841
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$ 7,453,281	\$ 190,285	\$ 567,317	\$8,210,883
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 7,927,682	\$ 65,285	\$ 665,757	\$ 8,658,724

* Preliminary

10 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets*

Year ended September 30, 2009

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Revenues and Investment Income				
Grants and contracts	\$ 25,299,554	-	-	\$ 25,299,554
Contributions	\$ 588,947	\$150,000	-	\$ 738,947
Event income	\$ 701,980	-	-	\$ 701,980
Special activities	\$ 890,570	-	-	\$ 890,570
Investment income	\$ (14,461)	\$ (5,381)	-	\$ (19,842)
Membership dues	\$ 48,746	-	-	\$ 48,746
Other	\$ 87,578	-	-	\$ 87,578
Net assets released from restriction	\$ 65,454	(\$ 52,954)	(\$ 12,500)	-
Total Revenues and Investment Income	\$ 27,668,368	\$ 91,665	(\$ 12,500)	\$ 27,747,533
Expenses				
Direct program and department expenses	\$ 23,401,207	-	-	\$ 23,401,207
Fundraising	\$ 1,120,643	-	-	\$ 1,120,643
Support Services:				
General and administrative	\$ 2,103,040	-	-	\$ 2,103,040
Maintenance and operations	\$ 1,618,995	-	-	\$ 1,618,995
Expenses	\$ 28,243,885	-	-	\$ 28,243,885
Change in Net Assets	\$ 575,517	(\$ 91,665)	\$ 12,500	\$ 496,352
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$ 8,028,798	\$ 98,620	\$ 579,817	\$8,707,235
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 7,453,281	\$ 190,285	\$ 567,317	\$ 8,210,883

* Preliminary

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