

PRESS RELEASE

**CSIS ABSHIRE-INAMORI LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (AILA)
HOSTED 9 INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS**

WASHINGTON, May 12, 2009 – The Center for Strategic & International Studies' (CSIS) Abshire-Inamori Leadership Academy (AILA) is pleased to announce that candidates representing six countries completed the AILA International Fellowship Program at CSIS on May 8, 2009.

The program, conducted on an annual basis since 2003, is a prestigious, hands-on training course for mid-career professionals who have already made impressive strides in their careers. The training is designed to advance individual skill sets, techniques, and professional confidence in a cross-cultural atmosphere. By exposing them to today's most pressing global policy dilemmas, the fellows are challenged to develop a more complete and mastered understanding of the influence that leaders have on political systems.

CSIS collaborates with the Inamori Foundation of Kyoto, Japan; UNNITI Foundation, a small private foundation that provides grants in India and Nepal; and the American University of Nigeria, www.abti-american.edu.ng, to recruit outstanding candidates for the international fellows program in Washington, D.C.

The first term was themed "Leading with Awareness and Understanding" and took place October 5-10, 2008. Participants learned about the nature of leadership and the individual and ethical components of decision making. From May 3-8, 2009, eight of the nine fellows returned for the second and final term of the fellowship and engaged in discussions with international experts on crisis leadership, the global economic downturn, the threat of failing states, and management of depleting resources.

"The candidates selected this year are the most diverse class so far, which is an enhancement to the type of constructive dialogue that is at the heart of enduring leadership and cultural understanding," said Linda Jamison, CSIS senior fellow and director of the Abshire-Inamori Leadership Academy. "This program is

especially unique to help bridge cross-cultural gaps on an international scale.”

Manuel Gonzalez, one of the International Fellows and the former Costa Rican Minister of Foreign Trade, agreed, saying “I enjoyed every minute at AILA and CSIS. The quality, knowledge and candor of its people, the substance of the discussions held and the outstanding group of fellows, were unmatched. Those looking to have the latest information on the most important issues affecting our world and its future should definitely seek the honor of getting close to CSIS and AILA.”

In addition to these nine fellows, 28 rising leaders from Japan, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Korea, Lebanon, Nigeria, Cape Verde, and the United States have taken part in the program.

Full bios of past international fellows can be found at <http://www.csis.org/leadership/> but please find brief descriptions of this year’s class below:

Shiuan-Ju Chen is the former Vasey Fellow at the Pacific Forum CSIS and is currently working on bettering cross straight relations between Taiwan and China.

Cedza Dlamini is cofounder of the Ubuntu Institute in South Africa and has served as a spokesperson for the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Manuel Gonzalez-Sanz is a partner at Facio & Cañas, the largest law firm in Central America and is the former minister of foreign trade of Costa Rica and former ambassador of Costa Rica to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

Nobuhiko Hibara is an Inamori International Fellow and an associate professor of finance at the school of business administration at Ritsumeikan University in Tokyo, Japan.

Rekha Krishnan is the UNNITI Fellow and the head of the senior school at Vasant Valley School in New Delhi, India.

Shigeki Miwa is an Inamori International Fellow and the general manager of the Recycling Solutions Department of the Metal Business Development Division at Mitsui & Co., Ltd. in Tokyo, Japan.

Shinichi Mizuta is an Inamori International Fellow and a senior policy analyst at the international project department for the International Strategy Group at the Mitsubishi Research Institute.

Umma Aliyu Musa is the acting director of admissions at the American University in Nigeria.

Lieutenant Timothy Sommella is an active duty Coast Guard officer assigned to the Washington, D.C. area.

For more information about the CSIS Abshire-Inamori Leadership Academy International Fellows Program please contact Neal Urwitz at nurwitz@csis.org

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The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is a bipartisan, non-profit organization founded in 1962 and headquartered in Washington, D.C. It seeks to advance global security and prosperity by providing strategic insights and practical policy solutions to decision makers. CSIS serves as a strategic planning partner for the government by conducting research and analysis and developing policy initiatives that look into the future and anticipate change.

The Abshire-Inamori Leadership Academy (AILA) was created at CSIS in 2002, by David M. Abshire, co-founder of CSIS, and Kazuo Inamori, chairman emeritus of Kyocera Corporation. The Academy's mission is to promote a better understanding of the intellectual and moral constraints that bind decision-makers by engaging rising young professionals in the art and practice of leadership.

Neal Urwitz

CSIS

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