

specific themes for regional projects or single country projects:

All Countries

- Strengthening of Political and Governing Institutions (i.e. Judiciary, Parliament).
- Supporting Advocacy NGOs.
- Promoting Respect for Human Rights and Democratic Freedoms.
- Promoting Accountability, Transparency and Balance of Authority Among State Institutions.
- Supporting Independent Media.
- Integrating Women into Public Life.
- Promoting the Rule of Law.

Pakistan

- Assistance to Support a Transparent and Fair Election Process.

Budget Guidelines

The Bureau anticipates awarding grants in amounts of \$250,000–\$1,000,000 to support project and administrative costs required to implement these programs. Organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting similar programs may receive smaller grants. Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. There must be a summary budget as well as breakdowns reflecting both administrative and program budgets. Applicants may provide separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity to provide clarification.

Please refer to the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

Announcement Title and Number: All correspondence with the Bureau concerning this RFP should reference the above title and number DRL/PHD–02–01.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: The Office for the Promotion of Human Rights and Democracy of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, DRL/PHD. Please specify Sondra Govatski: 202–647–9734 on all inquiries and correspondence.

Please read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, Bureau staff may not discuss this competition with applicants until the proposal review process has been completed.

To Download a Solicitation Package via Internet

The Solicitation Package contains detailed award criteria, specific budget instructions, and standard guidelines for proposal preparation. The RFP and

Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) may be downloaded from the Bureau's website at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/>.

Deadline for Proposals

All proposals must be received at the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on Tuesday, April 30, 2002. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. Documents postmarked on the due date but received on a later date will not be accepted. Each applicant must ensure that the proposals are received by the above deadline.

Applicants must follow all instructions in the RFP and Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI). Two complete copies of the proposal should be sent to: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Ref: DRL/PHD–02–01, DRL/PHD, Room 7802, Washington, DC 20520.

Applicants must also submit the "Executive Summary" and "Proposal Narrative" sections of the proposal on a 3.5" diskette, formatted for Microsoft Word. The "Budget" must be submitted in Microsoft Excel format.

Review Process

The Bureau will review proposals for eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the Solicitation Package. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by DRL's Program Unit. Eligible proposals will be subject to compliance with Federal and Bureau regulations and guidelines and forwarded to Bureau grant panels for advisory review. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the Legal Adviser or by other Department elements.

Review Criteria

Eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation:

1. *Quality of the program idea:* Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, expertise, clarity, and relevance to the Bureau's mission.
2. *Program planning and ability to achieve program objectives:* A detailed agenda and work plan should demonstrate substantive undertakings and administrative capacity. Agenda and plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above. Objectives should be reasonable and feasible. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the program's objectives and plan.

3. *Multiplier effect/impact:* Proposed programs should promote long-term institution building or have other capacity-building results.

4. *Institution's Record/Ability/Capacity:* Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Bureau grants as determined by Bureau Grant Staff. The Bureau will consider the past performance of prior recipients, the demonstrated potential of new applicants, and the strength and capacity of in-country partner organizations. Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals.

5. *Cost-effectiveness:* The overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any Bureau representative.

Explanatory information provided by the Bureau that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Bureau reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been allocated and committed through internal Department procedures and notified to Congress.

Dated: March 27, 2002.

Lorne W. Craner,

Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Department of State.

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BILLING CODE 4710–18–P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. WTO/DS–245]

WTO Consultations Regarding Japanese Measures Affecting the Importation of Apples

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is providing notice that on March 1, 2002, the United States requested consultations with Japan under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO), regarding measures imposed by Japan on the importation of U.S. apples to protect against the introduction of fire blight. USTR invites written comments from the public concerning the issues raised in this dispute.

DATES: Although the USTR will accept any comments received during the course of the dispute settlement proceedings, comments should be submitted on or before April 30, 2002, to be assured of timely consideration by USTR.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted (i) electronically to japanapples@ustr.gov or (ii) by mail to Sandy McKinzy, Attn: Japan—Measures Affecting the Importation of Apples, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, with a confirmation copy sent electronically or by fax to (202) 395-3640.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Juan A. Millán, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC, (202) 395-3581.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 127(b) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA) (19 U.S.C. 3537(b)(1)) requires that notice and opportunity for comment be provided after the United States submits or receives a request for the establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel. Consistent with this obligation, but in an effort to provide additional opportunity for comment, USTR is providing notice that consultations have been requested pursuant to the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU). If such consultations should fail to resolve the matter and a dispute settlement panel is established pursuant to the DSU, such panel, which would hold its meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, would be expected to issue a report on its findings and recommendations within six to nine months after it is established.

Major Issues Raised by the United States

The United States has requested WTO consultations with Japan regarding its quarantine restrictions on U.S. apples imported into Japan to protect against the introduction of fire blight (*Erwinia amylovora*). These restrictions include, *inter alia*, the prohibition of imported

apples from orchards in which any fire blight is detected, the requirement that export orchards be inspected three times yearly for the presence of fire blight, the disqualification of any orchard from exporting to Japan should fire blight be detected within a 500 meter buffer zone surrounding such orchard, and a post-harvest treatment of exported apples with chlorine. None of these restrictions is supported by scientific evidence.

The United States contends that Japan's measures are inconsistent with the obligations of Japan under Article XI of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994*, Articles 2.2, 2.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.6, 6.1, 6.2, and 7 and Annex B of the *Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures*, and Article 14 of the *Agreement on Agriculture*. Japan's measures also appear to nullify or impair the benefits accruing to the United States directly or indirectly under the cited agreements.

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the issues raised in the dispute. Comments must be in English. Commenters should send either one copy by U.S. mail, first class, postage prepaid, to Sandy McKinzy at the address listed above, or transmit a copy electronically to japanapples@ustr.gov. For documents sent by U.S. mail, USTR requests that the submitter provide a confirmation copy, either electronically or by fax to (202) 395-3640. USTR encourages the submission of documents in Adobe PDF format, as attachments to an electronic mail.

A person requesting that information contained in a comment submitted by that person be treated as confidential business information must certify that such information is business confidential and would not customarily be released to the public by the commenter. Confidential business information must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page of each copy. For any document containing business confidential information submitted by electronic transmission, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters "BC", and the file name of the public version should begin with the characters "P". The "P" or "BC" should be followed by the name of the commenter. Interested persons who make submission by electronic mail should not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. Similarly, to the

extent possible, any attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself and not as separate files.

Information or advice contained in a comment submitted, other than business confidential information, may be determined by USTR to be confidential in accordance with section 135(g)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155(g)(2)). If the submitter believes that information or advice may qualify as such, the submitter—

(1) Must so designate the information or advice;

(2) Must clearly mark the material as "SUBMITTED IN CONFIDENCE" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page of each copy; and

(3) Is encouraged to provide a non-confidential summary of the information or advice.

Pursuant to section 127(e) of the URAA (19 U.S.C. 3537(e)), USTR will maintain a file on this dispute settlement proceeding, accessible to the public, in the USTR Reading Room: Office of the United States Trade Representative, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508. The public file will include a listing of any comments received by USTR from the public with respect to the dispute; if a dispute settlement panel is convened, the U.S. submissions to that panel, the submissions, or non-confidential summaries of submissions, to the panel received from other participants in the dispute, as well as the report of the panel; and, if applicable, the report of the Appellate Body. An appointment to review the public file (Docket WTO/DS-245, Japan—Measures Affecting the Importation of Apples) may be made by calling Brenda Webb, (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Christine Bliss,

Acting Assistant United States Trade Representative for Monitoring and Enforcement.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Salt Lake County, UT

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an