

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Notice of Solicitation for Members of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board

**AGENCY:** Research, Education and Economics, USDA.

**ACTION:** Solicitation for membership, extension of application deadline.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., the United States Department of Agriculture announces solicitation for nominations to fill 11 vacancies on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board.

**DATES:** Deadline for Advisory Board member nominations is extended to August 15, 2009.

**ADDRESSES:** The nominee's name, resume, completed Form AD-755, and any letters of support must be sent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 3858 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-0321.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karen Hunter, Executive Director, National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 3858 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-0321 telephone: 202-720-8408; fax: 202-720-6199; e-mail: [Karen.hunter@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Karen.hunter@ars.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123) was amended by the Food, Energy and Conservation Act of 2008 by deleting six members of the National Agricultural

Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board, to total 25 members. Since the inception of the Advisory Board by congressional legislation in 1996, each member has represented a specific category related to farming or ranching, food production and processing, forestry research, crop and animal science, land-grant institutions, non-land grant college or university with a historic commitment to research in the food and agricultural sciences, food retailing and marketing, rural economic development, and natural resource and consumer interest groups, among many others. The Board was first appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture in September 1996 and one-third of its members were appointed for one, two, and three-year terms, respectively to allow for approximately one-third of the Board to change each year. The terms for 11 members who represent specific categories will expire September 30, 2009. Nominations for these 11 vacant categories are sought. All nominees will be carefully reviewed for their expertise, leadership, and relevance to a category. Appointments will be made for two- or three-year terms to maintain the approximate one-third change in membership each year dictated by the original legislation.

The 11 slots to be filled are:  
 Category A. National Farm Organization;  
 Category C. Food Animal Commodity Producer;  
 Category I. National Human Health Association;  
 Category M. 1994 Land Grant Institution;  
 Category N. NLGCA Institutions;  
 Category O. Hispanic-Serving Institutions;  
 Category Q. Transportation of Food and Agricultural Products to Domestic and Foreign Markets;  
 Category R. Food Retailing and Marketing Interests;  
 Category S. Food and Fiber Processors;  
 Category X. Private Sector Organization Involved in International Development;  
 Category Y. National Social Science Association.

Nominations are being solicited from individuals, organizations, associations, societies, councils, federations, groups, and companies that represent a wide variety of food and agricultural interests

throughout the country. Nominations for one individual who fits several of the categories listed above *or* for more than one person who fits one category will be accepted. In your nomination letter, please indicate the specific membership category for each nominee. Each nominee must fill out, sign, and return a form AD-755, "Advisory Committee Membership Background Information" (which can be obtained from the contact person below or may be printed out from the following Web site: <http://www.ree.usda.gov/nareeeab/downloads/forms/AD-755.pdf>). All nominees will be vetted before selection.

Nominations are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical handicap, marital status, or sexual orientation. To ensure that recommendations of the Advisory Board take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

Appointments to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Done at Washington, DC, this 6th day of July 2009.

**Rajiv Shah,**

*Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-03-P**

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## U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Board for International Food and Agricultural Development; One Hundred and Fifty-Seventh Meeting; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given of the one hundred and fifty-seventh meeting of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD). The meeting will be held from 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. on July 29, 2009 at the National Press Club located at 529 14th St., NW., Washington, DC. The venue will be the Holeman Lounge

which is located on the 13th floor of the National Press Club. "Higher Education: A Critical Partner in Global Agricultural Development" continues to be the central theme of BIFAD's initiatives and the July meeting.

Dr. Robert Easter, Chairman of BIFAD, will preside over the proceedings. Dr. Easter is Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Food security, including the broadly emerging issues surrounding climate change, and the role of universities in partnership with USAID to achieve critical short and long-term development objectives is the focus of the Board's Agenda as set for the 157th meeting. The 157th meeting continues to build toward the establishment of a special strategic partnership between USAID and the university community and the launching of a university "Brain Trust." Underpinning these initiatives the Board's discussion incorporates the results from its second Conference of Deans (COD II) which was held in Washington, DC on June 28 and 29, 2009. The COD II's theme was "Building a Global Food Security Strategy: The Role of Higher Education in US International Development."

BIFAD's morning session will begin with a panel discussion, "BIFAD's Conference of Deans II: Perspectives on Food Security and the Role of Universities." University recommendations and USAID perspectives from the COD II will be presented. A second panel will compliment the first session with the discussion, "Partners in Development: Business, Cooperatives and NGOs." At mid-morning congressional staff will provide updates on directions and funding implications of the Lugar-Casey and McCollum Agriculture Bills. Particular attention will be directed to the HECTARE component of the legislation. Congressional presenters will be Connie Veillette, Senior Professional Staff Member, House Foreign Relation Committee and Peter Frosch, Legislative Director, Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Time will be made available for questions from the public attending.

After the morning break the Board will hear commentary from the university community on "USAID's Agricultural Development Plans for Afghanistan." Several university perspectives will be presented.

Following an executive luncheon (closed to the public) the Board will continue discussion with an emphasis on agricultural innovation and responses to the impending climate

change, particularly from an agro-ecological perspective. This will be highlighted in a special panel presentation, "Climate Proofing Agriculture: Lessons from the System of Rice Intensification." The presentation will be led by Norman Uphoff, Program Leader for Sustainable Rice Intensification, Cornell University. USDA's response will be provided by Carol Kramer-LeBlanc, Director, Sustainable Development Program, USDA/CREES.

Shifting to a regional focus, USAID's Latin American Bureau will present to the Board key aspects of its trade-led strategy for agricultural diversification to promote agriculture and food security, "Optimizing the Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Benefits of CAFTA-DR." This USAID presentation will be delivered by a representative from the Office of Sustainable Development, Bureau for Latin America.

Operational and management issues pertaining to the Board and linked to implementation of Title XII will be covered through several reports. First, the Board's sub-committee, Strategic Partnership for Agricultural Research and Education (SPARE), will report on its February 2009 meeting held at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Topics to be covered are SPARE's discussion on the Casey-Lugar Bill, specifically on how the Agency could implement the HECTARE portion of the legislation, and issues related to scaling-up agricultural programming in view of the Agency's increased efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The concluding report will be an update from USAID's Office of Acquisitions and Assistance (OAA) on USAID's rule regarding the use of key subcontractors by prime contractors; particularly with regard to universities as subcontractors.

The Board meeting is open to the public. The Board welcomes open dialogue to promote greater focus on critical issues facing USAID, the role of universities in development, and applications of U.S. scientific, technical and institutional capabilities to international agriculture. **Note on Public Comments:** Due to time constraints public comments to the Board will be limited to two (2) minutes to accommodate as many as possible. The comments must be submitted ahead of the meeting and they must be in writing.

Those wishing to attend the meeting or obtain additional information about BIFAD should contact Dr. Ronald S. Senykoff, Executive Director and Designated Federal Officer for BIFAD. Write him in care of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Ronald

Reagan Building, Office of Development Partners, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Room 6.7-153, Washington, DC, 20523-2110 or telephone him at (202) 712-0218 or fax (202) 216-3124.

**Ronald S. Senykoff,**

*Executive Director and USAID Designated Federal Officer for BIFAD, Office of Development Partners, U.S. Agency for International Development.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket Number 0906181062-91065-01]

#### Amendments to Alternative Personnel Management System (APMS) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of amendments.

**SUMMARY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announces amendments to NIST's Alternative Personnel Management System (APMS). The amendments change the performance management system of the Senior Professional (ST) employees at NIST.

**DATES:** This notice is effective on July 21, 2009.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For questions or comments, please contact Susanne Porch at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, (301) 975-2487.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

In accordance with Public Law 99-574, the NIST Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1987 (15 U.S.C. 275 note), the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) approved a demonstration project plan, "Alternative Personnel Management System (APMS) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)," and published the plan in the **Federal Register** on October 2, 1987 (52 FR 37082). The project plan has been amended twice to clarify certain NIST authorities (54 FR 21331, May 17, 1989, and 55 FR 39220, September 25, 1990). The project plan and subsequent amendments were consolidated in the final APMS plan, which became permanent on October 21, 1997, (62 FR 54604). NIST published an amendment on May 6, 2005 (70 FR 23996), which became permanent on