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***Department of State Internal Crowdsourcing Platform***

The Office of eDiplomacy is developing an internal crowdsourcing platform that will facilitate collaborative work worldwide. Any office or mission will be able to post tasks online and any State Department employee with the requisite skills will be able to respond and complete the task. This creates an internal marketplace for foreign affairs work and matches State Department opportunities and requirements with untapped skills and experience. The platform is currently under development with an anticipated launch in December 2013.

**Strategic Goals:**

1. Develop a foreign affairs marketplace connecting State Department opportunities and needs with untapped skills and experience, regardless of physical location.
2. Provide first and second tour (FAST) employees opportunities to develop new skills, contacts and experiences, enhancing their performance and broadening their career options.
3. Enhance the ability of small, under-resourced or over-burdened teams to accomplish their mission without additional resources.
4. Provide mentors and managers an expanded ability to develop their mentees.

**Participation – why will colleagues want to participate in the platform?**

* **Requesting offices:**
  + *Efficiencies*: Leverage outside skills, expertise and abilities
  + *Marketing*: Increase visibility of the office or mission
  + *Recruitment*: Extend network of eligible candidates
* **Volunteering employees:**
  + *Career Development*:
    - *Skills*: Advance core competencies and develop specialties
    - *Networking*: Develop wider relationships with offices and individuals
  + *Recognition*: Receive endorsements for contributions in the form of written feedback and badges
  + *Retention:*Work on a wider variety of opportunities than are available locally
* **Mentors and managers:**
  + *Staff Development:* Expose junior employees to a wider variety of experiences than are available at post

***Internal Crowdsourcing Platform Quick Facts***

**Collaboration Partners:**

* Office of the Director General of the Foreign Service, Bureau of Human Resources
* White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) – Innovation Toolkit Initiative and Presidential Innovation Fellows Program
* General Services Administration (GSA) – Open Opportunities Program

**Mission of the Office of eDiplomacy:**

eDiplomacy was established in July 2002 with a unique, interrelated three-part mandate: to promote end user involvement in decision-making on information technology; to improve the way the State Department connects to and works with its USG foreign affairs partner agencies, with other nations’ diplomatic institutions, and with other entities involved in international affairs; and to foster knowledge management at State. To meet this mandate, eDiplomacy created and led programs including Diplopedia, Communities@State and Virtual Presence Posts and developed enterprise search and the use of interagency classified and unclassified networks by State personnel. The eDiplomacy staff combines expertise in knowledge management and social media with extensive Foreign Service experience, both domestically and abroad.

**The Knowledge Leadership Initiative**

The Department’s Knowledge Leadership strategy, managed by IRM’s Office of eDiplomacy, aims to strengthen the Department's leadership of foreign policy formulation at home and implementation abroad with our diplomatic partners by putting the Department's knowledge resources at the disposal of personnel whenever and wherever needed. The platforms that meet these goals connect people to knowledge worldwide and are consistent with 21st Century Statecraft, the QDDR, and IT Strategic Plan goals for Digital Diplomacy. Projects currently in use include Corridor (access to expertise), Diplopedia and Enterprise Search (access to knowledge resources), and Communities@State (collaboration across geographic and organizational boundaries). The Current, a new information-gathering project, provides access to knowledge resources inside and outside the Department of State and promotes collaboration and communication via Corridor and Communities@State.

**For more information, please contact:**

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