



U.S. Ambassador Signs Grant Agreements for Community Projects

On Tuesday, October 30th, U.S. Ambassador Marquardt signed agreements under the Ambassador's Special Self-Help (SSH) and the Democracy and Human Rights Programs (DHRF) of the American Embassy with representatives of 23 community organizations from many parts of Madagascar at the American Cultural Center. Under these agreements, the U.S. government will contribute to sustainable social and economic development projects, income-generating activities and promotion of basic human rights and civic participation for the involved communities.

For this year's Self Help Program, seventeen (17) projects, out of more than 200 applicants, have been awarded a total of \$80,000 for communities all over the country. Contribution of the U.S. government to these projects ranges from \$2,000 to \$7,000.

Six (6) projects have been awarded a total of \$70,000 under the DHRF Program. The contribution by the U.S. Government to these projects ranges from \$4,000 to \$25,000.

For those interested in applying for next year's SSH and DHRF grants, please contact Ms. Kerri Poore at the US Embassy. The deadline for proposals is December 31st, 2007.