

Opening Statement
The Honorable Vernon J. Ehlers, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Research and Science Education
Committee on Science and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Coordination of International Science Partnerships

March 24, 2009

Identifying and coordinating activities within the federal government which mutually benefit our scientific enterprise and our foreign policy goals is a valuable mission, and therefore I support the goals of the draft legislation before us today. I know that all of our witnesses seek to inform this Committee regarding the most efficient way to achieve these common goals, and I greatly appreciate their expertise and reflection on this topic.

In the last Congress, this Subcommittee held a series of three hearings on issues related to science and diplomacy. We have only seen glimpses of the power behind leveraging these two communities because the commitment to do so has not been sustained, focused, or well-organized. Individual scientists who have partnered with peers in other nations would unequivocally assure you that such partnerships have been good for U.S. science, despite the fact that their motivation for such a partnership was probably purely based on discovery.

I look forward to learning from our witnesses today about the proposal before us and how we could make it stronger. Thank you for your attendance.