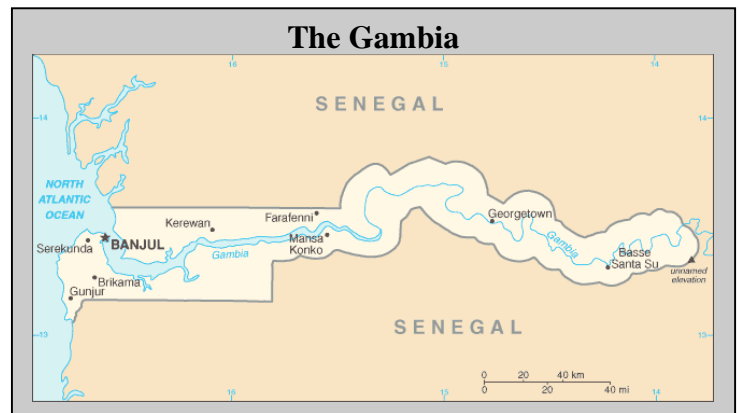




IDIA Professional Development Program: The Gambia

In order to assist American educators to teach their students about the global community, IDIA has developed a teacher professional development program in the Gambia, a small democratic country located in West Africa.

Since 2006, IDIA has partnered with the Better Africa Youth Initiative (BAYI), a Gambian non-governmental organization, to provide leadership development and educational support services to young people throughout the Gambia. IDIA has sponsored conferences in which Gambian students work with American undergraduates to learn about public speaking, information synthesis, and conflict resolution, among countless other critical life skills.



Building out of the strong partnership with BAYI, IDIA will bring teachers to the Gambia to learn about the educational structure and philosophy of Western Africa. The 10-day program will give American teachers the opportunity to sit in on classes, discuss teaching challenges and opportunities with Gambian teachers and school administrators, and teach select classes to Gambian students. When not meeting with BAYI members and Gambian educators, participants will explore Gambian culture and cuisine.

The program itinerary has been designed with the needs of teachers specifically in mind. Each day, there are opportunities to talk with teachers and administrators and to experience the education system of the Gambia. In addition, session with IDIA and BAYI staff will help to draw out aspects of the trip, highlighting important teachable moments and opportunities for development.

IDIA's experience in the Gambia, and the support of our BAYI hosts will ensure a comfortable stay for all participants. We have investigated every aspect of the trip to ensure that you, as participants can focusing on learning about the Gambia, instead of worrying about logistical details. Lodging, transportation, cultural excursions, and school visits have all been planned to maximize your experience, while exposing you to West African culture.

When program participants return to the United States, they will be equipped to share their experiences not only with their students, but also with fellow teachers and administrators. In addition, IDIA will facilitate continued discussion among teachers and students, helping to develop long-lasting relationships for teachers across continents. The connections made during this trip will foster ongoing dialogue among American and Gambian secondary school students.

IDIA is a registered provider of teacher professional development in the State of New Jersey.

IDIA Professional Development Program: The Gambia Program Features

The IDIA Professional Development Program: The Gambia has been designed with educators in mind. Throughout the itinerary, American teachers will have the opportunity to learn from their counterparts in the Gambia, experience West African education from the classroom setting, teach Gambian students in their teaching subject, and develop connections among Gambian teachers and students for when they return to their classrooms in the United States.

Experience West African Education

When most Americans think about African education systems, they picture overcrowded classrooms and limited educational resources and students walking miles each day just to attend school. By participating in the Gambian program, instead of reading about Africa in text books or magazines, American teachers will have the opportunity to explore West African schools first-hand. Program highlights include the opportunity for participating American educators not only to sit in on individual classes, but also to spend a day teaching at two Gambian schools. Highlighting both the urban and the rural teaching experience, teachers who participate in the program will leave with an enhanced understanding of Gambian teaching facilities, development opportunities, and educational priorities.

Connect with Faculty and Administration

How does teaching in the United States compare with teaching in the Gambia? Through IDIA's close partnership with a variety of Gambian educational institutions, participating teachers will have several opportunities to talk directly to their Gambian counterparts to gain a better understanding of what it is like to teach in West Africa. Previous IDIA visits to the region have revealed that Gambian teachers cite the same concerns over their ability to teach effectively: training, resources, administration support, and materials. Participating teachers will speak with school administrators to develop a broader understanding of the challenges facing students in West Africa. Whereas in the United States, most students attend public schools, Gambian students typically attend private schools, bringing about unique opportunities and impediments to their own learning.

Connect with Gambian Students

Perhaps the most important component of the Gambian program is the opportunity to teach in two different Gambian schools. Participating American teachers will meet with their Gambian counterpart to prepare their lesson, and will teach actual Gambian students for a day. They will have a chance to explore classroom control strategies, differentiated learning practices, and witness first-hand some of the challenges of being a teacher in West Africa. During these sessions, American teachers will have the chance to directly interact with Gambian students, developing relationships that will continue after the teachers return to their own schools.

The program is designed to impact more than just the participating teacher. IDIA will facilitate ongoing communications between American and Gambian students, teachers, and administration so that more people can gain from the experience! Instead of having your students read about West Africa, have them speak directly with students their own age, learning about their lifestyles, values, and aspirations.

Learn about West African Culture and Community

Gambia is alive with a vibrant culture and a strong sense of community. Wander through the local market, explore hidden neighborhoods, and talk with local Gambians. By immersing yourself in Gambian culture you will have the unique opportunity to become a temporary member of Gambian society. Join us as we eat traditional meals, engage in conversation about family and future, and learn from each other.

**Professional Development Program: The Gambia
Tentative Program Itinerary**

Thursday January 1, 2009

Depart for the Gambia. The flight to West Africa will be overnight, with a short layover in London or Paris.

Friday January 2, 2009

- *Arrival in Banjul, the Gambia
- *Orientation meeting with IDIA Program Staff
- *Welcome meeting with BAYI Program Staff
- *Group Dinner

Saturday January 3, 2009

- *Teacher Dialogue with BAYI Program Staff
- *Teacher Professional Development Session with IDIA/BAYI Program Staff
 - Anatomy of West Africa: Culture and People

Sunday January 4, 2009

- *Cultural Tour of the Capital Region
 - Katchikally Crocodile Pools
 - Banjul Market
 - Kanji Fishing Village
- *Professional Development Session with IDIA/BAYI Program Staff
 - The education system of the Gambia

Monday January 5, 2009

- *Briefing at U.S. Embassy to the Gambia
- Tentative: Meet the U.S. Ambassador to the Gambia
- *Capital Area School Visits
 - Gambia High Senior Secondary School
 - Charles Fowlis Senior Secondary School
 - St. Josephs Upper Basic School
 - Rose-Kali International Senior Secondary School
- *Teacher dialogue: During the visit to Rose-Kali, program participants will have the opportunity to talk with their counterparts. This structured session will cover issues like teacher training and preparation, resources, and classroom strategies, among others.
- *Professional Development Session: Preparing to teach

Tuesday January 6, 2009

- *Teaching Day at Rose-Kali
- Participating IDIA teachers will have the opportunity to teach a high school class at Rose-Kali. Subject and logistical details will be finalized depending on class availability and interest area of participating teachers.
- *Meeting with Rose Kali Administration
- *Professional Development debrief: Reflections upon teaching in an urban school environment

Wednesday January 7, 2009

- *Travel day to Farafenni, a rural province located about 2 hours northeast of the capital region
- *School visit to Farafenni Senior Secondary School
 - Meeting with faculty and administration

Thursday January 8, 2009

*Teaching Day at Farafenni Senior Secondary School

*Return to capital region

*Professional Development Session: Comparing teaching environments and resources

Friday January 9, 2009

*Debriefing and Reflection

*Closing dinner with BAYI and IDIA

Saturday January 20, 2009

*Departure and return to the United States

**In total, the IDIA Professional Development Program: The Gambia affords participating teachers with 30 hours of professional development training. IDIA is a registered provider of professional development in the State of New Jersey*

IDIA Professional Development Program: The Gambia Important Information

Travel and Transportation:

Program fee includes all travel to and from the Gambia; participants are responsible for travel to and from the departure airport (Newark or JFK). All transfers to and from Banjul, and throughout our stay in the Gambia is included in the fee. The only additional travel expenses would be for personal travel during free time.

Lodging:

During our stay in the capital region, participants will stay in a residential compound, which consists of bedrooms, meeting space, living areas, and a kitchen. This dual-occupancy facility offers hot running water and all the comforts of home. Participants need only bring towels and whatever personal care products they consider necessary. To immerse you in the real culture of West Africa, we will not be staying in a luxury resort. Our centrally located lodging facilities mean that you will interact with Gambians virtually all the time, while walking down the street, checking your email, or exploring the neighborhood.

Passports, Visas, and Documentation:

Travel to the Gambia requires both a valid U.S. passport (with at least 6 months remaining before expiration), and a valid multi-entry Gambian visa. While costs associated with obtaining a valid U.S. passport are not included in program fees, all costs associated with the Gambian visa are included.

Medicines and Vaccinations:

No specific medicines or vaccines are required for travel to the Gambia. Participants should plan to have malaria pills (the Gambia is an endemic zone), and should consider the yellow fever vaccine. IDIA strongly recommends that you consult your doctor for appropriate medical advice. IDIA cannot be held responsible for any health-related developments during the trip.

Food:

Food in West Africa focuses strongly on chicken, beef, fish, and rice. Dishes like benachin and yassa are staples of the Gambian diet, and there will be ample opportunity to explore this important aspect of Gambian culture. Accommodations will be made for individuals with specific dietary restriction or allergies. Please let IDIA know of any special needs prior to departure.

Safety and Security:

The Gambia is a safe society with a fully functioning law enforcement system. While crime is not typically a concern, individuals are strongly advised to watch over their personal possessions, and to avoid public show of money or other valuables.

Communications:

Gambia relies on a GPRS cell phone network. Individuals with unlocked mobile phones that use SIM cards will be able to use their phone throughout the country with the purchase of a Gambian SIM card. Internet access is available at local internet cafes a short distance from the lodging facilities and destinations throughout the program. Internet access is inexpensive. IDIA and BAYI will have cell phones available in case of emergency.

**IDIA Professional Development Program: The Gambia
Logistics and Costs**

Total Program Cost: \$2,250

Deposit: \$500, due upon reservation

Balance due November 15, 2008

*No refunds available once flights have been booked (on/about November 15, 2008).
Prior to booking, full refunds, minus a \$50 processing fee, will be available.

What's Included:

- *Round Trip airfare to the Gambia
- *Gambia Visa
- *Lodging (dual occupancy)
- *Transfers and program transportation
- *30 hours of professional development credit
- *Admission fees for Gambian cultural attractions
- *Breakfast daily
- *Arrival Dinner (January 2, 2009)
- *Farewell Dinner (January 10, 2009)

What's *Not* Included:

- *Non-program meals
- *Personal incidental expenses
- *Preventative medicine
- *Transfers to and from departure airport

What's Required:

- *Valid U.S. Passport with six months remaining before expiration

Necessary Medicine and Vaccines (Not included):

- *Malaria Pills (Malarone) are *strongly* recommended
- *Yellow Fever vaccination (optional, but recommended)
- *Stomach reliever (Pepto-Bismol)

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____



IDIA
The Institute for Domestic & International Affairs, Inc.

55 Raritan Ave., Suite 2-283 · Highland Park · New Jersey 08904
Phone: +1 732 249-4227 · Fax: +1 732-249-3992 · www.idia.net

**IDIA Professional Development Program: The Gambia
January 1-10, 2009**

Please fill out the following information to reserve a space on the IDIA Professional Development Program trip to the Gambia.

Name: _____
Address: _____

School: _____
Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Country of Residence: _____
Country of Citizenship: _____

Emergency Contact: _____
Relation to Applicant: _____
Emergency Phone: _____

Program Fees: \$2,250

*A deposit of \$500 is due at the time the application is submitted. The balance of \$1,750 is due no later than November 15, 2008. There will be **no refunds** after flights have been booked (on or about November 15, 2008). IDIA does not accept credit cards as payment.*

Amount Included: _____

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please remit payment to:

Institute for Domestic & International Affairs, Inc.
Professional Development Program: The Gambia
55 Raritan Ave., Suite 2-283
Highland Park, NJ 08904



IDIA
The Institute for Domestic & International Affairs, Inc.

55 Raritan Ave., Suite 2-283 · Highland Park · New Jersey 08904
Phone: +1 732 249-4227 · Fax: +1 732-249-3992 · www.idia.net

RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

PARTICIPANT: (Name and Address)

INSTITUTION:

**Institute for Domestic & International
Affairs, Inc.**

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY OR TRIP: _____

LOCATION: _____ **DATE(s):** _____

I, _____, am eighteen years of age or older and have voluntarily applied to participate in the above Program, sponsored by the Institute for Domestic & International Affairs, Inc. (IDIA). I acknowledge that the nature of the Program may expose me to hazards or risks that may result in my illness, personal injury or death and I understand and appreciate the nature of such hazards and risks.

In consideration of my participation in the Program, I hereby accept all risk to my health and of my injury or death that may result from such participation and I hereby release IDIA, its governing board, officers, employees and representatives from any liability to me, my personal representatives, estate, heirs, next of kin, and assigns for any and all claims and causes of action for loss of or damage to my property and for any and all illness or injury to my person, including my death, that may result from or occur during my participation in the Program, whether caused by negligence of IDIA, its governing board, officers, employees, or representatives, or otherwise. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Institution and its governing board, officers, employees, and representatives from liability for the injury or death of any person(s) and damage to property that may result from my negligent or intentional act or omission while participating in the described Program.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND UNDERSTAND IT TO BE A RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS AND CAUSES OF ACTION FOR MY INJURY OR DEATH OR DAMAGE TO MY PROPERTY THAT OCCURS WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE DESCRIBED PROGRAM AND IT OBLIGATES ME TO INDEMNIFY THE PARTIES NAMED FOR ANY LIABILITY FOR INJURY OR DEATH OF ANY PERSON AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY CAUSED BY MY NEGLIGENT OR INTENTIONAL ACT OR OMISSION.

Signature of Participant

Date

Witness

Date