

**CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN-WESTERN
DIALOGUE - PROGRAM**

Proposed Appropriation Language

CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN-WESTERN DIALOGUE TRUST FUND

For necessary expenses of the Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue Trust Fund, the total amount of the interest and earnings accruing to such Fund on or before September 30, [2009] 2010, to remain available until expended. (*Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2009.*)

CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN-WESTERN DIALOGUE

Resource Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Estimate	FY 2010 Request	Increase / Decrease
Funds	868	875	875	0

FY 2008 Actual reflects the rescission of 0.81% provided by the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-161, Division J).

Overview

The FY 2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-199) created the Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue Trust Fund to support the operations of the Center. The Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), in collaboration with the Department of State, was designated to oversee the Center's development and establishment.

The Center will further scholarship and implement programs to encourage mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and Europe, who share a Western European tradition, and the peoples of Southeast Europe, the Near and Middle East, and Central Asia, who share cultural and religious traditions associated with the dominant nations of those areas. The goal of the Center is to promote dialogue on key issues, the growth of civil society and democratic institutions, and peaceful resolution of differences.

Program Description

Under the leadership of CAORC, the Center's Board of Directors is convening important policy meetings for U.S. and regional experts about key issues of Middle Eastern-Western concern. Conferences in Istanbul will focus on the development of indigenous universities and the emergence of private universities and their role in strengthening higher education in the Muslim world; a "Next Generation" conference bringing together emerging political, cultural, business, and community leaders under age 40 from the U.S. and leading Muslim-majority countries such as Pakistan, Indonesia, and Egypt; and a conference on emerging social and economic issues facing the Middle East and its relationship with the U.S. The Center will actively serve as a bridge between Iranian and U.S. scholars and experts by including Iranian citizens in all of its conferences. The Center's Board of Directors continues to work to identify potential partners in the U.S. and in the broader Middle East and North Africa region, and make recommendations for program activities and institutional management of the Center. CAORC will continue to report annually to Congress on the Center's conferences and other activities.

The Center will continue to develop programs of cooperative study, training, and research for students and scholars to exchange views and ideas. The Center will focus on development of region-based dialogue groups that will conduct research on topics such as post-war Iraq and the empowerment of women in government and leadership throughout the Middle East.

The Center has conducted program activities in Istanbul while seeking to establish a permanent office there. During FY 2008, the Center hired an in-country office director who, in FY 2009,

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will work toward the formal registration of the Center as an officially recognized foreign organization operating in Turkey and will establish a permanent office in Istanbul.

Justification of Request

The FY 2010 budget seeks appropriation authority to spend \$875,000 in estimated earnings of the Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue Trust Fund. These funds will be used for operations of the Center.

Funds by Object Class

(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Estimate	FY 2010 Request	Increase / Decrease
2500 Other Services	0	0	875	875
4100 Grants, Subsidies & Contrb	868	875	0	(875)
Total	868	875	875	0