

## **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, [2010]2011, to remain available until expended. (*Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2010.*)

# CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN-WESTERN DIALOGUE

## *Resource Summary*

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2011 Request	Increase / Decrease
Funds	875	875	840	(35)

### *Program Description*

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 State Department, was designated to oversee the Center's development and establishment.

The Center's mission is to promote dialogue between the United States and the nations of the Middle East, Turkey, North Africa, and Central, Southwest, and Southeast Asia, as well as other countries with predominantly Muslim populations in order to open channels of communication, deepen cross-cultural understanding, expand people-to-people contacts, generate new thinking on important international issues, and identify solutions.

Under the leadership of CAORC, the Center has organized conferences focused on universities and higher education through special colloquia on independent universities. It has also focused on U.S. study abroad in the Middle East, and quality assurance in higher education.

A two-part "Next generation" dialogue is bringing together emerging political, cultural, business and community leaders under age 40 from the United States and Egypt; the Caspian Sea and its neighbors; unity and diversity in Iraq; and the future of Afghanistan. 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 identify potential partners in the United States and in the broader Middle East and North Africa region. The Board also makes recommendations for program activities and institutional management of the Center. CAORC will continue to report annually to the 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 has conducted program activities in Istanbul while planning for a permanent office there. During FY 2008, the Center hired an in-country office director who is working 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 2011 budget seeks appropriation authority to spend \$840,000 in estimated earnings of the Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue Trust Fund. These funds will be used for operations of the Center.

CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN-WESTERN DIALOGUE

*Funds by Object Class*  
(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2011 Request	Increase / Decrease
4100 Grants, Subsidies & Contrib	875	875	840	(35)
Total	875	875	840	(35)