


STATE OF IOWA



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DATE February 26, 2009
TO: Legislative International Relations Committee
FROM: William P. Angrick II 
SUBJECT: Calendar Year 2008 Activities of the Citizen's Aide/Ombudsman

My office has cooperated over the past several years with visits and other activities coordinated by Iowa Sister States (ISS), Iowa Council on International Understanding (ICIU), Iowa State Public Policy Group (SPPG), the US Center for Citizen Diplomacy (USCCD), and Iowa Resources for International Service (IRIS).

As you may know I currently serve as President of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI), a membership organization of ombudsman offices globally. This coming June I will chair the World Ombudsman Conference in Stockholm, Sweden, as that country celebrates the bicentennial of the world's first ombudsman office.

2008 Activities:

October 22-24, 2008. As Iowa Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman and president of the International Ombudsman Institute, my staff and I received an official delegation of the Ombudsman of Thailand. Our visitors included Chief Ombudsman General Teeradej Meepien (ret.); Ombudsman Prof. Siracha Charoenpanij; Secretary General Mr. Pramote Chotimogkol; Mr. RaksaGecha Chaewchi, Director of the Ombudsman Studies Center; and Mr. Kamolthan Washboonma, Director of the Ethical Standard Promotion Board. Senator Darryl Beall helped us in receiving this delegation and participated in several of the activities. The Capitol Tour Guides provided a special tour of the Capitol for the delegation. Cyndi Chen, Division Administrator of Status of Iowans of Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage, also participated in receiving this delegation.

April 10, 2008, several staff from my office received and met with an IRIS sponsored extended visit of several Nigerian women representing various sectors of Nigerian society.

March 11, 2008, members of my staff and I met with an ISS coordinated Rule of Law group from Tajikistan. Included in that group was a representative of the Tajikistan Bar who serves on a committee considering ombudsman legislation. I was able to share model legislation and information about ombudsman principles and standards.

As IOI President and Iowa Ombudsman I engaged in the following international travel in 2008:

April 7-12, 2008, I traveled to Tripoli, Libya, to speak before the 2nd General Conference of the African Ombudsman Mediators Association (AOMA). I was invited to do so by the President of the AOMA, Alifa Farouk, Ombudswoman of Tunisia, and Eng. Ibrahim Ali Ibrahim, Executive Secretary of the General People's Committee for Administrative Inspection and Accountability (Ombudsman). During that visit I also had the opportunity to meet Muammar al-Gaddafi, Leader of the People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

April 27-May 1, 2008, I traveled to Hamilton, Bermuda, to participate in the Caribbean Ombudsman Association's 5th Biennial Regional Meeting. I made two presentations at that conference. The host of the conference was Arlene Brock, Ombudsman of Bermuda. [Arlene Brock attended the United States Ombudsman Association Annual Conference held in Des Moines in September 2006.]

November 5-8, 2008, I traveled to Hong Kong, SAR, to chair the annual board of directors meeting of the International Ombudsman Institute. On November 9 I traveled to Macau, SAR, for an official visit at the invitation of Cheong U, Commissioner Against Corruption (Ombudsman). On November 10-12 I traveled to Beijing, China, at the invitation of Minister Ma Wen and the Ministry of Supervision (Ombudsman), PRC.

December 8-12, 2008, I traveled to Taipei, Taiwan, at the invitation of Chien-shien Wang and Louis Chao of Taiwan's Control Yuan (Ombudsman). I gave an address before a meeting of the 29-member Control Yuan and engaged in a number of official visits including calling on President Ma Ying-jeou and meeting with the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Yuan, the Minister of Audit and delivering lectures at the Graduate Institute of Political Science, National Sun Yat-sen University, and the Graduate Institute of National Development, National Taiwan University. [Dr. Louis Chao and the Secretary General of the Control Yuan visited my office in November 2007. Senator Beall, Senator Black, Speaker Murphy, and Representative Bell along with Cyndi Chen participated in receiving the delegation. Capitol Tour Guides provided a tour of the State Capitol.]