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Fulbright Association Holds Major Conference at Harvard

Ambassador Peter Galbraith Delivers Keynote Address

Current Fulbrighters and Fulbright Alumni Gather in Cambridge

BOSTON, The Fulbright Association (Massachusetts chapter) hosted a major conference of current and former Fulbrighters, foreign nationals as well as Americans, at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University on March 10. The conference on “International Perspectives on Contemporary Global Issues” drew more than 135 members of the Fulbright community, as well as members of the media, including the *Harvard Crimson*. Peter Galbraith, former United States Ambassador to Croatia and the author of “The End of Iraq”, delivered the keynote address to rapt attention.

The conference was divided into four panels -- on International Political Conflict, Problems of Development, Energy and Global Warming, and Islam in the Contemporary Middle East -- with current Fulbrighters from overseas presenting the results of their research projects. The panel on Islam, which elicited keen interest from the audience and vigorous participant exchange, was notable for its inclusion of the full range of opinion on this timely subject, including a look at the functioning of Islamic law in Malaysia, one of the world’s largest Islamic countries.

The panels were organized and chaired by directors of the Fulbright Association in Boston, including James Reed and Shoba Ramanadhan of Harvard University, Maria Tomeho-Palermينو of Boston University, and Alan Schechter of Wellesley College.

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Dr. Reed was recently Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Public Policy in Canada, appointed to study the United Nations System. Shoba Ramanadhan, a recent Fulbrighter in India, is completing her doctorate at the Harvard School of Public Health. Maria Tomeho-Palermينو, who took her Fulbright in Italy, currently serves as President of the Massachusetts chapter of the Fulbright Association, which has more than three hundred active members. Alan Schechter has served as Chairman of the J William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board at the U.S. Department of State.

“The idea for an international conference began as an experiment,” said Maria Tomeho-Palermينو, noting the particular concentration of Fulbright Scholars and alumni in the Boston area and the wealth of first-rate academic institutions. “But the enthusiasm has been so overwhelming that we are now planning to make it a regular event.” Said a current Fulbrighter from France, “It was fantastic to meet new people and discuss important ideas together”

The conference was co-sponsored by the New England Fulbright Committee, which works directly with the State Department to provide host services to Fulbright Scholars and Senior Scholars from abroad, and from the Women and Public Policy Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government (Theresa Lund, executive director).

Founded in 1946, the Fulbright Program has long been the flagship international educational exchange program of the United States. Fulbright Scholars, Americans and foreign nationals, are selected strictly on the basis of merit by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) in Washington and the Institute for International Exchange (IIE) in New York. The program is named after Senator J William Fulbright of Arkansas, a leading student of international affairs and advocate of international understanding, and Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during the Vietnam War era.

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see next page for Photo Captions

Photo Captions:

1. "Alan Schechter Flanked by Shaima Bukedi of Bahrain and Huda Yehia of Iraq"
2. "Maria Tomeho-Palermينو at the Podium"
3. "James Reed with Nicolas Teougam of Cameroon"
4. "James Reed with Tatiana Mackliff of the Institute of International Education"
5. "Mahamed Azam Mohamed Adil of Malaysia Addressing the Group"

Photo Credits:

All photographs are courtesy of Deborah Addis of Boston, who accompanied her husband, James Reed, on his recent Fulbright to Canada.