Dear Friends,

Greetings from the International Republican Institute! Please find attached an application for an exciting new program sponsored by IRI Mongolia with generous support of the United States Agency for International Development, and in collaboration with IRI Kyrgyzstan, Burma and Bhutan.  The Leaders Advancing Democracy (LEAD) initiative brings together leaders from diverse sectors - civil society, media, private-industry and academia - to share experiences and gain new skills through a variety of activities designed to empower young leaders.

Under the LEAD Alliance program, emerging leaders from Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Bhutan and Burma will participate in interactive discussions, technical workshops, networking events and cultural exchanges at the four-day, international ***Emerging Leaders Alliance Summit***, summit to be held in May, 2017, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. This summit will bring together 75 young leaders from the four participating countries, focusing on three key policy themes:

* Environment & Urbanization
* Poverty Alleviation & Unemployment
* Transparency & Anti-Corruption

Participants who are chosen for the program will be paired with peer mentors from Mongolia to exchange experiences, successes and challenges to democratic development in their respective countries as well as join a growing network of international democracy advocates. By joining the LEAD Alliance, you will have opportunities to regularly connect with peers, attend networking events and jointly implement community projects in your home country. Five participants each from Kyrgyzstan, Bhutan and Burma will be selected for the exchange through a competitive process. If selected, you will be invited to join the LEAD Alliance—including international travel to Ulaanbaatar to attend the 2017 LEAD Alliance Summit!

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Within the attached application, please find further program details, applicant criteria, and the paper application form. When filling out your application, please tell us about yourself, your accomplishments and your goals as an emerging leader. The application process will remain open from December 5 to December 31, 2016.

Additionally:

* From January 1 – January 15, 2017, review of all applications and selection of semi-finalists will take place.
* From January 16 – 27, 2017, IRI will conduct interviews with the semi-finalists.
* By February 1, 2017, the finalists will be notified of their selection.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Candidates must be:

* English speaking;
* Between the ages of 25-40;
* Able to travel to Mongolia in May, 2017;
* Able commit additional time to implement follow-on mentor/mentee activities in their respective countries.

All applications should be sent directly to both leadalliance@iri.org and gmamadiyeva@iri.org. To download the full application, please follow this link: <https://fta.iri.org/message/DQKGMnh9l4M2VAEhIbq2fp>. While we strongly encourage email submissions, we also recognize that there may be applicants that choose to submit hard copies to the local office. To submit a hard copy, send applications to the following address:

IRI Kyrgyzstan

27 Umetalieva Street

720010, Bishkek,

Kyrgyz Republic

+996 312 90 14 60

If you have any questions or require further clarification/assistance, please contact Guljan Mamadiyeva at either gmamadiyeva@iri.org or +996 312 90 14 60. We wish you all the best of luck and look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

John Paul DiPirro

Resident Program Director

International Republican Institute