Fwd: New Senior Advisor for Technology and Democray

vzakem@usaid.gov Vera Zakem Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 5:25:17 PM Eastern Daylight Time
To: jowalsh@usaid.gov Johnny Walsh, mkaran@usaid.gov Meral Karan, rtucci@usaid.gov Rosarie Tucci

Hi All,

Just for your SA. I'm being intro'd to a bunch of folks in CPC for intros which I think is good. Any thoughts are welcome before I start these rounds.

For background:

Julie Werbel who I've known for over a decade reached out and pinged me and facilitated all of this.

On CMC - I've worked a ton with COCOMs in my prior life and SOF, so a bit of a familiar territory.

I know OTI has a lot of disinfo programminh as well.

Cheers, Vera

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From: **Ciara Knudsen** <cknudsen@usaid.gov>
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 2:08 PM
Subject: Fwd: New Senior Advisor for Technology and Democray
To: Vera Zakem <vzakem@usaid.gov>
CC: Timothy Marlowe <tmarlowe@usaid.gov>, Charles (Will) Lewis <chlewis@usaid.gov>, Randy McClendon <ramcclendon@usaid.gov>, Matthew Gross <magross@usaid.gov>, Shirley Min <shmin@usaid.gov>, [redacted] <[redacted]>, Pauline Melvin <pmelvin@usaid.gov>, Brian Murawsky <bmurawsky@usaid.gov>, Angela Greenewald <agreenewald@usaid.gov>, Ryan McCannell <rmccannell@usaid.gov>

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Each of these team members are working on these issues every day -- and supporting the USAID teams at the combatant commands who are focused on civ-mil efforts in the field. Our EUCOM team in particular right now is highly focused on this set of issues as they engage in planning for next steps in Eastern Europe.

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From: **Leah Werchick** <lwerchick@usaid.gov>
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:55 PM
Subject: Re: New Senior Advisor for Technology and Democray

To: Vera Zakem <vzakem@usaid.gov>, Mark Hannafin <mhannafin@usaid.gov>, Claire Russo <crusso@usaid.gov>
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> > Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization | Office of Transition Initiatives | Creative Digital Team
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> > Mobile: [redacted] | amalessa@usaid.gov
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> > > Center for Conflict and Violence Prevention (CVP)
> > > USAID Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization (CPS)
> > > 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
> > > Room 5.10.85
> > > Washington DC 20523
> > > [redacted]

--

LEAH WERCHICK *(she/her)*

USAID/CPS/PO

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To: vzakem@usaid.gov Vera Zakem
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rtucci@usaid.gov Rosarie Tucci Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 10:25:55 AM Eastern Daylight Time
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Cc: jowalsh@usaid.gov Johnny Walsh, mkaran@usaid.gov Meral Karan

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I also reached out yesterday to Mark Simakovsky (DAA/ E&E) as we are already friends. We will connect in a few weeks. E&E is probably the regional bureau I am most familiar with, but still so much to learn.

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In addition to the welcome from broader CPS, I wanted to introduce you to the crew working on Disinformation in the Office of Civilian Military Cooperation (CMC). We run the USAID relationship with DOD and our folks in DC, the Pentagon, and at each of the COCOMs are working on USAID and DOD interests in this disinformation/technology/security/governance space every day. We would love to connect with you on what opportunities we are pursuing and some of the challenges we're grappling with. So you know on this email - we have:

- [redacted]

Each of these team members are working on these issues every day -- and supporting the USAID teams at the combatant commands who are focused on civ-mil efforts in the field. Our EUCOM team in particular right now is highly focused on this set of issues as they engage in planning for next steps in Eastern Europe.

We would love to connect as you make your rounds and support your work on this important issue!

best,
Ciara (CMC Director)

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Leah Werchick** <lwerchick@usaid.gov>
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:55 PM
Subject: Re: New Senior Advisor for Technology and Democray
To: Vera Zakem <vzakem@usaid.gov>, Mark Hannafin <mhannafin@usaid.gov>, Claire Russo <crusso@usaid.gov>
Cc: Amy Malessa <amalessa@usaid.gov>, Neilesh Shelat <nshelat@usaid.gov>, Ciara Knudsen <cknudsen@usaid.gov>, Brittany Brown <brbrown@usaid.gov>, Rob Horvath <rhorvath@usaid.gov>, Adam Kaplan <akaplan@usaid.gov>, Nicole Patierno <npatierno@usaid.gov>, Ryan McCannell <rmccannell@usaid.gov>, Nicole Weir <nweir@usaid.gov>, Marnie Valdivia <mvaldivia@usaid.gov>, Julie Werbel <jwerbel@usaid.gov>

+Mark Hannafin +Claire Russo

Vera,
Adding to the welcome - we are very excited that you're on board!

Since the next CPS digital huddle is a ways off, it would be great for CPS technical/policy folks and interested bureau leadership to meet with you beforehand. We would love to hear about your plans for the portfolio and give you an overview of CPS' work in these arenas. If that sounds good, we can find a time in the next couple of weeks.

Best,
Leah

On Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:24 PM Vera Zakem <vzakem@usaid.gov> wrote:

Amy,

Wonderful. And delighted to meet you all, partner, and work with you. Would welcome an opportunity to connect on all of these issues.

Warmly, Vera

On Wed, May 11, 2022 at 12:54 PM Amy Malessa <amalessa@usaid.gov> wrote:

Welcome Vera! We look forward to working with you. We have a monthly "CPS Digital Huddle" if you'd like to drop in and say hi. (: I can add you to the next invite.

Amy Noreuil Malessa
Senior Digital Technology Advisor for Field Programs Division
Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization | Office of Transition Initiatives | Creative Digital Team
US Agency for International Development
Mobile: [redacted] | amalessa@usaid.gov

On Wed, May 11, 2022 at 3:42 PM Julie Werbel <jwerbel@usaid.gov> wrote:

Dear CPS colleagues,

With this email, I would like to introduce you to Vera Zakem who recently joined DDI/DRG where she will lead a portfolio focused on technology and democracy, including mis- dis- and malinformation (MDM). She's interested in connecting with CPS Bureau leadership and experts tracking this space.

You can find her pre-USAID bio here. Please look out for further correspondence from her or feel free to reach out directly.

Best,
Julie

Julie Werbel
Division Chief, Leadership and Learning Division
Center for Conflict and Violence Prevention (CVP)
USAID Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization (CPS)
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Room 5.10.85
Washington DC 20523
[redacted]

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LEAH WERCHICK *(she/her)*

USAID/CPS/PO

--
Johnny Walsh
Deputy Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance
U.S. Agency for International Development

--

Rosarie Tucci

Director | Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance | USAID

[redacted] | rtucci@usaid.gov