

# Six states reach out to Asia

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Colorado, home of a mile-high city, will begin a new relationship with Nepal, also known for its mountains, as both benefit from a grant awarded by The Council of State Governments' State Environmental Initiative.

Five other states and Asian partners also will receive matching grants. The initiative encourages international partnerships in environmental and economic development between U.S. states and Asian/Pacific nations and territories.

The winning projects were selected from among 21 proposals. The State Environmental Initiative Advisory Committee reviewed proposals in Washington, D.C., April 6-8. The committee consists of state legislators, representatives of the private sector as well as representatives of the World Bank and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. While making its decisions, the committee strongly considers the comments and opinions of the U.S. Asia Environmental Partnership.

The SEI receives its core funding from the United States Agency for International Development through the United States-Asia Environmental Partnership and is managed by CSG's Center for Leadership, Innovation and Policy. The program provides funding on a competitive basis to state-led initiatives in support of international, public-private partnerships aimed at

bringing about a "clean revolution" in Asia. The SEI awarded its first grants in 1995.

The six projects selected this year are:

- The Colorado-Nepal Environmental Exchange addresses urban policy and management and focuses on strengthening Nepal's capacity to undertake its environmental protection mandate. Innovative policy approaches will increase the commitment of Nepalese community leaders and business toward sustainable urban development. The exchange allows for introducing U.S. products and services and building long-term Colorado-Nepal public-private partnership/business relationships. This initiative is led by the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade.

- The Kentucky-India Conflict Resolution Partnership on India's dams employs environmental mediation techniques in a specific dispute in India related to the construction of dams. This pilot project refines consensus-building methods, educates and equips the project's Indian partners to work on similar conflicts and develops a model approach for such types of disputes, which can be used in other areas in India and the rest of Asia. The project provides a unique opportunity for a transfer and sale of U.S. environmental technology and services.

The University of Kentucky is the Kentucky-India project's leading partner.

- The Louisiana-Taiwan Clean Energy Technology for Taiwan project introduces advanced clean-energy technology. The project prepares the region for the effects of reducing greenhouse gases. The project provides U.S. firms an advantage in selling clean-coal technologies in Taiwan. It also allows U.S. experts to participate in formation of Taiwan's program of clean-energy technology. Louisiana's Taipei office

leads this initiative.

- The Maryland-Thailand Building Capacity of Thai Federal/Local Air Quality Agency project is led by the Maryland Department of Environment. It increases capacity of the Thai Pollution Control Department to protect and manage the environment and to improve air quality. It strengthens communication and networking among Thai federal, provincial and municipal air-quality protection staff. The project allows Maryland to introduce its environmental technologies, products and solutions in Thailand.

- The New Mexico-India Bi-State Partnership for Catalyzing Pollution Prevention and Energy Efficiency Technologies in India is a partnership of New Mexico and Idaho. It involves government agencies, land-grant universities, private companies, national research laboratories and Native American institutions. The project's lead agency is the Waste Management Education and Research Consortium. The project allows technology transfer in pollution prevention, hazardous-waste management, remediation of mining wastes, reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions and energy efficiency. This goal will be accomplished mainly through fostering direct business-to-business contacts.

- The North Carolina-Taiwan Development of an Environmental Center for Livestock Waste Management will advance swine production/waste management by conducting research, demonstrations, evaluations and technical training. This project provides the basis for adapting existing technologies or development of new equipment, which will provide U.S. trade opportunities. North Carolina State University leads the project.

The awards were announced during the CSG Spring Meeting in Napa Valley, Calif., April 27-30. ★

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