



Dear Friends,

These are unusual times and we are all experiencing a significant change of circumstances both professionally and personally. Things are no different here.

Last week was the start of ICCR's busy season in terms of visiting groups to the Capital Region. A group of judges from Afghanistan had arrived, to be followed upon their departure by anti-corruption professionals from Mexico. The Afghanis arrived to the capital district on the last leg of a 3-week tour; exhausted from the trip and anxious as any of us about the coronavirus. Maybe even more so, because they were in an unfamiliar place which complicates one's sense of personal safety.

And then things started. Last Wednesday and Thursday during the Afghan visit, I received phone calls and emails from many speakers on our schedule declining to meet. The reason was a concern about the coronavirus and meeting with "outside visitors". I explained to our local speakers that there were no reported signs of coronavirus among the group. As the number of "no outside visitors" calls started to pile up (and our schedule had less meetings) I realized that organizational policies were forming to limit interaction with nonemployees. In the next coming days, I saw a few of the people we had planned to meet on the news and realized that they were part of emergency teams to help combat the coronavirus.

11:00 AM Friday morning I received a call that the Mexican group decided to return home before the European travel ban started to avoid unnecessary delays. Later in the day, an email was sent to ICCR from the US State Department stating that "*all (visitor) programs have been paused for 60 days and then reviewed every 30 days thereafter.*" This means that groups scheduled to come to the Capital District from Tajikistan, Belarus, Israel, Iraq and the Ukraine were also postponed. I wish to thank all of those who were scheduled to speak or host our incoming guests for all of their efforts up to this point.

And finally, the April, 2020 Academic WorldQuest regional competition scheduled for March 28 at Shaker High School is cancelled as well as the national competition in Washington DC .

*Now is a great time to engage in dialogue to hear what is on your mind and your thoughts on how we can make ICCR even stronger today and in the future. Please feel free to email me at [markw@iccralbany.org](mailto:markw@iccralbany.org).*

Take care of yourself and your loved ones.

Mark W.



**Please note:**

**The April, 2020 Academic WorldQuest national competition scheduled for April 25, 2020 in Washington DC has been cancelled as well as the local competition scheduled for March 28, 2020 at Shaker High School.**

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***The International Center of the Capital Region (ICCR)***  
***7<sup>th</sup> Annual "TASTES of the WORLD"***  
***Wednesday, June 10th, 2020 5:30 – 8:00 PM***  
***Hampton Inn & Suites, 25 Chapel St, Albany***

***Join Us as we honor the First Recipients of the Global Citizen Award***

**Business Honoree:** Yono and Donna Purnomo, Owners of Yonos Restaurant



**Non Profit Honoree:** Diane Conroy-LaCivita, Executive Director, Colonie Senior Services & former ICCR Exec. Director



**Celebrate!** 80<sup>th</sup> yr. of U. S. State Dpt.'s Int'l Visitors Leadership Program  
**Enjoy!** Food from around the globe prepared by local restaurant chefs.  
**Support!** The International Center of the Capital Region

**Join the Honorary Committee: \$100 \* Event Tickets: \$50**  
**Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities Available**

**Contact us for more information at [markw@iccralbany.org](mailto:markw@iccralbany.org) 518.708.7608**



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