



*****MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT*****

**TechSoup Global
Selected as the Host Organization for the
Equivalency Determination Information Repository**

November 6, 2008. The Council on Foundations in collaboration with the Foundation Center, Independent Sector and InterAction announced today that TechSoup Global, a San Francisco-based non-profit, has been selected as the host organization for the Equivalency Determination Information Repository. This repository seeks to establish a more efficient system for qualifying foreign grantee organizations as the equivalents of U.S. public charities, one of the principal ways prescribed by the IRS for making cross-border grants.

Currently, in order to make an equivalency determination, a U.S. private foundation must go through a sometimes lengthy and expensive process of collecting copies of the prospective grantee's organizational documents, detailed description of purposes and activities past and present, financial data, and copies of relevant laws governing the organization in its own country relating to dissolution, personal benefit, political involvement and other issues. However, if another U.S. foundation wants to make a grant to the same foreign organization, it must go through the entire process again on its own. The repository project will help streamline this process. Approval of the repository will be sought from the Internal Revenue Service.

Since early 2007, The Council on Foundations, Foundation Center, Independent Sector, InterAction, with the collaboration of other key organizations and international grantmakers, have worked together on the repository project. Now with the selection of TechSoup Global and its two supporting legal partners, Caplin & Drysdale and Adler & Colvin, the Council will enter into a multi-year contract to establish and maintain the repository. As the project moves closer to an operational phase, the Council will expand its outreach to inform the charitable sector of the availability of this new resource.

For background information with detailed questions and answers about the repository please see www.iaa.com/ngorepository.html or contact: Martin Schneiderman, NGO Repository Project Director at 609-924-6936 or mbs@iaa.com, or Rob Buchanan, Managing Director, International Programs Council on Foundations at (703) 879-0746 or buchr@cof.org.

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