

## Hope Runs High in Bethlehem

Addressing a crowd of more than 1,500 at the first-ever Palestine Investment Conference, Prime Minister **Salam Fayyad** announced that some \$1.4 billion in deals involving Palestinian businesses had been generated at the historic event. Held May 21–23, 2008, in Bethlehem, the conference, which was established to help create jobs and stimulate the Palestinian economy, highlighted opportunities in the financial, agriculture, ICT, infrastructure, manufacturing, and tourism sectors. Work by the Institute's US-Palestinian Partnership helped bring companies like Cisco, Intel, Marriott, and Coca-Cola to the table. Palestinian President **Mahmoud Abbas** spoke to the group, and UPP Chairman and Institute CEO **Walter Isaacson**, along with Deputy Secretary of the Treasury **Robert M. Kimmitt**, led a high-level US delegation to the event. Booz Allen Hamilton provided pro bono support.



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas

## ... and in DC

At the US Chamber of Commerce's Washington, DC, headquarters on October 14, Palestinian Prime Minister **Salam Fayyad** promoted private sector investment in Palestinian businesses as a crucial piece of the peace-making puzzle. The Palestinian Business and Investment Forum, convened by the US-Palestinian Partnership and the US Chamber of Commerce, also featured Secretary of State **Condoleezza Rice**, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury **Robert M. Kimmitt**, Deputy Secretary of Commerce **John J. Sullivan**, General **Jim Jones**, and UPP Co-Chairs Case Foundation CEO **Jean Case** and American Task Force on Palestine President **Ziad Asali**. Ventures presented at the event included some of the top job-creation projects exhibited in May at the Palestine Investment Conference in Bethlehem.



Salam Fayyad and Condoleezza Rice



Condoleezza Rice, Walter Isaacson, and trustees Berl Bernhard, and Bill Mayer

## Women Learn Leadership First-Hand

There is no better way to study the intersection of gender and leadership than to observe influential policymakers in action. That's why the Council of Women World Leaders' Fellowship Program — created to prepare women and men for effective leadership — sent female graduate students from Harvard and Columbia to spend the summer in government bureaus, philanthropic foundations, and policy institutions in 2008. Through placements at the Oscar Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress in San Jose, Costa Rica; the Women's Leadership Program at the World Economic Forum; and The Albright Group in Washington, DC, among others, the Fellows gained a deeper understanding of the issues, including gender policy concerns, facing leaders. The Council plans to expand the program by incorporating a third university and initiating a Student Fellows Program focused on women leaders in public health.

## LEADING CHANGE, ONE SIP AT A TIME



Castillo

To Central America Leadership Initiative Fellow **Luis Miguel Castillo**, vice president of the Central American Beverage Corporation, hope for Guatemala's poor may come in a bottle. For his leadership project — a requirement for all Aspen Global Leadership Network members — he has spearheaded the development of a nutritious, low-cost beverage to be sold all over Guatemala, where malnutrition rates are among the world's highest. The drink is being formulated for the nutritional needs of both children (ages 3 to 15) and pregnant women, and the company is working hard to lower production costs (the goal is a retail price of approximately 1.5 Guatemalan Quetzales, or about 18 cents) and to minimize the product's environmental impact by using returnable glass bottles. Castillo plans to have the juice-based drink ready for production in early 2009, and he intends initially to distribute about 50,000 cases a month in Guatemala, ideally creating a business model that can be replicated in other countries. The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition and the International Development Bank are partners in the effort.

## Thinking Globally in DC

In its spring 2008 season, the Washington, DC-based Aspen Roundtable Series featured some of the area's most prominent authors and foreign policy experts. **David Rothkopf**, visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, talked about his most recent publication, *Superclass: The Global Power Elite and the World They Are Making*. Institute trustee and former Secretary of State **Madeleine Albright** fielded questions about her latest book, *Memo to the President Elect: How We Can Restore America's Reputation and Leadership*; and *Washington Post* foreign affairs reporter **Robin Wright** discussed the challenges that the US faces in establishing stability in the Middle East. To kick off the fall chapter of the series, the Institute hosted US Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy **James Glassman**, **Stuart Rothenberg** of the *Rothenberg Political Report*, and **Amy Walter**, editor in chief of *National Journal's* The Hotline.



The Washington Post's Robin Wright

Steve Johnson

## CRISIS AND THE COURTS

Do judges have the expertise to rule on national security issues and electoral disputes? And do they even have the authority to do so? These were just two of the many tough questions that a diverse group of international judges and scholars debated during the recent seminar, "In Times of Crisis, Can We Trust the Courts?" jointly held by the Institute's Justice and Society Program and the Foundation for Law, Justice, and Society (affiliated with Oxford University) in Aspen in July. Notable participants included Justice **Rosalie Abella** of the Canadian Supreme Court; British scholars **A.W. Brian Simpson**, **Dan Butt**, and **Denis Galligan**; former US congressman and federal judge **Abner Mikva**; ACLU Legal Director **Steve Shapiro**; and General **Joseph Hoar** (ret.). Their dialogue will lead to several policy papers, available in December on the Foundation's website, [www.fljs.org](http://www.fljs.org).

## Steady Growth in Palestine

A mere year after the summer 2007 launch of the Institute's Middle East Investment Initiative, its loan guarantee program has already signed on six partner banks and helped secure 29 loans worth an average of \$188,448 each. These loans, estimated to generate 311 new jobs, aid regular Palestinians, such as the dairy farmer who — thanks to a loan that allowed him to increase his herd by almost 50 percent and purchase much-needed equipment — can now supply milk, yogurt, and other food to local consumers. The Initiative, headed up by Berl Bernhard, is a collaboration among the Institute, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the Palestinian Investment Fund, and is dedicated to creating a more prosperous economic, political, and socially secure future for Palestinians.