The U.S. Water Partnership is a public-private partnership that unites and mobilizes the best of U.S. expertise, resources, and ingenuity to address global water challenges, with a special focus on developing countries where needs are greatest. Recognizing that Africa’s water development is a top priority of the African Ministers’ Counsel on Water (AMCOW), the U.S. Water Partnership is interested in supporting a training program to empower women scientists and engineers in Africa to share the benefits of their training with their communities and countries.

A U.S. Department of State and COACh Partnership
The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs’ (OES) Office of Science and Technology Cooperation (STC) has partnered with COACh at the University of Oregon on the Advancing Careers of Women in Science program, which delivers professional development activities to advance women who are early career scientists. COACh has a stellar track record of providing 1-2 day workshops that deliver training to enhance science and technology (S&T) capacity through research and leadership development for women scientists and engineers around the world since 1997. In Mozambique, COACh recently provided training for African students and early career scientists with research interests in water and health issues. In 2013, COACh will provide these career enhancing tools to women scientists in Algeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Kenya, Morocco, and Tunisia. Funding has been sought to expand this program to South Africa. To date, the existing support for Partnership Opportunities for Women Water Engineers and Researchers (POWWER) has totaled $450,000.

Under the U.S. Water Partnership, the U.S. Department of State and COACh propose to expand the reach of this program further within sub-Saharan Africa. Funding support of $583,500 per year would enable delivery of the program to 2-3 additional locations in Africa.

Background:
COACh—http://coach.uoregon.edu A highly successful grass-roots organization of scientists and engineers, COACh is widely known for its innovative, high-impact research and leadership workshops, networking activities, and mentoring programs. Led by Prof. Geri Richmond, a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, COACh is governed by an international advisory board of leading women scientists and engineers. Since 1997, over 6,000 researchers, faculty, graduate students, and postdoctoral associates have participated in its career building workshops.

Office of Science and Technology Cooperation (STC)—STC manages innovative programs that equip the next generation of scientists, engineers, and technical entrepreneurs with the skills to succeed. STC’s Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) initiative links young entrepreneurs and innovators in 49 countries in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East to investment and business communities through networking, skills development, and financing. Building Opportunity Out of Science and Technology (BOOST) enhances capacity for young scientists to perform innovative research, to connect with the international scientific community, and to apply their technical training to address global challenges.

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**Program Overview**

**Target Audience** — Early career women scientists, technicians, and engineers who work in the water sector in research and development, governmental, non-governmental, academic, and private sector organizations.

**Strategic Approach** — To provide African women scientists with the best quality of technical and professional skills training, U.S. and African Leadership Teams composed of top female leaders in the water sector will be established. These leaders will serve as an advisory group to provide expertise and content for the workshops as well as helping to select the individual participants for the program and, in some cases, may travel to help teach the technical components of the workshop.

AMCOW and the Leadership Teams will be consulted for input on the country selection for the program with the goal of expanding the program to countries where there is a grass-roots desire and capacity to sustain the program.