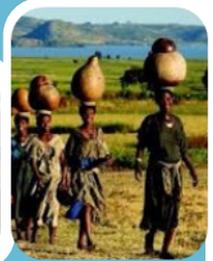


# Richmond World Affairs Council *Newsletter*

February 2014



## Board Member Spotlight: James V. Meath

James Meath is currently Chairman of the Board of Directors for Williams Mullen. In practice for over 30 years, Mr. Mullen has extensive experience representing businesses throughout the U.S. and internationally in all areas of traditional labor and employment law. He was named "Richmond Best Lawyers Lawyer of the Year, Labor Employment" by *Best Lawyers* (2010) and was Appointed by the Virginia Secretary of Commerce and Trade to be a member of an economic development delegation to China in 2010. In addition to his private sector work, he also counsels public sector clients.



## Iran Nuclear Deal: Historic Progress or Mistake?

The "Joint Plan of Action" signed on November 24, 2013 between Iran and the P5+1 (China, France, Russia, the UK, the US, plus Germany) has been both lauded as a tremendous breakthrough in the nuclear standoff as well as broader US-Iran relations and criticized as a "historic mistake" which can ultimately jeopardize regional security.

Though the agreement is intended only for the interim while a more conclusive plan is negotiated, there are several positive attributes to it. Major points include Iran's assent to halt and, in some areas, reverse uranium enrichment including the facilities for enrichment and allowing daily inspections by IAEA officials at key sites.

In return, the P5+1 has agreed to lift \$7 billion worth of economic sanctions and impose no new sanctions as long as Iran abides by its promises. Many core sanctions will still remain in place.

However, some have pointed out that since there is no mention of harsher action for noncompliance, it would be relatively easy for Iran to reverse measures taken. It is not required to disable or decommission any of its centrifuges or sites. There is also lack of clarity among the P5+1 on what the final agreement should



look like, and, since the interim deal recognizes Iran's right to enrich, this causes concern for many nations of the region, most notably, Israel.

## Violence in Kiev: Ukrainian Protests Continue

Thousands of Ukrainian citizens have been ceaselessly protesting in a bid to overturn President Viktor Yanukovich and what they believe is his corrupt government. What began as peaceful protests against the President's sudden and unexplained rejection of an integration deal with the EU in favor of closer ties with Russia, devolved into violence as riot



police cracked down on protests and left dozens injured.

Yanukovich first took an uncompromising stance, imposing anti-protest legislation which limited peoples' freedom of movement and assembly and arresting hundreds of protestors. This, coupled with reports of police brutality and disappearances, only

added fuel to the fire.

Though the government has since opted for a more conciliatory stance—repealing the anti-protest laws and offering government positions to opposition leaders—protestors have expanded demands beyond rethinking the EU deal to a complete removal of Yanukovich and a call for early elections. As tensions and violence continue, hundreds have been injured and several killed on both sides.

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## Academic WorldQuest 2014



Thousands of high school students around the US are now diligently preparing for Academic WorldQuest 2014, a competition in which teams of four answer questions about international affairs, current events, geography, world history, and culture.

With the goal of preparing American youth for the globally interconnected world of the 21st century, Academic WorldQuest is widely played in WAC chapters in over 90 communities from Connecticut to California. Winning

teams at local competitions are then invited to represent their school, city and local WAC chapter to compete in the national competition in Washington, DC. Topics for this year's competition include cybersecurity, US energy policy, the Middle East, global health, global environmental issues, and others.

Not only a chance to meet and compete against fellow students from other states as well as abroad, the national competition in DC includes activities such as receptions at embassies and speeches from ambassadors, discussions with experts on competition topics, opportunities to meet

with university faculty about careers in international relations, and cultural activities and performances.

Richmond's Regional Academic WorldQuest competition will be held on Thursday, March 20 and the National Academic WorldQuest competition on Saturday, April 26, 2014.

