The Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society at the CUNY Graduate Center is pleased to welcome six new Emerging Leaders International Fellows to our professional development program for young Third Sector scholar-practitioners from around the world as well as from communities of color under-represented in the U.S. grantmaking sector. The Emerging Leaders International Fellows Program (ELIFP) complements the Senior Fellows component of the Center’s International Fellows Programs.

This year’s Emerging Leaders Fellows will focus on how local foundations can work effectively with diverse constituencies to develop resources; take leadership around specific issue; and support efforts to increase social impact and community resilience.

The Fellows, who will be at the Center from September 16 to December 6, 2013, are: Ms. Ida Adolfová (Banska Bystrica, Slovak Republic); Ms. Joanna Bevan (London, England, United Kingdom); Ms. Valentina Lodola-Rahaman (Brooklyn, New York, United States and Milan, Italy); Ms. Dresda Emma Méndez de la Brena (Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico); Ms. Nicole Nieman (Cape Town, South Africa); and Ms. Vu Thi Quynh Giao (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam). This year for the first time, Vietnam is among the countries represented in the International Fellows Program.

In addition to writing research papers, Fellows will participate in seminars on US and international voluntary-sector activities in comparative perspective; learn about the work of key agencies through readings and site visits; and meet with leading nonprofit representatives and scholars in the field.

The incoming group brings to 179 the number of International Fellows participating since the program’s inception in 1989. The 2013 Emerging Leaders Fellows will join an international network of researchers and practitioners from 59 countries who are working in the fields of philanthropy and civil society.

This year’s Emerging Leaders Fellows bring an impressive array of skills and experience to the program.
Ms. Ida Adolfová, Banska Bystrica, Slovak Republic (Healthy City Community Foundation, Financial and Program Manager; ThinkBig Program, Ekopolis Foundation, Grantmaking Advisory Committee Member; Center for Philanthropy, Grant Advisory Committee Member) will explore the role of youth volunteers in developing local resources for community foundations.

Ms. Joanna Bevan, London, England, United Kingdom (Community Action MK, Community Mobiliser; Milton Keynes Community Foundation, Grants Assessor) will examine the role for community foundations in defining and expanding community resilience and how investing in social capital may help increase social impact.

Ms. Valentina Lodola-Rahaman, Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A.; Milan, Italy (Heyman Center for Philanthropy and Fundraising, New York University, M.S. Candidate in Fundraising and Grantmaking) is interested in issue-focused community philanthropy and will examine how data collection and reporting; next-gen donors; and community foundations can help fight human trafficking.

Ms. Dresda Emma Méndez de la Brena, Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico (Fundación Comunidad A. C., General Director) will consider how “decolonizing” knowledge and practice at community foundations and other local philanthropy organizations can improve community foundation relations with local residents.

Ms. Nicole Rose Nieman, Cape Town, South Africa (The ELMA Philanthropies Services [Africa] Ltd., Associate Program Manager) is also interested in issue-focused community philanthropy and will study the role of private money in strengthening communities to combat gender-based violence.

Ms. Vu Thi Quynh Giao, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (The LIN Center for Community Development, Volunteer (former Communications Intern) will examine how monetary contributions from Vietnamese-Americans to a community foundation in Vietnam might help build local NGO capacity.

Support for the 2013 Emerging Leaders International Fellows Program is provided by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and generous contributions from individual, institutional and anonymous donors.

The Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society is dedicated to strengthening philanthropy and civil society through education, research, and leadership training, and our alumni are working to strengthen cultures of philanthropy around the globe. Their efforts have supported the establishment of a variety of new organizations and new programs – from social funds and community foundations in Mexico, Uruguay, Egypt, South Africa and Turkey to network and service organizations in Poland and Russia; from philanthropic centers in India and Ukraine to a Masters Program in Nonprofit Management South Korea. They also bring their learning and passion about civil society organizations to bear on their work with government and the business sector. Since 2000, the Fellows Program has focused special attention on strengthening community philanthropy organizations with the goal of helping communities mobilize local resources to address local needs while thinking about long-term growth and strategies. We invite you to visit the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society’s website at www.philanthropy.org.

The Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society is based at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY) The Graduate Center defines the standard of contemporary
graduate education: rigorous academic training and globally significant research. It is recognized for outstanding scholarship across the humanities, sciences, and social sciences, and is integral to the intellectual and cultural vitality of New York City. Through its extensive public programs, the Graduate Center hosts a wide range of events – lectures, conferences, book discussions, art exhibits, concerts, and dance and theatre – that enrich and inform. At the heart of the Graduate Center’s mission is knowledge creation. The Advanced Research Collaborative (ARC) promotes interdisciplinary research; partners with the Graduate Center’s forty research centers, institutes, interdisciplinary committees, and other academic initiatives; connects the research activities of CUNY faculty at the colleges to Graduate Center research programs and seminars; provides a home for outstanding visiting scholars to collaborate with faculty and students; and offers support to Graduate Center doctoral students pursuing research as well as to postdoctoral students who have completed their initial projects. Visit www.gc.cuny.edu for further information on the Graduate Center.