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WASHINGTON, DC: SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011

HAYAH INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY (CAIRO, EGYPT) - FIRST INTERNATIONAL TEAM TO COMPETE IN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST COMPETITION (available for interviews April 27-May 1)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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NEWS ADVISORY

For the first time in the history of the National High School Academic WorldQuest competition, an **international team will compete at this year** at the **National Academic WorldQuest** competition at **Georgetown University Conference Center** in Washington, DC on April 30, 2011. The **Hayah International Academy of Cairo, Egypt** will compete against over forty local WorldQuest champions from across the United States, including **Georgetown Day, the Washington, DC regional champion**, in a one hundred question, ten-round, competition between four person teams testing knowledge in the following categories: Current Events, World Religions, International Organizations, Global Health, Energy, Freedom of Press, Ireland, Gender Equality, Europe and *Great Decisions 2010*.

The Hayah Academy's participation in Academic WorldQuest is being sponsored by a generous grant from **Contract International, Inc.**, a leading privately owned international engineering, procurement and construction company. The World Affairs Council – Washington, DC is pleased to host the Hayah International Academy team during their 5-day visit to Washington. Among their activities will be a visit to the **Montgomery Blair High School** in Bethesda, MD to interact with students in Arabic language classes in an American school system.

Academic WorldQuest is a Flagship Program of the World Affairs Council system. It is a team game testing competitors' knowledge of international affairs, geography, history, and culture. The World Affairs Councils of America started the national competition in Washington, DC in March 2003. Participants come from high schools that work with the individual World Affairs Councils across the United States and Puerto Rico.

Ms. Heidi Shoup, President, World Affairs Council – Washington, DC, said "we are delighted to be hosting the team from the Hayah Academy. Their presence will enrich the learning experience for the American students and their parents from across the country and will provide these outstanding Egyptian students with an opportunity to get to know their American contemporaries. President Obama stated these 'simple exchanges can break down walls between us, for when people come together and speak to one another and share a common experience, then their common humanity is

revealed.' The participation of the Hayah Academy in the WorldQuest competition is one exchange breaking down such walls."

NOTES TO EDITORS: WAC-DC CASE STATEMENT (ON STATIONERY).

1. **Contrack International, Inc.** is a leading privately owned international engineering, procurement and construction company. Established in 1985 and consistently ranked one of the Top International Contractors in the world by Engineering News Record-Magazine, Contrack specializes in large US Government-funded projects around the globe. Over the last 21 years, Contrack has successfully completed \$2 billion of work for agencies such as the US Army Corps of Engineers, USAID and the US State Department's Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations.
2. **Hayah International Academy of Cairo, Egypt** an international school in Cairo, Egypt that adheres to all international standards of education through which graduates pursue the American Diploma. Hayah offers an education founded on a customized and well structured curriculum which is enriched by an exceptional character education and Arabic studies program. HIC is committed to deliver to society distinguished adults who honor their cultural identity, maintain personal growth and strive for academic excellence; qualities enabling them to live with purpose, fulfill their mission in life and make a difference in a challenging global environment.
4. **World Affairs Council of America** represents and supports the largest national non-partisan network of local councils that are dedicated to educating, inspiring and engaging Americans in international affairs and the critical global issues of our times. The national office of the WACA works to develop new program opportunities to distribute to member councils. This includes a variety of national program series, an annual national conference, five flagship programs, Leadership Missions to other countries, and other opportunities. In addition to providing program opportunities, the WACA acts as the central hub for the council network, connecting councils with resources, opportunities, and of course, with each other.
5. **World Affairs Council – Washington, DC**, is 'A Leading Forum for Global Education and International Affairs,' is an institution 'Where Learning Happens.' WAC-DC is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to expanding awareness among the American public and the international community of geo-political, business, and civil society issues in our inter-connected world. To prepare young people to compete in the 21st century market, the council helps fill the global education and international affairs knowledge gap in the curricula currently offered by our country's school systems. The council's teacher development workshops, in-depth issue seminars, youth leadership forums, Academic World Quest competitions, internships, and international travel-study tours foster a balanced view of global issues. These programs **facilitate worldwide knowledge transfer and analytical insights** for American and international educators and their students.