

Rural Development Institute  
1411 Fourth Avenue #910  
Seattle, WA 98101  
Contact: Gail Romero  
206-528-5880 - Ext. 120

**News Release**  
**For Immediate Use**

***Philanthropist Bill Clapp  
Joins Global Leaders on  
Rural Development Institute's Board of Directors***

**November 15, 2006 ~ Seattle, WA:** Nobel Prize nominee, Roy Prosterman, Founder and Chairman Emeritus of Rural Development Institute, (RDI), announced today the appointment of Bill Clapp to RDI's Board of Directors.

RDI is a nonprofit, international research, law and policy center working to obtain land rights and economic opportunity for the world's rural poor in a peaceful, fair and democratic manner. Land rights represent the single greatest asset for the world's rural poor.

Clapp is a world-renowned philanthropist and great-grandson of a founder of the Weyerhaeuser Corporation.

RDI works in conjunction with governments of developing countries, foreign aid agencies and other partners to consult on land policy and reform land law. At any given time, RDI is working in approximately seven to ten countries.

To date, well over 100 million farm families from some 40 countries — all totaled, more than 400 million people — have received land ownership to more than 480 million acres of land — this figure is equivalent to roughly ten percent of the world's arable land.

RDI uses extensive farm-level field research coupled with comparative research from around the world to help design and implement legal and policy measures

that bring land ownership to a country's impoverished population. The benefits of RDI's work reaches far beyond the families helped at any one point in time because land reform positively impacts poor families for generations to come.

Lincoln Miller, RDI's Chief Operating Officer, says Clapp brings RDI an abundance of expertise, passion and accomplishment in the arena of global poverty alleviation. "Bill is a dynamic innovator who makes things happen," said Miller. "We're thrilled he can share his talents to further our mission of bringing land rights to the world's poor."

Clapp is founder of Global Partnerships, the nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating poverty through micro-lending programs to the poor in third world nations. His appointment to RDI's Board of Directors follows his recent honor as "2006 World Citizen" by the World Affairs Council.

Clapp joins political, business and community service notables on RDI's board of directors including James C. Pigott (Chair), Roy Prosterman, Douglas Beighle, Jerome Cohen, Janet Curry, Jack Faris, John Fry, Jr., Laura Lee Grace, Heng-Pin Kiang, Michael B. King, George W. Martin, Jr., Margaret A. Niles, Sidney Rittenberg, William T. Robinson, Jill Ruckelshaus and Robert F. Utter. In addition, members of the advisory council – Bill Gates, Sr., Congressman Norm Dicks, former Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn, and Kimberly Kreiling also welcome Clapp to RDI.

RDI is supported by donors such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and by consultancies for clients such as the World Bank and USAID.

More about RDI is found at: [www.rdiland.org](http://www.rdiland.org)

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