



FIU

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Public Administration for the 21st Century

School of International and Public Affairs, College of Arts and Sciences

Florida's First Conference on Good Governance and Democracy in the Hemisphere Costa Rica Visit Report, January 30 & March 12-14, 2008



Fla. State Legislator Rep. David Rivera

The Institute for Public Management & Community Service (IPMCS) of FIU, in organizing the first annual Conference on Good Governance and Democracy in the Hemisphere planned for August 6-8, 2008 at the Biltmore Hotel, visited Costa Rica on two recent occasions.

The objective of the visits was to learn about Costa Rica's strong history of democratic practices and to share those experiences between the two nations. In addition, the visits provided a platform to invite participation to the hemispheric seminar that Florida International University and the State of Florida are organizing in Miami.

The First Regional Forum on Governance and Democracy in the Hemisphere: Challenges and Opportunities was held in the Hall of the Ex-President's of the National Assembly of Costa Rica on March 14, 2008. Hosted by the National Assembly of Costa Rica, the State of Florida, and IPMCS, more than 100 people were present at the event. The speakers included Fla. State Legislator Rep. David Rivera, Mr. Peter Brennan, Charge d' Affairs of the US Embassy, Hon. Francisco Pacheco, President of the National Assembly of Costa Rica.

The Institute team—including Rep. David Rivera, IPMCS Director Dr. Allan Rosenbaum, Cristina Rodriguez-Acosta, Dr. Victor Flecha, Dr. Natalya Kolisnichenko, Dr. Meredith Newman, Viviana Quintero and Heidi Jane Smith—also participated in the seminar and additional governmental meetings.

The first trip on January 30 provided space for introductions with various leaders. Through meetings and



The audience at the March 14 seminar

discussions, an array of political officials, including ministers and elected senators and congress people, the media, civil society representatives were notified of the March 14 conference. Furthermore, at this time the FIU team visited the embassy of the United States to also keep their staff abreast of the meetings.

The office of Federico Tinoco, Deputy in the National Assembly of Costa Rica was extremely helpful to coordinate and elaborate the day's events. His office assisted with setting the agenda, sending invitations, and organizing the event. Various Costa Rican media including *La Prensa Libre*, a national newspaper, ran stories about the event. Efforts to engage civil society and the media produced additional participation at the conference.



Top: IPMCS Director Dr. Rosenbaum speaking with the Costa Rican Minister of Planning Roberto Gallardo, Deputy and President of the Senate Fernando Sánchez, Rep. David Rivera, and Peter M. Brennan, Charge d'Affaires of the US Embassy, seated at the head table.
Bottom: The IPMCS team in the Costa Rican National Assembly.

First Seminar on Governance and Democracy in the Hemisphere: Challenges and Opportunities

Sponsored:

National Assembly of Costa Rica
State of Florida, USA
Florida International University
School of Social Work, Justice and Public Administration
Institute for Public Management and Community Service

National Assembly—Hall of the Ex-Presidents
San José, March 14, 2008

9:00 - 9:30 Welcome

- Mr. Peter M. Brennan, Chairge d' Affairs, US Embassy in Costa Rica
- Dr. Allan Rosenbaum, Director, Institute for Public Management and Community Service, Florida International University, USA
- Mr. David Rivera, Diputado Estatal, Estado de la Florida, EE.UU.
- Mr. Fernando Sánchez, Diputado, Partido Liberación Nacional, Costa Rica
- Mr. Roberto Gallardo, Ministro de Planificación, Costa Rica

9:30 - 11:15 Democratic Governance: Challenges and Opportunities

- Dr. Carlos Sojo, Director FLACSO, Costa Rica
- Mr. Hugo Picado Leon, National Electoral Court, Costa Rica
- Dr. Meredith Newman, Director, School of Social Work, Justice and Public Administration, Florida International University, USA
- Commentary: Hon. Federico Tinoco, Deputy, National Assembly of Costa Rica

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 - 1:00 The Role of Political Parties

- Dr. Manuel Rojas Bolaños, FLACSO, Costa Rica
- Hon. David Rivera, State Representative, State of Florida, USA
- Dr. Víctor J. Flecha, Director, COPLANEA, Paraguay
- Dr. Natalya Kolisnichenko, Professor, Regional Program of Public Administration, Odessa, Ukraine
- Mr. Jean-Paul Vargas, Profesor y miembro de la Comisión de Estudios del Doctorado en Gobierno y Políticas Públicas de la Universidad de Costa Rica
- Dr. Violeta Pallavicini Campos, Directora del Programa de Doctorado en Gobierno y Políticas Públicas, Universidad de Costa Rica
- Commentary: Hon. Andrea Morales, Diputada, Partido Acción Ciudadana, Costa Rica

1:00 - 3:00 Lunch

3:00 - 4:15 Decentralization and Governance: Opportunities and Challenges

- Dr. Guillermo Arce Roldan, Parliament Advisor, National Assembly
- Mr. Fabio Molina, Federal Institute for Municipal Administration (IFAM)
- Dr. Miguel Gutierrez y/o Dr. Jorge Vargas Cullell and/or Dr. Ronaldo Alfaro, State of the Nation Project, UNDP, Costa Rica
- Commentary: Hon. Ronald Solís, Diputado, Partido Acción Ciudadana, Costa Rica

4:15 - 4:30 Coffee Break

4:30 - 6:00 Economic Development and Democratic Governance

- Dr. Allan Rosenbaum, Director, Institute for Public Management and Community Service, Florida International University, USA
- Dr. Luis Alberto Cordero Arias, Director, Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress, Costa Rica
- Ms. Norma Caplán, Instituto Centroamericano de Administración Pública - ICAP, Costa Rica
- Commentary: Sr. Mario Quirós Lara, Diputado Vicepresidente Partido Movimiento Libertario

The Free Press

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

- This Friday at the National Assembly

Specialist will analyze Governability and Democracy in the Americas

Esteban A. Mata Fonseca
emata@prensalibre.co.cr

The National Assembly is the background for a regional seminar on governability and democratic practices.

A one-day workshop will be held in the Ex-presidents room of the Assembly, as national and international experts, members of the National Assembly and Costa Rican representatives will analyze topics on democracy, the role of political parties, decentralization and economic development.

Participants in the seminar include representation of the US Embassy, the director of the Institute of Public Administration of Florida International University and international recognized democratic institutions of our country from the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TES), Eugenia Maria Zamora among various National Deputies.

On the topic of governability, the director of Latin American School of Social Sciences (Flacso) and Ms. Zamora, in addition to the participation of the Director of the School of Public Administration, Meredith Newman.

Deputy Federico Tinoco will provide commentaries to this theme.

The Seminar seeks to discuss the role of political parties as phenomena that has affected the Hemisphere. To develop this subject will be the representation by Manual Rojas, of Flacso, and David Rivera, State representatives of Florida. In addition, professor Natalia Kolisnichenko, of the Regional Institute of Public Administration of Odessa in Ukraine and Deputy Fernando Sanchez will also analyze the subject.

Furthermore, the subject of decentralization and governance, the following people will present, the president of the Institute to Strengthen Municipal Associations (IFAM), Fabio Molina, the coordinator of the State of the Nation, Miguel Gutierrez Saxe, and the parliamentarian advisor Guillermo Arce Roldan, while Deputy Elizabeth Fonseca will provide commentary.

Finally, the theme of economic development will be framed by Allan Rosenbaum, also from Florida International University; Luis Alberto Cordero of the Arias Foundation for Peace; Eduardo Lizardo of the Central American Academia; with the session closed by Deputy Evita Arguedas.

* Translated by the IPMCS staff.