

**HOTEL INFORMATION**

The Biltmore Hotel is located at:  
1200 Anastasia Avenue  
Coral Gables, Florida, 33134

Each participant is responsible for his/her own lodging and travel. The Biltmore Hotel has arranged special conference rates for attendees of the Conference at \$189/night plus tax and other related fees. For a hotel reservation, please call the Biltmore Hotel directly by phone at 1-305-445-1926 or 1-800-727-1926, by email at reservations@biltmorehotel.com or visit their website at www.biltmorehotel.com. The reservation code is 1730. The last day to make a reservation at that rate is September 12, 2008.

**TRAVEL INFORMATION** American Airlines is the official airline of the Conference. American Airlines will offer a 5% discount on the lowest applicable fare for participants. Travel must take place between September 27 through October 5, 2008. Promotional Code is A9498AZ.

Avis Rental Car offers a discount and unlimited mileage to conference participants. Worldwide Discount (AWD) number is AWD: D005150. Reservations

should be made by calling Avis directly at (888) 754-8878 or www.avis.com

**SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS**

- The Florida State Legislature
- The Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development for The State of Florida through the Executive Office of Governor Charlie Crist

**CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS**

- Institute for Public Management and Community Service School of International and Public Affairs  
Florida International University
- The Miami Herald
- The Inter-American Development Bank

**COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS**

- National Assembly of Costa Rica
- House of Representatives National Legislators of Uruguay
- National Congress of Paraguay
- Getulio Vargas Foundation, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

*The State of Florida, The Miami Herald,  
The Inter-American Development Bank and  
Florida International University*



The Miami Herald



# Americas Conference®

*New Leadership—New Focus: Good Governance  
and Economic Development in the Hemisphere*

October 1-3, 2008  
Biltmore Hotel



## REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill out form clearly and Fax to 1 (305) 348-1273

**Fees: Registration US \$250.00**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Country Code: \_\_\_\_\_ City Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Country Code: \_\_\_\_\_ City Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have an US entry visa:  Yes  No

For more information, please contact Cristina A. Rodriguez-Acosta or Allan Rosenbaum at Florida International University by phone (305) 348-1271, or visit our Web site at www.ipmcs.fiu.edu or www.americasconference.com

Confirmation of registration will be sent via fax or email upon receipt of registration and payment. Cancellations are subject to a \$75 processing fee. Space is limited to the first 350 paid registered participants

Institute for Public Management--FIU  
11200 SW 8th Street, PCA 365A  
Miami, FL 33199

The State of Florida has initiated the **First Conference on Good Governance and Democracy for the Hemisphere: Challenges and Opportunities**, which is being organized by Florida International University's Institute for Public Management and Community Service (IPMCS). At the same time, for its twelfth year, **The Miami Herald is organizing the Americas Conference®** with the partnership of the Inter-American Development Bank. The four organizations—**State of Florida, The Miami Herald, Florida International University, Inter-American Development Bank**—have combined their efforts to plan this year's **Americas Conference®** which will be hosted at the historic Biltmore Hotel, Miami, FL, October 1-3, 2008. The theme of the conference will be *"New Leadership—New Focus: Good Governance and Economic Development for the Hemisphere"*

**BACKGROUND** As the gateway to the hemisphere, and a very large trading partner with Latin America, the State of Florida has an especially great interest in the democratic stability and economic development of Latin America. Indeed, Florida's economy is far more dependent on hemispheric stability and growth than that of any other single state. Consequently, the stakes—not only for Florida but also for all the peoples of the hemisphere—in terms of the development of democratic institutions are very great.

As one means to encourage democratic and economic stability in the region, the State of Florida has established an annual conference on good governance and democracy in the hemisphere. High-ranking State officials are hosting the main conference, which are being preceded by regional seminars held in Latin America. These events bring together leaders from the private sector, all levels of government and non-governmental organizations from throughout the Hemisphere.

The conference will provide an opportunity for people from South and Central America, the Caribbean and North America to share ideas and experiences, to interact with one another and to promote best practices in democratic institution building. In that way, it will play an important role in encouraging the development and strengthening of democratic institutions throughout the hemisphere. It will serve not only to highlight and reinforce democrat-

ic practice, but also to provide encouragement and sustenance to those on the front lines of building democracy in their countries.

**OBJECTIVE** The objective of the conference is to promote the exchange of debate and reflection of the importance of good governance in order to strengthen democracy within our hemisphere. There will be a special emphasis given to the role of legislators, political parties, and members of the executive branch of government.

The conference seeks to create a regional dialogue with the participation of national and regional officials, legislators (national, provincial/state), political parties, civil society, businesspersons and international organizations to deliberate on the best policies and practices in order to strengthen democracy and good governance in the hemisphere.

**THEMES** The following topics will be discussed at the event:

1. Strengthening Democracy and Governance for the Region: Old Challenges, New Perspectives
2. The Role of Political Parties in the Up-coming Elections
3. Civic Engagement and Democratic Accountability
4. The Role of the Media in a Democracy
5. Inequality, Race and Ethnicity in a Democratic Hemisphere

6. The Role of businesspersons in the Free Trade Agreements: Processes of Integration and Competitiveness

7. Thematic policy items will also be discussed like Security, Housing, Free Trade and Energy agendas for the region.

**REGIONAL SEMINARS** In preparation for the final conference, the IPMCS has hosted regional seminars in San Jose, Costa Rica; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Asuncion, Paraguay; and Montevideo, Uruguay. The objective of the seminars was to discuss and integrate the regional issues in the final conference agenda, planned for October 1-3 at the Biltmore hotel.

**AMERICAS CONFERENCE®** The Americas Conference® is the region's premier business and political forum on Latin America and the Caribbean. Last year, over 650 international executives and government leaders attended. The Miami Herald's credibility and extensive contacts have been critical factors in the conference's success. In 2007, adding the close participation of the Inter-American Development Bank contributed to the success of the conference while incorporating new ideas and viewpoints to the program.

The theme of the conference is *"New Leadership—New Focus: Good Governance and Economic Development in the Hemisphere."* In this election year, top leaders will examine the challenges facing our hemisphere and their impact. From upcoming elections, security, energy, free trade, innovation to labor flexibility, how will the region face these challenges? These topics and more will be examined throughout this critical two-day conference.

## CONFIRMED SPEAKERS INCLUDE

**Hon. Leonel Fernández, President,**  
Dominican Republic

**Hon. Samuel Lewis,**  
Vice President, Panama

**Mr. Hugo Lavados Montes,**  
Minister of Economy, Chile

**Ms. Rebeca Patricia Santos,**  
Minister of Finance, Honduras

**Mr. Genaro García Luna,**  
Secretary of Public Safety, Mexico

**Mr. Carlos St. James,**  
President, Argentine Renewable Energies Chamber  
and Managing Director, Santiago & Sinclair LLC

**Mr. Eduardo Bitrán,**  
President, National Innovation Council, Chile