

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

And

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Invite You To The:

Tenth Inter-American Conference of Mayors And Local Authorities

*Local Governance in the Americas: Past
Achievements and New Challenges*

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June 22 - 24, 2004
Radisson Miami Hotel
Miami, Florida
USA

The government of Miami-Dade County and Florida International University invite you to be a part of the *Tenth Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities* which will focus upon “*Local Governance in the Americas: Past Achievements and New Challenges*”. The Conference provides a forum for representatives of local, regional and national governments, NGOs, various international and donor organizations and all of those interested in the strengthening of local governments to share experiences, information and practices and to discuss common goals for the promotion of democratic local governance throughout the Hemisphere.

Background: As the largest gathering of local leaders from throughout the hemisphere to occur each year, the Conference continues to build upon the success of the previous nine conferences. Throughout the region effective local governance has become key to the economic and physical well being of citizens. However, the task of effective governance can not be achieved without collaborative governance and the commitment of all social sectors - private, non governmental and public - to the development of their communities.

Participants: The Conference is annually attended by mayors, governors, legislators and other elected representatives of, as well as senior executive officials from, the local, regional and national governments of the Americas. Other attendees include academicians and interested parties from the private sector and non-

governmental organizations and major international and donor agencies. Attendees also include representatives of the media and the leadership of major municipal associations. Last year’s Conference was attended by more than 550 participants representing almost every country of the Hemisphere.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Title: “*Local Governance in the Americas: Past Achievements and New Challenges*”, the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities.

When: **June 22 - 24, 2004** at the Radisson Hotel Miami, FL. (Opening Reception - evening of June 21, 2004).

Sponsorship: Miami-Dade County Government and the Institute for Public Management & Community Service of the School of Policy & Management of the College of Health and Urban Affairs of Florida International University.

OBJECTIVES

Our hemisphere continues to witness very dramatic events that keep raising questions and concerns about the future in terms of issues of poverty alleviation, democracy and security. Faced with the challenges of globalization as well as the economic, social and political crisis of our hemisphere, strengthening local governments and their effectiveness in the delivery of services becomes more than ever, an issue of fundamental relevance.

Celebrating the ten years of its continuing organization, the Conference will evaluate the present situation of local governments in our hemisphere, stressing the many achievements of the past decade, but also acknowledging the urgency of the challenges still ahead. There will be sessions that will examine issues of strengthening civil society; expanding participation and democracy; reducing poverty; improving urban infrastructure; etc.

Training Workshops

Besides the themes already mentioned, the Tenth Conference will include three concurrent training workshops in which attendees will have the opportunity to actively participate. The workshops will analyze specific examples from Latin America and the US to better understand the difficulties faced by local leaders. They will include:

- 1) Local Economic Development: will look at the collaboration of the private and public sector as well as civil society in the promotion of local development.
- 2) Development and Health: the role played by local government in the promotion of health and its impact and importance for the socio-economic development of the region.
- 3) International Cooperation and Local Development: will discuss how to include international donor and multilateral organizations in the support of local alliances. This workshop will also examine how to prepare and present projects to cooperation agencies.

The final agenda is being set with the assistance of mayors from the hemisphere, representatives of Municipal Associations from the Americas, as well as various cooperating international

organizations such as IULA/CELCADEL, FEMICA, the Inter-American Foundation, USAID, the IDB, the OAS and other national groups.

Best Innovative Practices

In an effort to acknowledge the daily work of local leaders in improving the living conditions of their citizens, the Tenth Conference will try to recognize some of the best innovative practices implemented in the hemisphere. For that we have planned a special session in which five outstanding practices will be presented to the plenary of the Conference. If you consider that your local government has implemented or is implementing an innovative practice for the benefit of your community, please submit a brief summary of no more than 3 pages (more than that will not be considered. Please no tables, charts or annexes), explaining the type of project, the difficulties and successes of its implementation as well as clearly stating the benefits to your community. Send by e-mail **no later than April 30, 2004**, to lagierc@fiu.edu. The Organizing Committee will select the winners of the best five practices. Those selected will be notified by May 2004.

Hotel Information

Radisson Miami Hotel, 1601 Biscayne Blvd.
Each participant is responsible for his/her own lodging and travel. For a hotel reservation, please call the Radisson Hotel directly at (305) 374-0000 before June 7, 2004.

Obtaining a USA entry visa is your responsibility. We advise that you do it as soon as possible.

Sponsoring Organization

Hon. Alex Penelas, *Mayor*
Miami-Dade County
Hon. Javier D. Souto, *Commissioner*
Board of County Commissioners
Chair, Organizing Committee
Mr. J.A. Ojeda, Jr., *Director*
Jay T. Malina International Trade Consortium,
Miami-Dade County

Conference Organizers

Dr. Allan Rosenbaum, *Director*
Cristina A. Rodríguez-Acosta, *Assist. Director*
Institute for Public Management
and Community Service
College of Health and Urban Affairs
Florida International University

Registration and Fees

Mail, fax or e-mail Conference Registration Form **before June 14, 2004** to:
Institute for Public Management – FIU
11200 S.W. 8th Street – TC 30
Miami, FL 33199 – USA
Phone: (305) 348-1271 Fax: (305) 348-1273
E-mail: lagierc@fiu.edu

US\$220 for non-US public sector and nonprofit organizations (US\$275 on site registration). US\$300 for US public sector and nonprofit and international organizations. US\$500 for private sector organizations. Fee includes two luncheons and two evening receptions.

For more information, please contact Cristina A. Rodríguez-Acosta at Florida International University.