

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

**And**

**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY**

Invite You To The:

**Eleventh Inter-American Conference  
of Mayors  
and Local Authorities**

***Municipal Cooperation for Economic,  
Social and Democratic Development***

□

**June 21 - 23, 2005  
Radisson Hotel  
Miami, Florida  
USA**

The government of Miami-Dade County and Florida International University invite you to be a part of the *Eleventh Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities* which will focus upon “*Municipal Cooperation for Economic, Social and Democratic Development*”. 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 ten 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 within and among municipalities as well as with different levels government. Also needed is 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 500 participants representing almost every country of the Hemisphere.

**[ABOUT THE CONFERENCE](#)**

**Title:** “*Municipal Cooperation for Economic, Social and Democratic Development*”, the Eleventh Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities.

**When:** **June 21 - 23, 2005** at the Radisson Hotel Miami, FL. (Opening Reception - evening of June 20, 2005).

**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 inequality and 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.

The Conference will evaluate the present situation of local governments in our hemisphere acknowledging the urgency of the challenges still ahead and will try to put forward proposals regarding the strengthening of local governance to be considered by the Presidents at the Summit of the Americas to be held in November 2005 in Argentina. There will also be sessions examining issues of strengthening civil society; expanding participation and democracy; reducing poverty; inequality; improving urban infrastructure; etc.

#### Training Workshops

Besides the themes already mentioned, the Eleventh Conference will include a number of 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 in establishing operational partnerships for local development with civil society and business groups. Topics to be discussed will include: local economic development; development and health; environmental issues; financing and employment generation; etc.

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 FLACMA, FEMICA, the Inter-American Foundation, USAID, the IDB, the OAS and other national groups.

#### Best Innovative Practices

Continuing an initiative launched last year, and in an effort to acknowledge the daily work of local leaders in improving the living conditions of their citizens, the Eleventh Conference will again 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 (single space, font size 12, more than that will not be considered. 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, 2005**, to [lagierc@fiu.edu](mailto:lagierc@fiu.edu). The Organizing Committee will select the winners of the best five practices. Those selected will be notified by May 2005.

#### 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 13, 2005

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

#### Sponsoring Organization

Hon. Carlos Alvarez, *Mayor*  
*Miami-Dade County*  
Hon. Javier D. Souto, *Commissioner*  
*Board of County Commissioners*  
*Chair, Organizing Committee*  
Mr. Manny Gonzalez., *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 13, 2005** to:  
Institute for Public Management – FIU  
11200 S.W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street – TC 30  
Miami, FL 33199 – USA  
Phone: (305) 348-1271 Fax: (305) 348-1273  
E-mail: [lagierc@fiu.edu](mailto:lagierc@fiu.edu)

US\$250 for non-US public sector and nonprofit organizations (US\$280 on site registration). US\$350 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. Rodriguez-Acosta at Florida International University.