

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

And

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Invite You To The:

XIII Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities

“Building the Competitive Municipality: National, Regional and Local Collaboration for Economic Development”

June 11 - 14, 2007
Radisson Hotel
Miami, Florida
USA

The government of Miami-Dade County and Florida International University invite you to be a part of the *XIII Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities* which will focus upon “*Building the Competitive Municipality: National, Regional and Local Collaboration for Economic Development*”. The Conference provides a forum for representatives of local, regional and national governments, NGOs, various international and multilateral organizations and all of those interested in the strengthening of local governments to share experiences; information and practices; to review major local government developments; to adopt policy statements; and to discuss common goals for the promotion of decentralization and 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 many successes of the previous twelve 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 both within and among municipalities, as well as with different levels of 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 academics and interested parties from the private sector, non-governmental organizations and major international and multilateral 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: “*Building the Competitive Municipality: National, Regional and Local Collaboration for Economic Development*”, the Thirteenth Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities.

When: June 11 - 14, 2007 at the Radisson Hotel Miami, FL. (Opening Reception - evening of June 11, 2007).

Sponsorship: Miami-Dade County Government and the Institute for Public Management & Community Service of the College of Social Work, Justice and Public Affairs of Florida International University.

OBJECTIVES

Our hemisphere continues to witness dramatic events and profound changes that raise serious questions about its future in terms of issues of inequality and poverty alleviation, democracy and decentralization. Faced with the challenges of globalization in a politically changing environment, as well as the economic, social and political evolution of our hemisphere, the task of building a competitive municipality that promotes

economic development requires close collaboration not only among local governments but also with regional and national governments and agencies. The strengthening of local governments and their effectiveness in the delivery of services is now more than ever, an issue of fundamental relevance.

The Conference will evaluate the present situation of local governments in our hemisphere while acknowledging the urgency of the challenges still ahead. In addition to the theme sessions on municipal development, there will be sessions that examine issues of strengthening civil society; expanding participation and democracy; reducing poverty and inequality; improving urban infrastructure; etc. They will provide attendees with an unparalleled opportunity for sharing new tools and techniques to address the problems facing communities and local governments today.

[Training Workshops organized by the Inter-American Foundation](#)

Besides the themes already mentioned, the XIII Conference will include a number of concurrent training workshops, organized in conjunction with the Inter-American Foundation, in which attendees will have the opportunity to actively participate. The workshops will analyze specific examples from Latin America and the US in order to better understand the difficulties faced by local leaders in establishing operational partnerships for local development. Topics to be discussed will include: local economic development; health and environmental issues; financing; good governance; 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 organizations such as the Inter-American Foundation, FLACMA, FEMICA, USAID, the IDB, the OAS and other national groups.

[Best Innovative Practices](#)

Continuing an initiative launched in 2004, the XIII Conference will again recognize some of the best innovative practices implemented in the hemisphere. In a special session 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, 2007**, to lagierc@fiu.edu. The Organizing Committee will select the winners of the best five practices. Those selected will be notified in May 2007.

[Hotel Information](#)

Radisson Miami Hotel, 1601 Biscayne Blvd. Each participant is responsible for his/her own lodging and travel. Single or double room special rate \$129 + 13% taxes. For a hotel reservation, please call the Radisson Hotel directly at (305) 374-0000 before June 1st, 2007

[Sponsoring Organization](#)

Hon. Carlos Alvarez, *Mayor*
Miami-Dade County
Hon. Javier D. Souto, *Commissioner*
Miami-Dade County, Board of County
Commissioners
Chair, Organizing Committee

[Conference Organizers](#)

Dr. Allan Rosenbaum, *Director*
Cristina A. Rodríguez-Acosta, *Assistant. Director*
Institute for Public Management
and Community Service
College of Social Work, Justice & Public Affairs
Florida International University

[Registration and Fees](#)

Mail, fax or e-mail Conference Registration Form **before June 6, 2007** to:
Institute for Public Management – FIU
11200 S.W. 8th Street – PCA 350B
Miami, FL 33199 – USA
Phone: (305) 348-1271 Fax: (305) 348-1273
E-mail: lagierc@fiu.edu

US\$250 for non-US public sector and nonprofit organizations (US\$275 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.