Americas Regional Conference on the Right of Access to Information

Lima, Peru
April 28-30, 2009

Tuesday April 28

Plenary Sessions – J.W. Marriott Hotel

2:00 pm Opening Session
Prime Minister Yehude Simon
Carlos Felipe Jaramillo, Country Director for Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela, World Bank
Santiago Canton, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, Organization of American States
Laura Neuman, Associate Director of the Americas Program and Access to Information Project Manager, The Carter Center

3:00 pm Panel 1: Is Transparency Delivering?
Minister Jorge Hage, Controller-General, Brazil
Marta Oyanharte, Undersecretary of Institutional Relations, Argentina
Carlos Monge, Latin American Regional Coordinator, Revenue Watch Institute
Chair: Shekhar Singh, Founder, National Campaign People’s Right to Information, India
Respondent: Bernardo Gonzalez-Arechiga, Director, School of Public Administration, Monterrey, Mexico

4:30 pm Break

In collaboration with
4:45 pm  Panel 2: Is Transparency a Luxury in the Face of Security Threats, Climate Change, and the Global Economic Crisis?  
Juan Pablo Guerrero, Information Commissioner, Mexico  
Joseph Foti, Associate, World Resource Institute, USA  
Sean Moulton, Director, Federal Information Policy, OMB Watch, USA  
Chair: Richard Calland, Manager Economic Governance, IDASA, South Africa  
Respondent: Tom Susman, Director, Government Affairs Office, ABA, USA

6:15 pm  Panel 3: Select Country Cases  
Mignone Vega, Former Director of Strategic Communications and Governability, Presidency, Nicaragua  
Juan Pablo Olmedo, President, Information Commission, Chile  
Beatriz Merino, National Ombudswoman, Peru  
Suzanne Legault, Assistant Information Commissioner, Canada  
Chair: Jaime Aparicio, President, Inter-American Juridical Committee, OAS

7:30 pm  Cocktail Reception

Wednesday April 29

Participants on own for breakfast

8:30 am  Plenary: Breaking into working groups – Thunderbird Hotel - Principal

9:00 am  Simultaneous Thematic Working Groups

Group 1 – Politics and Economy: shifting the balance toward openness  
Group 2 – Structure & Technology: creating an environment for transparency  
Group 3 – Non-state and Multilateral Actors: examining roles and responsibilities  
Group 4 – Regional Norm-building: considering regional instruments and standards  
Group 5 – Demand: identifying the deficits and increasing the pool of users

11:00 am  Break

11:30 am  Working Groups Reconvene

1:00 pm  Luncheon and Panel Discussion  
"Is the media doing their part to advance the right of access to information in the Americas?"  
Enrique Zileri, Director, Revista Caretas, Peru  
Debra Gersh-Hernandez, Coordinator Sunshine Week, American Society of Newspapers, USA  
Jim Bronskill, Editor, The Canadian Press, Canada  
Elizabeth Velasco, Journalist, La Jornada, Mexico  
Chair: Rosental Alves, Director, Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas

2:30 pm  Working Groups Reconvene
5:30 pm  Free time

7:00 pm  Transport to Dinner: Restaurant Huaca Pucllana
         Group Photo

**Thursday April 30**

*Participants on own for breakfast*

**Plenary Sessions – J.W. Marriott Hotel**

8:30 am  Report Backs from Working Groups

9:45 am  Review Draft Findings and Action Plan

10:15 am  Remarks and Plenary Discussion of Draft Regional Findings and Action Plan
           Chair: Former President Jimmy Carter

12:00 am  Coffee Break and Convene as Country-level Groups

1:30 pm  Luncheon

3:00 pm  Continue Discussion and Consider Next Steps for Implementing Regional
         Action Plan
           Chair: Diego Garcia-Sayan, Justice and Vice-President, Inter-American Court
           of Human Rights
           Comments: Catalina Botero, Special Rapporteur, Inter-American Human
           Rights Commission, Organization of American States

4:30 pm  Conclusions and Closing Remarks

5:00 pm  Cocktail Reception