

THE
CARTER CENTER



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**