

November 14, 2012

THE INTERN-AMERICAN

Newsletter - 14th Model of the Permanent Council for OAS Interns



Organization of
American States

**MOAS/PC
Newsletter**

The MOAS/PC is jointly organized by the Department of International Affairs and the Department of Human Resources

The Mission of the MOAS/PC

- Promote democratic values among the Youth of the Hemisphere.
- Increase awareness of the mission and work of the OAS.
- Illustrate the importance of diplomacy and negotiation.
- Make students aware of the most important issues in the Americas.
- Train committed leaders.

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and
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MOAS/PC Public
Information Officers

Final review by the
Department of
International Affairs

CONGRATULATIONS DELEGATES

After two days of intense debate and negotiations during Fourteenth Model of the Permanent Council for OAS Interns (Fall 2012), the delegates adopted two resolutions: "Promotion and Strengthening of Regional Cooperation Programs to Generate Income and Decent Employment in the Americas," presented in the General Committee, and "Promotion of Social Development, Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination in the Americas in Relation to Women, Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendants, and Poverty," presented in the First Committee. During the discussions, the difference in tone between the two committees was notable, with the General Committee having a more relaxed and amiable atmosphere, and the First Committee maintaining a more dynamic debate throughout the process.



Photo Credit: Juan Manuel Herrera/OAS

This Model was an interesting and intense learning experience for us, and certainly something we are proud to have been a part of. In the Closing Newsletter we hoped to provide an in-depth look at key players in the Internship Program, MOAS Program, and the Organization of American States. We hope you find what they have to say enlightening and empowering. Well done Fellow Interns! - Camila and Rhiannon



Organization of American States

José Miguel Insulza
Secretary General

Albert R. Ramdin
Assistant Secretary General

Alfonso Quiñónez
Secretary for External Relations

Gerald Anderson
Secretary for Administration and Finance

Jorge Sanín
Director, Department of International Affairs

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14TH MODEL OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL FOR OAS INTERNS (MOAS/PC)

Ambassador Joel Hernández asserts the importance of “Moving Green”, “Crafting Agreements”, and Life as a Compromise

Ambassador Joel Hernández, Chair of the OAS Permanent Council and the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OAS, was the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony of the 14th MOAS/PC. In his opening speech he thanked the interns for coming to the OAS to “contribute to the work of our Organization”.

With reference to the 14th MOAS/PC, Ambassador Hernández mentioned the importance of undertaking the role of the representatives of the countries and acknowledged that the Models of the Permanent Council for interns are meant to be platforms to aid in the understanding of the integral work of the OAS. He also highlighted the great opportunity that interns were given in holding the 14th MOAS/ PC in the Simon Bolivar Room, which he said, offers eco-friendly technological tools such as the monitors that allow a paperless work, adding that the OAS is a “paperless organization.” He also insisted that our “generation needs to be moving green” and must act as environmentally conscious as possible.

Ambassador Hernández mentioned that certain factors should be taken into consideration during the MOAS exercise, and stated that each one of the thirty-four Member States have different priorities and a different use of the Organization. The difficulty he said was “to pull everybody together”, in order to “craft agreements,” considering the many contrasting policies within the Member States. Spoke about the wide variety of instruments that have been crafted here, stating that the American Convention on Human Rights is “one of the greatest instruments this Organization has created,” and is the leading instrument that governs human rights’ policies in the Member States. He reiterated that all the “institutional machinery” that has a direct impact on our daily lives, such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, were developed at the OAS.

The Chair of the Permanent Council described the OAS as a trailblazer in many areas stating that in the, “sixty years since it was founded, it has managed to establish the norms of (the) Inter-American role which regulate the relationship between our Member States”. To illustrate, asked: “How would be our hemisphere without the Organization of American States? Where would States could go in order to solve their differences?”

Ambassador Hernández offered words of encouragement to all the participants of the 14th MOAS of the Permanent Council for OAS Interns, highlighting the importance of enjoying the experience of being a delegate, debating and discussing regional topics, compromising, finding consensus, and representing the interests and priorities of the assigned country. Ambassador Hernández concluded by saying that life is a compromise and within the OAS compromise permits the “construction of peace and democracy” throughout the region.



Photo Credit: Rhiannon Buehler

“During the MOAS, your analysis about the topics of the inter-American agenda is relevant, considering that two-thirds of the population in Latin America and the Caribbean are between the ages of 18 and 35 years old. We are countries and societies based on the youth, which represent a unique opportunity for change, for progress and for the promotion of new public policies oriented towards the strengthening of democratic governance in our region.” - **Jose Miguel Insulza, OAS Secretary General**



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Acknowledgments

Special recognition to the OAS authorities and staff that contributed to the success of the 14th MOAS/PC

Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin
Assistant Secretary General

Ambassador Joel Hernández
Chair of the Permanent Council and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OAS

Ms. Evelyn Jacir
Director, Department of Social Development and Employment (DSDE)

Ms. María Celina Conte
Specialist, Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)

Ms. Ana María Lara
Consultant, Department of Social Development and Employment (DSDE)

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Photo Credit: Patricia Leiva/OAS

María Antonieta Gaxiola, OAS Director of Human Resources, Speaks about the Process of Becoming Leaders

María Antonieta Gaxiola, OAS Director of the Department of Human Resources, began her speech at the opening ceremony of the 14th MOAS/PC welcoming the interns, and extending her appreciation to the interns for their dedication and hard work, saying, “We believe in the potential of every one of you - your capability to learn, your ability to make things happen, and of course your commitment to this Organization.”

Ms. Gaxiola stated that it was vital for the interns “not only to listen, but also to know that you have the responsibility to express yourself as young people”. She praised the sense of responsibility for our society demonstrated by the interns through their participation in this exercise, expressing her hope that interns disseminate the relevance of being engaged in issues that not only affect one person, but also communities as a whole, adding that this is what needs to be strengthened in our societies.

Ms. Gaxiola encouraged the interns to become leaders and to keep in mind that leadership is not a title, but a role in which we can make a difference. She emphasized how important it is to respect cultural diversity, to learn from others, and touched upon how essential it is to be able to adapt.

The OAS Director of Human Resources concluded her remarks by advising the interns that finding solutions to the challenges that the Americas face in human development and employment will take many steps that are “part of a process”, but solutions are achievable with the youth’s involvement.

Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General, Leads Dialogue on the Benefits of the OAS Internship Program, participating in the 14th MOAS/PC and the making of a Diplomat

Ambassador Ramdin held a dialogue with the interns during the second day of the 14th MOAS/ PC. He took this opportunity to point out that, “in a political organization things are always changing” and it is necessary to always be adjusting and adapting. He engaged the interns in a dialogue by asking them how the 14th MOAS/PC was an enriching experience? In all their responses the interns coincided with the idea that the 14th MOAS/PC was an outstanding professional development experience.

Ambassador Ramdin received words of gratitude from the interns, who also recognized the various areas of the OAS where they are working for the opportunity to gain knowledge and expertise.

The three questions Ambassador Ramdin asked were: How do you experience the OAS internship as young representatives from different countries? How much of your experience at the OAS will remain with you as you continue in international diplomacy and multilateral diplomacy? And



Photo Credit: Rhiannon Buehler



Organization of American States

14th MOAS/PC Order of Business

Monday, October 22

- Opening Ceremony
- First session of the MOAS/PC
- Meeting of the Committees
- Presentation of General Statements by country.
- Working sessions.

Tuesday, October 23

- Meeting of the Committees – Working sessions. (Continued)
- Dialogue with Ambassador Albert Ramdin, OAS Assistant Secretary General.
- Second session of the MOAS/PC.
- Adoption of the resolutions: *Promotion and strengthening of regional cooperation programs to generate income and decent employment in the Americas* and *Promotion of social development, equal opportunities and non-discrimination in the Americas in relation to women, gender identity, sexual orientation, indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, and poverty.*
- Report of the MOAS/PC Secretary General.
- Closing Ceremony

14TH MODEL OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL FOR OAS INTERNS (MOAS/PC)

“How much of the politics behind multilateralism affect you or change your views about countries?” He also said, “I feel good because I work here, and I was elected to this position twice,” which sparked laughter. He continued saying that he was interested in hearing about how the interns felt and what they thought; a few interns raised their hands and answered these questions.



Department of International Affairs’ Intern, Juan Daniel Salazar, said “the internship program is something huge, something big” that “allows us to see how multilateral diplomacy works” adding that he wanted to be part of “the tide that changes the world somehow”.

On the topic of multilateralism, Ambassador Ramdin said the OAS is “the only organization that brings all these countries, which you represent here today, together. There’s no other institution in the Americas, simply none . . . when it comes to political action, when it comes to engagement on issues that are relevant to the lives of people, and to the continuity of political stability.” He said that this power and unity is invaluable and should not be underestimated, adding that the OAS is extremely relevant because, “We bring together, in one environment, in one space, government representatives who can disagree, but understand they have to move forward on that positive agenda.”

Camila Rodríguez expressed that the internship program was a “platform for experience, but most of all for training” and that she was learning a lot at the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT), where she is interning. The Assistant Secretary General said that the YABT is an affiliated organization to the OAS, and invited the interns to actively participate in activities that contribute to their development as leaders.

Melissa Lamastus, who is interning with the Department of Human Resources in the Internship Coordination Program, spoke of the care that is put into the internship program, adding that it has been a different experience for her, not so much academically but more in a “personal sense”. She mentioned that her Panamanian Internship Coordinator at the *Washington Center* told her, “You have the most important and the biggest card to play here in D.C.: you are an intern at the OAS and when you go back to Panama and you say that, you can make a lot of people move.”

Ambassador Ramdin spoke of the silent, but valid point that Lamastus made between the OAS and the private sector. The private sector makes changes quicker Ramdin said, and at the OAS “we have lots of procedures and rules to follow” and this slows us down. He said that as a “multilateral political organization” “we cannot continue with old paradigms” and that it is necessary to bring in a little bit of “the corporate philosophy of doing business”. He said that fifteen, twenty years ago, it “used to be only government representatives that would sit around the table and talk about OAS issues” and that today this has changed; civil society now has a role in the form of academia, the media, the private sector, now everyone works together to create a more stable Hemisphere.





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Social Charter of the Americas

(Adopted at the 42nd
OAS General Assembly)

The Social Charter of the Americas is based on the recognition that the peoples of the Americas legitimately aspire to social justice and governments have a responsibility to promote it.

The OAS Social Charter recognizes:

- The contributions of indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, and migrant communities to the historical process of the Hemisphere.
- The needs for governments to adopt policies to promote inclusion and to prevent, combat, and eliminate all forms of intolerance and discrimination to safeguard equal rights and opportunities and strengthen democratic values.
- That the promotion and observance of economic, social, and cultural rights are inherently linked to integral development, equitable economic growth, and to the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law in the states of the Hemisphere.

[Click here](#) to read the OAS Social Charter of the Americas.

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Nicole Moya, intern at the OAS Department of Effective Public Management, said that her internship learning experience has helped her to consider other approaches and views that she wasn't familiar with. She added that being part of the OAS internship program will help in her endeavors to work for the Mexican Foreign Service. Ambassador Ramdin followed up on Moya's response noting that the sharing of experiences is critical, and that "It's an absolute truth that countries cannot solve all problems on their own." He illustrated by asking, "How do we help each other create a better Mexico?" and spoke of the challenges in the south and opportunities in the north and how collaboration was vital when dealing with issues of drug trafficking and organized crime.

In response to a question posed to the Ambassador by Pamela Augustín-Anguiano, intern at the Department of International Affairs, about the lack of references to Latin America in the latest United States presidential debate, Ambassador Ramdin repeated what it had to do with the context of the Americas and what this election meant for the rest of the region, adding that generally, people in the United States do not know about the OAS. He said that this could be because of the size of the country, but lamented that there was not more "public mentioning" of Latin America and the Caribbean during the debate, considering that those regions represent a lot of votes globally and are also important trading partners.



Ibelky Peralta, intern at the Department of Effective Public Management, said that more than anything she was gaining "soft skills" especially at the MOAS, where you learn to follow procedures and most of all "you learn to listen".

Ambassador Ramdin, connected this comment to a speech he had given a couple of years ago with the theme, what makes a diplomat? And he said, that "It's not always about what you know, because that you can learn" but that the skills that are required to finesse that knowledge into a useful tool, are not learned in universities, rather in experiences such as the MOAS and interning at the OAS." He added that "sometimes it is better to be silent than to speak out" and that this silence must be used strategically.

Assistant Secretary General Ramdin stated that there are three important things one must do in order to be a formidable diplomat: be patient, alert and ready. Also, he added that reading is a must. He elaborated saying that diplomacy is not meant to make enemies, but the main purpose of diplomacy is to make friends. He stated that "your opponent will only understand you if you are respectful to them". He affirmed that reading is necessary in order to hone analytical and investigative abilities, which will enable us to form our own opinions.

To conclude, Ambassador Ramdin spoke about the 2012 OAS Youth Conference, "Youth in Action for Democracy and Entrepreneurship" to be held at the Organization's headquarters on December 4th. He briefly described the conference as a platform for young people from across the Americas to engage and speak out about core international issues that directly impact their political participation and employment opportunities. Assistant Secretary General extended an invitation to the interns to participate at the Virtual Forum and the Conference on December 4th.

Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin wished the participants in the 14th MOAS/PC the best of success in their future.



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OAS Documents related
to the topic of the 14th
MOAS/PC: *Social
Development and
Employment*

Charter of the
Organization of
American States –
Chapter 7: Integral
Development ([Link](#))

Inter-American
Democratic Charter:
Articles 9, 10 and 12
([Link](#))

Social Charter of the
Americas ([Link](#))

Fourth Summit of the
Americas “Creating jobs
to fight poverty and
strengthen democratic
governance” ([Link](#))

Inter-American
Network for Labor
Administration – RIAL
([Link](#))

Protocol of San
Salvador: Articles 6-9.
([Link](#))

For additional
documents and
information on the topic
of the 14th MOAS/PC,
please [click here](#).

14TH MODEL OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL FOR OAS INTERNS (MOAS/PC)



Photo Credit: Patricia Leiva/OAS

Andres Uribe, Chair of the General Committee, Gives Thanks and Shares about the Process of Resolution-Writing

During his opening statement, Andres Uribe recognized the interns' hard work in preparation for the 14th MOAS/PC while acknowledging their work and responsibilities in the various areas of the OAS where they are interning. In this sense, he urged them to put aside their work for two days, and invited them to immerse themselves in the MOAS/PC experience.

He expanded on the opportunities that the OAS was offering them and said that “if we take this pretty unique diversity of voices we can really, really bring a new perspective to these issues that challenge our hemisphere.”

After the MOAS/PC, Andres shared some thoughts about his experience as Chair of the General Committee:

- “I very much enjoyed the entire process of the Model. I'm thankful to the MOAS Coordination team, to my outstanding Secretary, and most of all to my fantastic Committee - I had high expectations for these two days of debate, and they well exceeded them.”
- “I was very impressed with the consistently high level of debate, with the respectful and helpful attitude that characterized all of our committee sessions, and with the ability all delegates showed to navigate unexpected obstacles and reach consensus under time pressure.”
- “I was personally unprepared for how much the complexity of the issues at hand would slow down the process of resolution-writing; I gained a new level of respect for bodies such as the Permanent Council. The morning of day two was the trickiest part of the MOAS for me, as we scrambled to finish our resolution in the face of very good and informed criticism from our working groups. I was very happy with the delegates' refusal to dismiss these important criticisms despite the looming deadline, and I am very pleased with the final resolution.”



Photo Credit: Patricia
Leiva/OAS

Ana Moraga, Chair of the First Committee of the 14th MOAS/PC, talks about her experiences

During her introductory remarks at the Opening Ceremony of the 14th MOAS/PC, Ana Moraga expressed that interns have a great responsibility to work cohesively, in order to create resolutions that acknowledge the past accomplishments of our region, as well as the current concerns of Member States. She stated that it was her hope that “we respectfully and constructively challenge each other and ourselves to push the boundaries of our abilities, in order to create resolutions that are innovative and that contribute to the regional discourse in decent employment and social development.” After the 14th MOAS/PC ended we wanted to hear about her experiences as First Committee Chair and see if the Model met her expectations.



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MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

 End Poverty
and Hunger

 Universal
Education

 Gender
Equality

 Child
Health

 Maternal
Health

 Combat
HIV/AIDS

 Environmental
Sustainability

 Global Partnership

Source:

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

14TH MODEL OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL FOR OAS INTERNS (MOAS/PC)

What was an exceptional moment for you?

Looking back on the MOAS, the moments that were exceptional for me and that I remember distinctly were those leading up to the decisions that dramatically shaped our resolution. For example, on the first day when deciding on the design of the working groups; there were two very different ideas on the table and several variations of one. The vote on which design to use was very challenging, but once the decision was made I felt that it was even more difficult to decide on the three topics that were to be addressed in the application of the chosen approach. There were 11 topics on the screen and it was extremely difficult to leave out almost 75% of the topics brought up by the delegates.

What was the most challenging part for you?

The most challenging part for me was not being able to take more time and have deeper discussions about the points brought up by the delegates. There were times in which I felt that I had to hurry everyone along on to our next decision, and I noticed that if I let the conversation go on for a bit too long we would get lost in the discrepancies found among our points and forget about our initial commonalities. I tried to capture the essence of the issues raised in order to take a vote on two and a maximum of three variations of the same point, even though I understood, the delegates' yearning to share and sometimes push for the concerns of their Member State.

What was your favorite part?

My favorite part was to feel a sense of accomplishment after having arrived at an agreement. I think I can pinpoint this feeling to the morning of the second day as my favorite part of the first session. This was when we decided as a committee, on the resolution clause by clause, and subsequently as a whole. I think it also helped that I had a better idea of what to expect from the positions of the delegations because of our time together on the first day, having already learned the facilitation method that worked best with our committee's dynamic. On a personal note, I found it extremely refreshing when I was able to let loose a bit and laugh with my committee at comments or actions that seemed silly to us all.

What did you learn about yourself and about the OAS Permanent Council?

I feel that it was extremely useful to have gone through this decision-making process in order to better understand the work behind the resolutions that drive the work of the OAS, and the policy in our region. It was an eye-opener to get a peak into international law in the making. I feel that I can take this experience into my career as a lawyer and have a better idea of the spaces available in the Inter-American arena that greatly impact the advancement of women's rights.



14th MOAS/PC – Opening Ceremony
Photo credit: Luisa Zuffo



Organization of
American States

**Model of the
Permanent Council for
OAS Interns (MOAS/PC)**

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14TH MODEL OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL FOR OAS INTERNS (MOAS/PC)



**Answers from Nelly L. Robinson, Coordinator of the MOAS
Program, OAS Department of International Affairs**

**Why should interns be proud of the accomplishments of this
14th MOAS/PC?**

At the political level, through their participation they have contributed ideas and proposals to the Inter-American dialogue in the search for solutions to current issues affecting the Hemisphere; those ideas could be taken into consideration once we present the resolutions to the OAS authorities. At the personal and professional level, they engaged in a diplomatic and democratic dialogue with respect for the opinions of others and were able to carry out a very good debate.

What were the main contributions of interns in this MOAS/PC?

There was an excellent level of debate, great leadership, and good ideas.

What are some highlights you saw in this MOAS/PC compared to sessions over the past four years?

The quality of the debate in this MOAS/PC has been one of the best we have had; participants were really engaged and they did not mind working more than an hour beyond schedule.

How has your role changed and developed over these sessions?

Both the MOAS/PC and our roles have changed significantly. The MOAS Program is directed to the youth and as such, it must evolve and adapt to the needs, suggestions, proposals, and changes brought up by the youth. In my opinion, we have finally found the correct format. In the beginning, the MOAS was a one-day exercise with a lot of work done by the interns before the Model. This became too cumbersome for everyone, to the extent that the interns were meeting at least twice a week to brainstorm and write their resolutions; their work was fragmented and we all saw the need for continuity. Therefore, together with the Department of Human Resources, it was decided that the MOAS would take place for two days in order to allow the interns to concentrate on their deliberations and working groups. This change created a unique dynamic and teamwork amongst the interns; the work of the MOAS team became less involved. Now, each committee chooses their own perspectives to give to the resolutions, and the working groups develop their own way to reach an agreement. Our Department becomes the enabler by providing the instructions and documents.

How will this experience contribute to the interns' professional development?

It will be very valuable especially for those interns that plan to pursue a career in the political, diplomatic, governmental, or international field. For some, this might have been an opportunity to learn about negotiation, for others this was the chance to discover new leadership skills, additionally it might have been an occasion to learn how to conduct a diplomatic dialogue; these skills can be applied to any professional field.

How has participating in the OAS Intern Model Permanent Councils impacted your professional development?

There is always something to learn; each MOAS is a new experience and a great way to be open to change and nowadays that is very important. I appreciate the opportunity and thank everybody for his or her contributions. I hope that this was a rewarding experience for everyone. Thank you very much.



Organization of
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OAS Internship Program

Internships at the OAS are offered 3 times a year (winter/spring, summer and fall), in which approximately 70 interns are selected by over 40 departments/areas within the General Secretariat of the OAS to participate in each session.

Objectives

- Promote the program throughout the Hemisphere in order to target high-potential students and young professionals.
- Build up a successful pool for recruitment.
- Guarantee that interns obtain a meaningful learning experience, so they acquire knowledge related to work, and enhance their networking possibilities.
- Disseminate, through interns, the work of the OAS in different countries.

Contact information

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14TH MODEL OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL FOR OAS INTERNS (MOAS/PC)



Natalia Franco and Luisa Zuffo Coordinator and Consultant in the Internship Program of the OAS Department of Human Resources Talk about Being a Team Player

We, as representatives of the Department of Human Resources, appreciate all the hard work and dedication given to this activity that is part of the OAS Internship Program. As mentioned by Ms. María Antonieta Gaxiola, Director of the Department of Human Resources, “We believe in the potential of every one of you, your capability to learn, your ability to make things happen and of course your commitment to this Organization.”

It is important in today’s world to be a team player and to be ready to work in a joint action, contributing with your skills and expressing your individual interests and opinions within the unity and efficiency of the group. This is the only way we can achieve common goals. You should be proud because you achieved the goals of the 14th MOAS/PC with the approval of two great resolutions.

During this MOAS/PC, we were glad to observe that you were applying the skills gained during the Communications Training sessions and we hope that you now have a better understanding of what it entails to make decisions in this type of Organization.

The MOAS/PC was designed specifically for the OAS interns and it aims at providing you with an opportunity to learn and enhance your personal and professional skills. Foremost, since it is a joint effort between our Department and the Department of International Affairs, what we seek with this activity is to enrich your experience at the Organization of American States.

We find it fascinating that despite the diversity among the groups of interns, the MOAS is always a success. And the success of this activity is due to your efforts! We appreciate that, and we hope that you enjoyed and learned while experiencing the 14th MOAS/PC.



Mural by Raquel Fornier, 1982, Argentina
Photo Credit: Laura Altafulla

THANK YOU!

We would like to give thanks to the Department of Human Resources and the Department of International Affairs for the snacks and coffee, as well as to the Mexican Mission for their coffee, and to all parties of this 14th MOAS for their extraordinary patience and goodwill. We would like to thank the Department of Press and Communications for their advice and Young Americas Business Trust for their support throughout the 14th MOAS/PC. We would especially like to give loving thanks to our parents and families for the sacrifices they have made for us and for making sure we achieved an excellent education which included sound reading materials.



Organization of
American States

“We are convinced that young people are the protagonists of the present; they are the hope for change and the security for a better tomorrow. This is why we consider them invaluable partners and why we must continue to provide opportunities for youth involvement in the region.”

Jorge Sanín,
Director,
Department of
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Affairs

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14TH MODEL OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL FOR OAS INTERNS (MOAS/PC)

14th MOAS/PC PHOTO GALLERY

