

Nov. 10th

Plenary Panel – Volunteers as Agents of Change:

Panelists:

Steve Vetter, Tasso Lugon, Farid Franco Arias, Oscar Garcia, Sofía Botero-Uribe, Gabriel Marquez-Velez, Lisa/Liz? Bernadette

(Opening Remarks) Lisa: Partners is one of the Strongest Partners in the Region and shares many program goals with the US Embassy. YSME is a good example of an Exchange that is mutually beneficial for both nations. Program alum Gilbert Clemmons is great example. Obama administration will double the number of Colombia students to study in the US.

-Steve Highlights importance of partnerships between different sectors (private/public)

Farid: Discusses volunteering today and history in Colombia. Volunteering is a very old tradition in Colombia especially through the Catholic Church. Today volunteer management is more common and the objective is to transform. The US is different

Sofia: volunteering has become a long-term commitment. Today it is institutional and involves the business sector in order to construct solutions and influence public policies

Gabriel: In the 80s, businesses started linking to NGO all over the nation. Networks foster environmental social capital.

Oscar: In Argentina's case, volunteering was reborn in 1983 after the dictatorships and grew gradually over the following decade. It actually flourished when the country was suffered through its economic crisis. What has been noted is that transformative volunteering must be reconstructed on a daily basis.

Steve: How are these partnerships formed?

Sofía: Volunteering is no longer simply responses to crisis. Instead, it is imperative. Partnerships are a result of realizing that things cannot be resolved alone.

What did Partners chapters in Colombia do during the years of violence to keep hope alive?

Gabriel: We kept going because we worked for our communities. The commitment we had to our communities kept us going.

Plenary Panel II – Physical Activity and Health, “Get Moving for your Health” – Indeportes Antioquia

Panelists: Dr. Julio Roberto Gomez Gaitán, Olga Lucía Sarmiento, Michael Pratt, Mario Andrés Quintero Velásquez,

Dr. Gaitan:

-“¡Muévase Pues!” is part of local policy and part of the public development programming granting it access to resources.

-It is a strategy for social inclusion, human development, and quality of life. Now we would like to spread the program to all 125 municipalities in Antioquia. We are also currently influencing national policy.

Inactivity and obesity are current challenges.

A major challenge is how to promote physical activity as a lifestyle.

The focus of the Ten Year Plan, (*Plan Decenal*) includes education y on these issues and more.

Dr. Pratt:

-Spoke on Constructing public health capacities in Latin America

-Health programs should focus lifestyles and chronic disease which account for the majority of deaths around the world. The CDC is focused on building global capacities within ministries of health, building research capacities in the Americas and community outreach.

The Flagship is currently working on building epidemiological capacity around the world.

The GUIA Project will get governments and academics to work on promoting physical activities.

POA Fellows from the CDC or placed in the CDC have been very beneficial in strengthening foreign relations for the CDC.

Dr. Sarmiento:

-Spoke on the importance of ciclovías and ciclorutas

-The benefits of these bike paths are many including quality of life and environmental benefits

-Surveying reveals that there is also a social and environmental value.

-physical activity among bike path users is significantly higher than the average Bogota resident.

-most path users perceive that other users are a lot more solidary with each other than the average resident in Bogota is with other residents

-users also feel safer on paths than other parts of the city

-Environmentally, using paths reduce harmful emissions

Dr. Quintero summarized Indeportes' Muévase Pues activities.

Plenary Panel III – Sport for Development: A Ganar Alliance

Presenters: Paul Teeple and Lindo Nico

Paul began with a presentation on A Ganar methodology and video about A Ganar. He also presented the positive impacts of sports. Linda then led a demonstration of an A Ganar exercise.