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INSPIRING INNOVATION IN THE SPOTLIGHT NEWS DIGEST WHERE WE'VE BEEN OPPORTUNITIES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – November 19, 2015 – FALL EDITION
Office of Outreach and Partnerships

INSPIRING INNOVATION

To Feed the World, AgroLAC 2025 Emerges as a Collaborative Platform



At the World Economic Forum's headquarters in New York this September, **The Nature Conservancy**, **DOW**, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) launched AgroLAC 2025, a funding platform aimed at boosting the productivity, performance and environmental sustainability of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Guided by a focus on smallholder farms and the three-pronged objectives of increasing trade and access to markets, expanding productivity through sustainable intensification, and enhancing agricultural and environmental planning, the platform is open to steering committee members and collaborative partners. The event was sponsored by **Colombia's Presidential Agency for International Cooperation**, and attended by many additional partner organizations representing AgroLAC's multi-stakeholder approach. IDB President Luis Alberto Moreno highlighted the platform at the [World Food Day event](#) hosted by the Italian Ministry of Finance and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in October.

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[Demand Solutions Sparks City-Related Innovation in DC and Peru](#)



This fall, the third edition of Demand Solutions brought together the world's most creative minds to inform, inspire and share knowledge on ideas for improving lives. Organized alongside **the Blum Centers at Berkeley and UCLA** the DC event focused on city-related innovations, in line with the IDB's Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative. The winner of the 2015 Venture Night, a competition between some of LAC's most disruptive startups, was Patricia Sánchez, Argentine co-founder of USound. Using smart phone technology to create hearing devices for the hearing impaired, USound won Most Innovative Startup with a prize of US\$15,000 and Best Use of Technology with a prize of €10,000 from **Telefonica**. The event received added support from partners such as **NEC, Santander Bank through RED Emprendia and Santander Universidades, IE Business School, Opinnno, Efecto Naim, Nexso, Mondeléz International, Agora Partnerships, Contagious, + Castro Innovation House, and the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT)**. This year also marked the expansion of Demand Solutions into the region through [Demand Solutions Peru](#), held in Lima in collaboration with **Unidos en Red, Ismael Cala Foundation, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Centro de Emprendimiento USIL, Innovate Peru, UCAL, Camara Comercio Peruano Britanica, and the FEMSA Foundation**.

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A New Report Positions the IDB as One of the World's Most Influential Donors

In September, the development sphere witnessed an innovation in impact measurement, as a report by AidData consulted beneficiary nations about the impact of development financing. The result is a "bang for your buck" assessment of the impact dollars make on beneficiary countries. Interviewing nearly 7,000 policymakers and practitioners in 126 low- and middle-income countries, donors were rated by how much they influence the reform agenda in target nations. Results were contrasted with the money these donors have committed to foreign aid. Combining the two sets of information, AidData then created a "value for money" index, which places multilateral organizations, and the IDB specifically, as among the most influential partners for development impact. The report was created in collaboration with the College of William & Mary, Brigham Young University, and Development Gateway.

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The UK, Banco do Brazil, the Government of Brazil, and the IDB Partner to Support Farmers, Reduce Emissions

Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture, Banco do Brasil, the United Kingdom's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), broke new ground in the area of rural development this fall through the launch of the Rural Sustentável, or Rural Sustainability, project. With the objective of working alongside rural producers to finance projects to reduce carbon emissions, the partnership committed US\$26 million under a results-base financing mechanism with the intention of reaching 3,700 rural farmers in 70 municipalities in Mato Grosso, Pará, Rondônia, Bahia, Minas Gerais, Paraná and Rio Grande do Sul. These efforts are complemented by a [web platform](#) to provide information related to rural development and low carbon agriculture technologies. In addition the project will reach 11,000 rural producers and agriculture technical assistants with capacity building and training activities. The overall budget of the project is US\$39.2 million dollars.

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Platform to Promote Philanthropy Goes Live

Alongside **Unidos en Red** and **Avina** the IDB continues its work to promote philanthropy through PAL, or the Partnership Platform for Latin America. An online platform uniting change agents throughout the region, PAL intends to transform Latin America through collaboration, knowledge exchange, and a focus on development challenges and solutions, as well as promoting philanthropy, social investment, and resource mobilization.

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An Innovative Solution to Poverty, Switzerland Promotes Social Entrepreneurship in LAC

The Government of Switzerland, represented by **the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation**, bolstered its support to social entrepreneurship in LAC through a program and a catalytic impact financing facility. Launched alongside the Multilateral Investment Fund of the IDB Group, the former of these aims to reduce poverty and promote inclusion by strengthening entrepreneurial activities, and creating a regional financing platform to boost the growth of social enterprises. At the same time, Switzerland is committing more than US\$1 million to the creation of this facility, which will help advance the Bank's [Social Entrepreneurship Program](#) as it finances entrepreneurial solutions to poverty.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Sparking an Early Passion for Math, SK Telecom and the IDB Bring Robots to Costa Rican Classrooms



Believers in the power of early childhood education, a new partnership between the IDB and Korea-based **SK Telecom** brings 900 units of Albert, the education robot, to Costa Rican pre-school classes. Carried out in 300 schools selected by the country's Ministry of Education, Albert is one component of a broader play-based preschool mathematics curriculum that builds on the IDB's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of education in Latin America.

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VISA Inc. Continues Helping LAC SMEs Go Global



The ConnectAmericas platform, launched last year alongside Google, DHL, VISA, and Alibaba.com to help the region's small and medium enterprises internationalize, saw further support this fall from **VISA Inc.** Achieving half a million unique visits in just a year and a half, VISA's financial and technical support will enhance that platform's ability to provide key training, logistics and trade information, and financing opportunities to regional entrepreneurs.

Alongside Calvert Foundation, the Inter-American Opportunity Facility Fuels Small Business Growth

On November 16th, the IDB and **Calvert Foundation** launched the Inter-American Opportunity Facility, a groundbreaking initiative to fuel small business growth in LAC. A US\$20 million investment collaboration designed to promote economic growth at the base of the pyramid, the partners will provide debt financing to socially responsible financial institutions to support small

business lending, education, housing development, agricultural cooperatives, and more. The platform allows for individual investors to get involved through Calvert's online investment platform (US\$20 minimum), through their brokerage accounts, or directly with Calvert (US\$1,000 minimum). Already, the partnership has closed two deals and has a strong pipeline of projects.

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Positioning the IDB as a Partnership Pioneer, Harvard Case Study Tells the Bank's Partnership Story

This fall **Harvard Business School** finalized a case study about the IDB, positioning the Bank as a trailblazer in the partnership space. By telling the story of the origins of the IDB's Office of Outreach and Partnerships, highlighting key partnership examples, and featuring partnership best practices, the case study stands to encourage a similar partnership culture in institutions everywhere.

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The Government of Switzerland, a Longstanding IDB Partner, Helps LAC Cities to Flourish

This fall, the **Government of Switzerland** bolstered their commitment to urban development in the region. Through a US\$1.3 million commitment to the IDB-managed Emerging and Sustainable Cities Multi-donor Trust Fund, **Switzerland's State Secretariat for Economic Affairs** continues supporting the Bank's broader initiative to help emerging cities achieve sustainable growth.

In Central America and Bolivia, the Nordic Development Fund Supports Climate-Focused Efforts

Longtime IDB partner **the Nordic Development Fund (NDF)** bolstered its support to climate-related initiatives in LAC. Through a commitment of more than half a million dollars, the NDF will catalyze climate investments towards low carbon, climate resilient technology and infrastructure through technical assistance aimed at facilitating access to the recently activated Green Climate Fund, a key global instrument in the fight against climate change. Additionally, the NDF will help to conserve natural resources which provide key local and global services in Bolivia and Central American countries.

Promoting Health, the Carlos Slim Foundation, the University of Miami, and the IDB Join Forces

Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), this fall **the Carlos Slim Foundation, the University of Miami**, and the IDB solidified collaboration with a focus on capacity building for health professionals working in Mesoamerica. Using *PIEENSO*, an interactive platform with educational resources developed by the Carlos Slim Foundation for health workers, the partnership reinforces Slim's commitment to maternal and neonatal health and the [Salud Mesoamerica Initiative](#).

With Pope Francis' Educational Non-Profit Scholas, the IDB Seeks to Reach Regional Youth

This October, the IDB and **Scholas**, an educational non-profit organization led by Pope Francis, signed a cooperation agreement to implement comprehensive educational programs geared towards vulnerable youth in LAC. Building off work begun this summer to support activities in 30 Paraguayan schools, the program works through the teaching of social values to encourage social integration, the use of sports and arts to generate healthy lifestyles and self-esteem, and an emphasis on perseverance, teamwork, creativity, and self-expression. The partnership hopes to expand to disadvantaged areas in Colombia and Haiti.

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In Rio, the FC Barcelona Foundation, Colgate, and Rio's Municipal Government Use Sports to Spark Social Inclusion

As part of their ongoing Sports for Development program in Rio de Janeiro, this fall the IDB teamed up with **the FC Barcelona Foundation, Colgate, and Rio de Janeiro's Municipal Secretariat for Sports and Leisure** to begin its *Maré que Transforma* activities. Targeting 650 children and youth in the Vila Olímpica do Complexo da Maré, the partners will use sports to promote social inclusion, improved quality of life, conflict resolution and violence prevention, education, and health. Tapping into FC Barcelona's value-based sports methodology and support from the Brazilian **MAPFRE Foundation**, the partners will also promote oral and basic hygiene.

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A Transformed Sector: US Agencies and the IDB Team Up for Energy in the Caribbean

To promote sustainable energy in the Caribbean, **the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), the United States Department of Energy (DOE), and IDB** formalized a new collaboration this October. Through the creation of a cooperation framework, the partners will seek to foster the transformation of the Caribbean's energy. Specifically, the partnership aims to increase energy security, reduce energy vulnerability, and promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and low-carbon technologies in the region and to collaborate around the creation of an energy co-financing facility for Caribbean sustainability.

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NEWS DIGEST

[Brightening LAC's Future By Promoting Early Childhood Development](#)



What do NASA engineers, Colombian pop star Fonseca, top educators and students, and development professionals have in common? They all believe that an improved future for LAC begins in early childhood. That's why these individuals and more gathered at the 2015 ALAS-IDB Awards, which recognize our region's most committed early childhood development (ECD) professionals. With awards geared towards teachers, ECD centers, ECD innovations, and children's book authors, this year's competition was the largest to date, with more than 1,200 nominations submitted from 21 countries. A partnership between the IDB and the **ALAS Foundation**, the competition was made possible by **Avianca**, **Cargill**, **Fundación Santillana**, and **Sesame Workshop**.

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In Road Safety, FIA, MTV Latin America, and the Caribbean Development Bank Put Children First



In LAC, the roadway fatality rate is staggering—roughly 17 fatalities per 100,000 inhabitants. That's why in Mexico City this fall the IDB and longstanding partner **the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)** gathered at the annual IDB-FIA Forum to raise awareness around road safety challenges in LAC, and this year, specifically as it pertains to children. With a focus on road safety in the event's host country, the partners also discussed regional challenges and how to address them. Additionally, winners of the Project Yellow Light (PYL) contest were announced at the event. For the second year in a row, PYL rewards the most innovative road safety videos created by regional youth, and was organized by the IDB alongside **MTV Latin America** and the **Caribbean Development Bank**.

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In Austria, Public and Academic Actors Support Sustainable Urban Development in LAC

This fall, **the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance** committed half a million euros to supporting the exchange of experiences, lessons, and academic research on urban development. Supporting the IDB's Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative, which encourages sustainable growth in 26 regional cities, it also created a collaboration network around Rapid Urban Growth. In partnership with students and professors from Austria's **University of Technology (TU Wien)**, the cooperation will develop concrete design-based solutions for select cities.

Empowering Women: The IDB and El Salvador Take Their Integrated Approach to the Next Level

Through a Memorandum of Understanding with **El Salvador's Ministry of Social Inclusion**, the IDB will expand on this existing partnership to replicate Ciudad Mujer throughout LAC. A center focused on improving the lives of women through an integrated focus, Ciudad Mujer provides access to all of the services women need, including health services, child healthcare, domestic violence prevention, financial empowerment, sexual and reproductive health services, and the promotion of their rights. The concept's success has prompted its replication in Paraguay, and will inspire similar centers in other countries as part of the IDB's strategic focus on gender equality.

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In El Salvador, Glasswing International and the IDB Break Cycle of Violence in El Salvador

The IDB through its Japan Special Fund for Poverty Reduction has teamed up with **Glasswing International** to provide care for victims of violence in El Salvador through the "Sanando Heridas" program. The four-year initiative will invest nearly US\$700,000 to expand access to treatment for thousands of trauma victims in the San Bartolo and Zacamil Hospitals.

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Bringing Urban Development to the Classroom

This fall the IDB teamed up with **Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo** to bring lessons about urban development to a classroom setting. In collaboration with the Spain-based university, the IDB will share its city-related knowledge through the [“Urban Sustainability: Models for Better Management and Planning” course](#), targeting professionals in the public, private, academic, and non-profit sectors with an interest in urban planning and infrastructure, climate change and public finance, and other related topics.

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Chagas Partnership Goes Live in Argentina

A partnership between the **FC Barcelona Foundation**, **Fundación Mundo Sano**, the **Government of Japan**, and the IDB went live this fall through a kick off event in Añatuya, Argentina. Targeting the Gran Chaco region’s territories in Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay, the partnership will work to prevent, treat, and control the disease, and to raise awareness of its causes and preventative habits through a sports for development intervention.

At FONTAGRO’s Annual Meeting, Knowledge is Emphasized as Family Farming Projects Are Approved

FONTAGRO, or the IDB-sponsored [Regional Fund for Agricultural Research](#), held its 19th annual meeting in Almería, Spain this October. Hosted by **Spain’s National Institute of Agrarian and Agro-Food Technology**, the meeting prioritized a new initiative on intensive horticulture and fostering cooperation between European institutions and Ibero-America on various topics, including the sustainable intensification of dairy. The meeting also saw the approval of a new knowledge management strategy that underscores the importance of strengthening the capacities of agricultural research and innovation institutes in LAC. The Board also approved four winning projects from the [2015 call for proposals](#) for innovations in sustainable family farming.

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With the United Nations, Improving Lives through Digital Payments

There is increasing recognition that digital payments can improve lives and lead to inclusive growth. That’s why the IDB is supporting this transition to digital payments by joining the Better than Cash Alliance. Funded by IDB partners including the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, **Citi Foundation**, **MasterCard**, **Omidyar Network**, **United States Agency for International Development**, and **Visa Inc**, the IDB solidified its involvement through a Memorandum of Understanding with the **United Nations Capital Development Fund**, secretariat of the Alliance.

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The IDB Issues New Education, Youth, and Employment Uridashi Bonds

The IDB's [Education, Youth, Employment \(EYE\) Bond program](#) strives to solve the challenges of poverty and inequality in LAC through a focus on higher education standards, investment in early childhood development, teacher training, youth programs, practical life skills, policies to improve job opportunities and develop workforce skills, and more. As part of this effort, in late October the IDB issued a new 3-tranche Uridashi fixed-rate note, which constitutes the first such sale of EYE Bonds denominated in these currencies to retail investors in Japan. Nomura Securities Co., Ltd. is the sole arranger of the bonds.

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Through the São Paulo Diverso Forum, Leveraging Cross-Sector Strengths for Social Inclusion

In recent years, both the public and private sectors have implemented new programs to reduce racial inequalities in Brazilian society. To support further progress, in October the São Paulo Diverso Forum tapped into public and private sector strengths to better support the inclusive development of the city of São Paulo and the social inclusion of African Descendants and other historically marginalized groups. Organized by the **São Paulo Municipal Secretary for the Promotion of Racial Equality** alongside the IDB, the event featured panels with municipal government representatives and industry leaders leading the charge towards racial equality.

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WHERE WE'VE BEEN

Melinda Gates Highlights IDB Partnership in Mexico City



At [the Global Maternal and Newborn Health Conference](#), Melinda Gates highlighted the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's** successful partnership with the IDB through the Salud Mesoamerica Initiative. At this forum on the most urgent health needs of mothers and newborns, Ms. Gates said “The Salud Mesoamerica Initiative, supported by our foundation alongside **the Carlos Slim Foundation**, the IDB, **the Government of Spain**, and Mesoamerican governments, was created to reduce inequality. The reach of this program is intentionally ambitious. We are supporting these governments as they improve quality of life for the poorest 20% of their population.”

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Through WeXchange, the IDB Connects LAC's Female Entrepreneurs with Opportunity



LAC is a region bustling with creativity, ambition, and an entrepreneurial spirit. That's why WeXchange seeks to unlock the potential of LAC's female entrepreneurs by linking them with mentors and investors that can help them grow. With a focus on helping these entrepreneurs access networking and mentoring while refining their pitches, this year's event featured discussions on obstacles to entrepreneurship, embracing failure, and more, and ended the day with a pitch competition.

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In Medellin, the FINPYME Forum Promotes Innovation in SME Finance

This September, the FINPYME Forum was held in Medellin, Colombia to discuss innovation in the financing of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). With more than 450 participants registered from 42 countries, the event resulted in more than 5 million social media impressions and more than 50 press hits. The event discussed such topics as SME financing challenges and innovative banking business models, introduced highly innovative "FinTech" companies to the region, and allowed for extensive networking. In a post-event survey, 92% of participants indicated that the Forum had allowed them to forge new business opportunities.

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In Malaysia, Global Leaders Promote Anti-Corruption

In September leaders gathered in Malaysia for the 2015 International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC). Organized bi-annually by the **IACC** and **Transparency International**, the IDB joined partners and global stakeholders to strengthen key institutional relationships, enhance the visibility of the Bank's anti-corruption agenda, and participate in knowledge exchange on transparency-related issues. As the premier global forum for networking and cross-fertilization in this space, the IACC draws attention to corruption by raising awareness and stimulating debate, and fosters global exchange of experience and methodologies in controlling corruption.

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With Top Leaders, the IDB Discusses the Region's Future at the Latin Trade Symposium

The IDB once again partnered with the Miami-based **Latin Trade Symposium**, a premier forum that annually unites the top leaders to discuss key issues facing the region. This year's focus was "Success through Innovation," which emphasized the importance of out-of-the-box approaches to the region's continued growth. A one day gathering on the importance of business and government in building sustainable economic, as well as social development, the conference fosters key relationships, insights, knowledge sharing, and ideas.

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In Ecuador, IDB Partners Discuss and Spark Action on Citizen Security

Alongside **Ecuador's Ministry of the Interior**, the IDB held Citizen Security Week in Quito this October. Geared to promote dialogue on citizen security, the event brought together local, national and international stakeholders to share experiences, best practices, and discuss the security challenges faced by LAC. Through both a Regional Policy Dialogue and Intensive Clinic, participants analyzed the design and implementation of comprehensive actions to strengthen citizen security in the region. Conclusions of these events can be found [here](#).

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In Korea, the Pacific Alliance Fosters Transatlantic Investment

In October, the IDB's Office in Asia joined **the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI), ProChile, ProColombia, ProMexico, ProPeru**, and their respective embassies in organizing the Pacific Alliance: the Investment Gateway to Latin America. An investment seminar and business matching event, more than 100 representatives from the business community in Korea, government, and the media attended. The four Pacific Alliance member countries delivered informative presentations regarding investment and trade opportunities, while entrepreneurs held B2B meetings with Korean companies.

Columbia University, INTAL, and the IDB Seek Out-of-the-Box Approaches to Ending Inequality

To promote idea exchange, and new approaches to reducing inequality in the Americas, this September the IDB teamed up with **INTAL** and **Columbia University** through the "Node i+i" event. With a focus on regional integration and social inclusion, the New York-based forum brought together academic, public and private sector leaders from both the United States and the region.

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Fostering India-LAC Relations, the IDB Attends the Confederation of Indian Industry

To expand India-LAC ties, the IDB's Office in Asia participated in the Confederation of Indian Industry: India-Latin America and Caribbean Conclave in New Delhi. The event was sponsored by the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India, with support from India's Ministry of External Affairs and Export-Import Bank. The Conclave was attended by more than 120 delegates from the public and private sectors, about a third of which

came from LAC. Throughout the two-day event, around 40 panelists and presenters engaged in key discussions about bilateral trade, while B2B meetings were held in adjacent rooms.

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Fundação Getúlio Vargas and the IDB Spark Action for Smarter Cities

In Brazil this fall, the IDB and **Fundação Getúlio Vargas** teamed up around urban development through the 2015 UrbanTec Brazil Smart Solutions for Better Cities Conference. An event focused on best planning strategies, management, and funding models for urban development, the conference utilized global case studies so mayors, administrators, and planners can learn to use technological and social innovation to create more smarter cities. Other sponsors included **the European Investment Bank, TÜV Rheinland, KfW, AVG Köln, Doppelmayr, and Itaú.**

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The 9th China-LAC Business Summit Fosters Stronger Ties in Mexico

In Mexico this October, the China-LAC Business Summit once again brought together key leaders from China and across Latin America and the Caribbean. Organized by **Proméxico** and **the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT)** with the IDB as a sponsor, this platform seeks greater economic cooperation with a focus on trade and investment.

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In Tokyo, GRULAC Ambassadors and the Americas Society/Council Gather to Discuss Asia-LAC Ties

The President and Vice President of the Americas Society/Council of the Americas, Ms. Susan Segal and Mr. Eric Farnsworth, visited the IDB's Office in Asia this fall for a meeting with GRULAC Ambassadors. Twelve Ambassadors and their alternates attended to spark exchange on the activities of the Council of the Americas and discuss ways to strengthen ties between Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

In China, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the IDB Foster Capacity Building

In China this September, the Second Policy and Knowledge Summit sought to strengthen leadership and capacity building for public sector executives. Featuring high-level participation from the public, private, non-profit, and academic sectors, the event was organized by the **Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)** and the IDB, allowing participants from China and Latin America and the Caribbean to share best practices to inform policy-making, as well as to identify opportunities to foster collaboration in this space.

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In Mexico, the IDB Discusses Resilient Cities

Within the context of its partnership with **100 Resilient Cities**, an initiative pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation, the IDB participated in the 100 Resilient Cities Platform of Partners Summit

for two days of urban resilience networking and learning. Held in Mexico City this November, the Summit featured working groups of over 40 Platform Partners, Chief Resilience Officers (CRO), and resilience liaisons from more than 50 cities, aiming to solve ongoing urban development challenges. The Summit was held in conjunction with the annual CRO Summit, which provided networking opportunities and encouraged Partner and CRO collaboration around global urban resilience.

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OPPORTUNITIES

Open for Partnership: Bogota Session Recruits New Allies to Improve the Lives of *Tenderos*



As part of its partnership with **SABMiller**, the IDB through its Multilateral Investment Fund co-organized an informational session in Bogota this October to create synergies among companies committed to uplifting *tenderos* (or small shopkeepers) through the 4e program. Seeking to uplift 40,000 *tenderos* in six countries through training, knowledge exchange, and more, the session shed light on this SABMiller-IDB Group partnership, recruiting allies in this journey to improve the lives of *tenderos*, and their communities more broadly, through partnership. For information on working with us on this effort, please contact [the IDB's Office of Outreach and Partnerships](#).

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