



MEDIA RELEASE

Emerging Leaders in the Americas Scholarship Program: Visit to Canada leads to 22 agreements between Canada and the Americas

Ottawa, November 25, 2009: To facilitate new exchange agreements between North-South post-secondary institutions, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) in November organized a series of collaboration visits under the Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP) with the support of the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE). CBIE manages ELAP and a series of other major scholarship programs on behalf of DFAIT.

The objective of the mission was to promote educational partnerships between Caribbean and Latin American institutional representatives and their Canadian counterparts with a view to providing students with greater opportunities to participate in the ELAP scholarship program. ELAP scholarships, of four to six months in duration, are available under the aegis of an international exchange agreement between institutions.

The collaboration mission took place from November 8-14 and brought together 29 key senior officials from Caribbean and Latin American universities and colleges to meet with institutional representatives across Western Canada. The mission included participating in the 43rd CBIE annual conference in Toronto and allowed participants to network with CBIE's vast membership of institutions from across Canada while learning about the latest developments in international education. The Inter-American Organization for Higher Education was present at the CBIE conference to facilitate connections between champions and Canadian institutions. A three-day western trip to Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver followed with delegates able to connect with Canadian institutions they had contacted prior to their visit.

During their trip to Western Canada, participants had the opportunity to meet with provincial government representatives who were guest speakers during our sessions. Mr. Darcy Rollins, Director of the Alberta International Education Branch provided a detailed presentation about the education system in this province. In Edmonton, Mr. Barry Tonge, Acting Director of the provincial government's International Education Branch, provided a thorough explanation of the government's view on international education and existing exchange opportunities in their province. Institutional representatives from Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia made presentations at various locales during the mission. Canadian and Americas institutions were able to receive first-hand information about ELAP and other scholarship programs from DFAIT and CBIE representatives.

Latin American and Caribbean delegates met with numerous university and college representatives during the mission, signing 22 Memoranda of Understanding. Moreover the international

representatives expressed their commitment to continuing discussions with Canadian partners towards broader cooperation.

ABOUT ELAP

ELAP was launched in April 2009 after its announcement by Prime Minister Stephen Harper during the Summit of the Americas. ELAP targets Caribbean and Latin American students at the graduate and undergraduate levels and seeks to provide up to 1,600 scholarships over the next four years for study and research exchanges between Canadian post-secondary institutions and their counterparts in the region. The program's goal is to advance the Canadian government's strategy in the Americas by supporting human capital development and a new generation of leaders in the Americas while strengthening linkages between Canadian institutions and those in partner countries of the hemisphere.

See www.scholarships.gc.ca – <http://www.scholarships.gc.ca/ELAPNonCdn-PFLAEtr-Eng.aspx>

For more information:

Jennifer Humphries, Vice President, Membership and Scholarships, CBIE
Telephone: 613-237-4820 Ext. 246 - jhumphries@cbie.ca

DFAIT is the Canadian government's centre of expertise on foreign affairs and international trade that promotes Canada's interests, the security and prosperity of Canadians, and advances the Canadian values freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

CBIE is a national not-for-profit educational association made up of nearly 200 school boards, colleges, universities and associates. It is involved in both aid-supported and trade-related educational projects around the world.

