



*The Premier Economic Development,  
Innovation and Entrepreneurial  
Network of the Americas*

## ***Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)***

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### **1. What is the Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE)?**

The [Americas Competitiveness Exchange \(ACE\)](#) is the premier economic development, innovation, and entrepreneurial network of the Americas and is one of the leading High-Level events of the Organization of American States (OAS). Twice a year, the ACE brings together up to 50 senior-level government, business, policy, and economic decision-makers from across the Americas and beyond to experience first-hand the diverse range of projects, strategic investments, public-private partnerships, and best practices from a particular region's economic, innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem. These top global leaders are selected to participate in the week-long program to engage with innovation hubs, advanced technology centers, leading firms, educational and research institutions; explore local, regional, urban, and rural economic development models; share experiences and knowledge; build networks to enhance competitiveness in the Americas; promote sustainable and inclusive economic development; and increase trade and investment opportunities.

### **2. Who is part of the ACE Network?**

The [ACE Network](#) is a vibrant and dynamic community of over 800 top stakeholders from the public, private, and academic sectors from across the Americas and beyond. The ACE program brings together movers and shakers engaged in advancing innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusive economic development in their countries, regions, or localities.

### **3. What are the outcomes of ACE?**

The ACE is a result-oriented program that is continuously measured. Some of the [ACE Outcomes](#) reported include:

- ✓ The consolidation of a \$10M research and development program to support innovation ventures between Brazil and Israel
- ✓ The launch of Haiti's first Incubator Center for Technological Innovation (ALPHA Haiti) modeled after U.S. and Mexico incubators and supported by ACE leaders
- ✓ The incorporation of a new aerospace company called Aerospacefy LLC in Puerto Rico, subsidiary to Orbital Engenharia S.A. from Brazil
- ✓ The creation of The Ithaka Center of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Catholic University of Uruguay (UCU)

- ✓ A collaboration between MARS (Toronto) and the Colombian Federation of Software and IT Industry (FEDESOFIT) on capacity building for SMEs in Colombia and soft-landing services for Colombian companies to scale-up into Canada
- ✓ The creation of the Club of Entrepreneurs in Tucuman, Argentina
- ✓ The Creation of an Information and Communication Technologies Incubator and Accelerator in Bogota
- ✓ The establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding between Argentina and Germany for joint funding of research and development projects for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)

## 4. How can I report results or an opportunity for collaboration?

If you would like to report an outcome of your participation in the ACE, share a collaboration opportunity, or obtain additional information about the ACE program, please reach out through the [ACE Help Desk](#).

## 5. Who is invited to participate in the ACE Program?

Top decision-makers from the OAS Member States and Permanent Observers who work on areas related to economic development, innovation and entrepreneurship are invited to apply. Applicants can be from the public, private, or academic sector, including Ministers, Vice Ministers, Mayors or Senior Leaders from cities/provinces, Chancellors/Vice Chancellors of Universities and Directors of Innovation Centers, CEOs and managers of leading companies, Presidents of Competitiveness Councils and Chambers of Commerce, top entrepreneurs, among others. Participants are selected through a competitive process by the ACE Organizing Committee.

## 6. If I am selected for the ACE, what is the cost of participating?

The organizers offer the ACE program with no registration fee or support fee. The Program Organizers provide local transportation throughout the program by bus, most meals, and preferential rates at the ACE selected hotels. Participants will be responsible for booking and paying for their airfare and hotel accommodation at the ACE selected hotels in the different cities, airport-hotel-airport transportation, and other small miscellaneous items.

## 7. What happens if I am selected to participate in ACE?

Selected participants will receive an official letter of acceptance to attend the ACE program. 50 selected global and regional leaders will travel through different cities during a week to visit top innovation hubs, advanced research and technology centers, cutting-edge companies, and leading academic institutions.

## 8. Where can I find more information?

For more information about previous editions of the program please visit the [ACE Library](#), where you will find presentations, reports, videos playlist, and photo galleries. You can also visit the [ACE history](#) and [Acknowledgement](#) to explore some of the program's milestones.

## 9. What language is used in the Program?

The program is conducted in English.

## 10. Who offers the ACE Program?

ACE is convened in the context of the RIAC by its Chair Pro Tempore (revolving every two years); the Government of the United States, through the U.S. Department of Commerce [the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in coordination with the International Trade Administration (ITA)] and the U.S. Department of State; and the General Secretariat of the OAS as the RIAC Technical Secretariat.

## 11. How to host an ACE Program in my country?

OAS Member States and Permanent Observers interested in hosting an ACE program should follow this four steps under the [Application to Host an ACE Guide](#):

**First Step:** Submission of a Letter of Intent to the OAS, in an exploratory phase;

**Second Step:** Submission of a Detailed Application to Host as a complete proposal at least 9 months prior to the program, which is the official request;

**Third Step:** Selection and announcement by the ACE Organizing Committee at the preceding ACE or ACF; and

**Fourth Step:** Implementation Agenda and Itinerary, in collaboration with the OAS and ACE Committee.

## 12. Who should I contact?

Feel free to contact Adriana Bonilla, the ACE Program Coordinator at [abonilla@oas.org](mailto:abonilla@oas.org), and Cristina Narváez at [cnarvaez@oas.org](mailto:cnarvaez@oas.org).



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