APPLICATION GUIDE

ECUADOR
Quito - Guayaquil

Americas Competitiveness Exchange
November 13 - 17, 2022

APPLY HERE!

https://riacevents.org/ACE/ecuador
Dear Applicant,

Ecuador looks forward to partnering with you!

The Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) is heading to Ecuador from November 13 to 17, 2022, in Quito and Guayaquil.

If you are a high-level authority, a leading decision maker in the public or private sector, academia, or a top entrepreneur transforming economic development, innovation, and entrepreneurship in your country/city/community, the ACE program is a unique opportunity for you, and we strongly encourage you to apply.

During the five days, a VIP group of selected participants will learn and connect with Ecuador’s top universities and research institutions, rural and urban development programs, emerging innovation centers, robust companies across sectors, and entrepreneurial initiatives. In addition, participants will have a unique opportunity to engage with local leaders from Ecuador’s booming industries and learn about their productive sector, technological advancement, fishing industry, agribusiness, tourism, logistics, and business support clusters.

ACE Ecuador is convened by the Ministry of Production, Trade, Investment and Fisheries, with the support from Ecuador’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the OAS.

The ACE program is offered by the Organization of American States (OAS) as the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC) Technical Secretariat, with the support from the Government of the United States, through the U.S. Department of Commerce [the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the International Trade Administration (ITA)] and the U.S. Department of State/Permanent Mission of the United States to the OAS.

Kindly note that applications are accepted by the ACE Selection Committee on a rolling basis.

Apply early to increase your opportunities to be selected!

Deadline to Apply: Monday, September 19, 2022
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The Opportunity

No single country or entity can do it alone. We can't transform economic development in isolation. We all need to take part in the solution. ACE allows you to interact in a high-level environment with top global and regional leaders passionate about transforming economic development and helping their countries, cities, and communities in various areas.

With over 36,000 high-level authorities/officials, top leaders and experts engaged since 2014, ACE is more than just an event. It is a network of networks for which sites, hosts, participants, communities, and countries provide the opportunities for collaborative economic problem solving that no one site, community, or person can do alone. It is creating the catalytic partnerships that lead to deals. When the right partners come together, great things happen for innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development.

Investing in ACE leads to economic outcomes. As of now, 14 #ACXchange editions have successfully been implemented, 64 regions have been explored, and 1,120 projects have been showcased.
General Objectives of the Program

The main goals of ACE are:

- Promoting long-term multilateral commercial, trade, and investment partnerships among decision-makers of the Americas and beyond;

- Identifying and sharing best practices in economic development, including public-private partnerships, building local assets that grow businesses, cluster development, promoting entrepreneurship, and coordinating regional economic development strategies;

- Stimulating capital investment and job creation in the region;

- Fostering an environment for innovative companies to startup and expand;

- Bringing together universities, industries, and governments to solve complex challenges no one sector or business could address on its own;

- Facilitating commerce and trade;

- Promoting economic resiliency; and,

- Enhancing equitable development and opportunities for underserved populations.
Testimonies

ACE is the BEST program I have attended! Thanks to all the organizers and people who helped to put this together! Logistics was amazing and so was the cooperation from all involved. Made some great friends and connections with other delegates!

Jag Badwal
Ontario Agent General Government of Ontario, Canada

For me it was a very enriching experience, in which I was not only able to learn new ways to carry out and promote topics that are of interest to the Ministry, but I also consider the program very relevant, in the sense of the opportunities for collaboration and growth that generates at a global level.

Leticia Carolina Bordón Medina
General Director of Productive Innovation and Digital Economy, Ministry of Information Technology and Communications, Paraguay

ACE for me is a great opportunity, a great opportunity to do networking within a group of participants and also between the different colleagues that I meet at the sites of the visit where they tell us about all the great things they are doing and how we can apply them back in our countries.

Marlon Brevé
Academic President
Central America Technological University (UNITEC), Honduras
My network has expanded tremendously. I now have access to a diverse resource of experts and materials that will only serve to better my abilities to execute my duties.

Dr. Charah T. Watson  
Executive Director,  
Scientific Research Council

ACE was a very humbling and character-building experience. From the things we learned, to the places we visited, food we shared, and endless enriching life experiences; all the way to the amazing friendships we now share. All these things go beyond this week’s exchange. It’s learning and opportunities we will keep on building upon with this wonderful network for the years to come.

Victor Di Rienzo  
Undersecretary Systems and Telecommunication,  
Cordoba Municipality, Argentina

Thank you so so much for opening your hearts and minds to the numerous possibilities for exchange and partnership across the Americas and beyond. Couldn’t be more excited about the past week, and the upcoming follow ups.

Ana Muñoz  
Founder & Learning Innovation Designer Un Cuarto Tech and Makers,  
Colombia

I have no words to express the appreciation for the ACE program and the value of the connections, information, and opportunities shared.

María Elena (Mae) Nazar Kafati  
Program and Business Development Manager,  
Pan American Development Foundation
What sets apart Ecuador

- Ecuador Open for Business: significant government endeavors to attract Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in coordination with the private sector

- Important productive capacity in the agricultural and fishing sector, and a hard-working, well-trained workforce

- Greatest biodiversity per square kilometer in the world. Invaluable natural wealth, great source of biodiversity, and exceptional climate

- Official currency: U.S. dollar

- Largest world exporter of bananas and shrimp

- Global tourist attraction
What will be covered?

- Competitiveness Strategy of Ecuador
- Quito's and Guayaquil's Economic Development Ecosystems
- Trade and Investment Opportunities
- Academic & Research Exchanges Opportunities
- Public, Private and Academia Sector Cooperation
- Inclusive and Equitable Economic Development Strategies
Featured Clusters

- Agribusiness
- Conservation and sustainability
- Circular economy
- Fishing Industry
- Infrastructure
- Energy
- Transformative Technologies
Profiles and Requirements to Apply

Who is invited to apply?

- Ambassadors / Diplomat-rank Officials and High-Level Representatives
- Ministers and Vice Ministers
- Mayors and Economy Secretaries
- Top Trade & Investment Officials
- CEOs or High-Level Private Sector Representatives
- Presidents/Vice-Presidents of Chambers of Commerce
- Presidents/Vice-Presidents of Universities
- Academics and Researchers
- Directors of Innovation
- Economic Development Leaders
- International Officials (including multilateral organizations)
- Top Entrepreneurs
Requirements to apply:

- Have a professional and academic background that facilitates inter- and intra-country development, such as foreign direct investment, trade, exports, business, supply chain linkages, shared technology, etc.

- Be able to allocate resources, propose, and adopt critical policies, and possess the necessary connections to make identified priorities and actions possible within their country and in collaboration with other countries.

- English fluency. All activities of ACE Ecuador will be carried out in English.

- Have a valid visa (if necessary) to enter Ecuador and be able to provide a visa, passport, photo, and other information required to complete travel procedures.

- Ability to participate in the entire ACE Ecuador program. Partial participation is not allowed.

- Ability to cover the cost of airfare and hotel accommodation. This is an essential point of consideration for the ACE Selection Committee. Limited financial support is available for specific requests presented to the ACE Committee for consideration.

- Provide proof of health insurance coverage for the duration of the program.

- Proof up-to-date COVID vaccinations.

Early bird applications will be given priority consideration.

Former participants are welcome to join the ACE in Ecuador. They would have to demonstrate concrete results of their participation and have filled ACE yearly consultations and other ACE consultations.

The program strives for geographical, sectorial, and gender balance when possible. Applications from underrepresented and diverse groups are highly encouraged.

The enhancement of economic inclusion is a core program value.
Logistics and Estimated Budget

The Program Organizers will provide the following to selected participants at no cost:

- Local transportation throughout the program from site to site in the cities of Quito and Guayaquil;
- VIP access to sites and experts;
- Meals during the official program hours;
- Preferential rates at the ACE selected hotels in Quito and Guayaquil;
- Access, advisory support, and facilitators from the Ecuador government, other Ecuadorian entities, and authorities and officials from the Organization of American States and the U.S. Government (Department of Commerce and Department of State).

Selected participants will be responsible for:

- Booking and paying for their airfare arriving and departing Ecuador;
- Booking and covering the cost of their hotel accommodations for the duration of the program in the ACE selected hotels;
- Arranging their transportation airport-hotel-airport; and
- Covering the remaining cost of meals outside of the program and other miscellaneous items.

Entering Ecuador: Visa and More Information

Please refer to the following link to review the countries that need a visa to enter Ecuador. Those countries that are not on the list, do not need a visa to enter the country.
Process and Selection Criteria

The selection process will take place as follows:

- Open Call for Applications → August 22, 2022
- Deadline to Apply → September 19, 2022
- Acceptance letters sent to the first pool of accepted candidates → On a rolling basis
- Acceptance letters sent to the second pool of accepted candidates → On a rolling basis
- Acceptance letters sent to the third pool of accepted candidates (if space available) → On a rolling basis

Important notice:

Official letters will only be sent to accepted participants. The RIAC/ACE Coordinating Committee shall consider the following criteria for selecting participants, in no particular order:

- Diplomatic Rank/Diplomatic protocol
- Public, private, and academic sector senior leadership
- Prior ACE hosts and participants who have shown ACE-related results, including in Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF) and the Group of Experts on Subnational Competitiveness (GTECS)
- Diversity: geographical, sectoral, and gender balance
- Capacity to cover the cost of their participation
- Ability to create long-term economic connections
- Top entrepreneurs and innovators
- Economic development system representatives

Kindly note that if a candidate is accepted into the program and he/she is unable to attend, the selected candidate cannot independently select an alternative candidate. The nomination is NOT transferable.

What are you waiting for?
Apply now for ACE Ecuador to seize the opportunity!
Apply Now

Website & Social Media Information

www.riacevents.org/ACE/ecuador

www.linkedin.com/company/the-americas-competitiveness-exchange-ace/mycompany

www.twitter.com/riacnetorg

www.facebook.com/riacnetorg

www.flickr.com/photos/89835551@N02/sets

www.youtube.com/user/riacnetorg/videos

Contact Person

Adriana Bonilla
ACE Program Coordinator
Organization of American States
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