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

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). The ACE brings together senior-level government, business, policy, and economic decision-makers from across the Americas and beyond. The VIP leaders are selected 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. Participants are selected to engage and connect with innovation hubs, advanced technology centers, leading firms, educational and research institutions, as well as to explore local, regional, urban, and rural economic development models.

**ACE Ecuador** is convened by the Government of Ecuador and the Organization of American States (OAS).

ACE was created and is supported by the OAS as the Inter-American Competitiveness Network Technical Secretariat, and 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 to the OAS.
2. When and where will ACE Ecuador take place?

The program will take place from November 13 to 17, 2022, in Ecuador, through the cities of Quito and Guayaquil.

Participants would have the option to schedule meetings for Friday, November 18 with Ecuadorian authorities, officials, business leaders, and/or fellow participants if they wish to stay in the City of Quito or in the City of Guayaquil. This is optional and not part of the official program.

3. Who can apply and participate in the program?

Top decision-makers from the OAS Member States and Permanent Observers who work on areas related to economic development, innovation and entrepreneurship from the public, private and academic sectors.

For example:

- Ministers and Vice Ministers
- Mayors and local top decision makers
- Chancellors/Vice-Chancellors and Directors of Innovation Centers
- CEOs and managers of leading companies
- Presidents of Competitiveness and Innovation Councils, and Agencies responsible for the Promotion of Entrepreneurship
- Senior Leaders of Regional Economic Development Groups
- Presidents and Vice Presidents of Chambers of Commerce
- Top entrepreneurs, among others.

#ACExchange
#ACEcuador
https://riacevents.org/ACE/ecuador
4. What are the requirements to apply?

- Have a professional and academic background that facilitates inter- and intra-country development; such as foreign direct investment, trade, exports, 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. Activities of ACE Ecuador will be carried out in English.

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

- Ability to participate in the five days-long ACE program. Partial participation is not allowed.

- Ability to cover the cost of airfare and hotel accommodation is an essential point of consideration for the ACE Selection Committee.

- Proof of health insurance coverage for the duration of the program.

https://riacevents.org/ACE/ecuador
5. How much does it cost to participate?

The organizers offer the ACE program to selected applicants with no registration fee. The Program Organizers will provide local transportation throughout the program: (i) by bus in the City of Quito and the City of Guayaquil, and (ii) by plane between these two cities (Quito > Guayaquil).

Participants will be responsible for booking and paying for their airfare (arriving to Ecuador and departing Ecuador), arranging their hotel accommodation at the ACE selected hotels, their airport-hotel-airport transportation, and other small miscellaneous items.

The program will start in the City of Quito on November 13 and end in the City of Guayaquil on November 17.

6. What areas will be covered during the ACE Ecuador program?

During ACE Ecuador, participants will have a unique opportunity to learn about Ecuador’s booming industries and about its productive sectors, technological advancement, its banana and shrimp industries and the resources available to companies and entrepreneurs. The main clusters that will be addressed in the program will be: agribusiness, conservation and sustainability, circular economy, fishing industry, infrastructure, energy and transformative technologies.

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

Selected participants will receive an official letter of acceptance to attend ACE Ecuador. Selected global and regional leaders will visit Quito and Guayaquil and their top innovation hubs, advanced research and technology centers, cutting-edge companies, and leading academic institutions. Prior to arriving in Ecuador, the group of selected participants would have opportunity to interact with the organizers and other fellow participants through the ACE Hours Sessions that will be scheduled before the program starts.
8. What language will be used in the program?

The program will be conducted in English.

9. If am selected to participate but I can’t attend, can I transfer my space to someone from my institution?

Selected participants cannot transfer their space in ACE Ecuador. The program will request that the alternative candidate apply to the program to be considered.

10. If I am selected to participate, can I be joined by someone from my team, or by a family member?

Colleagues or family members of selected participants cannot be part of the five days-long program if they have not been selected to participate by the ACE Committee through an official letter of acceptance to ACE Ecuador.

11. If I am selected, can I attend only part of the program?

Selected participants are expected to participate during the five-day program. Partial participation is not allowed.
12. **If I am selected and attend ACE Ecuador, does it mean I am part of the ACE Community?**

Once in ACE, always in ACE! Selected participants to ACE Ecuador who attend the program are part of the network of 1,500+ regional and global leaders that comprise the vibrant and diverse ACE Community.

In each edition of ACE, some spaces are reserved for ACE Alumni and ACE Ambassadors, and companies led by youth and women.

13. **Where can I review the list of past selected participants in previous ACE editions?**

The list of past selected participants who attended previous ACE editions is available here:
http://riacevents.org/ACE/?page_id=5104

14. **When will the Open Call for Application be open?**

It will be open on August 22, 2022.

15. **Where can I find more information?**

More information is available at https://riacevents.org/ACE/ecuador and the ACE Library with relevant information about prior ACE Editions.

**For questions, please contact:**

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https://riacevents.org/ACE/ecuador