

Innovations in Youth Employment: Insights from the NEO Initiative

25 April 2017

AGENDA

- 8:30 a.m.** **Registration**
- 9:00-9:05 a.m.** **Welcome**
Luis Alberto Moreno, President, Inter-American Development Bank, USA
- 9:05-9:10 a.m.** **Setting the Stage: Animation Describing NEO**
- 9:15-9:40 a.m.** **Opening Remarks**
Mauricio Doehner, Executive Vice-President of Corporate Affairs and Enterprise Risk Management, CEMEX, Mexico
Brigit Helms, General Manager, Multilateral Investment Fund, Inter-American Development Bank, USA
William Reese, President & CEO, International Youth Foundation, USA
- 9:45-10:45 a.m.** **Multi-Stakeholder Alliances: A Key Strategy for Promoting Sustainable Solutions to the Youth Employment Challenge**
This session will examine the benefits and challenges of an alliance-based approach to addressing the region's youth employment challenge. Panelists from three NEO alliances, representing the private, public, and civil society sectors and the coordinating organization of an alliance, will share their motivations for joining a NEO multi-stakeholder alliance and what they have learned about leading social change collectively.
Mauricio Doehner, Executive Vice-President of Corporate Affairs and Enterprise Risk Management, CEMEX, Mexico
Ramón Maciel Rojas, Director, National System of Professional Training, Paraguay
Germán Barragán Agudelo, Education and Work Manager, Fundación Corona, Colombia
Zuleika Plazaola, Coordinator, NEO Alliance, Panama
Moderator:
Bernardo Guillamon, Manager of the Office of Outreach and Partnerships, Inter-American Development Bank, USA
- 10:45-11:05 a.m.** **Reflection Time**
Participants will be asked to share with others at their tables their experiences working with multi-stakeholder alliances.

11:05-11:20 a.m. **Coffee Break** (*Auditorium Main Floor, A3*)

11:25 a.m.-12:35 p.m. **Youth Testimonial**

Viniolis Aquino Mieses from the Dominican Republic will share her thoughts on the impact that the NEO alliance has had on her and their peers.

The Power of Working Collectively: The Impact of a NEO Alliance

Drawing from the experiences of the NEO alliance in the Dominican Republic, panelists representing the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labor, and a national NGO, will describe their roles in promoting the creation and operation of a job placement office in public polytechnic high schools and new efforts on further scaling this model.

Sobeyda Sánchez Pérez, General Director of Intermediate Education, Ministry of Education, Dominican Republic

Elías Dinzey Rosario, General Manager, Fundación Popular, Inc., Dominican Republic

Samir Santos Jiménez, General Director of Employment, Ministry of Labor, Dominican Republic

Kathia Mejía, Executive Director, Fundación Sur Futuro, Dominican Republic

Moderator:

Emiliana Vegas, Education Division Chief, Inter-American Development Bank, USA

12:45-1:45 p.m. **Lunch** (*Las Américas, 7th Floor*)

2:00-3:00 p.m. **Quality Standards: An Essential Ingredient for a Stronger Youth Employability Ecosystem**

A signature feature of the NEO program is its emphasis on assessing and improving the quality of the services provided to vulnerable youth to increase their employability. These services include technical education and vocational training, career guidance, job placement and other supports. A representative of a public-school system in Panama, a former director of a vocational training institution in Colombia, and the coordinator of a NEO alliance will share their perspectives on the incentives and challenges associated with making quality improvements.

Iliana Cortéz Vega, National Director of Educational and Professional Guidance, Ministry of Education, Panama

Alis Muñoz Hernández, Educational Planning Specialist, NEO Alliance, Colombia

Carlos Gauto, Coordinator, NEO Alliance, Paraguay

Moderator:

Susan Pezzullo, Regional Director, International Youth Foundation, USA

3:00-3:15 p.m. **Coffee Break** (*Auditorium Main Floor, A3*)

3:15-4:20 p.m.

Youth and the Future of Work

Latin America and the Caribbean, like most regions of the world, is feeling the effects of the 4th industrial revolution, which will change the nature of work and types of skills tomorrow's workforce will need. This session will explore what this future might look like and what we should be doing today so that youth leaving school in 2025 are well prepared and social inequality does not increase. After the keynote speaker, we will hear from a youth leader and experts in the areas of labor markets and education on what adaptations they believe need to be made.

Keynote speaker: Mary Snapp, Corporate Vice President, Microsoft, USA

Discussants:

Oscar Contreras-Villarroel, Executive Director, Fundación EcoScience Chile, Chile

Carmen Pagés-Serra, Chief of Labor Markets and Social Security Division, Inter-American Development Bank, USA

Miguel Székely, Director, Centro de Estudios Educativos y Sociales, Mexico

Moderator:

Elizabeth Boggs Davidsen, Chief of Knowledge Economy Unit, Multilateral Investment Fund, Inter-American Development Bank, USA

4:20-4:50 p.m.

Reflection Time

Small group discussions on the ideas presented about the future of work.

4:55-5:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Bosco Martí Ascencio, Executive Director for Mexico and the Dominican Republic, Inter-American Development Bank, Mexico

Brigit Helms, General Manager, Multilateral Investment Fund, Inter-American Development Bank, USA

Efraín Castillo Córdoba, Medical student, Latin University of Panama, Panama

Peter Shiras, Executive Vice President, Partnership Development, International Youth Foundation, USA

5:30 p.m.

Adjournment

5:35 p.m.

Cocktail Hour (*Las Terrazas, 7th Floor*)

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