



BOLIVIA

Participant

Mr. German Ricardo POL ACHA

Presidential Delegate,
Counter-Corruption
Unit, Cochabamba
District; Professor,
National University of
San Simon, Private
University of el Valle,
Bolivian Private
University

Ms. Brigitte Allen Spanish Language Escort

Human Rights, Anti-Corruption & Dispute Resolution

April 10-13, 2004

A guest from Bolivia, Professor Pol Acha, visited Central Ohio April 10-13, 2004 as part of his US Department of State sponsored visit to the United States. The program, coordinated locally by the International Visitors Council, Inc. and nationally by Meridain International Center, is intended to provide insight into Anti-corruption techniques used in the United States.

BACKGROUND:

Bolivia has long been one of South America's poorest countries. Two-thirds of the country's citizens are members of impoverished indigenous communities, many of which subsist through farming coca, the raw ingredient for cocaine. There is a stunning wealth gap between the Bolivia's elites and its poor farmers, which only serves to increase social tensions. Moreover, Bolivia's unstable political situation, widespread civil unrest, and weak rule of law present serious long-term challenges to upholding and strengthening human rights.

In 1994, the government created a Human Rights Ombudsman's Office to better address human rights concerns across the country. Formerly a local representative of the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office in Bolivia's third largest city of Cochabamba, Mr. German Ricardo POL ACHA is a strong and balanced spokesman for human rights in an area of recurrent social conflicts. Having recently been appointed to the position of Counter-Corruption Presidential Delegate for Cochabamba District, Mr. POL ACHA is also concerned with monitoring and battling the corruption that plagues Bolivia's civil administration.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES: During his study tour of the United States, Professor Pol Acha visited Washington, D.C., and several other cities across the country, including Columbus. His goals for the program were:

- Function of human rights advocacy groups and their role in influencing public policy
- The role of civil society in combating corruption
- Role of the judiciary and law enforcement agencies in curbing corruption
- Conflict resolution commissions and their role in solving/mediating social conflicts

IVC's mission is to build partnerships between Central Ohioans and citizens of other countries that strengthen democratic ideals, encourage economic development, and promote cultural understanding through the exchange of ideas and knowledge.

Tentative Itinerary

Ohio Commission on
Conflict Management &
Dispute Resolution

Ohio Ethics Commission

The Ohio State University
College of Law

Ohio Attorney General

The delegate is in Columbus as part of IVC's International Visitor Program conducted under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. If you would like to learn more about this visiting delege, please call (614) 225-9057 or <mailto:info@columbusivc.org>.

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