

February 22, 2008

Dear Friends of Colombia,

We are just 2 ½ weeks away from the Cartagena conference and working diligently to put the final touches on the conference sessions and activities. The conference headquarters is the Hotel Charleston Santa Teresa. Check our website friendsofcolombia.org for the conference list and future notices.

Beginning Monday afternoon, February 4, please check in at the conference reception table which will be located next to the hotel reception. There will be one folder for each registered participant. Inside the folder you will find the conference program, a name tag, and other helpful information. We must ask you to wear the name tag at all times. It is your entrance to all events and is also necessary for security purposes. If you have not registered as yet please get in touch with me immediately at arlches@aol.com. At the conference registration desk look for sign up sheets for special events.

Some of the conference highlights are as follow.

Monday, February 4

7:00 p.m. Welcome reception at the Santa Teresa for all registered participants.

Tuesday, February 5

9 30 a.m. Ambassador Carolina Barco will open the conference. in the Salon Capilla at the Santa Teresa

12:00 noon Luncheon at the Santa Teresa sponsored by Chevron

2:30 p.m. Conference sessions resume

3:30 p.m. President Uribe will address the conference.

7:00 p.m. Cocktail party aboard the Colombia tall ship Gloria

Wednesday, February 6

10:00 a.m. Conference sessions begin

1:30 – 3:30 Visit community development projects in the Cartagena area. Details will be provided on Monday.

4:30-6:30 City Tour

Thursday, February 7

10:00 a.m. Conference sessions begin

11:00 a.m. Congressman Sam Farr will address the conference

Amb. Larry Palmer, President of the Inter-American Foundation

Afternoon – visit to FOC sponsored projects in Cartagena- details will be provided

Travel tips

1. Make a copy of information page of your passport. Keep you passport in the hotel safe and carry the copy with you.
2. Leave good jewelry at home and carry only costume jewelry
3. Be alert as you would be in any large city in any part of the world
4. Bring only one credit card.
5. Checks and cash are difficult to convert. The exchange rate at the hotels will be disadvantageous. It is best to use an ATM card for cash and to use a credit card whenever you can.
6. For information about recommended inoculations consult the Center for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov.
7. Wear flat shoes on the tall ship Gloria
8. This is the windy season with occasional showers. For evening you might want a shawl or light sweater
9. Some have asked about appropriate dress “ dressy casual” for social events seems to be appropriate, no coats or ties for men, guayaberas, white shirts and long pants are best. It is hot, hot, hot.
10. Ladies, carry a closed purse, secure under you arm.

See you in Cartagena.

Your planning committee,
Friends of Colombia