



Centro de Estudios
para el Desarrollo
Regional

Inter-American
Foundation



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
DECENTRALIZATION, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT, PARTICIPATION

Arequipa, Peru
June 17 – 20, 2002

Organized by: the Provincial Municipality of Arequipa, Macro Región Sur, and Centro De Estudios Para El Desarrollo Regional - CEDER

Funded by: the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) and Grupo Propuesta Ciudadana

Background:

Development is not just the product of State action, but also depends to a great extent on the action of society as a whole. The combined efforts of the various economic and social actors are needed to ensure the well-being of all people with equity and social justice.

To many, decentralization mainly involves the various State entities, and the role of the private sector and civil society is unclear. This concept excludes an important sector of society as a dynamic agent for local development.

The main purpose of this Conference is to encourage dialogue with respect to the role the private sector and civil society should play in local development, and the exercise of participative democracy within a process of State decentralization.

This Conference will also be a forum for discussion of successful experiences that encourage the formulation of policies and actions to be implemented by local and regional governments, thus helping to strengthen the decentralization process and the promotion of local development and citizen participation.

General Objective of the Conference:

This Conference starts from the assumption that one of the main obstacles to economic and social development, and one of the main causes of the persistent poverty in which the majority of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean lives, is the excessive centralization of the State in the majority of countries in the region. This centralization encourages the misuse of resources, restricts the consolidation of participative democracy, fosters corruption, and limits the creative potential of the population. The lack of decentralization and citizen participation are major factors in the growing

disillusionment of many individuals, especially young people, with national institutions, the exercise of democracy, and the hope for a better future.

The Conference hopes to encourage wide-ranging discussion and exchange of ideas and experiences with respect to successful cases of local economic development in Peru and other Latin American countries. The Conference will also study the importance of State decentralization for successful local development, the role of regional and local governments, and coordinated citizen participation. The agenda includes presentations on the European experience with decentralization, especially Spain's, and progress toward decentralization in Latin America. Finally, it will analyze the proposal for decentralization in Peru in light of the constitutional reform recently approved by the Peruvian Congress.

Specific Objectives:

1. To analyze the theoretical proposals and the models implemented in Europe and Latin America for organization of the state to enable it to manage decentralization processes.
2. To review successful experiences in local economic development with the participation of various societal actors, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations, community groups, and other organizations of civil society, with emphasis on methodological and practical elements.
3. To contribute to the design and generation of proposals for local economic development, participation, and local and regional governance.

Methodology:

The Conference will include authoritative presentations, panels, discussion groups, and plenary sessions. The presentations will deal with theoretical and practical aspects, aiming for broad participation by those in attendance.

The Conference hopes to formulate specific proposals reflecting participant consensus, strengthen exchanges among various countries in the region, and establish the bases for future dialogue on local economic development.

The agenda will be organized as follows:

1. Presentation, discussion, and analysis of theoretical and methodological aspects of local economic development, citizen participation, and State decentralization.
2. Presentation of successful experiences in local economic development, participation, and decentralization.

The proposed format is as follows:

1. Mornings: authoritative presentations addressing issues and cases. The prepared presentations will be delivered by subject matter experts. Expert commentators will share their reactions to the presentations.

2. Afternoons: workshops or round tables on the subjects addressed during the morning.
3. End of the day: a plenary session to present the results of the round tables and to hold a wide-ranging discussion of the subjects addressed.

The round tables will designate committees from among the participants to write up the results of their proposals for distribution to all participants on the following day.

On the last day there will be a plenary session to discuss the proposal for agreements and actions to be implemented. This proposal will be widely distributed to high decision making levels in the countries of the region and to organizations and individuals interested in local economic development.

Finally, the Conference hopes to promote the establishment of an international interinstitutional work group to monitor actions that promote decentralization, local economic development, and citizen participation.

Participants:

1. Specialists in State decentralization, local development, citizen participation, coordination, and intersectorial alliances.
2. Individuals responsible for successful experiences and local leaders from various Latin American and Caribbean countries who have participated in local economic development and decentralization processes.
3. Local and regional officials.
4. Representatives of public and private sector and civil society institutions who have an interest in the Conference topics.

We expect approximately 300 people from Peru, the rest of Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, and the United States to participate.

The principal speakers will be well-known academics or other experts on the Conference topics. All Conference participants are invited to submit a three-page summary of an experience in connection with one of the Conference topics. The organizers will invite some of the participants to make presentations on one of the panels. Participants who are invited to make presentations should prepare papers not exceeding 15 pages in length for distribution during the Conference.

Travel and per diem expenses:

The Conference organizers will offer full or partial grants to some participants. Those interested in receiving these grants should submit their applications to the Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo Regional (CEDER). Lunches are included and will be held at a common location. CEDER will make arrangements with hotels in Arequipa to obtain reduced room rates for participants.

Dates:

Arequipa, Peru, June 17-20, 2002. The Conference will be held at the Universidad de San Agustín, in downtown Arequipa.

TENTATIVE CONFERENCE AGENDA

DECENTRALIZATION, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT, PARTICIPATION

Arequipa, Peru
June 17 – 20, 2002

June 17

17:30 – 18:30 Registration

18:30 – 19:30 Opening session, Mayor of Arequipa and other officials

June 18

8:30 – 9:30 Registration

9:30 – 10:15 Presentation: Decentralization, Local Government, and Democracy in Europe (theoretical perspectives)

10:15-11:00 Panel discussion

11:00-11:30 Comments

11:30-11:45 Break

11:45-12:30 Presentation: Structure of the State, Role of the Regional and Local Governments; Balance in the Spanish Experience

12:30-13:15 Panel discussion

13:15-13:45 Comments

13:45-15:30 Lunch

15:30-19:30 Workshops

Topics:

- Popular Participation, Coordination for Development, Mechanisms and Experiences; Mechanisms for the Social Control of Public Management.
- Formulation of Local Strategic Plans, Relationship between the Public and Private Sectors – The Role of the Private Sector.
- Mechanisms for allocating resources and financing local development, Strategic alliances, the Role of the Private Sector, Participative Budget.

June 19

08:30 - 09:15 Presentation: Latin America – Theoretical and Policy Approaches to Decentralization

09:15 - 10:30 Panel discussion

10:30 - 11:00 Comments

11:00 - 11:15 Break

11:15 - 12:30 Presentation: Local Economic Development, the Role of the Public and Private Sectors, Theoretical Approaches

12:30 - 13:15 Panel discussion

13:15 - 13:45 Comments

13:45 - 15:30 Lunch

15:30 - 19:30 Workshops

Topics:

- The Private Sector and Local Development, Experiences with Alliances of Companies and Producers
- Promotion of Local Development, The Role of the Public and Private Sectors
- Decentralized Management of Public Services

June 20

08:30- 11:00 Presentation:

- The Peruvian Proposal for Decentralization, Chairman of the Congressional Decentralization Committee
- The Local Governments' Perspective, Chairman of the Congressional Committee on Local Governments
- State Reform: Representative of the Chair of the Cabinet Council

11:00- 11:15 Break

11:15-12:15 Comments

12:45-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:30 Workshops

Topics:

- Citizen participation in the management of public resources
- Mechanisms for allocating resources and funding local and regional development.
- Restructuring of the State and Central, Regional, and Local Governments, Functions and Areas of Responsibility.
- Funding and management of local and regional public services

16:30-16:45 Break

16:45-18:00 Plenary session on workshop conclusions

19:00- 21:00 Closing session

Pre-Registration Forms

Full name	
Institution	
Country	
City	
Home Phone	
Work Phone	
Personal and Institutional e-mails	
Brief summary of experience to be presented (maximum 3 pages)*	

* Related to the following workshop topics

Workshop Topics	Check
Popular Participation, Coordination for Development, Mechanisms and Experiences; Mechanisms for the Social Control of Public Management	
Formulation of Local Strategic Plans, Relationship between the Public and Private Sectors - The Role of the Private Sector	
Mechanisms for allocating resources and financing local development, Strategic alliances, the Role of the Private Sector, Participative Budget	
The Private Sector and Local Development, Experiences with Alliances of Companies and Producers	
Promotion of Local Development, The Role of the Public and Private Sectors	
Decentralized Management of Public Services	
Citizen participation in the management of public resources	
Mechanisms for allocating resources and funding local and regional development	
Restructuring of the State and Central, Regional, and Local Governments, Functions and Areas of Responsibility	
Funding and management of local and regional public services	