

## **Videoconference “Active Participation of Young People in the Summits of the Americas Process”**

*Press Release July 28*

On Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) and the World Bank Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) organized and hosted an international videoconference to discuss the importance of young people and their active role in the Summit of the Americas Process. The international Global Dialogue included participants linked from sites in Ecuador, Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Honduras and Washington D.C. at the studios of the World Bank (WB) Building.

The objectives of this session included the creation of a forum via online, and on site; and videoconference dialogues where ideas and suggested actions can be discussed vis-à-vis the themes of the IV Summit of the Americas as they relate to youth participation and how to make the summit themes relevant to young people. A regional report, with inputs and recommendations from the young people across the 34 Member States, will be produced by the YABT and its partners upon the conclusion of the upcoming “*Foro*”, which will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from August 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Participating from the Washington DC studios, Ms. Sherry Tross, Advisor to the OAS Assistant Secretary General, stated, “*By providing a space for young people in the Summit process, the Summit of the Americas Secretariat acknowledges the importance of youth input; and reaffirms the commitment of the OAS to youth development.*” Both Ms. Sherry Tross and Mr. Fabian Koss of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Youth Program emphasized the need for this important inter-institutional support and collaboration among the WB, IDB and OAS in existing youth programs across the region.

Officials from Ministries of Youth at the participating sites were joined by local university students, civil society representatives and various national organizations engaged in programs for young people. During the dialogue, YABT national coordinators for the *Foro* event talked about their efforts to solicit input and recommendations from the youth in their respective countries.

Learning from the various experiences in the different countries provided the international participants an opportunity to acquire important knowledge and perspectives from the presenters and their programs. The dialogue provided another opportunity for the YABT, OAS, WB, IDB’ representatives, and other organizations represented, to commit themselves to identify concrete action plans and goals to follow up for future dialogues and programs on youth in the region.

For more information about the *Foro* visit [www.ybiz.net/foro.asp](http://www.ybiz.net/foro.asp) . And for information about the IV Summit of the Americas visit: [www.summitsoftheamericas.org](http://www.summitsoftheamericas.org)