THE DAY OF ECUADOR AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

GLOBALIZATION AND EDUCATION: VISIONS FOR ACHIEVING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN ECUADOR AND THE US

Background:

The Republic of Ecuador, led by President Rafael Correa Delgado, has started an economic and social revolution, which has at its epicenter the rights of our citizens and environment. During the first six years of our government, we have committed our efforts in order to improve the economic situation and to guarantee a better life for Ecuadorians.

Important accomplishments have been obtained as a result of these efforts. Ecuador is one of the three top countries that has reduced poverty and inequality in Latin America (ECLAC, 2013), is the regional leader in terms of public investment as a percentage of GDP and has maintained a balanced growth during the last seven years (SENPLADES, 2013).

However among the most remarkable accomplishments of the last seven years of Government are related to the education reform. Gratuitous education has allowed us to have 96% of the national net enrollment rate for primary education in 2013, overcoming the historical discrimination that used to generate differences between mestizos, indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorians. The gross enrolment ratio in higher education has also increased from 33% in 2006 to 35% in 2013, improving the access to indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorians by 50% since 2006. More than 7,000 scholarships have been provided by the Government in order to facilitate studies of Ecuadorians in the best universities around the globe in the last seven years, thus we have granted 30 times more scholarships compared to the previous seven government together.

Kansas State University is a partner of the Ecuadorian Government, with whom we have been working in order to foster Ecuadorian human talent. Through the Go Teacher program, Kansas State University offers Ecuadorian teaching scholars quality English language development and pedagogical strategies in Teaching English as a Second Language. Hundreds of Ecuadorians have already participated in this program, and in August 2014 100 students more will complete their studies.

Kansas State University and the Embassy of Ecuador agreed on the importance of socializing Ecuador, it’s policies and relevant topics for national development within the University, and thus the proposal of doing a Day of Ecuador at Kansas State University was accepted.