



OECD Programme on Local Economic
and Employment Development



Andean Development
Corporation



National Ministry of Planning of
Colombia

**“EFFICIENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES:
EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE OECD”**

Bogotá, Colombia
16-17 September 2008

PROGRAMME

The Andean Development Corporation (CAF), full member of the LEED Directing Committee, has requested the OECD LEED Programme to jointly organise a conference in Bogotá in September 2008 hosted by the National Ministry of Planning (DNP) of Colombia. This event seeks to stimulate the exchange good practices in defining and implementing economic development strategies at the local level. This event will contribute to the policy dialogue between the OECD and Latin America, by providing a platform to discuss and identify relevant policy making approaches in order to achieve self-sustaining local development strategies. This note presents in detail the proposal for this event. It has been prepared by the OECD Secretariat in consultation with the delegates from the CAF and the National Ministry of Planning (DNP) of Colombia.

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**AN OECD CFE/LEED PROGRAMME EVENT
JOINTLY ORGANISED WITH THE CAF
ON**

**Efficient Local Development Strategies:
Exchange of Experiences between Latin America and the OECD**

**Bogotá, Colombia
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Programme

Introduction

1. Since its creation in 1982, the Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Programme of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has sought to offer participants a uniquely active approach within the OECD by providing: i) continuous monitoring and assessment of innovative local development practices and the diffusion of related findings; ii) analysis of initiatives, strategies and partnerships between government, business and civil society with the aim of complementing public policy and supporting local economic and social development; iii) elaboration of common methodologies and analytical frameworks for carrying out reviews and studies; and iv) a critical link both between sub-national institutions, and between the OECD and sub-national bodies.
2. For over two decades, the OECD LEED Programme has promoted the exchange of experiences and the diffusion of innovation in local economic and employment development. For its member countries, LEED provides assistance in the design, implementation and evaluation of local development strategies. Furthermore, with its outreach activity, LEED intends to broaden and promote the exchange of expertise and experience with non-OECD member countries, including those in the Latin American region, and to serve as a critical link between national and sub-national bodies worldwide.
3. Through international partner institutions such as the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the LEED Programme works closely with non-member countries, sharing expertise in the fields of social inclusion, economic co-operation and local development. The CAF promotes sustainable development and regional integration by efficiently attracting capital resources to provide a wide range of financial services, with high value added, to the public and private sectors of its shareholders countries. Capitalising on the CAF-LEED partnership, the Latin American countries can benefit as other LEED members, of OECD advice on how better define, implement and assess local development policies in their countries.
4. The CAF, full member of the LEED Programme, has expressed its commitment to foster social and local economic development in the Latin American region, drawing from the OECD LEED experience. This event was the first initiative from this formal collaboration.

Rationale

5. The OECD LEED Programme is celebrating its 25th anniversary at a moment in which the importance of people's empowerment and the role of local authorities in ensuring an integrated economic and social development are recognised among academia and in the policy making worldwide. Colombia has proven to have lots to share in the fields of local economic development and social inclusion. Indeed, Colombia can contribute significantly to the identification of the essential factors of success for an efficient policy delivery drawing from the successful practices recently implemented in various major cities.

6. To be efficient and effective, local economic development strategies should have a strong social perspective and should involve all relevant actors, of all fields, including those at the bottom of the pyramid. Colombia, like many other Latin American and OECD governments, is conscious that cities and regions must base their strategies on their local assets, knowledge, skills and other competitive advantages in order to be effective and sustainable.

7. Over the past few years, Colombia has successfully undergone a decentralisation process. The urgent need now is to strengthen the capacities of the regions, stimulating local economic and employment development in order to enhance the competitiveness and productivity of the municipalities and regions. The National Ministry of Planning (DNP) is hosting this event as the entity responsible for the regulation and coordination of economic development policies in the country. In particular, the DNP supports the economic development of the Colombian regions through the National Development Plan 2006-2010 named "Communitarian State: Development for All".

8. The national government, in coordination with the DNP, has supported an induction plan for the newly elected regional administrations and the elaboration of their development plans including, among others, the definition of local economic development strategies, programmes and projects. Moreover, the national government, together with the business community and the regional authorities, is preparing regional competitiveness plans that should be integrated into the entrepreneurial economic dynamics of the regions to stimulate the productivity, competitiveness, equitable and sustainable development at the local level.

9. With the support of the national government, the local authorities are playing a key role in facilitating the emergence of prosperity and in combating inequality and poverty at local level. In 2008, the 32 regions and 1101 municipalities defined their development plans 2008-2011 which were launched in June 2008. The majority of the government programmes that preceded these plans and their content have included objectives and strategies aiming at creating local environments that provide institutional development and socio-economic capacities. The current plans are not the exception.

10. Many Colombian cities, as many other cities in the Latin American region, have faced social and economic challenges that have led them to concentrate efforts in combating poverty, social exclusion and urban insecurity with a long-term local economic development strategy. With a set of efficient development policies, and with a demonstrated effective public management, cities such as Bogotá and Medellín have achieved to promote social cohesion and to boost economic growth over the past decade.

11. Today, public institutions in Bogotá have reached high-levels of efficacy that is reflected in the definition, implementation and delivery of policies. A strong institutional framework is perceived and the economic strategy of the city is a good example from which other cities and regions could learn. The city of Bogotá was therefore the perfect place to discuss and exchange ideas on the essential elements necessary to achieve a long-term economic and social prosperity at local level, led by an effective public administration and a comprehensive strategy.

Event proposal and structure

12. In the context of the successful economic development policies implemented locally in major Colombian cities over the past few years, the OECD Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Programme organised an international event to exchange international good practices in policy making and delivery between the OECD, Colombia and other Latin American countries. Particularly, this event contributed to strengthening collaboration between the OECD and Latin America in this field of work, with a particular emphasis in the experience of some Colombian cities. This event was jointly organised with the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), with the support of the National Ministry of Planning (DNP) of Colombia.

13. The event took place over two days, where wide arrays of topics were addressed and different approaches were adopted. Day one hosted a major international conference to discuss and exchange good practices and methods in the definition and implementation of economic development strategies at the local level. The conference was open to the public and gathered over 600 local, regional and national authorities from Colombia, the OECD and other Latin American countries, together with various local development actors.

14. Day two proposed a half-day capacity-building seminar on local economic development for a selected group of authorities and practitioners from Colombia and other Latin American countries. The aim of this seminar was to discuss and learn from each other and from some practical experiences across the OECD. The seminar included a general introduction, followed by four parallel workshops, where a reduced number of participants discussed a case study and then came up with practical approaches that could be implemented in their home countries. This day was facilitated by a group of high-level international experts invited by the OECD.

15. The event was structured as follows:

	Tuesday 16 September	Wednesday 17 September	
	<i>International conference (open to public → 650 pax)</i>	<i>Capacity-building seminar (by invitation only → 80 pax)</i>	
Morning	Opening	Introduction of the working themes	
	Morning session	First round of parallel workshops	First round of parallel workshops
		Second round of parallel workshops	Second round of parallel workshops
		Conclusions of the workshop	
	Lunchtime	Lunchtime	
Afternoon	Afternoon session		
	Conclusions and closing remarks		

Objectives

16. The presentation of international experiences and the reflection and debate on the success factors to achieve economic and social development in the regions, taking into account their particularities, is of great importance for the implementation phase of the regional development plans in Colombia and the definition of local economic development strategies in other countries.

17. Thus, this event aims at facilitating a platform to discuss the importance of efficiency and effectiveness of public policies as means to local economic development and social inclusion. This will be an opportunity for representatives of cities and regions from OECD and Latin American countries to share their experience in defining, implementing and delivering policies within an economic development strategy, based on the experience of the city of Bogotá, Colombia, and cities in other Latin American and OECD countries.

18. The event seeks also to complement and reinforce the activities of the OECD LEED Programme and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) to spread a culture of exchange and evaluation of local development initiatives in the Latin American region. This event will also provide an opportunity to share the Colombian experience and to identify methods and approaches from different OECD regions that could be adopted in Latin America.

19. In particular, this event aims to:

- Encourage the exchanges and collaboration between the government organisations, the private sector, the academics, practitioners, researchers and various social entities;
- Analyse the impact of local development strategies on the economic and social welfare, and its importance to achieve social and economic prosperity;
- Identify the key factors of success and set the criteria to implement efficiently local economic development strategies;
- Raise awareness among local authorities of the dimension, nature and value of the local economic development strategies;
- Exchange experiences of public-private-social partnerships to deliver economic development strategies at the local level;
- Assist local, regional and national authorities and policy makers in the definition and implementation of economic development strategies;
- Present experiences that articulate the business sector, the research institutions, the civil society and the government organisations to activate the endogenous development; and
- Share international practices and models of local economic development that can contribute to the dynamisation of the territories.