

Brief Bio
Roy L. Thomasson

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Roy Thomasson is Principal Specialist at the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development of the Organization of American States.

In 1999 Roy founded the Young Americas Business Trust, a non-profit corporation at the OAS to support the work of the OAS in young entrepreneurial and leadership development in the thirty-four OAS Member States.

He has worked in entrepreneur programs for young people since 1968, almost forty-years, beginning at the age of twenty-one in the US Peace Corps in Malaysian Borneo.

- Since 1985 as Principal Specialist in the OAS, he innovates, manages, and leads technical cooperation initiatives among OAS Member States and with international financial institutions, and the business community, and nongovernmental organizations. He transferred to Washington in 1994.
- His experience in international development focuses on program design, startup, management, and evaluation of programs to combat youth poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean through entrepreneurship.
- In the past ten years, as Chief Executive Officer of the Young Americas Business Trust, (YABT) a public / private sector partnership to promote entrepreneurship for young people by the OAS with follow-up to the Presidential Summits of the Americas and the work of the OAS across a broad range of priority i.
- He liaises with high-level political and diplomatic leaders in the OAS Member States and builds alliances with national associations of young entrepreneurs and universities in the Americas and Asia.
- As adviser international donors such as, the World Bank and World Bank Institute, Global Development Learning Network, Inter-American Development Bank, US Small Business Administration, he is a developer and innovator of new initiatives and strategies for increasing resources for entrepreneurs and programs.
- From 1985 until 1993 he was Regional Project Chief of the OAS Department of Economic and Social Affairs in thirteen OAS Member States in the Caribbean, based in Nassau, Bahamas.
- A native of North Carolina, Roy worked for ten years at Yadkin Valley Economic Development District, Inc. and in state and regional economic development and small business initiatives there.
- A graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a BA in International Studies, he is married to Elena Vasquez of Lima, Peru. They have two amazing daughters, age.19 and 22. .