

Biofuels in the Americas Technology, Investment, and the Path Forward to Take Place January 24

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MIAMI--(BUSINESS WIRE)--January 18, 2008--Florida International University's (FIU) Energy Business Forum will host an all day conference to discuss current hemispheric biofuels production, technology transfer, investment barriers and prospects, and next generation technologies, with the aim to foster collaboration. The event will take place in the Graham Center Ballrooms, University Park, beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 7:00 p.m. Keynote speakers include, Ambassador Craig A. Kelly, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Arnaldo Vieira de Carvalho, Inter-American Development Bank, Energy Division, Infrastructure and Environment Department, and Mr. Robin Speer, Vice President Public Affairs, Canadian Renewable Fuels Association.

The purpose of this conference is to address how hemispheric collaboration can help the Americas collectively secure its energy future, specifically discussing biofuels technology status for production and use of biofuels that can complement or displace traditional fuels, and biofuels investment opportunities for bringing such technologies to the marketplace.

The conference will consist of a morning plenary discussion on where we are in the hemisphere in terms of biofuels technology and investment. This session will be followed by a presentation by Ambassador Kelly, on US biofuels engagements in the Western Hemisphere, and 3 roundtable discussions, Technology, Investment, and the Path Forward. A key theme throughout the day will be sustainability and harnessing this industries' potential for economic development throughout the region. Distinguished panelists include U.S. pioneers in cellulosic ethanol, along with government and private sector representatives from Canada, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Argentina, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Brazil.

This event is presented by the Energy Business Forum of the Knight Ridder Center for Excellence in Management in FIU's College of Business Administration and the Center for Energy and Technology for the Americas in the Applied Research Center.

The event is sponsored by the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship Studies, Chevron Products Company, The Organization of American States, ETH BioEnergy Inc., Florida Crystals Corporation, GovTec Corporation and General Motors. Supporters include: The US Department of State, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, Interamerican Ethanol Commission, Caribbean Central American Action, UK Trade and Investment, Manchester Trade, Consulate General of Canada in Miami, InfoAmericas, WorldCity, and CAMACOL.

The event website is: <http://krcem.fiu.edu/index.html> This event is \$149 and open to the general public but space is limited. Media can attend free of charge. Please RSVP on the conference website at <http://krcem.fiu.edu/index.html> at energy@business.fiu.edu or call 305-348-0399

Select Speaker Biographies

Dr. Brenda Haendler, Science and Technology Officer and International Energy Coordinator Liaison, Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Dr. Brenda Haendler is an American Association for the Advancement of Science Diplomacy Fellow currently serving her second year at the U.S. Department of State in the Energy, Sanctions and Commodities Office in the Economics, Energy and Business Bureau. Dr. Haendler works on international energy policy and is a core member of the U.S. team implementing the U.S.-Brazil biofuels memorandum of understanding. Under this initiative, Dr. Haendler specifically focuses on the implementation of feasibility studies and technical assistance projects focused on biofuels production and consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Dr. Haendler has a M.S. and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Before graduate school Dr. Haendler worked at Hughes Space and Communications (now Boeing Satellite Systems) where she led a team in the designing and building of the payload of a telecommunications satellite currently operating in geosynchronous orbit over Europe. Dr. Haendler also has three years experience as a product designer at a proton exchange membrane fuel cell start-up company. During her graduate career, Dr. Haendler was awarded a Management of Technology entrepreneurship fellowship and a fellowship to study the economic development of China. She was also the recipient of an American Association of University Women dissertation writing fellowship.

Luis M. Kolster, Assistant General Counsel & Director of Public Policy, General Motors Latin America, Africa & Middle East Luis M. Kolster is Assistant General Counsel & Director of Public Policy, General Motors Latin America, Africa & Middle East. Luis M. Kolster previously served as Director, Public Policy, Public Relations and General Counsel for General Motors Venezolana C.A., a position he assumed in August 2002, with responsibilities in trade, government relations, corporate social responsibility, communications, public relations and all legal issues at General Motors Venezolana headquarters in Valencia and Caracas, Venezuela. In January 1998, he started at General Motors Venezolana in Valencia as In House Counsel with responsibilities over all legal issues including litigation. During this time he joined the GM's Latin America, Africa and Middle East Legal Function. Before that, Kolster worked as an attorney in the Banco Republica as part of the Progreso Financial Group in 1993.

Born in Caracas, Venezuela, he earned a Law degree from Universidad Catolica Andres Bello, Caracas, Venezuela in 1993. He then obtained a Master Degree in Law at University of Houston, Law Center, in 1997. He also received a Corporate Law Specialist Degree from Universidad Catolica Andres Bello in 2001. He completed the Programa Avanzado de Gerencia recognized management program at the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administracion (IESA) in 2003. He has also received Distinguished Alumni by being elected by the student body to the Student Representative Office of the Universidad Catolica Andres Bello, Law School in 1992.

Ambassador Moises Starkman Pinel, Adviser for Special Projects to the President of Honduras