

Sustainable Development - Innovative Partnerships International Roundtable

The keynote address "***International Roundtable: Building Water Infrastructure for Sustainable Development – Innovative Partnerships***" will be delivered by Mr. Abel Mejia, Sector Manager, Water Department, the World Bank. Abel Mejia is the Water Manager at the Infrastructure Department of the World Bank in Washington D.C. Since July 2007, Abel is leading the Water Anchor Unit which is responsible for policy, expert and strategic advice to the regional operational units, knowledge management and professional development across the water group, and coordination of the water agenda with international and technical organizations. Abel holds Masters Degrees in Civil Engineering Management and in Industrial Engineering from Stanford University, and is a Civil Engineer from the Catholic University of Venezuela.

Key Questions

- 1) *In light of the global move to sustainable development, do large scale infrastructure projects still play a catalytic role in a countries economic development? If not, what are the alternatives?*
- 2) *The perception is that the development banks are not always effective in delivering water services to the poor. Why is this and how can engineers help? When is investment in capacity building more important than in the physical project? Is money the only obstacle to delivering clean water to the poor?*
- 3) *The engineering professional community and the World Bank have been pressing the anti-corruption agenda for several years. What are the specific issues related to water projects?*
- 4) *Engineering societies have developed policy statements with respect to water, capacity building, and sustainable development. How might these be more directly aligned with those of the Bank?*
- 5) *How can engineers work cooperatively with the Bank, what are the specific activities for a 3 to 5 year program that would accomplish this – innovative project approaches, interactive workshops, professional exchanges?*

We sincerely hope that your society is planning to attend the conference and participate in the International program.

We look forward to your response to the key questions and to your participation in Orlando.

Kindest regards;

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