

Fact Sheet: Advances in U.S.-Ecuador Relations
under U.S. Ambassador Adam Namm
September 28, 2015

Development, Security, and Technical Assistance

- Tens of millions of dollars in assistance delivered to Ecuador from 2012-2015 to support environmental conservation, economic development and social inclusion, security, and support to civil society
- Disaster preparedness assistance including recent visits by expert volcanologists from the U.S. Volcano Disaster Assistance Program
- Significant cooperation on security and counter narcotics, including information sharing, equipment donations and training, and operational support to law enforcement operations that have stemmed the flow of drugs, contraband, human trafficking, and other transnational crime; through cooperation with Ecuadorian authorities, the U.S. government has interdicted 124 suspected smuggling vessels and seized more than 29 metric tons of cocaine in international waters

People-to-People Ties

- Significant expansion of consular operations – including five additional consular officers (two more coming), and the opening of a new, \$66 million U.S. Consulate General facility in Guayaquil – to meet growing two-way travel.
- Record numbers for U.S. visa issuances to Ecuadorians- over 163,000 visas were issued by Quito and Guayaquil in FY 2014, which is more than double the number of visas issuances in FY 2011.
- More than 330,000 Ecuadorians visited the U.S. in 2014, a 32 percent increase over the previous year and the largest increase for any nationality, and more than 260,000 U.S. citizens visited Ecuador (all-time highs)
- Music diplomacy – Ambassador's six-city blues tour in September/October 2014 and multiple performances with Ecuadorian musicians has enriched cultural connections between the U.S. and Ecuador
- Strong support for people-to-people exchanges, such as Youth Ambassadors, student and professional exchanges, Fulbright program, arts, sports, and cultural patrimony

Education

- More than doubling of English language scholarship programs across the country
- Support for the establishment of a new standardized curriculum for English teachers-in-training, and support to various municipalities on English teaching standards
- Historic highs in academic exchanges – more than 2,600 Ecuadorians studying in the U.S. (a nearly 20% increase over the past 3 years) and 3,400 U.S. students in Ecuador
- U.S. is Ecuador's top partner in higher education, and Ecuador is the 17th most popular destination abroad for U.S. students

Trade and Economic Cooperation

- U.S. remains Ecuador's top trading partner – two-way trade approached \$20 billion in 2014, and billions in trade create prosperity and opportunity in both countries
- USAID projects supported economic development and significant advances in agricultural production, especially along the northern border provinces
- Support for entrepreneurship and women's economic advances through USAID projects, Women's Entrepreneurship in the Americas initiative, and workshops for Ecuadorian women entrepreneurs