

Dear AREUEA Colleagues:

The Los Cabos international program is shaping up nicely. We have 25 sessions covering a range of topics in urban economics, housing, real estate and finance, in the U.S. and around the world. For those with a special interest in Mexico, thanks in large part to our colleagues in HUD's international office (Alven Lam and Shannon Sorzano), the AREUEA conference in Los Cabos now looks like a U.S.-Mexico Housing and Urban Development Summit. Key U.S. and Mexico policy makers coming to Los Cabos include:

U.S. HUD Secretary Alfonso Jackson

Mexico National Housing Commissioner (Minister) Carlos Gutiérrez

Dr. Eduardo Sojo Garza Aldape, Jefe de la Oficina para las Políticas Públicas de la Presidencia

Dr. Guillermo Babatz Torrez, Director General de la Sociedad Hipotecaria Federal (SHF)

Commissioner Gutiérrez is the Mexican counterpart of Secretary Jackson.

Eduardo Sojo is the Chief of the Presidential Office of Public Policy and is one of the five principals (2 US and 3 Mexican) of the US-Mexico Partnership for Prosperity, a presidential initiative created by Presidents Bush and Fox in 2002 to foster economic development in Mexico.

Guillermo Babatz is the General Director of the Mexican Federal Mortgage Society (SHF) which was created in 2001 to provide loans through SOFOLES (non-bank banks) and commercial banks.

Secretary Jackson, Commissioner Gutiérrez, and Drs. Sojo and Babatz will be active participants in our meeting, including special plenary sessions focusing on housing policy and housing finance. In addition to our "usual AREUEA suspects," we will have a number of other international participants, and participants from multilateral organizations, including a keynote address from Dr. Bertrand Renaud, until recently the World Bank's Housing Finance Advisor. We are extremely pleased that these colleagues will be joining us.

As you know, the meeting is coming up very soon, August 4 and 5. We've had a few unavoidable last minute cancellations, and so there are a few slots open in the program. (And there is always room for another discussant or two!) So if you have a last minute interest, we can accommodate you, although you will need to move quickly. While the "official" deadline is past, the AREUEA website is still active at:

<http://www.areuea.org/conferences/details.phtml?id=50> , and you can contact Cinda Smith (cinda@areuea.org) for any questions on logistics. Because we have a few open slots, we are holding the registration fee at the original price of \$295 (inclusive of meals and special events). If you wish to be considered for one of the last-minute slots, to facilitate your participation, also contact me directly at smalpezzi@bus.wisc.edu.

Steve Malpezzi

AREUEA First Vice President and Los Cabos Program Chair