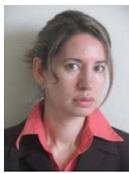




**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Climate Change and Adaptation Expert Maria-Paz Gutierrez  
to Visit Guatemala on Behalf of ECPA Senior Fellows**



**Washington, D.C., May 29, 2013**– [Maria-Paz Gutierrez](#), a Senior Fellow in the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), will be traveling May 31 to June 5, 2013 to participate in meetings and events in Guatemala, including the General Assembly Meeting of the Organization of American States (OAS). Senior ECPA Fellow Gutierrez is an Assistant Professor at the University of California Berkeley.

[The Senior ECPA Fellows](#) program is a network of high-level technical experts in the fields of climate change and energy who travel between countries in the Western Hemisphere to consult with governments or other institutions. The program is sponsored by the [U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemispheric Affairs](#) and is administered by [Partners of the Americas](#). There are currently [20 Senior ECPA Fellows](#) who participate in these international exchanges. The main areas of focus for the program are: energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy infrastructure, energy poverty and access, sustainable forestry and land use, and climate change adaptation.

[Professor Gutierrez](#) is an expert in adaptation, specifically self-regulated building systems. During her exchange to Guatemala, Ms. Gutierrez will participate as an expert on the panel, "*Building Sustainable Cities and Communities in the Americas: Moving from Demonstration Projects to Scale*," a component of the [General Assembly Meeting of the Organization of American States \(OAS\)](#). The roundtable will bring together a wide range of stakeholders to exchange lessons learned and best practices for the implementation and scaling-up of demonstration projects. The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) sector of the OAS granted \$50,000 to fourteen non-governmental organizations to pioneer community projects focusing in four priority areas: 1) Clean Energy; 2) Sustainable Waste Management; 3) Resilience to Natural Disasters; and 4) Sustainable Transport. Professor Gutierrez will also be presenting at the [Universidad San Carlos](#), the [Universidad Rafael Landívar](#), and the Guatemalan Chamber of Construction, which is interested in new developments within green construction.

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[Partners of the Americas](#) is an international network that promotes social and economic development in the Americas through leadership, voluntary service, and development programs. Its mission is to connect individuals, volunteers, institutions, businesses, and communities to serve and to change lives through lasting partnerships. Partners envisions an interconnected hemisphere that maximizes the social and economic potential, and leverages the full diversity, of the Americas.