

## **CHLI Holds Hemispheric Leadership Conference**

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Washington, DC (**CapitalWirePR**) July 15, 2008-- The Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI) will host the Second Annual Future Leaders' Conference on Wednesday, July 16, 2008, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Hall of the Americas in the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington, DC. This year's conference theme "Advancing Democracy and Strengthening the Rule of Law," will allow conference participants to examine the current challenges and opportunities faced by nearly 900 million people of the Western Hemisphere.

The CHLI Future Leaders' Conference provides a unique opportunity for Washington, DC summer interns and young professionals to hear from leading experts, public officials and diplomats on the current challenges and opportunities within the region. The Opening Session will feature high-level speakers and will be followed by three panels addressing economic development, political trends and public/private partnerships in the Americas. Registration is free and open to the public.

"It is a great privilege for CHLI to host this annual conference which connects the leaders of tomorrow with the leaders of today throughout our hemisphere," said Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart (FL-21), CHLI Chairman. "CHLI continues to demonstrate leadership by providing an internationalist vision, which in turn empowers the U.S. Hispanic community as a bridge – economically as well as culturally – between North and South of our hemisphere."

"CHLI is honored to host its Second Annual Future Leaders' Conference at the OAS. As a growing organization, we continue to realize our mission of 'Advancing the Hispanic community's diversity of thought' by bringing together highly-respected speakers and panelists with different viewpoints and life experiences," said Octavio A. Hinojosa Mier, CHLI Executive Director.

Confirmed speakers for this year's conference include: OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza; Ambassador Hector Morales, Jr., Permanent Representative of the United States to the OAS; Ambassador Federico Humbert of Panama; Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan of Mexico; The Honorable Anna Escobedo Cabral, United States Treasurer; as well as U.S. Representative Lincoln Díaz-Balart (FL-21), CHLI Chairman; U.S. Representative Eliot Engel (NY-17), Chairman of House Sub-Committee on the Western Hemisphere; U.S. Representative Henry Cuellar (TX-28); and U.S. Representative Mario Díaz-Balart (FL-25).

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