



Forging Alliances South and North

ForAL

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ATTEND THE WORLD/AMERICAS SOCIAL FORUM Caracas, January 22-30, 2006

Forging Alliances South and North is assisting donors and others who wish to attend the **VI World Social Forum/ II Americas Social Forum** in **Caracas, Venezuela**. Services include handling registration for the Social Forum and hotel reservations, pre-trip readings and travel information, a Social Forum orientation in Caracas, an optional one-day Venezuela reality program, and other assistance. Join with other funders (both individual and institutional) and social change activists to explore this regional expression of the 2006 polycentric World Social Forum. For more information: www.for-al.org.

Initiated in 2001, the World Social Forum process has become the largest civil society space for the articulation of social initiatives, the development of critical thinking, and the construction of economic and social alternatives. Under the theme “*Another World Is Possible*”, the last two forums in Brazil and India each drew over 100,000 people.

For 2006, the World Social Forum will take place in regional forums instead of a single global forum. Venezuela has been selected as the site for the Americas Social Forum (ASF), which will tackle global issues in their regional context and provide a democratic and inclusive forum for debating current challenges and exploring alternatives. The program will include conferences, testimonies, panels, workshops, artistic-cultural initiatives, a youth camp, and public marches. (For more information on the ASF: www.forosocialamericas.org.)

In the context of the corporate-dominated globalization model, many Latin American social movement activists, when asked whether another world actually *is* possible, point to Venezuela as an important example and sign of hope. Yet the U.S. government views Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez as a threat, and U.S. media coverage of Chavez has tended to be negative. Taking advantage of being in Venezuela, ForAL is offering a 1-day program on January 23 before the Social Forum that will include meetings with Venezuelan organizations, neighborhood groups and analysts. It will enable delegates to get to know the Venezuelan process first-hand and to form their own assessments.

Forging Alliances South and North (ForAL) is a bridge-building initiative between funders and social movement groups in the Americas. ForAL support for participation in the Americas Social Forum is coordinated by Phil McManus, chair of ForAL and a board member of the Appleton Foundation. He has led numerous delegations to Latin America since 1983, including a funders' delegation to the I Americas Social Forum in Quito in 2004.

To sign up or for more information, see: www.for-al.org or write to: info@for-al.org. Early registration is encouraged. Hotel space is limited.