

Friends,

It's official! I was advised by the White House that my nomination to be U.S. Executive Director of the Inter-American Bank (IDB) was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on Friday, August 1, and that the President signed my Commission this past Friday. The IDB was established in 1959 and, with more than \$100 billion in capital, the IDB is the oldest and largest regional development bank. Its primary goal is to help accelerate economic growth and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The IDB has 47 member countries, 26 borrowing members and 21 non-borrowing members, including the United States, its largest stakeholder.

In my position here at the Greater Houston Partnership, first as Senior Vice President of Business Development and, most recently, as Senior Vice President of International Business Division, I have been allowed to utilize a wide range of skills in the service of my community. I have had the pleasure of being part of the senior team to put in place the 10-year Strategic Plan, which calls for the Partnership to take ambitious, groundbreaking steps, knowing that our great strides are supported by our Members.

It has been my distinct pleasure to work with the dedicated individuals who made up my Business Development Team and now, my International Business Team and, indeed, the whole Partnership. Over the years, we have had some very important successes in the Partnership, and I will remember those with a great sense of pride and accomplishment. Additionally, during my tenure, I have had the honor of working with Partnership Board members and both Economic Development Advisory Committee and the World Trade Supervisory Board leadership in enhancing Houston's presence both domestically and around the world. I have made many lasting friendships through my employment at the Partnership which has made the experience all the more rewarding and worthwhile.

I feel extremely fortunate that my career in economic development has given me an opportunity to give back to the country that welcomed me with open arms so many years ago. I am very eager to apply the lessons I learned at one of the nation's premier chamber organizations in service to the United States and another region dear to my heart, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Cheers!

Miguel