



DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

NEWS RELEASE

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DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY HOSTS 2009 PUBLIC POLICY FORUM: ECONOMIC STIMULUS, IT, IMMIGRATION, EDUCATION: THE NEW INFRASTRUCTURE

WASHINGTON, D.C. February 26, 2009 – **Dialogue on Diversity** presents the 2009 edition of the **Public Policy Forum**, the fifteenth in the annual series, with the title: *A Bracing Climate: New Breezes on the Potomac*. The Forum aims once again to convene people of many cultures all working for a sharpened civic consciousness and for economic viability through entrepreneurship against the backdrop of sound federal policy..

WHERE: Rayburn House Office Building, Gold Room (2168), on Capitol Hill.

WHEN: Thursday, March 5, 2009, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Women Entrepreneurs and Professionals, Students and Congressional Staff, Civil Society staff and executives, interested citizens, all Friends of Dialogue on Diversity.

This year three basic topic areas dominate the agenda: *The Unfinished Information Technology Revolution*, the *Economic Slowdown and its Remedies*, and *Immigration*, while the midday session concludes with a roundtable on the all-important human infrastructure topic of *Education: The Lifelong Project*.

- The Forum opens at 9:15 a.m. with **Rep. Xavier Becerra** of California, Vice-Chair of the Democratic Caucus in the House, laying out an assessment of the policy landscape for the intense legislative labor in prospect for the months ahead.
- The U.S., no longer the world leader in adoption of Information Technology in public services, medicine, and other fields, brings the transforming gadgetry back to center stage in the fiscal stimulus bill just approved, with significant sums destined for the long overdue extension of broadband penetration and the digitizing of medical records on a serious scale. Technical and social implications are discussed by **Brent Olson**, policy head for AT&T, while **Deven McGraw** of the Center for Democracy and Technology lays out the rival imperatives in the medical information and privacy problem, **Jim Harper** of the Cato Institute analyzes government data collection, **Jules Polonetsky** of the Future of Privacy, and **David Honig** of the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council presides as moderator.
- Immigration experts – the roster includes **Tamar Jacoby**, who has generated much of the intellectual force behind the present immigration reform movement, and **Brent Wilkes**, the very creative National Director of LULAC, and **William Ramos** of NALEO -- assess the political chances of an immigration reform initiative in the present crowded legislative calendar, and review the effects work on immigrant communities by the economic slowdown and the potentially enlivening effect the migrants themselves may have in the recovery stage.
- The continuing work ahead on the economic front is outlined by **Rep Mike Honda** of the Silicon Valley district of California, while the midday Education Roundtable is headlined by **Rep. Rubén Hinojosa**, Chair of the House Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness, along with **Maria Tukeva**, of **Bell Multicultural High, D.C.**, **Alma Morales Riojas** of **MANA**, and **Maria Neira**, National Vice President of AFT, on the outlook for the country's Schools .

REGISTER BY E-MAIL (DIALOG.DIV@PRODIGY.NET) OR

No fee for this Program. Continental Breakfast and Lunch Provided.

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