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**NABD PROJECTS HELP COMMUNITIES IN  
U.S.-MEXICAN BORDER REGION**

Infrastructure projects launched and underwritten by the North America Development Bank (NABD) produce many winners on both sides of the United States-Mexican border, said Jorge C. Garces, speaking at the Americas Executive Forum Luncheon sponsored by the Chamber of the Americas (COTA) and COTA Foundation in conjunction with Metropolitan State College of Denver, El Pomar Foundation, and NABD.

“The NABD is an example of the results that can be achieved when two countries work cooperatively toward a common goal,” said COTA President Gil Cisneros. “And the big winner is the environment,” he added.

Many people are unaware of the work of the NABD, said Garces, the bank’s managing director. He described the NABD as a binational financial institution capitalized and governed in equal parts by the United States and Mexico for the purpose of improving the quality of life in communities within 600 km of each country’s border.

“Rapid population growth in the border regions has put stress on water resources and wastewater capabilities,” said Garces. “Currently, 26 million people live on the Mexican side; 8.7 million on the U.S. side of the border. These figures are expected to double by 2030,” said Garces. Consequently, NABD and its sister organization the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) are focused on jump-starting

infrastructure projects that will give border communities the basic ingredients for a healthy and productive life.

Projects eligible for financing assistance include those related to potable water, industrial hazardous waste, air quality, clean energy such as wind, solar, and bioenergy” among others. “NABD will make loan grants up to 85 percent of project costs,” said Garces. “Projects must be sustainable,” able to produce a revenue stream for continued operation over and above the amount of the loan.

“Most important, projects must have a U.S.-side benefit,” said Garces, adding that the bank provides technical assistance in addition to funding.

“This is the best, most rewarding job I’ve ever had,” said Garces, who is set to retire at the end of the year. “It’s exciting to see how communities have flourished as a result of the work of NABD and BECC.”

The next Americas Executive Forum luncheon will be held Wed., March 10, at the Crowne Plaza, Denver Civic Center. Topic: Women in International Business. “All are welcome,” said Cisneros. Call 303-462-1275 to make your reservation.

The Chamber of the Americas Foundation supports the Chamber of the Americas in its mission to facilitate commerce and understanding among the businesses and governments of the Western Hemisphere.” Both organizations are not-for-profit and all donations are tax deductible.