



Short Story Competition

August 13, 2009

*“bettertomorrow@now”*

## Regional Story Competition Cultural Center of the Inter-American Development Bank

### Introduction

Since its founding fifty years ago, the Inter-American Development Bank has been working for a better tomorrow in Latin America and the Caribbean. The IDB is convinced that a better life can be achieved if one has help, hope, and good partners. To help construct a more prosperous future in the region, the IDB has set five priority initiatives: Poverty Reduction, Education, Sustainable Energy and Climate Change, Water and Sanitation, and Opportunities for the Majority.

### Objectives

The objectives of this short story competition are to 1) encourage young people to use their creative abilities to formulate views of a better tomorrow, 2) broaden the discussion of the economic and social challenges affecting the Region, 3) inspire the public to consider alternatives for creating a brighter future, and 4) share dreams and stories related to the Region's future.

### Rules

1. The competition is open to all writers between the ages of 16 and 20 years old, who have been born in one of the borrowing member countries of the Inter-American Development Bank, which include Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.
2. Content must relate to aspects of the economic and social reality of the Region, and **focus on one of the five priority initiatives of the IDB**: poverty reduction, education; sustainable energy and climate change; water and sanitation; or opportunities for the majority <http://www.iadb.org/topics/>.

3. Short stories must be no more than 1,000 words, typed double-spaced on letter size paper (8 1/2 x 11 inches), using a 12-point font, with 1/2-inch margins all around. They may be submitted in English, Spanish, French, or Portuguese.
4. Short stories must have been written during or after August 2009 by one author, and not have been published yet, either electronically or in print. **Poetry and essays are not eligible.**
5. The IDB Cultural Center will appoint a jury to award three prizes, and their decision will be final.
6. There will be a First Prize in the amount of US\$3,000; a Second Prize in the amount of US\$2,000; and a Third Prize in the amount of US\$1,000. The jury may award an unlimited number of Honorable Mentions without a financial component. After the contest, the IDB Cultural Center may consider publishing the winning stories on its webpage, along with others recommended by the jury.
7. **The deadline for submission of compositions is November 1, 2009.** Stories must be delivered in Microsoft Word (.doc) to [ANNEV@iadb.org](mailto:ANNEV@iadb.org)
8. The story must be accompanied by the following information on a separate sheet
  - Writer's full name
  - Date and place of birth
  - E-mail address, postal address, telephone
  - Portrait-style color photo
  - Descriptive paragraph explaining the concept of the story within the context of the IDB's work.

Failure to submit the required information and materials may be reason for disqualification.

9. The IDB Cultural Center is not responsible for items that are damaged in route or cannot be opened electronically.
10. **Writers selected for prizes will be notified by e-mail no later than December 1, 2009.** Copyright will be shared between the IDB and the writer. The IDB Cultural Center reserves the right to use the selected stories in any way it deems fit. Stories will become part of the IDB Cultural Center archives.
11. Participation in the competition implies acceptance of these rules.
12. IDB staff, consultants, and their families are not eligible to participate.

For general information about the IDB Cultural Center and its programs, visit <http://www.iadb.org/cultural>

To learn more about the IDB's five priority initiatives, visit <http://www.iadb.org/topics>