

COLOMBIA TODAY

A Weekly Update from the Embassy of Colombia

July 18, 2014

President Santos Visits Miami, Highlights Colombia as “Ripe for Investment”



Photo: President Santos speaking at the Colombian-American Chamber of Commerce; Photo Credit: Javier Casella, Presidencia de la República de Colombia

On Monday, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos attended a private Goldman Sachs investor conference on Colombia in Miami, FL, where he gave a speech on prospects for change in Colombia. President Santos was joined by Mauricio Cárdenas, Minister of Finance; Luis Fernando Andrade, President of the National Infrastructure Agency; and Clemente del Valle, President of the National Development Finance Co.

According to the [Miami Herald](#), in a press conference following the event, President Santos stated that “*practically half the country is ripe for investment,*” and that Colombia had a very ambitious development agenda that added up to investment opportunities of \$26 billion.

While in Florida, President Santos on Tuesday also addressed the Colombian-American Chamber of Commerce. During his remarks, President Santos highlighted Colombia’s economic growth stating, “*Colombia today is the country in Latin America that is growing at the highest rates and in the last quarter grew by 6.4 percent.*”

This was President Santos’s first trip to the United States since winning reelection on June 15.



Photo: Leaders of South America and the BRICS meet during annual BRICS summit; Photo Credit: César Carrión, Presidencia de la República de Colombia

President Santos Attends Meeting with Leaders of the BRICS and South America

On Wednesday, President Santos attended a meeting of leaders of South America and the BRICS – a group of emerging economies including Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. This meeting was part of the sixth annual BRICS summit, which was held in Brazil.

Following the meeting, President Santos stated, *“I thought it was very important, not only meeting, thus representing all these countries, but also the issue, the issue of how we get growth and development more inclusive, be more effective in the fight against poverty, while being friendlier to the environment.”*

Colombian Soccer Star Wins 2014 World Cup Golden Boot

James Rodriguez, forward for the Colombia national soccer team “Los Cafeteros,” on Sunday, was awarded the World Cup Golden Boot for being the top scorer at the 2014 FIFA World Cup. Rodriguez scored six goals in five matches as Colombia reached the quarterfinals, where they lost to Brazil.

Rodriguez, 23-years old, was also a finalist for the World Cup's Golden Ball as best overall player – an award that went to Argentina's Lionel Messi.

After much success in the 2014 World Cup, FIFA [announced](#) yesterday that Colombia is now fourth in the world rankings.

For more information, visit:

- [“Colombia's James Rodriguez Claims World Cup Golden Boot With 6 Goals,” Sports Illustrated, July 13, 2014](#)
- [“World Cup 2014: James Rodriguez Wins Golden Boot,” BBC, July 13, 2014](#)



Photo: James Rodriguez during the 2014 FIFA World Cup; Photo Credit: Federacion Colombiana de Futbol

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