

# COLOMBIA: IN FOCUS

A WEEKLY UPDATE FROM THE EMBASSY OF COLOMBIA

February 27, 2013

## Massachusetts Governor Leads Trade Mission to Colombia, Signs MOU on Technology Cooperation



*President Santos meets with Governor Patrick in Bogotá. Photo Credit: Presidencia de la Republica*

From February 16-19, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick led a delegation of U.S. business and academic leaders and government officials on a trade mission to Colombia aimed at promoting economic growth and strengthening the Massachusetts-Colombia partnership.

On the last day of the visit, Governor Patrick and Carlos Fonseca Zarate, Director of Colciencias, Colombia's Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) aimed at expanding cooperation on technology. The MOU will foster partnerships and collaboration between Colombia and the state of Massachusetts in the areas of health and life sciences. During the signing ceremony at the Casa de Nariño in Bogotá, President Santos and Governor Patrick delivered remarks.

**President Santos:** *"I know how important innovation, technology and research are in the state of Massachusetts, and so any contribution to Colombia will be very important ... We hope that with the signing of the memorandum a stable and lasting relationship is built between Colombia and the state known for its prestigious academic centers."*

**Governor Patrick:** *"Massachusetts is a leader in the life sciences, clean energy and other innovation economy sectors. In order to maintain that edge, we must position ourselves for success in growing markets, like Colombia, to drive job growth and catalyze international investment."*

For more information, click [here](#) to read a *Boston Business Journal* article.

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