

Ricardo Salinas Scholarship  
Testimonial of participation at ANDE conference  
Lansdowne Resort, Leesburg Virginia Sept 26-29 2016

The Ricardo Salinas Scholarship provided very valuable support for me to attend the 2016 ANDE conference.

This ANDE conference was the first event I participated in. As the founder and CEO of Alterna, a Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center, it is a privilege to be a part of a network such as ANDE and to have participated in its yearly event.

Below I will describe the most valuable insights and experiences attained during the event.

Content-wise, the event allowed me to learn about the best impact measuring tools from key actors in impact investment such as Kiva, Root capital and Global partnerships; to understand the opportunities and barriers in digital platforms to connect impact investors and social entrepreneurs; and about new trends in impact investment vehicles. Hearing the thought processes, questions and solutions from organizations that have been pioneers in sectors and spaces was not only very informative but inspiring at the same time.

The opportunity to learn firsthand from leaders from a wide range of organizations from all over the world was truly unique.

I also had the opportunity to be invited to speak at the panel "*Reaching the BOP, v2.0: What Have We Learned Over the Last 5 years?*" as a lead discussant of a new report Deloitte will be launching during the coming weeks. I was able to comment on general insights that the report is releasing about BoP social enterprises. Who they are, what makes them operate at the BoP and discuss some of the challenges the companies are facing not only in running their businesses that offer relevant products and services for this segment of the population but also about the difficulties in assessing impact (beginning by profiling their clients).

The presentation for keynotes and plenary panelists provided relevant insights on issues that are important to my own organization and our stakeholders. The conversations I heard and had about talent, for example, are significant. What decision makers in institutions like the IADB think and do are important references for my organization and our everyday work.

Another extremely valuable aspect of ANDE's conference is its capacity to gather top caliber practitioners from all over the globe. Exchanging ideas and understanding current trends and best practices from likeminded organizations that operate in India or South Africa

Although I have been ANDE member for two years now, this experience allowed me to understand the value, relevance and impact of the network at a completely different level.

The value of the content of the conference through its vast and high quality agenda was complemented by the interactions I had with old and new peers, allies, and funders. Since I launched my organization almost six years ago I've had the opportunity to attend to a wide range of events. This ANDE conference was the most effective platform to reconnect and connect in a very qualitative and effective way.

I am deeply thankful to this Ricardo Salinas Scholarship, to ANDE and everyone who made this happen.

Daniel Buchninder, Alterna