

Dispatcher August 2023

July has been a busy month in Gear Up World. As this article is being written Ronald Naab, Ann and their incredible group of volunteers are getting ready for the ride of rides, Gear Up Foundation's annual American Tribute Ride. Motorcycles from far and wide riding with escort through the beautiful farmlands of Wisconsin, stopping at several fire houses that welcome the riders as they are fed and watered. This ride has become a cornerstone in the domestic mission of Gear Up Foundation, which is mostly dedicated to helping fellow firefighters in developing nations around the world while uniting our world through the fellowship of firefighters. "I am confident that Ron and his team will deliver yet another historic and memorable ride this year as he has done in the past", Vince Forras.

Meanwhile the month of July started with members of the Gear Up team in Ecuador. Organized by Monica Carrera and her team, Chief Paul Nelson once again volunteered his time to deliver an amazing Hazmat Seminar highlighting many aspects of identifying and handling various chemicals. The seminar also included a unique demonstration that truly gave the participants a hands-on experience. Once again, the seminar was hosted at the University Politecnica Salesiana (UPS). Simultaneous translation was made possible by XXX . Many firefighters, police and first responders attended this important seminar which will continue to evolve. The next chapter of this training is slated for some time in November.





Chief Nelson headed back home to the USA the same weekend that he arrived in Ecuador after delivering a moving passage from the bible to all those who attended the seminar. "GOD plays the most important role in all of our lives, and I am so blessed that we have been chosen to deliver HIS word at every event that our foundation hosts.", said Vince Forras.

The Gear Up team was invited to participate in a special ceremony by the Transit Police of Guayas which has their own force dedicated to road safety. Vince, Monica, and the efforts of Gear Up were honored by the head of this force as was the American Tribute Flag which was honored as well.





Gear Up Foundation, Monica Carrera posing with the women of the Transit Police Force.





“What a great group together sharing this special event and honoring my country’s flag and those who died on 9/11. Standing with Pastor Jhonny Valencia (who gave me a wonderful book), his wife, Pastor Hector Montiel, head of the rescue services of Transit Police, Chief of the Transit Police Lionel Pozo, his assistants, myself, Christian Petersen, Hermes Platon, Major Santiago Landazury (Midnight) and second chief, all honoring our great country and the sacrifice of our brothers and sisters now their brothers and sisters. This is what citizen diplomacy looks like!”, Vincent Forras.

Additional meetings took place throughout the country including at the Prefectura of El Guayas office with Mr. Johan Coronel, Director of Risk Management. Most of the discussions both in person, Zoom and through media appearances concentrated on the El Nino that is expected towards the fall of this year. The level of this event is predicted to be on par with a terrible event that took place some fifty years ago. The results could be absolutely devastating. The efforts of

the foundation were to deliver this message and urge the people of Ecuador to prepare for the worst while praying for the best.



Pastor Hector Montiel, Monica Carrera, Johan Coronel, Vince Forras at the Office of Risk Management office, Guayaquil.

The team moved onto various other cities including Santa Elena, Balzar, Babayoyo, Salinas, Libertad and others.



Vince & Monica meeting with Dario Torres Director of Emergency Management in Santa Elena, Ecuador to discuss the upcoming predicted emergency.



Dario Torres, Vincent Forras & Hermes Platon meeting Santa Elena.



Monica Carrera aboard the original sugar harvesting train in at the Valdez Sugar Plant, Machala, Ecuador circa early 1900's.





The Valdez Sugar processing plant with the original water tower still in operation left. Vince Forras and General Manager of Valdez Plant Carlos Valdivieso.



Monica Carrea with Carlos Bogota, Head Safety Officer of Valdez Plant



Pastor Hector Montiel along with the Gear Up team in Balzar as they await the arrival of the mayor of the city Galo Meza



Vincent Forras with Balzar Mayor Galo Meza.  
Monica Carrera joined by Lidia Matamoros, Vice Mayor and assistant.

Towards the end of their trip, Vince Forras, Monica Carrera, and Hermes Platon visited one of the newest and most modern seaports in Ecuador, DP World Port. They were hosted by two wonderful employees who took them on a VIP tour of their facility.





“Thank you, my two new friends, Carolina Hasing & Gabriela Llerena for allowing us to see the behind-the-scenes operations of such an impressive business”, from Vince Forras. “And a special thanks for arranging this visit to DP World, Diana Osorio.” “This port is only a couple of years old and has state of the art security and procedures throughout. A most impressive operation in any country, but especially for Ecuador.” Monica Carrera.

One of the many appearances that Vincent Forras made while in Ecuador sharing his knowledge and suggestions on how to prepare and respond to the horrific El Nino being predicted for the entire region.




## AGENDA

MARTES 4 / JULIO / 2023



**06H30** **Vicente Forras**  
PRESIDENTE GEAR FOUNDATION  
¿Cómo Ecuador puede enfrentar el Fenómeno de El Niño?



**07H00** **Luis Andrango**  
CANDIDATO ASAMBLEÍSTA  
Propuestas de Campaña



**07H30** **Enrique Ayala Mora**  
HISTORIADOR Y ANALISTA  
¿Qué le espera al Ecuador tras las nuevas elecciones?



**08H00** **Erwin Ronquillo**  
SECRETARIO TÉCNICO ECUADOR  
CRECE SIN DESNUTRICIÓN  
Acciones gubernamentales para combatir la desnutrición



**08H30** **Joline Jaraiseh**  
SUBSECRETARIA DE INVESTIGACIÓN,  
INNOVACIÓN Y TRANSFERENCIA DE  
TECNOLOGÍA.  
Primer Encuentro Nacional de Editores de Revistas Científicas.

**CONDUCCIÓN : RONMEL LÓPEZ Y ALEXANDRA GAÓN**  
LUNES A VIERNES 06H00 A 09H00

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As the team departed Monica and Vince were met at the airport by their core supporters in their quest to serve GOD and the people of Ecuador. Christian Petersen, Andres Troya and Hermes Platon showed their love and support one last time before their departure. “We are certainly blessed to have such great friends and brothers by our side as we all serve GOD and deliver on our promise to unite our world as a Living Tribute to all those who perished on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, and those who continue to die due to their exposures.” Monica Carrera.



Meeting in Guayaquil, AME (Association of Municipalities Ecuador) Vince and Monica discuss gameplan with Jordan Jordan and Johann Pesantes, Directors at a most important meeting just prior to their departure. These two well-dressed young men are inspired to assist their country and dedicated to working with Gear Up Foundation to make happen. They have been reaching out to many municipalities and towns throughout the country so that Gear Up and AME may work closely together.





Monica Carrera, Oscar Ortega Chief of Staff to the Mayor Libertad, Vincent Forras meeting in Libertad Ecuador.

The Gear Up Foundation team thanks all of you for your support and donations of life saving gear. As trucks come available, please think of them as the value of your equipment serving communities in need is a second life for your loved vehicle and changes the lives of entire communities. Please help Gear Up GEAR UP THE WORLD WITH LOVE.