



Francisco J Mayorga, Rector
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Dear MALAS colleagues and friends,

I am the Rector of Universidad Privada Boliviana (UPB), a higher education institution with 4,000 students and a 500-member faculty in three campuses (La Paz, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz). As a QS 4-star holder, we have been rated as the best private university in Bolivia.

We offer eighteen majors at the undergraduate level, including eight in engineering. We also offer fourteen programs at the master's level, and a Ph.D. program in Economics and Management.

As the head of UPB and on behalf of our faculty, I am delighted to welcome you to the coming Midwest Association of Latin American Studies conference in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba next November.

I am certain that you will spend a couple of highly productive days in the MALAS conference, exchanging ideas among yourselves and with several of the leading thinkers of the Bolivian academy. In addition, you will enjoy discovering the different aspects of this multicultural society in two vibrant, burgeoning cities in the promising economy of this fascinating country.

In that respect, I encourage you to invest a couple of extra days to explore at least a few of the attractions of the Bolivian geography. You might want to visit, for example, Salar de Uyuni, a mesmerizing salt lake that holds one of the largest reserves and promises to be leading exporter of lithium to the world markets.

We will offer the best of our traditional hospitality to make sure that you feel most welcome during your stay in this unique and captivating country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Francisco J Mayorga', is written over a light blue horizontal line. The signature is enclosed in a thin blue rectangular border.

Francisco J Mayorga