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# Collaborative Working

## Celebrating 3 years of Aberdeen and Barranquilla's Memorandum of Understanding

The **World Energy Cities Partnership** is an international, city-led organization headquartered in Houston, USA, comprised of some of the world's leading Energy cities, including:

**ABERDEEN** SCOTLAND • **ATYRAU** KAZAKHSTAN

**CALGARY** CANADA • **CAPE TOWN** SOUTH AFRICA

**BARRANQUILLA** COLOMBIA

**DAMMAM** SAUDI ARABIA • **DAQING** CHINA

**DONGYING** CHINA • **ESBJERG** DENMARK

**HALIFAX** CANADA • **HOUSTON** USA

**KARAMAY** CHINA • **KOBE** JAPAN

**LUANDA** ANGOLA • **PERTH** AUSTRALIA

**STAVANGER** NORWAY • **ST. JOHN'S** CANADA

**VILLAHERMOSA** MEXICO

**WECP's** mission is to foster the world's energy transition by facilitating international economic partnerships for our member cities.



Although there are almost 5,000 miles between Aberdeen and Barranquilla, the two cities have a strong working relationship which they continue to build on each year.

Barranquilla's relationship with Aberdeen City Council strengthened with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 following two previous inward delegation visits to Aberdeen, from Barranquilla, in 2015 and 2016. Since the signing of the MoU, Aberdeen assisted Barranquilla with their successful application to join World Energy Cities Partnership at the 2017 AGM and the city has since taken an active role in the organisation.

The relationship between Aberdeen and Barranquilla has continued to go from strength to strength with Barranquilla visiting Aberdeen on trade missions during the bi-annual Offshore Europe conference in 2017 and 2019. Aberdeen also visited Barranquilla on outward missions in 2017 and 2019.

At OE19, the cities facilitated introductions between Aberdeen and Barranquilla companies through B2B matching and discussions are ongoing regarding possible partnerships between some of these companies.

There is also ongoing relationship development between Aberdeen and Barranquilla universities. As a result of the MoU, a lecturer from Aberdeen University was invited to speak at the Instituto Tecnológico de Soledad Atlántico (ITSA) - Innovation in the Energy Sector conference in Barranquilla in November 2017.

More recently, in October 2020, the Mayor of Barranquilla, Jaime Pumarejo joined the Lord Provost of Aberdeen and other WECP Mayors for the Energy Exports Conference WECP Panel session. Discussions included green recovery from Covid-19 and cities goals for carbon neutrality by 2050.

Both cities are in a phase of transition, working towards diverse energy future and will to continue to share best practice and knowledge on experience working in green energy sectors. Barranquilla has recently announced that they will develop an energy transition plan, this will be the first city level plan in Colombia. An Aberdeen consultancy firm has won the contract to assist with this strategy development.

The Memorandum of Understanding is due to be renewed in 2021 and will allow the cities to continue building on their relationship.



Aberdeen- Barranquilla MoU Signing