In July of 2003, México City was honored to host the second Population Leadership Program Summer Conference. Cohorts 1 and 2 gathered with PLP professors and staff in this unique setting for a full week of workshops, outings, and reunions. The advantage of the PLP conference attendees was that we knew one another well and we are committed in the fields of Population, Reproductive and Sexual Health at different levels, be it working in NGOs, the government, international agencies, or Health Services. While we came from diverse social and political contexts, we found commonalities as we defined the challenges we are facing in our fields of work.

The Mexico City conference provided an amazing opportunity to freely express our values, knowledge, and experiences as we discussed issues related to Leadership and Management. The goal of the conference was not centered on collecting academic data, but rather to reach a level of understanding for how we envision Leadership in the context of our careers and how to be more effective leaders in making change. Formal and informal communication methods through the week allowed us to share our challenges and triumphs after returning to our home countries from the University of Washington.

In addition to our discussions, regional site visits were also an excellent means to get to know Mexico and its public health issues better. We will build on lessons learned for México for our next conference in Ethiopia in the summer of 2004. Many ideas were raised and noticeable changes occurred in all of the fellows. We were the same fellows, but different. We had more experience, knowledge, strength, and confidence to create lasting change in our countries.

MARIA LUISA SANCHEZ FUENTES, COHORT 2

“[The PLP] gave me confidence and courage to make change.”

BOLANLE OLUYEMISI OYELEDUN, NIGERIA
The Population Leadership Program brings together professionals from developing countries to expand their leadership skills, and partners with them to create systemic improvements in population issues, family planning, and reproductive health at the local, national, and international levels.

BERNICE NUKUNU TAMAKLOE DAHN, LIBERIA

Nothing is impossible. I learned at the University of Washington that something is impossible.

Washington that nothing is impossible.

The PLP broadened my understanding of women’s rights, gender and health in other countries.

BLANCA RICO, MEXICO

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"They told me my [maternal mortality reduction] project was impossible. I learned at the University of Washington that nothing is impossible."