

# ICHEM Seminar

## Transforming Universities for Peace: Lessons from Colombia

**José Restrepo - President Universidad del Rosario**

**19 October 2017 17.30 - 18.30 followed by a reception  
School of Management Executive Suite  
The Edge, University of Bath**



### **Abstract**

For more than half a century, Colombia has experienced armed conflict between government forces and illegal organizations. Far from collapsing in the midst of violence, universities in Colombia, including the most elite, have transformed themselves to consolidate democracy and contribute to peace. Innovations have been made in relation to widening access including reaching out to young people who had previously been members of guerrilla movements. In addition, interdisciplinary research centres have been designed to contribute to peace and sustainability and transformative pedagogy has opened dialogues with excluded communities. The presentation will focus on how such innovations came into being, how major obstacles were overcome and the lessons for universities in other countries.

### **Biography**

José Manuel Restrepo is President of Universidad del Rosario, ranked in first place in Colombia in the Scimago ranking of research and in the top 40s in Latin America. He is an Economist and holds degrees from the London School of Economics and a DBA from the University of Bath. His research and publications link Economics, Higher Education Management and Development. He has worked at the National Congress Economic Commission and is one of the Directors of Development planning in Colombia. He was appointed President of the “Business University Foundation” of the Bogota Chamber of Commerce and was elected to the Administrative Assembly of Bogotá District in Colombia. He has received many awards including the Order of Military Merit José María Córdova.

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