In a little more than one month we will be gathering in Lima, Peru for the Latin American regional workshop of PEER participants. A final version of the agenda and additional logistical details will be provided in the coming weeks. One interesting element of the workshop will be a "Flash Talk" element, in which participants will give a 2-minute talk designed to connect their PEER research with the public, policy, or international development communities. If you haven't given this sort of talk before, you might start thinking now about how you might present your project very briefly, highlighting its results and impacts in a way that would capture the attention not only of researchers from within your field, but also of those from other fields or even people from outside the scientific community.

At this point I would also like to pass along some information to help you prepare for the poster sessions at the event. We ask that each principal investigator or project representative bring along a poster representing his or her PEER-funded project. Posters should be 1.3 meters by 1 meter in size and oriented vertically. You will need to have the poster printed before you come to Lima, as we will not be able to print them for you there on site. NAS staff and/or hosts at the JW Marriott will assist with setting the posters up for display.

Posters should be used to convey the most interesting aspects of your PEER research. For example, what progress or findings have been made to date? What new methodologies or instrumentation are being used to carry out the work? Please be sure to include or cover all of the following points in your poster:

1. Abstract containing a project description, overview, and research goals
2. Visual depiction of part of the research process (posters should include sections on methods, literature/prior work citations, hypothesis, and preliminary/results)
3. Illustrations of how the work is collaborative with other institutions AND with the U.S. research partner
4. Current or future development impacts of the research and who they will likely affect
5. An acknowledgements section at the bottom right of your poster, including the award number and the USAID logo. Graphics files for the logo in various formats may be downloaded from http://www.usaid.gov/branding/.

Here are some additional resources that may be helpful to you in preparing your posters:

http://colinpurrington.com/tips/academic/posterdesign

http://www.csun.edu/plunk/documents/poster_presentation.pdf

Finally, I would like to make one more important point about your travel, for those of you coming from out of town. **Please research your flight arrangements and email me the cost and itinerary by Friday so that we can confirm the flights, arrange airport transport, and begin processing your grant modifications.** If you have questions about your travel arrangements, please feel free to email me.

For those of you that need visas, please remember to contact your local Peruvian embassy to attain them. Please let me know if you require a letter of support from us or from the Marriott and I will be more than happy to provide one.