ICAP Launches Phase Two of Drink Driving Initiative in Colombia

*International experts conduct trainings and host seminars for local leaders, police and transit employees to reduce alcohol related traffic deaths and injuries across Colombia*

*(Cali, Colombia, October 18, 2013)* The International Center for Alcohol Policies (ICAP; [www.icap.org](http://www.icap.org)) will conclude today a three-day series of events to reduce drink driving and harmful drinking in Colombia. Featuring international experts and stakeholders from across the country, the conference included a seminar for municipal officials on successful drink driving interventions around the world and a hands-on training workshop for transit police designed to increase their capacity to reduce drink driving.

The conference marks the start of the second phase of Project Patrullero, which ICAP launched in Colombia in 2012 as part of its Global Actions ([www.global-actions.org](http://www.global-actions.org)) drink driving initiatives. The goal of Project Patrullero is to raise public awareness of the dangers of drink driving and support effective action by police officials, transit authorities, and key stakeholders in several Colombian cities. Phase One began in July 2012 and included a series of one-day workshops addressing alcohol basics, updates on Colombian drink drive laws, statistics on drink driving, and evidence-based model drink driving interventions.

“For more than two decades, ICAP has focused on bridging research and practice to reduce harmful use of alcohol, with a particular focus in the last ten years on the creation and replication of successful drink driving interventions,” said Brett Bivans, Senior Vice President, ICAP. “We are pleased to build on our efforts in Colombia, taking additional steps this week to deploy successful models to reduce drink driving and save lives.”

Phase Two of Project Patrullero will include follow-up visits to cities where Phase One workshops were held to continue training police and municipal officials in best practices and effective actions against drink driving. Workshops this week covered implementing effective sobriety check points, data collection, and project evaluation.

In addition to the training sessions, this week’s seminars included presentations on drink driving and alcohol consumption patterns across Colombia, review of intervention models which have been successfully applied in Cali and in countries around the world, and personal testimonies from local citizens who have been the victims of drink driving accidents. Expert presenters included:
On Friday, ICAP and Global Actions are hosting a hands-on training for transit police officers and auxiliary services. The training will include exercises on planning and executing successful alcohol checkpoints, applying best practices for efficiency, officer safety, vehicle flow, site selection and traffic control. Additionally, officials will receive training and planning advice on the use of consecutive check points to increase the impact of enforcement and public perception of risk for arrest. Police officers, the fire brigade, and the Secretary of Mobility have all been invited to attend this event.

ICAP is the lead coordinating organization of the Global Actions Against Harmful Drinking initiatives, which are sponsored by major international alcohol producers, with an emphasis on low- and middle- income countries. Through Global Actions, ICAP is working with local stakeholders to address three critical areas: drink driving, underage drinking and noncommercial alcohol.