**FACT SHEET**

**PAN AMERICAN DAY/WEEK**

**(Courtesy of the Pan American Association of Kansas City)**

**PAN AMERICAN DAY/WEEK**

**Pan American Day** is a holiday observed by countries in North and South America

It is a day established by the governments of the American republics as a symbol of their sovereignty and their voluntary union in one hemispheric community. Each year, on April 14th, by presidential proclamation or legislative enactment, Pan American Day is celebrated by countries throughout the Americas (Canada, U.S., Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Pan American Day and Week are commemorated in states, cities, towns, and communities. Pan American Week is also the week of April 14th.

Pan American Day commemorates the [First International Conference of American States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_International_Conference_of_American_States) which concluded on April 14, 1890, creating the International Union of American Republics, a forerunner to the [Organization of American States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organization_of_American_States) (OAS). The holiday was originally proposed by the organization in 1930. The first Pan American Day was celebrated throughout the Americas on April 14th, 1931. In Washington, U.S. President Herbert Hoover was the principal speaker at an outdoor ceremony, which included the planting of a tree on OAS grounds, which has its headquarters in Washington, D. C.

Every U. S. President annually issues a Proclamation declaring the week of April 14 as Pan American Week and April 14th of Pan American Day.

**THE ORIGIN OF A PAN AMERICAN DAY**

Pan American Day has deep roots going back to the historic date in 1826, when the Congress of Panamá, was convoked, and Simon Bolivar, president of Gran Colombia uttered the prophetic words: “This may be called the Day of America.” “This was the first step toward the formation of a “Congress of all the American States.”

It was just 64 years later when these ideas were crowned with success. Meeting in Washington, on April 14, 1890, the First International Conference of American States established the International Union of American Republics, which evolved over time into the Pan American Union and in 1948 as the Organization of American States. It is the oldest regional organization of its kind in the world. The OAS is headquartered in Washington, D. C.

Pan-American Day is celebrated annually as a "commemorative symbol of the American nations and the voluntary union of all in one continental community" marking the anniversary of the day in 1890 when this union was established. Each year Pan American Day and Pan American Week are designated by official proclamations throughout the Western Hemisphere as the occasion on which Americans of all ages and nationalities can strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding that unite the peoples of the Americas nations