



Doctor Ricaurte Vásquez Morales

Administrator
Panama Canal

Ricaurte Vásquez Morales is the Administrator of the Panama Canal, the autonomous agency in charge of the management of the Panama Canal, the all-water route to the service of world maritime trade.

On February 15, 2019, the Panama Canal Board of Directors appointed Dr. Vásquez as the new administrator for a seven-year term as of September 5, 2019, replacing current Administrator Jorge L. Quijano, who ended his term at the helm of the waterway as established by law.

Dr. Vásquez has a broad and successful career of more than 30 years in financial management, international capital markets, financial consulting and extensive experience in the public sector.



His experience in public administration included several highly relevant positions as Minister of Planning and Economic Policy, Chief Debt Negotiator for the Refinancing Program of the Republic of Panama, and Minister of Economy and Finance.

Within the Panama Canal, Dr. Vásquez was the first Panamanian Finance Director at the waterway from 1996 to 2000. He also served as Deputy Administrator from 2000 to 2004 and Minister for Canal Affairs and Chairman of the Board of Directors from 2004 to 2006. He was responsible for the financial transition of the Canal to Panamanian Administration, in full compliance with the 1977 Torrijos-Carter Treaties, including the closing of operations of the Panama Canal Commission, the United States agency in charge of the administration and operation of the Canal until noon on December 31, 1999.

In the private sector, he occupied senior positions in General Electric from 2008 to 2015 as CEO for Central America and the Caribbean, Vice President and Executive Director.

Dr. Vásquez has a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Villanova University, in Villanova, Pennsylvania, a Master of Science in Operations Research and Statistics and a Ph.D. in Managerial Economics, from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the United States, and a Master's in Economics from North Carolina State University in the United States.

His extensive experience as university professor complements his extensive preparation and professional experience. He was an Associate Professor of Economics at Florida State University - Panama Campus.