



199

March 2013

Monthly Newsletter
INTAL

Monthly Electronic Publication



IDB

Inter-American Development Bank



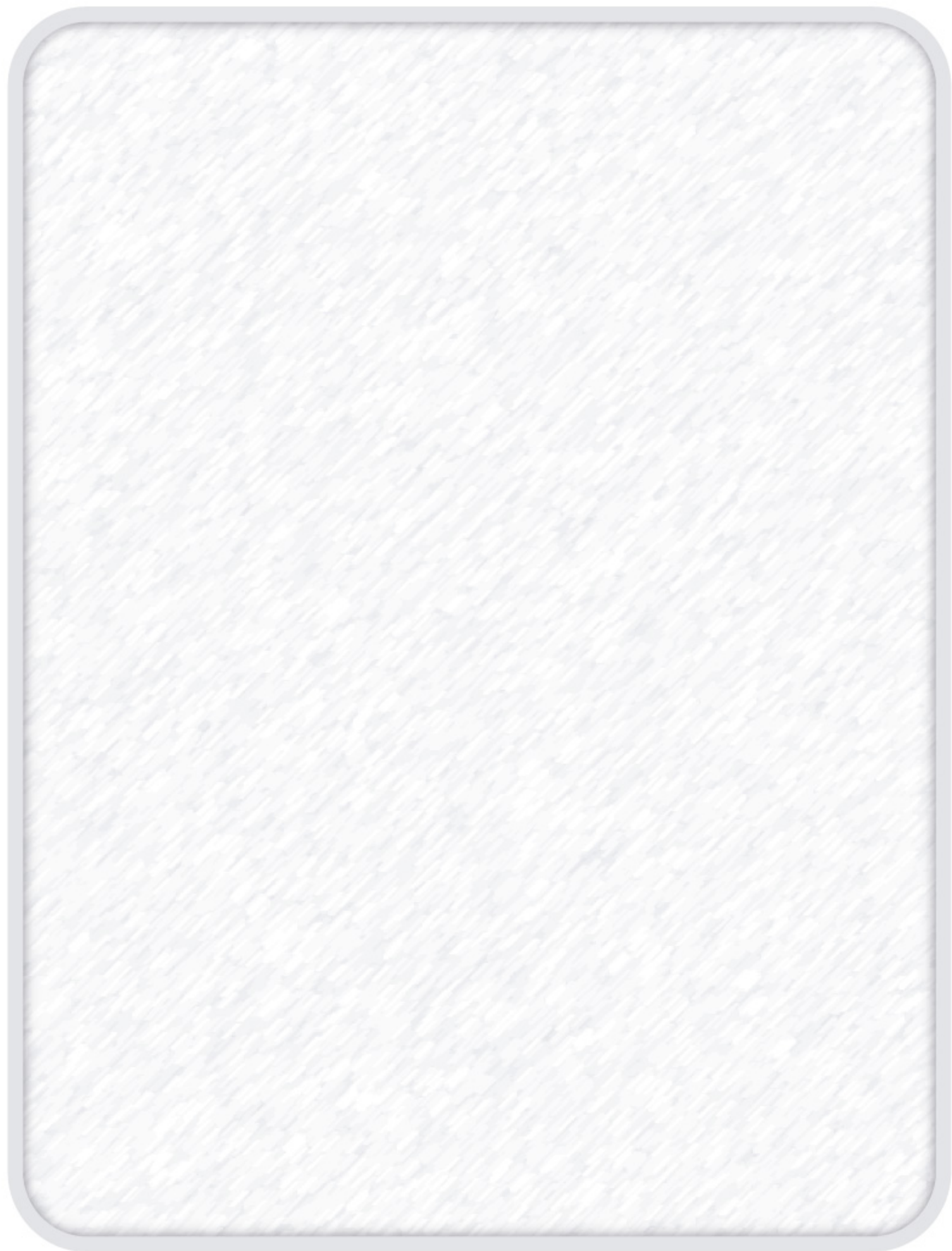


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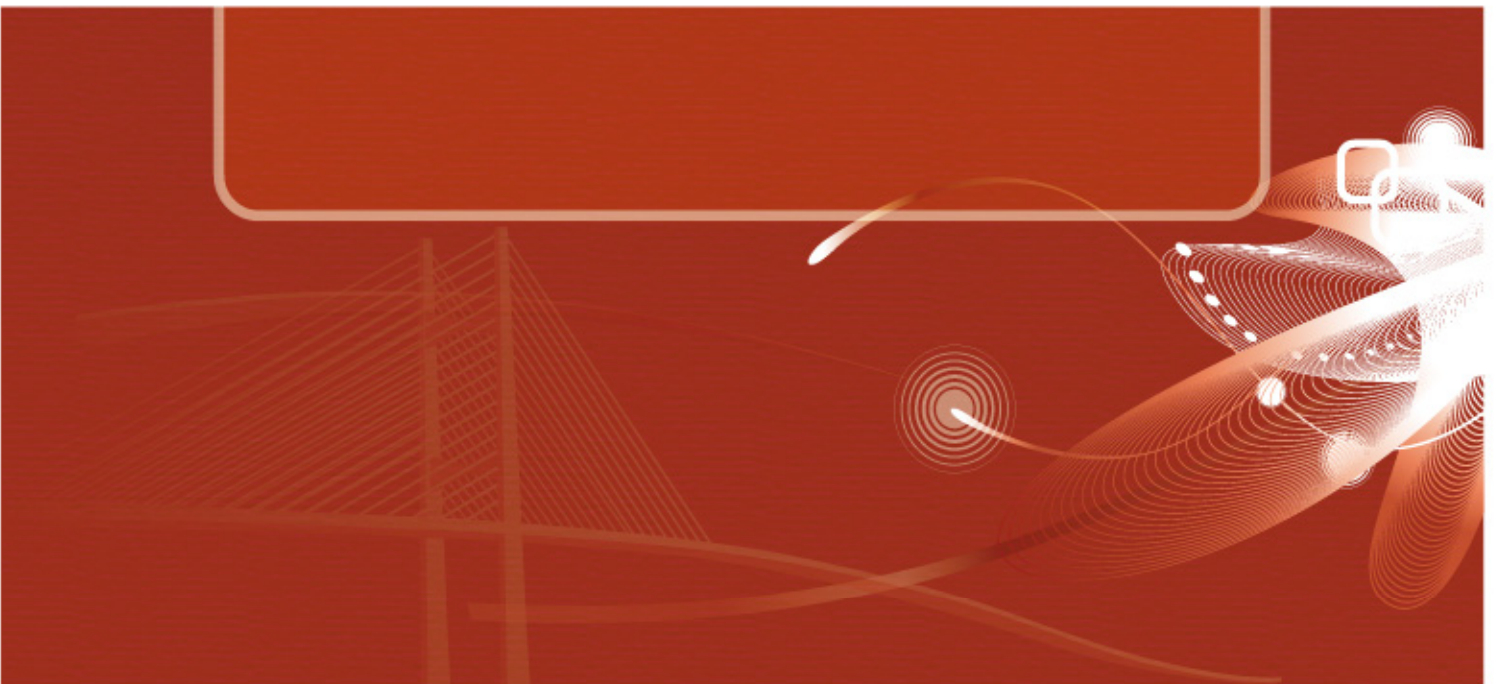
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Analysis Column





IDB Annual Meeting

The [Board of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank \(IDB\) and the Inter-American Investment Corporation \(IIC\)](#) met in Panama City, Panama, March 14-17. The annual gathering of the two institutions' Governors (Ministers of Finance, Central Banks Governors, or from other high authorities in the member countries) and representatives of multilateral financial, development, and private banking institutions discussed various topics of interest.

The documents presented at the Meeting included the [2013 Latin American and Caribbean Macroeconomic Report](#), which points out that regional growth is likely to be below its potential over the next few years: approximately 3.9 % for the period 2013-17, almost one percentage point down on the 4.8% for 2003-07. But the document warns that the pace of expansion could be boosted by around 4-6% in the next few years if all countries in the region make reforms to their social security and financial systems, infrastructure, and so on.

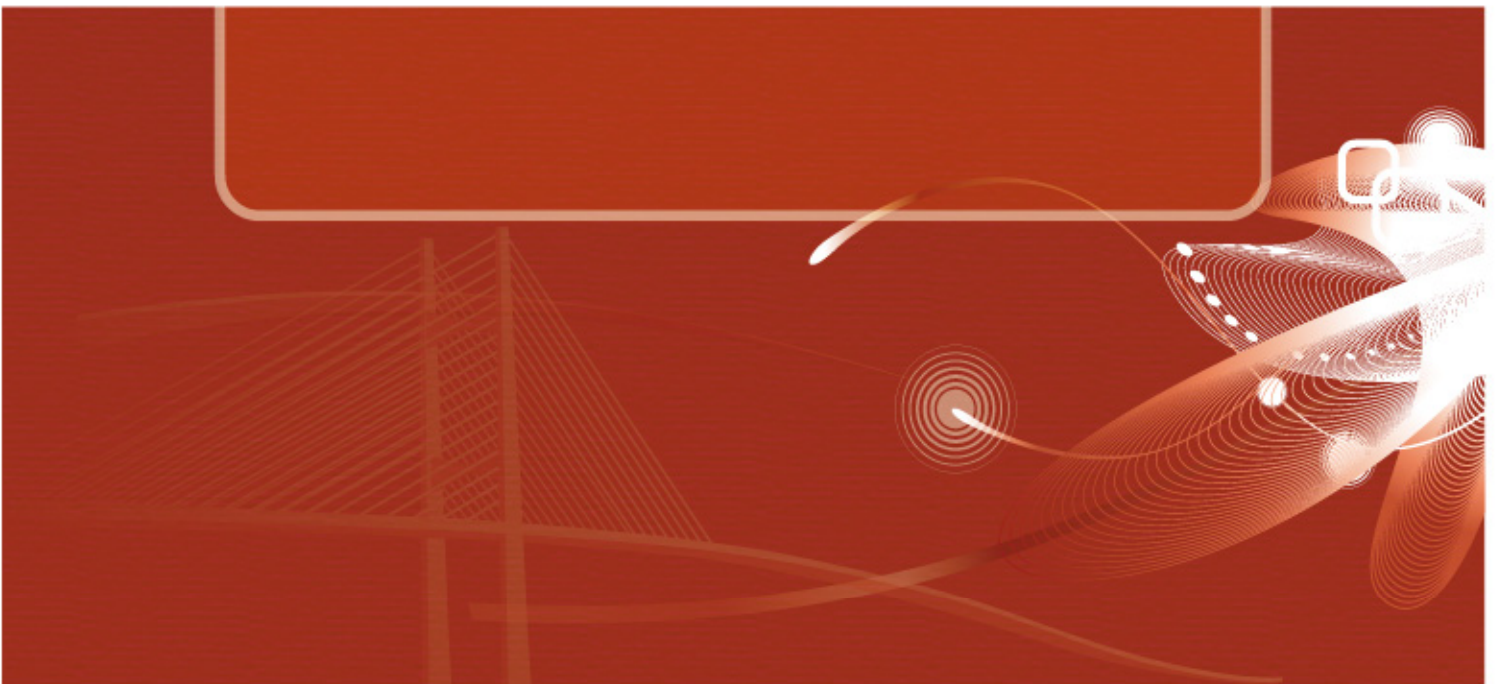
Statement by IDB President Moreno on the death of President Hugo Chávez Frías

The President of the Inter-American Development Bank, Luis Alberto Moreno, today expressed his condolences to the government and the people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the passing of their president, Hugo Chávez Frías.

To read the statement, click on the following [link](#).



Integration Blocs







The Caribbean

CARICOM energy policy tops agenda at COTED meeting

In the framework of the 41st Special Meeting of the [Council for Trade and Economic Development \(COTED\)](#) of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), held in Trinidad at the beginning of March, the bloc's draft regional energy policy was provisionally approved after more than ten years in the making. The policy establishes the regulations relating to the CARICOM common market's energy and transport sector.

Rising oil prices have brought the region face to face with the need to redouble its efforts to implement measures to reduce energy costs through more accessible sources, minimize its carbon footprint, and work to increase its attractiveness as a green tourist destination.

Faced with this reality, the new energy policy aims to transform the energy sector with a view to the region's energy efficiency and the adoption of renewable energy sources, two key elements to maintain competitiveness in today's global economy.

The first draft of this common policy, presented at the Conference of Heads of State in January 2007 by the [CARICOM Task Force on Energy](#), set up in 2003, was finally approved in 2010 and submitted to the Special COTED Meeting in March 2011. Since then, it has been subject to review and eventually backed by the bloc's Energy Ministers at the above meeting.

IDB support regional energy policy

In 2010, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and CARICOM signed a US\$400,000 Technical Cooperation Agreement to develop a strategic framework to support the region's energy policy, the [Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy-CARICOM \(C-SERMS\)](#), and the development and operation of a sustainable energy platform, the [Caribbean Information Platform on Renewable Energy \(CIPORE\)](#). The implementation of C-SERMS was agreed at the 20th Meeting between sessions of CARICOM Heads of Government, held in Belize City, Belize, March 2009, as part of the region's central climate change mitigation strategy.

For more information click on the following links: [\[1\]](#), [\[2\]](#), [\[3\]](#), [\[4\]](#).

Related articles

- IDB-INTAL. “[IDB earmarks funds for CARICOM to develop sustainable energy](#)”, *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 172*, December 2010.
- IDB-INTAL. “[Energy efficiency a priority in CARICOM](#)”, *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 176*, April 2011.

IDB supports trade expansion and connectivity in the Caribbean

The 24th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was held in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, February 18-19.

For first time since its accession to CARICOM,[1] Haiti has taken on the bloc's presidency and is hosting a meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government – another first.

During the meeting, the Haitian President, Joseph Michel Martelly, stressed the importance of improving transport services in the region to facilitate the movement of people and goods. Indeed, transport is among the topics that head the CARICOM agenda, and this issue was discussed, along with other key issues, at the 41st Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED), which was convened especially to consider it. The recommendations arising from the meeting[2] are expected to be presented at the next COTED meeting in Trinidad & Tobago next July, when this country will hold the CARICOM presidency.

The Caribbean Regional Aid for Trade Strategy

The Conference in Haiti supported the Regional Aid for Trade Strategy, the design of which was financed with resources from IDB's [Aid for Trade initiative](#), considered an essential tool to mobilize resources in the region and maintain its competitiveness in global markets. The draft strategy had been validated in the framework of the [Trade and Integration Meeting of the Regional Policy Dialogue](#), which took place in Barbados in November 2012, bringing together the CARICOM countries and regional institutions.[3]

The issues of capacity and connectivity particularly affect small countries, such as the Caribbean states, and accordingly there is a need for a regional strategy that aims to enhance the benefits of trade liberalization. Mindful of this need, the initiative was developed with the objective of improving economic infrastructure, boosting competitiveness, and facilitating the expansion, trade diversification, and extension of the private sector; deepening the regional integration of CARICOM and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and maximizing any access opportunities arising from trade agreements. To achieve these goals, priority will be given to maritime transport, information and communication technologies (ICT), and energy projects.

The Strategy is financed with resources from IDB's [Aid for Trade Strategic Fund](#), launched by the institution in 2008 to support Latin American and Caribbean public and private sectors insertion in the global economy. This multi-donor trust fund is intended to finance activities in four main areas: 1) trade policy, negotiation, and implementation agreements; 2) trade facilitation and development of the private sector; 3) initiatives that help to connect up markets through physical infrastructure, the harmonization of regulatory frameworks, and the reduction of transit costs; 4) adjustment trade-related efforts to help countries adopt trade liberalization.

For more information, click on the following links: [1], [2].

[1] Although the process of accession to CARICOM began in 1997, Haiti was not admitted as a full member until 1999, and its definitive access was ratified by the Haitian Parliament as late as May 13, 2002. Then president, Jean Bertrand Aristide, signed the Treaty of Chaguaramas July 4, 2003, and free trade between Haiti and the other countries in the region officially began January 1, 2004. Its membership was interrupted in 2004 with the administration of President Gérard Latortue, but was resumed in early 2006, with the return to democracy under President René Préval.

[2] See “[41st Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development of the CARICOM](#)” in this month’s issue.

[3] The Trade and Integration Network of the Regional Policy Dialogue is coordinated by the IDB’s Trade and Integration Sector and provides a forum for discussion and knowledge exchange among Latin American and Caribbean government decision-makers and IDB on key issues relating to trade and regional and global integration.



Central America

Public finances and employment: key areas of IDB's agenda in Central America and the Dominican Republic

The 27th Meeting of Governors of the Central American Isthmus and Panama was held in Antigua, Guatemala, February 21-22. The topics addressed come within the analysis of the various challenges on the development agenda, in particular, efficient managing of public finances, reducing informality, and boosting job productivity.

The meeting highlighted the role of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in the region's development. In 2012, the Bank approved sovereign guaranteed loans for the Isthmus to the tune of some US\$2 billion, 70% up on 2011. The disbursements are concentrated in environment and infrastructure, as detailed in the 2012 Activities Report: "[The Bank in the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic](#)." [1]

The 2013 program will focus on social investment, transportation and infrastructure, rural credit access, and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with estimated disbursements of US\$1.5 billion.

The meeting is part of the preparatory activities for the Annual Meeting of the IDB Board of Governors in Panama [March 14-17](#).

More information at the following links: [1];[2];[3].

[1] Click [here](#) to access a summary of the Activities Report.

Central America prepares regional actions to protect coffee plantations

The Central American region has been suffering the severest outbreak of rust of the past 30 years. The fungus, which affects about half of the Isthmus's coffee-growing area, is estimated to have caused losses of US\$600 million, or about 20% of the total harvest. The regions affected stretch from Mexico to Peru.

Representatives of the Central American heads of state met in San José, Costa Rica, February 20, in the framework of an [Extraordinary Summit](#), and instructed the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) to develop a regional strategy for combating the fungus, to be presented at an extraordinary meeting of Agriculture Ministers in Panama, mid-March.

Among the causes of the rust epidemic are changes in rainfall patterns, variations in maximum and minimum temperatures in 2012, the vulnerability of coffee trees, and the pathogen's infectivity. To eradicate it infected tissue has to be renewed, the trees pruned, and fungicides applied. Recovery may take anything up to three harvests.

In 2011, the coffee sector had warned of a rust outbreak after the excess moisture left by [tropical depression 12-E](#), but went unheeded. By September 2012, the alert had deepened, but it was the end of the year before any action was taken at national level.

The [CAC had met, February 18-19](#), prior to the Summit to analyze priority topics on the regional agenda. The meeting discussed the national plans being applied against rust and outlined *joint action* to avoid duplicating programs. Coordinating plans is relevant in a scenario where an untreated area can cause a fresh outbreak.

The plan would contain short-, medium- and long-term measures, entail the allocation of around US\$300 million, and provide technical support and nonreimbursable fund management.

In the short term, plantations will be fumigated and left to recover in order to control the blight, the area affected will be reduced, and social compensation will be awarded to those affected. In the medium term, there will be a focus on providing training to treat the disease, expanding the information available to producers, implementing phytosanitary control measures, renewing the most disease-resistant varieties, and improving the ability to forecast and monitor the behavior of the climatic variables influencing the emergence of rust. And in the long term, it is hoped to conduct research into the biology and control of rust, and into the genetic enhancement of coffee, while continuing with human resources training in this area.

IDB, alongside other international agencies and foreign governments, has offered its support to develop and implement this strategy. In the face of this emergency, several Central American countries have declared an alert and taken action to combat the fungus.

In *Costa Rica*, 30,000ha from a total of 94,000ha have been affected, and the Costa Rican government is to allocate US\$4 million for technical training and staffing in agrochemicals. In 2011, coffee accounted for 3.6% of this country's total exports, equivalent to US\$373.6 million, and almost 8% of the labor force is linked to this sector. As [ICAPE](#) has explained, historically speaking, this has been key in terms of economic sustainability and social balance.

Table 1: Central American countries' share of coffee exports and GDP, 2011

In billions of US\$ and %.

Country	Total coffee exports	Share total exports coffee	Share of coffee in GDP
	<i>In billions of US\$</i>	%	%
Costa Rica	0.3736	3.6	0.9
El Salvador	0.4597	8.7	2.0
Guatemala	1.1700	11.3	2.5
Honduras	1.2713	17.7	7.4
Nicaragua	0.4431	19.3	6.1

Source: ICO

El Salvador has implemented a US\$3 million fungicide distribution plan, so that rust does not exceed the 40% of coffee plantations already affected. In addition to providing fungicides and foliar insecticides, which will benefit 40% of coffee plantations with inputs, the entire sector will receive technical assistance. Salvadoran coffee exports in 2011 amounted to US\$459.7 million, or 8.7 % of the country's total external sales (2.0 % of GDP).

In *Guatemala*, production could fall by 40%, and producers have requested US\$30 million in support (Guatemala is the region's second largest producer and exporter, with 11.3% of its foreign shipments consisting of coffee, and is the tenth largest producer at the global level). 37% of coffee plantations in *Nicaragua* have been affected by rust, and the country has been focusing its efforts on training technicians in methods to halt the proliferation of the fungus. Nicaragua is where coffee has most relevance, accounting for a fifth of total exports.

Honduras has decided to fumigate 80,000ha, being the largest coffee producer in Central America, with 42% of total regional production in 2011 (Table 2), and the sixth largest producer in the world, and also as the country where the coffee sector has the highest share of gross domestic product (GDP) (7.4%). Rust in Honduras has affected 25% of coffee plantations. The action taken so far totals US\$150,000, but, according to the Honduran Coffee Institute, around US\$4 million are needed.

According to [International Coffee Organization](#) (ICO) data, these five Central American countries are responsible for 10.6 % of world coffee production (Table 2).

Table 2: Central American coffee production and exports, 2011

In thousands of sacks* and %

Country	Total production	Total exports of coffee	Share of total regional production
	<i>In thousands of sacks</i>	<i>In thousands of sacks</i>	<i>%</i>
Costa Rica	1,462	1,243	10.3 %
El Salvador	1,163	1,826	8.2 %
Guatemala	3,840	3,697	27.0 %
Honduras	5,976	3,947	42.0 %
Nicaragua	1,774	1,468	12.5 %
Central America Subtotal	14,215	12,181	10.6 %
<i>Total World</i>	<i>134,401</i>	<i>104,577</i>	<i>100.0 %</i>

Note: * 60kg sacks. Source: ICO

More information on the regional initiative against rust at the following links: [\[1\]](#); [\[2\]](#); [\[3\]](#); [\[4\]](#).

Central America has also set up a [regional biotechnology and biosafety initiative](#), which seeks to coordinate countries' action in these areas, harmonize legislation, and promote research and dissemination. The regional group will promote technical discussion and guide the implementation of public policies in biotechnology and biosafety, as well as the development of tools for sustainable development.

Trade Facilitation in Central America: harmonization of technical regulations and analysis of logistical barriers to trade

Central American Economic Integration Deputy Ministers, Integration Directors, officials from the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), and technical groups from the Isthmus met in San José, Costa Rica, February 4-8, for the First Central American Customs Union Round of the first semester of 2013.

Following the [Action Plan](#) adopted in January by the Council of Ministers for Central American Economic Integration (COMIECO), work focused on the medicines, food and drinks, and agricultural inputs subgroups. The [0% import tariff for mancozeb](#) (the raw material for fungicides) was also approved in the framework of joint policies to combat the [rust outbreak](#) that has hit the region's coffee sector.

The Deputy Ministers discussed the EU-Central America Association Agreement (EU-CAAA) and the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Chile, mindful of the fact that the elimination of technical barriers to trade, and the homogenization of sanitary and phytosanitary measures are part of [the Isthmus's commitments to launch the EU-CAAA](#).

Details of the round are available [here](#).

The actions covered by the Action Plan are complemented by efforts to facilitate trade by improving transportation, logistics, and general infrastructure. This is one of the priorities for the projects the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is implementing in Central America. At the recent [Mesoamerican Business Forum](#), the organization's president, Luis A. Moreno, underlined the Isthmus's potential to become a [world-class logistics corridor](#). The physical integration initiatives being implemented under the Mesoamerica Project, such as the Pacific Corridor and the Central American Electrical Interconnection System (SIEPAC), are just some of the endeavors being supported by IDB – both financially and with technical advice – in order to deepen intraregional trade and its connection with the rest of the world.

In this respect, it is interesting to note the forum "[Trade and Logistics in Central America: the Road to Competitiveness](#)", with the participation of trade and customs authorities from the subregion's countries. The forum discussed some of the [World Bank investigations](#) relating to transport, infrastructure, and border post costs, and their impact on intraregional trade, as well as the isthmus's export potential.

Related articles

- IDB-INTAL. “[IDB support to Mesoamerican Project targets biofuels, health, and infrastructure](#)”, *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 190*, June 2012.
- IDB-INTAL. “[IDB supports full implementation of Transit of Goods in Central America](#)”, *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 186*, February 2012.
- IDB-INTAL. “[Mesoamerica Project: Pacific Corridor](#)”, *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 178*, June 2011.
- IDB-INTAL. “[Mesoamerica Project: electrical interconnections](#)”, *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 178*, June 2011.

Central America and Mexico: in search of a strategic partnership

The First Summit of the Central American Integration System (SICA) and Mexico was held in San José, Costa Rica, February 20. It was the second Summit to be attended by Mexican president, Enrique Peña Nieto, since taking office in December 2012.[1]

In his [speech](#), Peña Nieto stressed that one of the five goals of his government is [to make Mexico an actor with greater global responsibility](#), starting with Central America.[2] The Mexican leader's first international tours were to Latin American countries, proof of the new government's interest in this region which he hopes will strengthen ties between them and his country.

In particular, the Mexican President expressed the will to [strengthen the political and trading relationship with its partners in the Isthmus](#) and to expand cooperation for development and productive investments, as well as supporting more effective Central American integration. In a presentation to the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly, Peña Nieto pledged that his government go beyond the single free trade agreement (FTA)[3] and seek a [strategic association agreement](#) that would include these topics.

These statements were reflected in the [joint communiqué](#) presented by the Central American and Mexico leaders at the close of the Summit, heralding the start of a new phase in relations within the framework of affinities and converging interests between the two parties. They further pledged to extend and intensify political and economic relations.

The [specific commitments](#) undertaken include:

- Speeding up the Single FTA's entry into force: after [the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly's approval of the Single FTA](#) February 26, only Guatemala's ratification is needed for the agreement to come into force across the board.
- Strengthening the Tuxtla Mechanism, the Mesoamerica Project, and the Yucatán Agreement, all related to cooperation within the region and in which the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) plays a fundamental role through project funding and technical support.
- Holding a meeting of Foreign Ministers to explore innovative ways to give concrete expression to the Mexico-SICA partnership.
- Forming working groups on issues of shared interest.
- Enhancing the Infrastructure Fund for Mesoamerican and Caribbean countries.
- Last, [Mexico will support the efficient use of water, and access to agricultural insurance and biotechnological tools in the Isthmus](#) Mexico also offered to increase cooperation in technical training and rural extension.

[1] His first official visit was to [Uruguay](#) in January.

[2] [Mexico and Central America: the path of integration](#), February 20, 2013.

[3] The initiative to unify Mexico's FTA with Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and the Northern Triangle countries (El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras) emerged in 2008 and concluded in November 2011 with the signing of the agreement. More information [here](#).

Costa Rica-Colombia negotiations reach closure

After the [fourth round](#) of negotiations toward a free trade agreement (FTA), Costa Rica and Colombia closed the agreement in early March.

The last round [concluded the chapters](#) on trade defense and financial services, and the annexes on services and investment. The chapter on financial services, in particular, contains a brand new commitment by both countries to secure a regulatory framework that allows for the potential integration of their stock markets.

Colombia has granted Costa Rica immediate access to 69% of the tariff universe, while Costa Rica has offered immediate free trade on 70.6% of goods. Tariffs on the remaining goods will be eliminated over 15 years, and tariffs will remain on just 5% of goods in the case of Colombia and 4% in the case of Costa Rica. The main results of the FTA between Costa Rica and Colombia are available [here](#).

For Costa Rica, the [culmination of these negotiations](#) is a further step toward full membership of the Pacific Alliance, after [ratification of the FTA with Mexico](#) at the end of February and [progress toward approving the agreement with Peru](#) in early March.

Related articles

- IDB-INTAL. "[Central America: active efforts in trade](#)", *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 195*, November 2012.
- IDB -INTAL. "[Central America approaches Andean countries](#)", *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 194*, October 2012.
- IDB -INTAL. "[Multifaceted Central American trade agenda](#)", *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 192*, August 2012.

Andean Community

Colombia and South Korea sign FTA

The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Colombia and South Korea was signed, February 21, after seven rounds of talks between December 2009 and June 2012. The next step before its entry into force is approval by the Colombian Congress and the Korean National Assembly.

This is the first agreement that Colombia has signed with an Asian country, and it falls within a wider policy of rapprochement in the Asia-Pacific region. The Andean country is currently negotiating with Japan, and is seeking to sign treaties with China[1] and Singapore. Colombia is also interested in joining the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC). This would provide an additional pathway to consolidating its business relationship with the member countries and attracting greater inflows of foreign direct investment. On the other hand, South Korea has Free Trade Agreements with the United States, the European Union, the countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), India, Turkey, and in the region, with Chile and Peru.

The FTA with South Korea will allow Colombians access to a market of almost 50 million consumers with a per capita GDP of US\$23,679 (Table 1).

Table 1: Colombia and Korea: area, population, and per capita GDP, 2012

Country	Territory (km2)	Population	Per capita GDP (US\$)
Colombia	1,141,748	46,771,321	8,127
Korea	99,720	49,136,000	23,679

Source: IMF and CIA World Factbook.

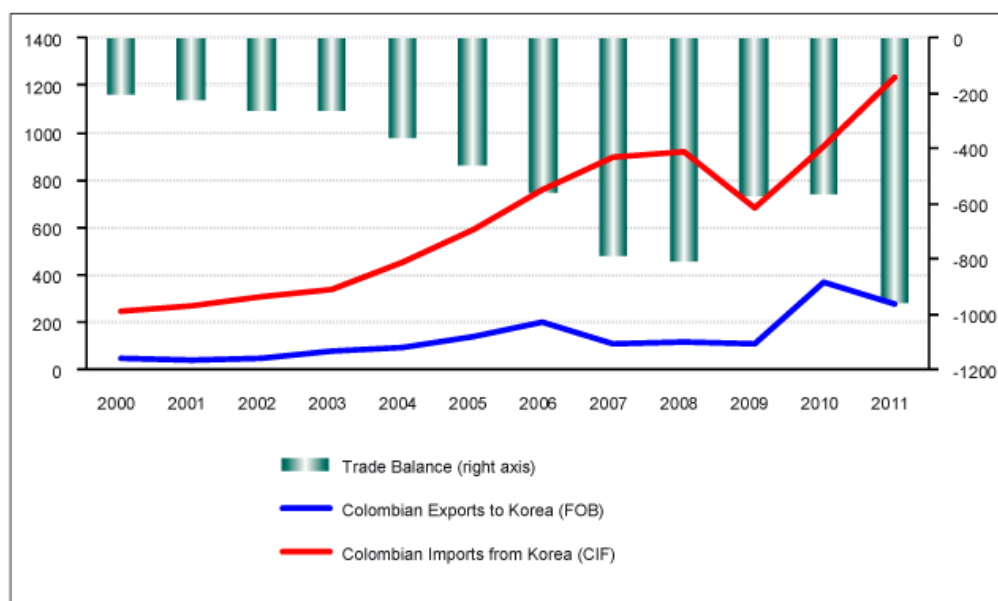
The FTA is part of the so-called next-generation agreements, which include goods and services, and also investment and cooperation. It contains 22 chapters on industrial and agricultural goods, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, trade defense, investment, intellectual property, sustainable development and trade, cooperation, competition, government procurement, services, and dispute settlement, and other relevant areas.

Among the agreement's benefits for Colombia are greater market opportunities and the opportunity to attract more investment. It specifically seeks to establish new links in production and supply chains, with a greater potential for knowledge transfer to the country.

Over the last decade, Colombian exports to South Korea grew at an average cumulative annual (c.a.) rate of 20.3%, while Colombian imports from the Asian country grew at a rate of 16.6% (c.a.) in the same period (Graph 1). Bilateral trade has historically seen a deficit for Colombia, with a negative balance of US\$958 million in 2011.

Graph 1: Colombia's exports, imports, and trade balance with South Korea, 2000-2011

In millions of US\$



Source: Mincomercio, Colombia.

The main headings exported to Korea are: coffee, metallurgy, ferronickel, oil, and basic chemicals. The most relevant imports are vehicles, machinery and equipment, and chemicals, metallurgy, and textiles.

Table 2: Composition of the trade between Colombia and Korea, 2011

In millions of US\$ and %

Exports	US\$	Share
Coffee	97.074	35.2 %
Metallurgy	63.377	23.0 %
Ferronickel	41.419	15.0 %
Oil	40.499	14.7 %
Basic Chemicals	9.118	3.3 %
Others	24.661	8.9 %
Total exported to South Korea (FOB)	276.148	100.0 %
Imports	US\$	Share
Automotive	606.738	49.2 %
Machinery and equipment	237.746	19.3 %
Basic Chemicals	231.708	18.8 %
Metallurgy	88.061	7.1 %
Textiles	30.904	2.5 %
Others	38.820	3.1 %
Total imported from South Korea (CIF)	1.233.977	100.0 %
Trade Balance	-957.829	

Source: Mincomercio, Colombia.

Related articles

- IDB-INTAL, “[Colombia and Peru in 2012: Progress in external trade agenda](#)”, *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 197*, January 2013.
- IDB-INTAL, “[Andean Countries put free-trade agreements in place](#)”, *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 180*, August 2011.
- IDB-INTAL, “[Andean initiatives in trade negotiations with Asia](#)”, *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 194*, October 2012.

[1] In 2012, the two countries decided to launch a study to analyze the feasibility of a trade agreement.

Peru-EU trade agreement comes into force

The Partnership Agreement between Peru and the European Union (EU) signed June 26, 2012, came into force March 1. It was also announced that a similar partnership agreement with Colombia will soon come into force.

The EU is Peru's third largest trading partner, with a 15.4% share of the total. In 2011, Peru exported US\$8.831 billion to and imported US\$3.912 billion from the EU. The Agreement is expected not only to contribute to the opening of markets, but also to create new trade and investment opportunities, while promoting the stability and predictability of the economic relationship between the two parties.

Related articles

- IDB-INTAL, "[Colombia and Peru in 2012: Progress in external trade agenda](#)", *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 197*, January 2013.
- IDB-INTAL, "[EU-Colombia/Peru trade agreement signed](#)", *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 191*, July 2012.



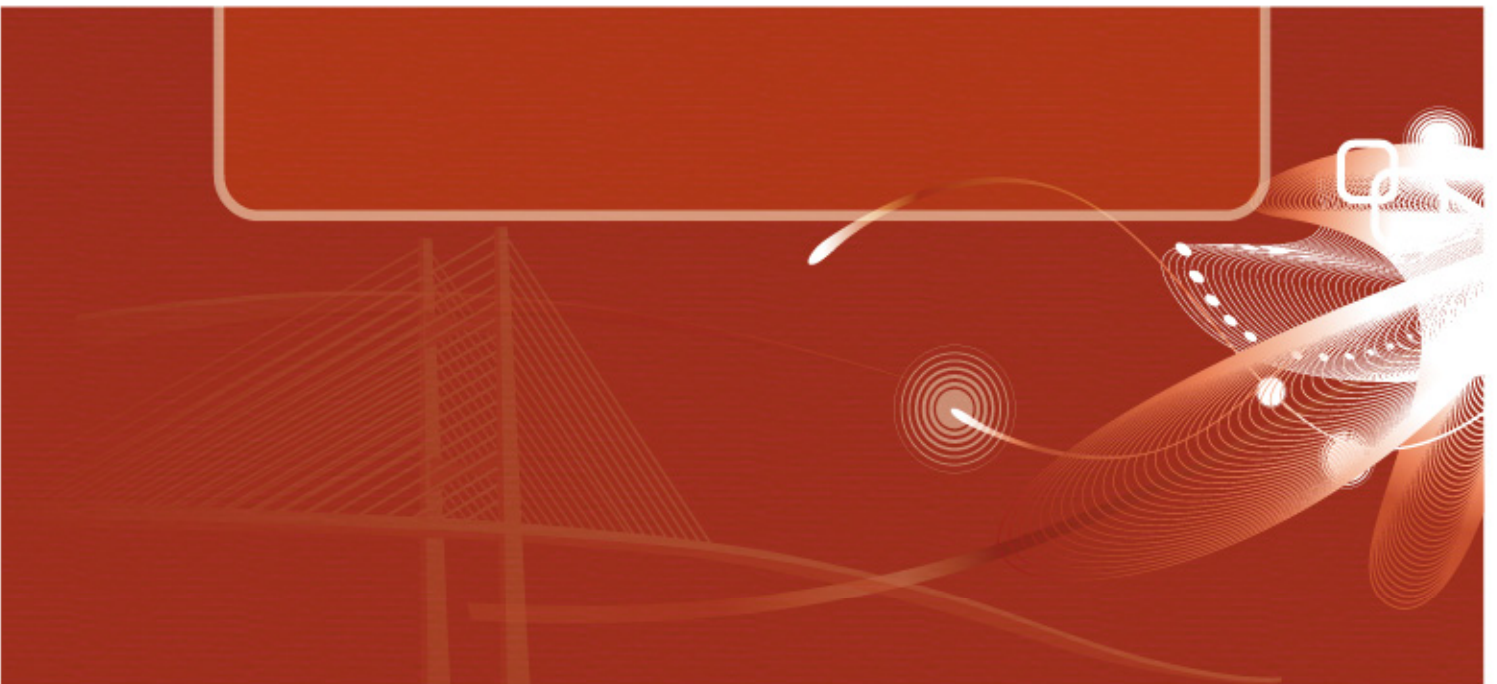
MERCOSUR

Bolivia and Uruguay sign cooperation agreements

Bolivia and Uruguay have signed a [Technical and Scientific Cooperation Framework Agreement](#) for the development and implementation of joint programs and projects in various areas of interest: planning and development, modernization of the State, science and technology, technological innovation, and productive, environmental, and natural resources, as well as other areas relevant to the bilateral relationship.



Regional And Global Overview





Meeting of experts in trade, services and development

A gathering organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) took place in Geneva, Switzerland, February 25-26, to identify best practices for the development of policies, regulations, institutions, and international negotiations relating to services, trade, and development.

Following the Doha mandate on the issue of access in services, the discussions were based on the search for appropriate regulatory and institutional frameworks not involving trade barriers. Representatives from international organizations, public and private sectors, academia, and others took part in the different sessions. They discussed issues such as the regulations needed to attract investment in infrastructure, the creation of standards to gauge the performance of service providers, and the promotion of universal access to services.

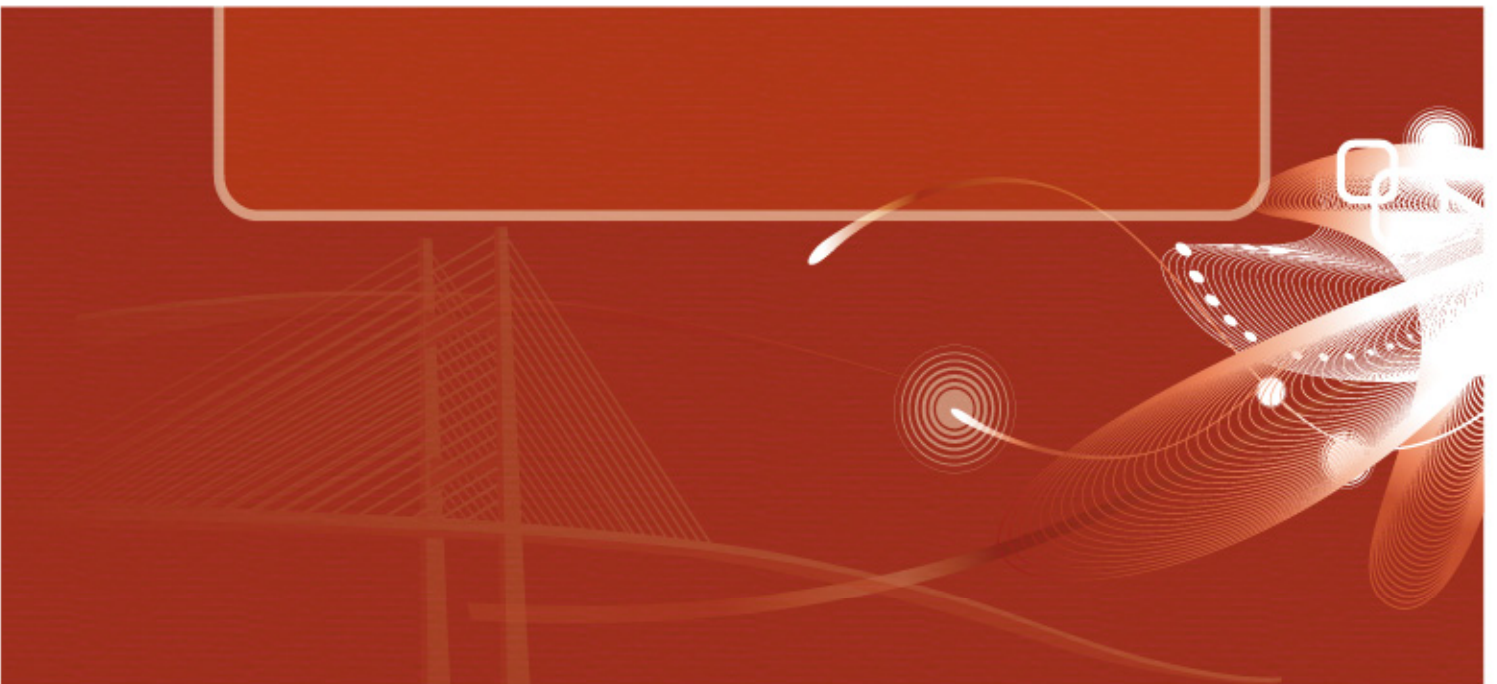
The document, "[Trade, services, and development: the regulatory and institutional challenges](#)", presents a brief summary of the topics covered by the meeting and identifies key infrastructure services for economic growth, e.g. transport, telecommunications, energy, water supply, and financial services.

It also emphasizes the need for sound regulation and strong institutions to optimize their contribution, and stresses that the main challenges in these areas are to attract and retain investment, stimulate innovation, ensure universal access to services, and create and enable a coherent institutional framework.

Last, the experts pointed out that there is no single model to tackle all these challenges, and that regulations must be tailored to the specific sectoral characteristics and local conditions.



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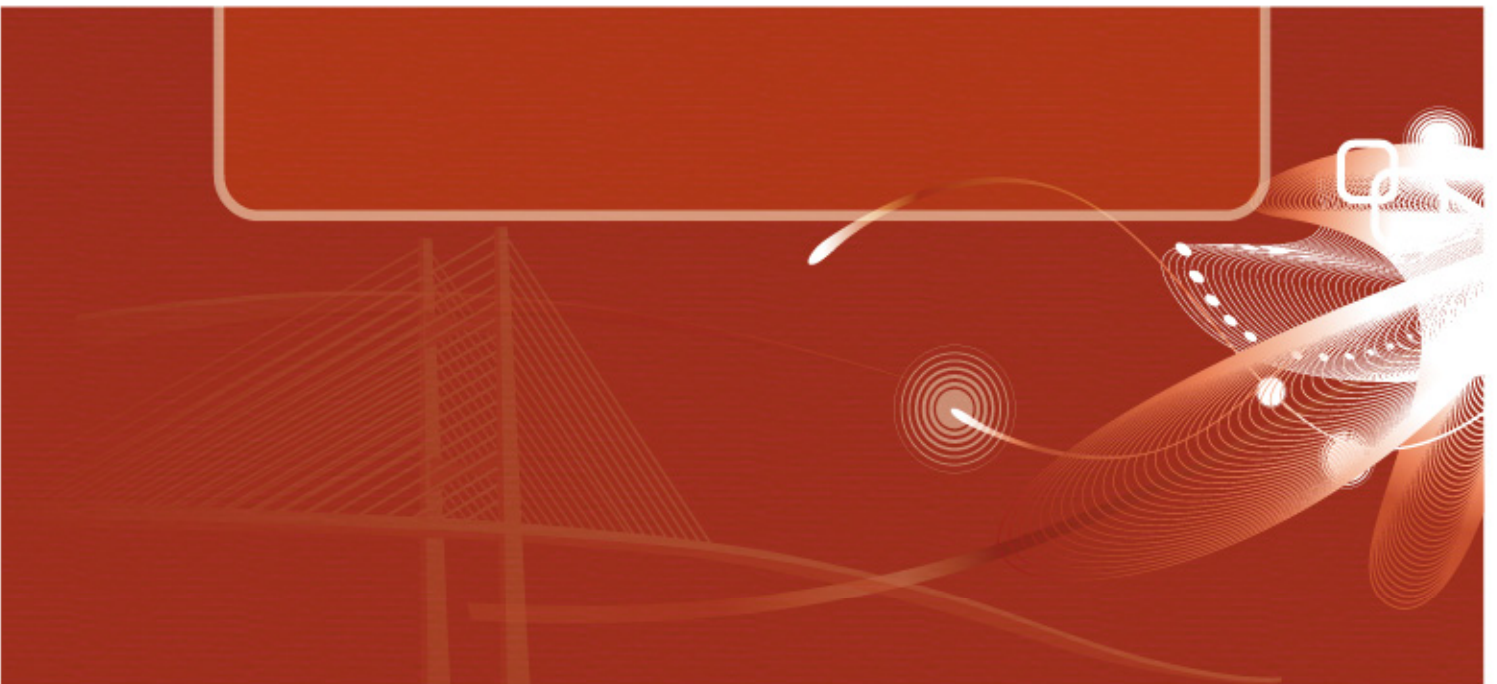


Integration and Trade Sector

Check the latest issue of the Integration and Trade Sector Newsletter for more activities/events/publications ([link](#))



Other IDB Activities

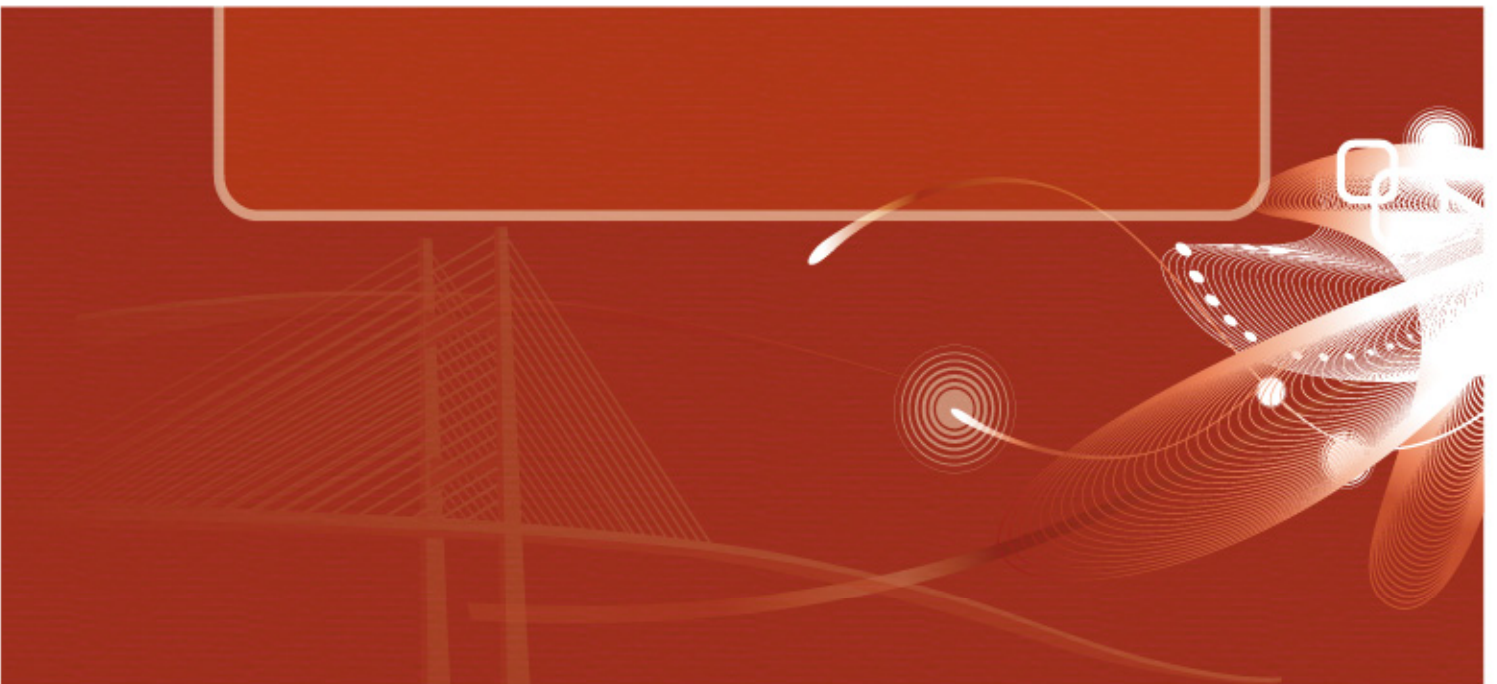




Regional Event on Public-Private Partnerships Opens in Cartagena, Colombia ([link](#))



Integration & Trade Sector Activities





Progress in region's trade negotiations: Legal Instruments of Integration update

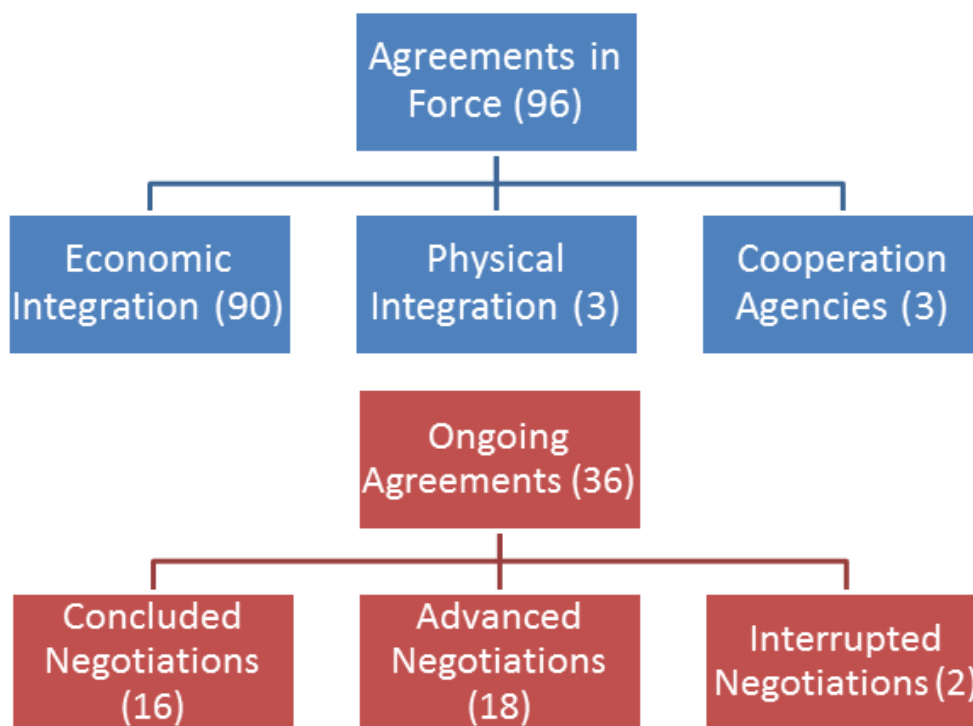
INTAL has updated its [Legal Instruments of Integration \(IJI\)](#) database with all the latest on trade negotiations between November 1, 2012, and January 31, 2013.

IJI is a compilation of normative texts, comments, and follow-up of the basic legal commitments of the different Latin American and Caribbean processes of integration. It is updated quarterly and incorporates information from the periods ending in January, April, July, and October.

The information in the database is organized on the basis of two major categories: *Existing Agreements* and *Ongoing Agreements*. *Existing Agreements* are ordered as: 1) Economic Integration; 2) Physical Integration; and 3) Cooperation Agencies. *Ongoing Agreements* are ordered as: 1) Concluded Negotiations; 2) Advanced Negotiations; and 3) Interrupted Negotiations.

At present IJI contains information on 132 agreements and negotiations, distributed as shown in Diagram 1. Each agreement has an introduction, follow-up articles on its evolution, a selection of annotated documents, and other resources such as bibliographies, official links, etc.

Diagram 1: IJI structure and number of agreements per category



Some of the latest items in this period on which IJI provides additional information include:

- Ecuador's negotiations with Guatemala and El Salvador. Ecuador's Partial Scope Agreement (PSA) with Guatemala comes under Concluded Negotiations, as there remain just a few steps before it comes into force. The negotiations toward another PSA between Ecuador and El Salvador come under Advanced Negotiations after the conclusion of a second round of talks.
- The Fifth and Sixth Pacific Alliance Presidents Summits.
- The First Summit of CELAC Heads of State and Government and the First Ministerial Meeting on Infrastructure for the Physical Integration of Transport, Telecommunications, and Border Integration.
- The MERCOSUR-EU Ministerial Meeting toward a Biregional Association Agreement and shows no substantive progress.
- The entry into force for Honduras of the Mexico-Central America Single FTA.

- The Fourteenth Meeting of the Advisory Council of CAN Labor Ministers, which agreed measures for equal treatment of migrant workers among member countries, and the 27th Meeting of Government Experts Community Customs Transit, on whose agenda was the International Transit of Goods (TIM), prompted by IDB.
- The 40th Meeting and the Extraordinary Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the SICA Countries, which adopted the Protocol of Incorporation of the Republic of Panama in the SIECA and proposed the reform of the System's Organs, Councils, and Secretariats; there was also the First Regular Meeting of the Council of Energy Ministers.
- MERCOSUR decided the intraregional trade liberalization plan with Venezuela, and signed the Protocol of Accession with Bolivia.
- The Sixth Regular Meeting of the UNASUR Council of Heads of State and Government.
- The Third UNASUR/COSIPLAN Ministerial Meeting, which assessed progress in 2012 and approved the 2013 Work Plan.

This latest update reaffirms INTAL's commitment to provide access to information on the legal aspects of the processes involved in Latin American integration.

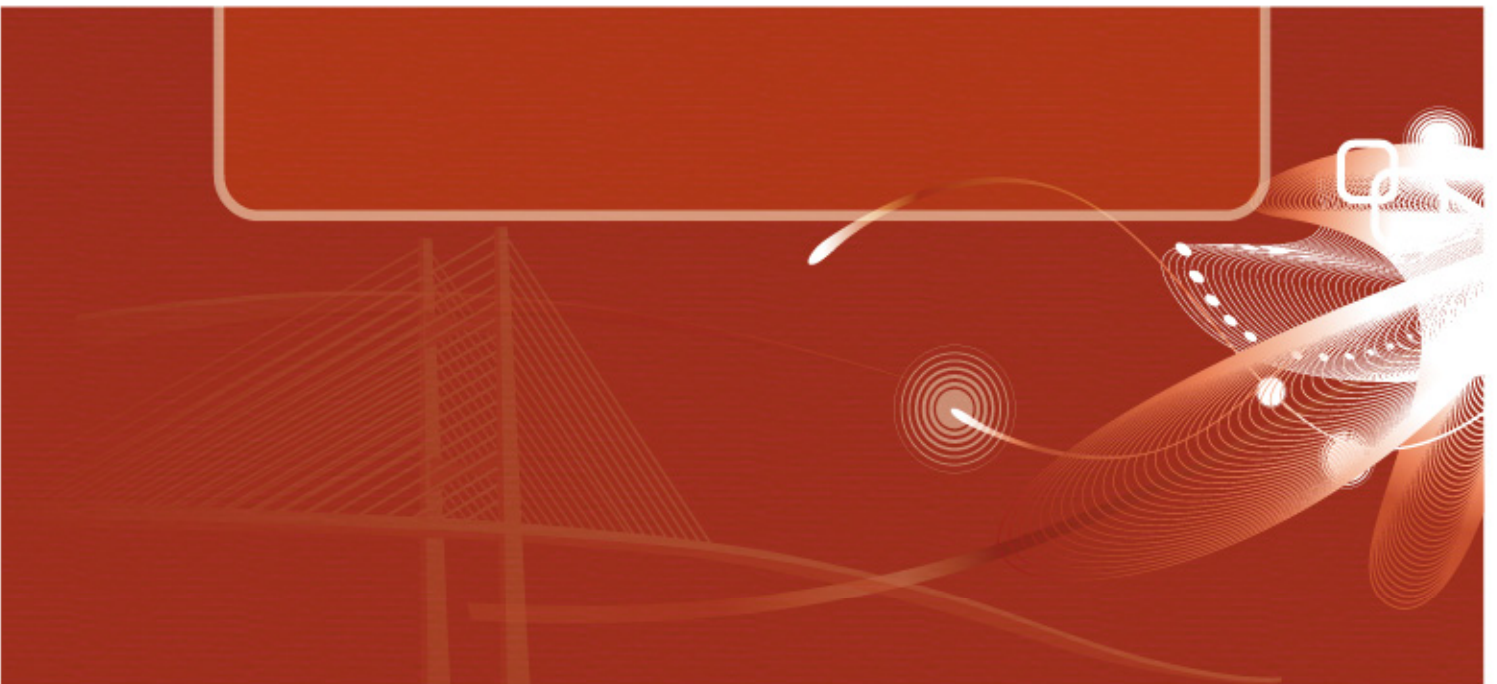
Efforts began with the publication of two books by Marcelo Halperin: the 1986 [*Ordenamiento jurídico de la integración económica regional en América Latina*](#) and 1992's [*Instrumentos básicos de integración económica en América Latina y el Caribe*](#).

As of 1998, updates began to be provided for these materials on the Institute's webpage. This database is part of the [INTradeBID information system](#), which also supplies detailed import and export statistics, as well as indicators that measure trade structure and performance in the region. With a view to improving access to the vast amount of information available on the page, we are currently working on modernizing the browser and search programs.

Please send any comments or suggestions about the latest update to sintal@iadb.org.



INTAL Documentation Center







Reviews

Rozas Balbontín, Patricio, José Luis Bonifaz, Gustavo Guerra-García. El financiamiento de la infraestructura: propuestas para el desarrollo sostenible de una política sectorial. Santiago: ECLAC, 2012 [322 pages.]

This ECLAC publication discusses physical infrastructure financing in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). It identifies problems arising from the involvement of private agents in the implementation of public-private partnership mechanisms, and proposes recommendations to make these more joined up.

This work is highly relevant in view of the major challenge that lies ahead for the region's countries in the area of infrastructure services provision (energy, water and sanitation, telecommunications, and transport). Comparatively speaking, both the developed and some Asian countries, which, thirty years ago, had lower levels of infrastructure services provision than LAC, now consistently outperform them. This shortfall in physical infrastructure has three main consequences: loss of competitiveness and productivity for economic agents; greater difficulties in reducing poverty and improving the population's quality of life; and lack of integration of national and regional territories.

To analyze the problem Las Rozas, Bonifaz, and Guerra-García have divided the investigation into two main parts. The first section focuses on the mechanisms and instruments for private sector participation in infrastructure financing. It examines the problems and challenges faced by the region in this area, the conditions for the sustainability of an infrastructure policy, the participation of the private sector in the infrastructure industry, and the sources and instruments of financing provided by multilateral and bilateral organizations.

Here the authors argue that the current needs for infrastructure investment in the region are far from being met by governments, multilateral organizations, or the private sector in the timeframes and amounts required to reduce the huge deficit in this area. In this framework, the various funding mechanisms developed by private-public partnerships over the past decade could help to increase investment in infrastructure relatively soon. This should be further complemented by improved contracts, the development of guarantees, and the assistance of multilateral organizations. The second part of the book looks in detail at seven case studies of private participation in

infrastructure projects, in various different sectors in the region (transportation, sanitation, energy, ports, and health campuses) in different countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru), with particular emphasis on the lessons to be learnt from the successes and errors identified in each example.

It should be noted that one of the case studies in this second section is that of the IIRSA-Southern Interoceanic Highway. The [Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America \(IIRSA\)](#) is composed of twelve South American countries. Its mission is to modernize regional infrastructure and take specific action to stimulate the integration and development of isolated subregions. IIRSA provides mechanisms for coordination and information exchange across governments and the region's three multilateral financial institutions (the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), and the Financial Fund for the Development of the Río de la Plata Basin (FONPLATA)) in order to achieve the proposed multisectoral objectives. The Southern Interoceanic Highway project is described in the book as a highly relevant case of public-private partnership, due both to the amount of investment committed and to its geopolitical significance. Its standout feature is its financing scheme, which involves the creation of a Recognition Certificate of the Annual Payment for Works (CRPAO). This is an irrevocable obligation for the Peruvian State, but is not recorded as public sector borrowing.

In conclusion, the authors point out that, if the region is to preserve and increase its share in international markets, a substantive improvement in its economic infrastructure is essential, both in terms of the coverage and access, and the quality of services provided. To this end, a sustained increase in public infrastructure investment must be considered a State policy backed up by long-term agreements and strategic planning. Public-private financing schemes must also be broadened, mindful of the setbacks and successes experienced so far.

The publication's main contribution lies in its identification of the concrete problems and benefits involved in implementing public-private partnership projects, and in its recommendations to improve their future application in the region. This is of great value given that it is one of the aspects of development where there is least empirical research and where the debate will benefit greatly from being grounded in concrete fact. The document thus provides an essential guide to decision-making for officials in the infrastructure sectors of the region's governments.

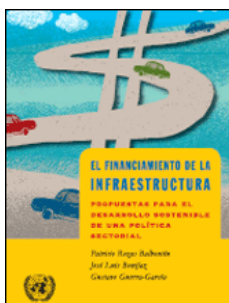


Bibliographic alert

This weekly alert disseminates information on the highlighted documents recently uploaded in the INTAL Documentation Center Data Base (CDI). It also provides links to open access bulletins and journals in Spanish, Portuguese and English. Click [here](#)

Monthly Highlights

* Rozas Balbontín, P.; Bonifaz, J. y Guerra-García, G. (2012). El financiamiento de la infraestructura: Propuestas para el desarrollo sostenible de una política sectorial. Santiago: CEPAL.



Autor:Rozas Balbontín, Patricio; Bonifaz, José Luis; Guerra-García, Gustavo

Título:El financiamiento de la infraestructura: Propuestas para el desarrollo sostenible de una política sectorial

Edición:Santiago: CEPAL, 2012 [322 p.]

ISBN:978-92-1-121784-1

Temas:<INFRAESTRUCTURA><PROYECTOS DE INFRAESTRUCTURA><INVERSIONES><DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE><ESPAÑOL (O CASTELLANO)>

Geográficos:<AMÉRICA LATINA>

Resumen:Esta publicación es el resultado de las iniciativas emprendidas por la Dirección de Planeamiento del Ministerio de Obras Públicas de Chile y la División de Recursos Naturales e Infraestructura de la CEPAL, en el marco del convenio de cooperación técnica que suscribieron dicho Ministerio y la CEPAL en 2006. El objetivo primordial de este trabajo es identificar los problemas derivados de la participación de los agentes privados en la implementación de los mecanismos de asociación público-privada y proponer un conjunto de recomendaciones orientadas a mejorar las sinergias que podrían lograrse con esta articulación. El estudio se refiere a los mecanismos de participación privada en el financiamiento de la infraestructura física de América Latina y el Caribe tendientes a contribuir a un desarrollo sostenible. Se trata de uno de los aspectos del desarrollo en que hay menos investigación empírica y cuya discusión por ende tiene menos fundamentos en hechos concretos. Su importancia radica en el enorme desafío que encaran los países de la región al

enfrentar el progresivo rezago que se ha venido produciendo en la provisión de servicios de infraestructura (energía, agua y saneamiento, telecomunicaciones y transporte) respecto de la evolución de esta industria en los países desarrollados. Aún más preocupante es el rezago respecto de los países emergentes de industrialización tardía, como la República de Corea y otras economías de Asia sudoriental, que hace poco más de tres décadas exhibían niveles de provisión de servicios de infraestructura económica inferiores a varios países de América Latina y que hoy los superan ampliamente.

Accesos al documento:
eHM CEPAL-CUAD. [2012]
Documento Electrónico

[texto completo](#). Si no pudo acceder haga click [aquí](#)

* Pérez, C.; Soto de la Rosa, H. y Pellandra, A. (2013).
**Integración social en Centroamérica: Situación al 2012,
tendencias y propuestas. México: CEPAL.**



Autor:Pérez, Carlos Roberto; Soto de la Rosa, Humberto; Pellandra, Andrea
Título:Integración social en Centroamérica : Situación al 2012, tendencias y propuestas

Edición:México: CEPAL, Enero de 2013 [111 p.]

Serie:CEPAL MX DCL; 1094

Temas:<INTEGRACION SOCIAL><DESARROLLO SOCIAL><POBREZA><EDUCACION><POLITICA DE SALUD><CULTURA><VIVIENDA><MERCADO DE TRABAJO><INFANCIA><ANCIANOS><BIENES PUBLICOS REGIONALES><CONDICIONES SOCIALES><BANCO INTERAMERICANO DE DESARROLLO, BID><ESPAÑOL (O CASTELLANO)>

Geográficos:<AMERICA CENTRAL>

Resumen:El proceso de integración social centroamericano fue planteado hace varios años como objetivo regional, sin embargo, a la fecha de generación del presente documento, la materialización de dicho proceso no ha sido posible por diversas causas. Para entender este bajo nivel de avance y poder hacer un diagnóstico que permita concretar el proceso de la integración social Centroamericana, es necesario tanto realizar un análisis histórico del proceso como disponer de un conocimiento profundo de la realidad social centroamericana. Ambos elementos son centrales en la definición de opciones para lograr la integración social entre los países de Centroamérica mediante estrategias como la adopción de políticas en conjunto y de manera consensuada, que permitan la creación de bienes públicos regionales en las diversas áreas del desarrollo social como son la educación, salud, vivienda, cuidado infantil y de adultos mayores, empleo, entre otras...

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eHM CEPAL.MX-DCL 1094 [2013]
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*** Como mejorar la competitividad de las pymes en la Unión Europea y América Latina y el Caribe. (2013). Santiago de Chile: CEPAL.**



Título: Como mejorar la competitividad de las pymes en la Unión Europea y América Latina y el Caribe = Building SME competitiveness in the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean = Como melhorar a competitividade das PME na Uniao Europeia e na America Latina e Caribe

Edición: Santiago de Chile: CEPAL, Enero de 2013 [39 p.]

Temas: <COMPETITIVIDAD><PEQUEÑAS Y MEDIANAS EMPRESAS, PYMES><RELACIONES COMERCIALES><DESARROLLO

ECONOMICO><DESARROLLO

INDUSTRIAL><PRODUCTIVIDAD><TECNOLOGIA><EMPRESAS><MERCADO DE TRABAJO><DIVERSIFICACION DE LAS EXPORTACIONES><ESPAÑOL (O CASTELLANO)><INGLÉS><PORTUGUÉS>

Geográficos: <AMÉRICA LATINA><CARIBE><EUROPA>

Resumen: Las pymes son agentes económicos que están llamados a jugar un papel renovado muy importante en la dinamización de las relaciones entre América Latina y el Caribe y la Unión Europea. Ambas regiones se encuentran estrechamente vinculadas desde el punto de vista económico, sobre todo a través del comercio y las inversiones directas, así como por el nutrido intercambio histórico de personas e ideas. Hoy el crecimiento de América Latina y el Caribe puede ser un aporte para la mitigación de los efectos de la crisis en Europa. La internacionalización de las pymes, además de contribuir a la generación de empleo y al incremento de los ingresos, brinda la posibilidad de agregar valor en origen e introducir mejoras en la producción que aumenten la participación de este tipo de agentes en los mercados, promoviendo un mayor dinamismo empresarial. Para ello es fundamental reducir las brechas de productividad incorporando tecnología, innovaciones y conocimiento a sus productos, así como impulsar mejoras en la gestión.

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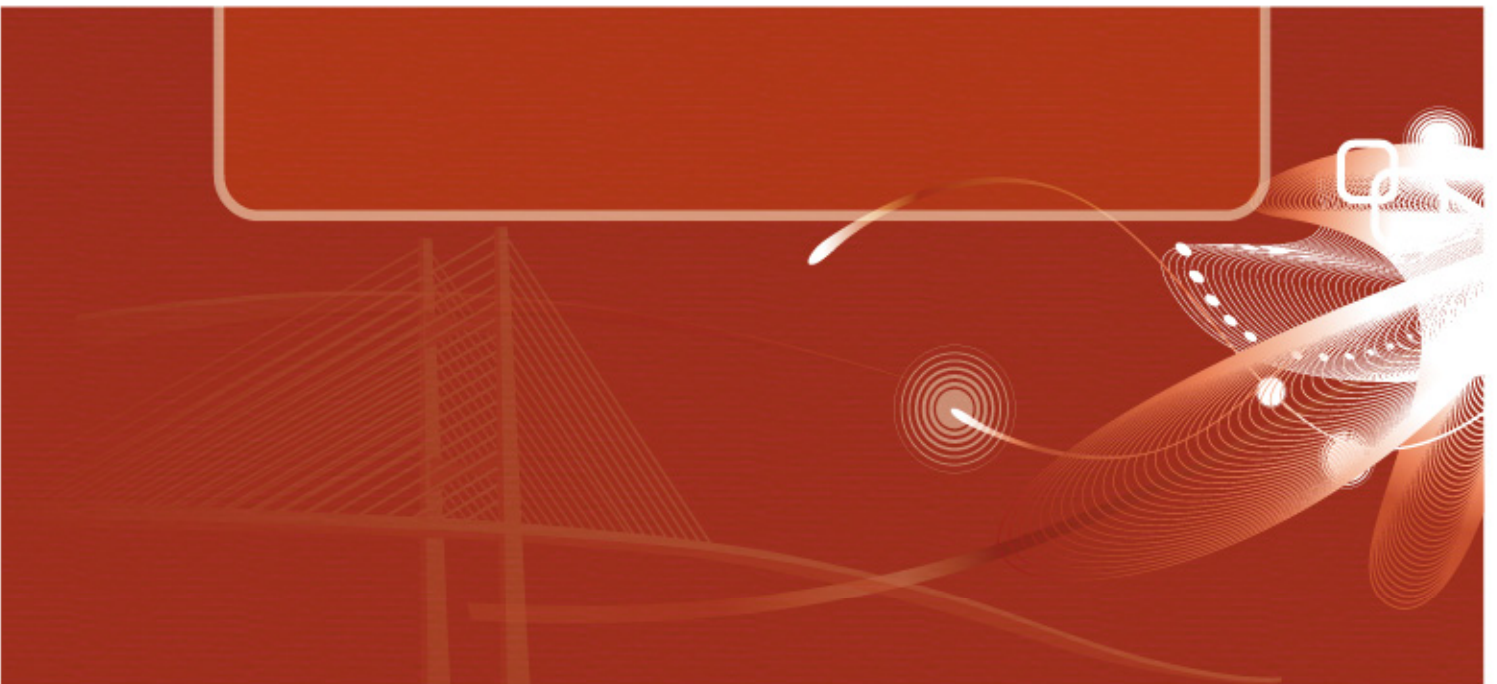
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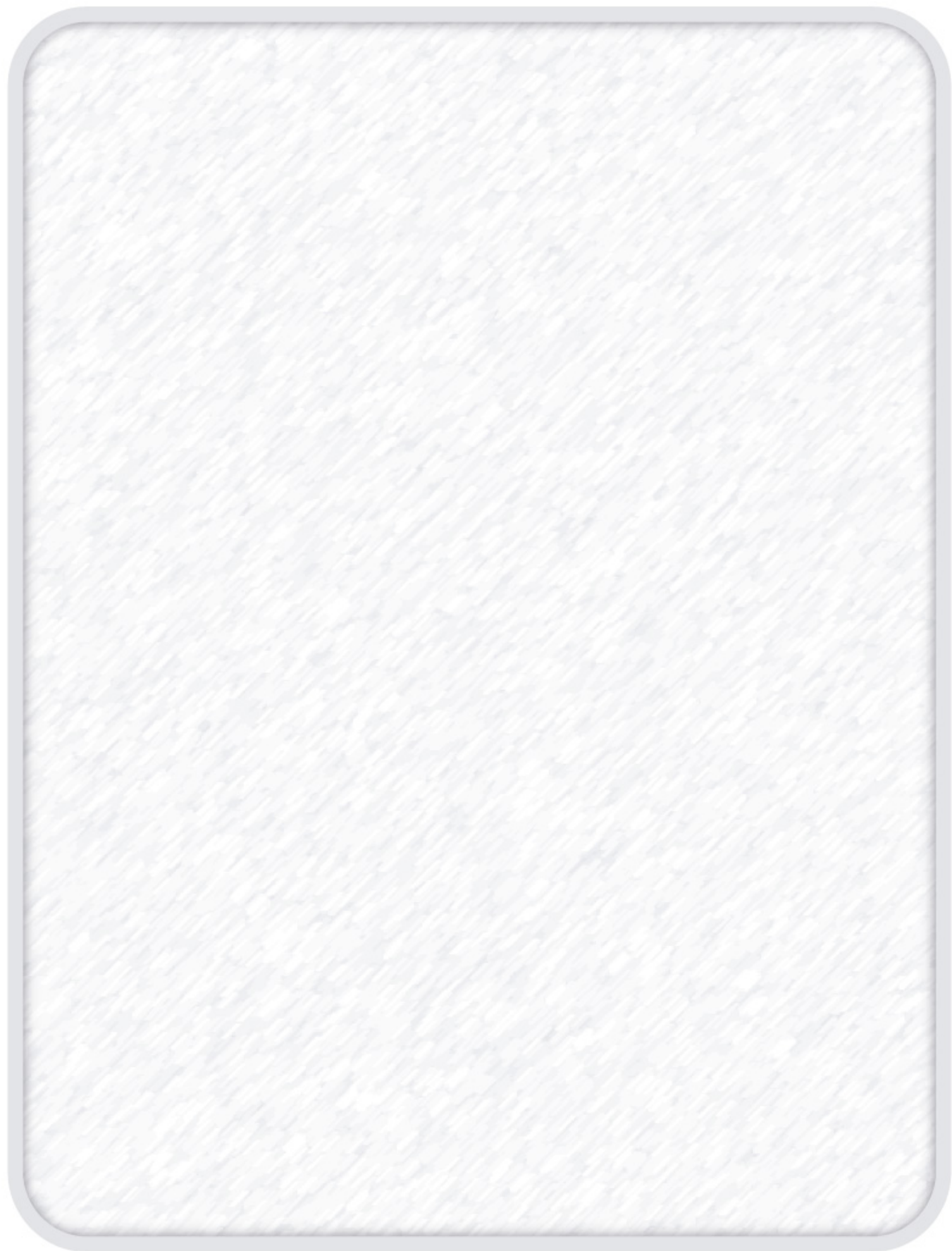
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- Road freight in Central America: Five explanations to high costs of service provisions (2012). Washington: World Bank. [Link](#).
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