



201

May 2013

Monthly Newsletter
INTAL

Monthly Electronic Publication



IDB

Inter-American Development Bank



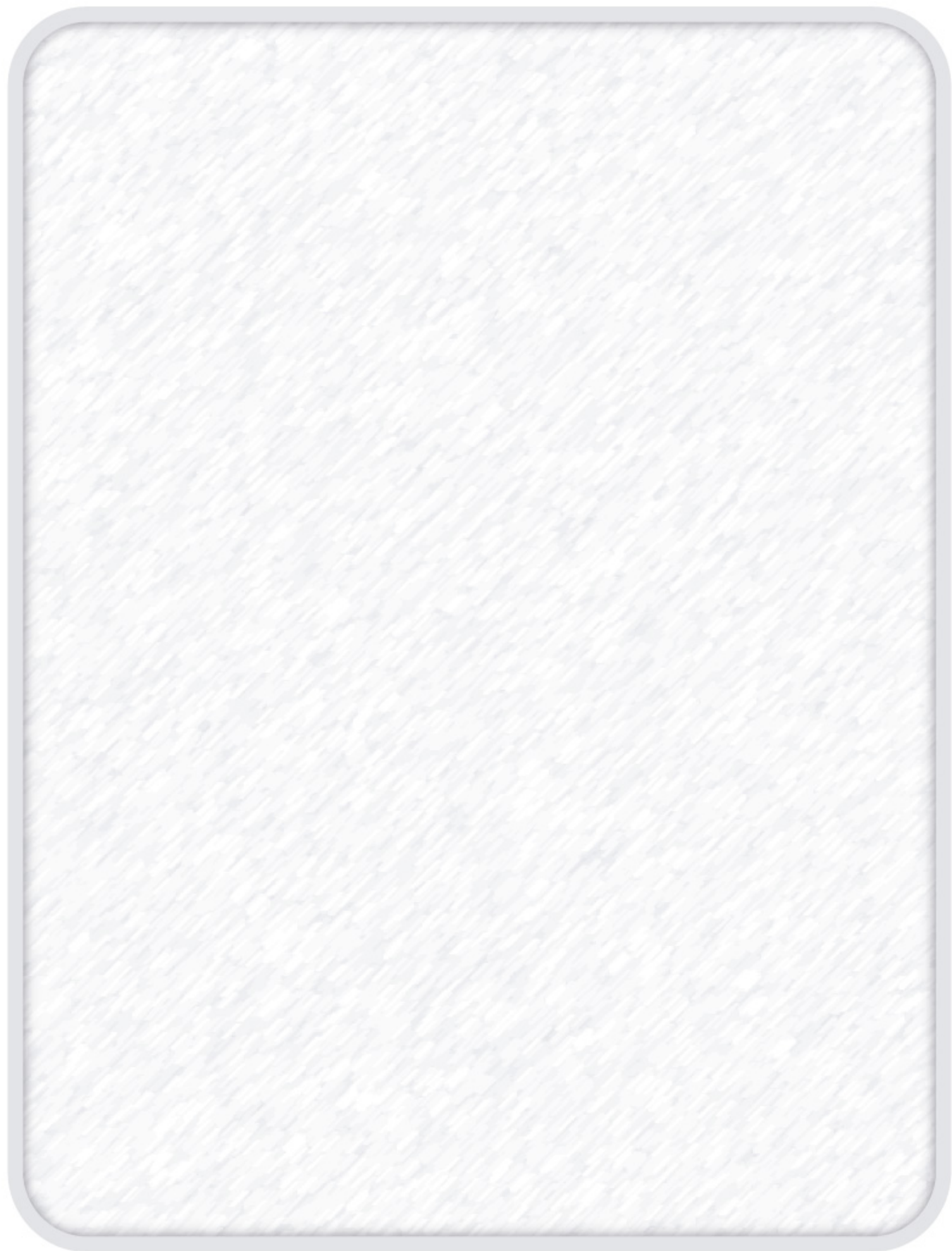


Table of contents

Integration Blocs

The Caribbean

5th Summit of the Heads of State and/or Government of the Association of Caribbean States	7
12th Petrocaribe Summit	10
36th meeting of COTED	12

Central America

Central America external and internal agendas	13
IDB supports development of shipping in Mesoamerica	18

Andean Community

Andean Business Meeting promotes interregional trade	19
Colombia and Singapore conclude negotiations toward investment agreement	21
CAN countries seek to ensure free movement and residence for citizens within the regional bloc	22

Mercosur

MERCOSUR: Progress in Bolivian membership and bilateral relations	23
Key aspects of MERCOSUR countries' external links	26
12th Meeting of ACTO Foreign Ministers	30
Chilean restrictions affect Argentine and Paraguayan corn exports	31

Regional And Global Overview

Negotiating scenarios in the major economies	37
New WTO Director General	41
Competitiveness, innovation, and sustainable development: axes of the World Economic Forum on Latin America	42

Other IDB Activities

Additional financial resources required for Latin America and the Caribbean to achieve climate stabilization	47
--	----

INTAL Documentation Center

Reviews

Ruchansky, Beno. Integración eléctrica en América Latina: antecedentes, realidades y caminos por recorrer. Edición: Santiago de Chile: CEPAL, Febrero de 2013 [150 p.] (only in Spanish)	51
--	----

Bibliographic alert

.....	54
-------	----

Monthly Highlights

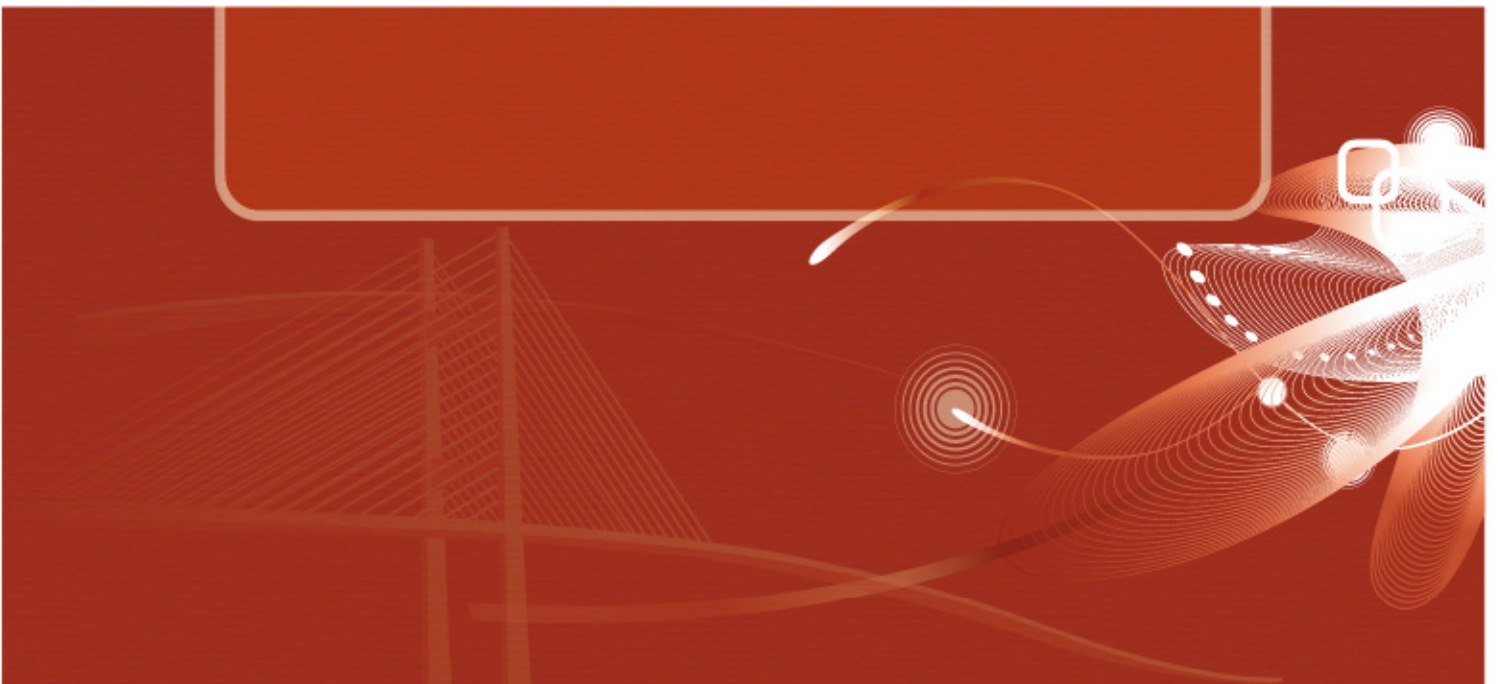
* Santa Gadea, R., ed. (2013). La integración de la infraestructura regional en los países andinos. Washington: BID	55
* Medina Cas, S.; Swiston, A. y Barrot, L. (2012). Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic : Trade Integration and Economic Performance. Washington: IMF	58
* Coatz, D. (2013). Política pyme en América Latina a la luz de los cambios globales. Madrid: IELAT; Centro de Información Financiera, CIFF; Universidad de Cantabria	59

Editorial Staff

.....	61
-------	----



Integration Blocs







The Caribbean

5th Summit of the Heads of State and/or Government of the Association of Caribbean States

The [5th Summit of the Heads of State and/or Government of the Association of Caribbean States \(ACS\)](#), took place in Pétion Ville, Haiti, April 23-26, 2013, under the slogan “Revitalizing the Vision of the Association of Caribbean States for a Stronger and More United Greater Caribbean.” The meeting saw the approval of the [Pétion-Ville Declaration](#), the text of which will serve as a basis for the institutional transformation of the ACS with a view to consolidating it, promoting it, and maintaining its relevance as a regional forum.

Among its salient points, the Declaration recognizes the efforts to achieve progress in regional integration by the [Caribbean Community and Common Market \(CARICOM\)](#), the [Central American Integration System \(SICA\)](#), the [Organization of Eastern Caribbean States \(OECS\)](#), the [Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America \(ALBA\)](#), [Petrocaribe](#), the Pacific Alliance and the [Union of South American Nations \(UNASUR\)](#), as blocs with a high social content, based on the principles of social justice, complementarity, and cooperation, and also highlights the importance of the [Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project](#). Also through this document, AEC Member and Associate States recognized the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)[1] as one of the key factors in the process of economic recovery in the region, given their ability to promote employment and market opportunities. Small- and medium-sized enterprises in the region are actively supported by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through its [Integration and Trade Sector](#) as part of its objective to support the promotion of exports and attraction of foreign investment, trade facilitation, capacity building, and institutional strengthening in trade and integration of Latin America and the Caribbean.[2]

At the 5th Summit, the [Plan of Action of Pétion Ville](#) was adopted, establishing the priority tasks to be completed by the organization in the two-year period 2013-2014. The document urges Member and Associate States to submit project proposals in six priority areas:

- Sustainable Tourism, through the establishment of a Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Greater Caribbean.
- Development of trade and external economic relations, covering: (i) the elimination and reduction of barriers and challenges to trade facilitation in the Greater Caribbean;[3] (ii) the holding of a Greater Caribbean Annual Business Forum and a Forum of Trade Promotion Organisations to promote trade and investment in the region; (iii) a boost to SMEs in the Greater Caribbean; (iv) the empowerment of women through trade; (v) the promotion of convergence and deepening of intraregional trade; and (vi) support to the Caribbean Development Bank (Caribank).[4]
- Air and sea transport through actions in the framework of the “[Uniting the Caribbean by Air and Sea](#)” program[5] in order to help maximize opportunities for trade and investment, and the expansion of tourism.
- Disaster risk reduction
- Education, culture, science and technology

History of the AEC

The ACS was created in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, July 24, 1994, with the aim of becoming a forum for political dialogue in order to strengthen international cooperation and deepen the process of integration among 28 States, Countries, and Territories in the Greater Caribbean[6] (twenty-five Member States[7] and three Associated States).[8] The ACS also has six Founder Observer Organizations[9] and twenty Observer Countries.[10] Previous AEC summits have been held in Panama (2005), Venezuela (2001), Dominican Republic (1999), and Trinidad & Tobago (1995).

[1] See “[FOROMIC Barbados: IDB Group encourages SME development in the region](#),” in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 194*, October 2012.


[2] See “[The IDB supports the internationalization of SMEs in the region through a business roundtable and best practices programs](#).”

[3] See the document “[Supply and Demand Side Assessment of Impact Investment within the Caribbean](#),” FOMIN-Compete Caribbean, December 2011.

[4] See IDB’s paper on the region in the field of [gender, indigenous peoples, and African descendants](#).

[5] The “Uniting the Caribbean by Air and Sea” program was set up December 13, 1999, in the framework of the Fifth Regular Meeting of the ACS’s Council of Ministers.

[6] The Greater Caribbean Cooperation Area consists of joint actions in the priority areas of the ACS: Trade, Sustainable Tourism, Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction.



[7] The twenty-five ACS Member States are Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, and Venezuela.

[8] The three Associated States of the ACS are Aruba, France (on behalf of French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Barthélemy, and Saint Martin) and Curaçao.

[9] The six Founding Observers of the ACS are: the CARICOM Secretariat, the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), the Central American Integration System (SICA), and the Permanent Secretariat of the General Agreement for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), which were declared Founding Observers of the ACS in 1996, while the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) were admitted in 2000 and 2001 respectively. The ACS Secretariat made special agreements with these organizations, enabling them to participate in the work of the ACS Ministerial Council and Special Committees.

[10] The 20 observer countries are: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Korea, Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Holland, India, Italy, Morocco, Peru, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom, Turkey, and Ukraine.

12th Petrocaribe Summit

The 12th [Petrocaribe](#) Summit[1] took place in Margarita, Venezuela, May 4.

The objective of the meeting was to continue to promote investments for productive projects in the field of oil, trade, and tourism; to begin technical discussions and meetings of economy ministers with a view to progressing toward an economic zone; and to sign a memorandum of understanding to strengthen this initiative, which promotes energy security in the region.

With regard to the second point, in the Summit's Final Declaration, the Heads of State and Government, Ministers, and delegates approved the proposal submitted by Venezuela to promote the strengthening of Petrocaribe through the formation of the Petrocaribe economic area (ZEP-ALBA),[2] designed to strengthen the scope of the organization with a view to developing productive sectors. It will also serve as a forum in which to consider common aspects relating to investment, trade, and development, and also mechanisms for the energy, economic, and financial stability of its members.

The full incorporation of Guatemala was approved by consensus of all the Summit's participants, while Honduras's reentry[3] to Petrocaribe was formalized through a bilateral meeting between officials from Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) and the Honduran Government, after being suspended in 2009.

Also announced was the switch from current financing[4] to a system of bilateral Petrocaribe funds (to be used as financial platforms for the productive coordination of trade, for which studies and technical discussions are about to start up); the creation of a ALBA Food Fund; a special air connectivity initiative among the bloc's members, involving partnerships between public and private companies in the region; and the possibility of cooperation with third countries.

Last, it was agreed to hold a special summit in Nicaragua, June 29, to mark the eighth anniversary of Petrocaribe.

The Caracas-based organization has a Board of Directors and seven technical groups responsible for identifying projects relating to supply, infrastructure, petrochemicals, alternative energies, projects, refining, and transportation.

More information at the following links: [\[1\]](#); [\[2\]](#).

[1] Petrocaribe was born on June 29th, 2005, after the Energy Cooperation Agreement signed by 14 Caribbean nations during the First Energy Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean on Petrocaribe. Today, this initiative has 18 countries in Latin America, with the recent addition of Honduras and Guatemala. The forum brings together to Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, and Venezuela.

[2] Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America.

[3] [Honduras usará \\$75 millones de Petrocaribe para viviendas y represas](#), El Heraldo, Honduras, 16 de março de 2011 e [Reincorporación de Honduras a Petrocaribe](#), Sistema Bolivariano de Comunicación e Información, 15 de maio de 2013.

[4] The funds currently being generated by Petrocaribe's payment conditions are handled through a trust, and resources are allocated to development projects to improve infrastructure, housing, health, education, and environmental sanitation. According to PDVSA data, from the signing of the Petrocaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement to May 2009, the accumulated supply of petroleum and products in the framework of the initiative reached 90.5 million barrels. The percentage of the oil bill financed (US\$3 billion) represents a US\$1.4 billion saving for countries receiving the provision.

36th meeting of COTED

The thirty-sixth meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development ([COTED](#)) of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) was held in Georgetown, Guyana, May 2-3. The attending ministers discussed current issues, such as the search for a solution to the threat to rum exports from CARICOM to United States, caused by trade-distorting subsidies granted by the northern country to rum producers in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.[1] In foreign trade, they discussed matters relating to the negotiations toward a CARICOM- Canada Trade and Development Agreement.

In his opening speech, CARICOM Secretary General, Irwin LaRocque, referred to a study by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), "[Caribbean Small States: Challenges of High Debt and Low Growth](#)," published in February 2013, referring to the fact that small Caribbean states have to face extreme versions of the problems usually suffered by small states: low growth, high debt, significant vulnerability to natural disasters, and low resilience to shocks. In order to overcome these challenges, the document states, it is necessary to involve all the actors in the development scene, at both the international and regional level, and a regional approach must be taken. The Secretary General also pointed out that the Caribbean region should move toward consolidating the process of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), and, in this sense, the COTED, as the institution responsible for the operations of the CSME, must be clear about its role in terms of the region's economic development. The private sector was included as a vitally important participant in the meeting's discussions of the strategic direction of the region's economy.

The following areas were also discussed:

- The modernization of the Regional Statistics Work Program.
- The harmonization of policies and procedures related to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), consumer protection, and the clause on professional services in the CSME.
- Progress in the development of an exemption regime for CARICOM cultural industries.
- In terms of food production, it was decided to reclassify the tariff base for marinated chicken, which until then had access to the region's market at a lower tariff.
- In relation to food security, the ministers backed the importance of the role of the [Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency \(CAHFSA\)](#) in ensuring that trade in agricultural products is carried out healthily so as to minimize risks to the consumer. A regional standard for rice was also agreed.
- In transport infrastructure, the ministers agreed to prioritize the issue of intraregional transport for agricultural products within the broader context of the development of transport infrastructure in the region.

More information at the following links: [\[1\]](#); [\[2\]](#); [\[3\]](#); [\[4\]](#); [\[5\]](#).

[1] See "[Caribbean concern over rum subsidies](#)," in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 197*, January 2013.



Central America

Central America external and internal agendas

Panama joins SIECA

In 1960, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua signed the General Central American Economic Integration Treaty (TGIEC), establishing the Central American Common Market (CACM). The CACM involved the setting-up of a free trade zone and the adoption of a common external tariff, thus committing to the building of a customs union in their territories.

With the signing of the Tegucigalpa Protocol in 1991, the countries formed the Central American Integration System (SICA) as an institutional framework that not only included the economic sphere, but also the social, political, and cultural spheres, and the Central American Economic Integration Subsystem (SIECA) was established within SICA through the Guatemala Protocol in 1993.

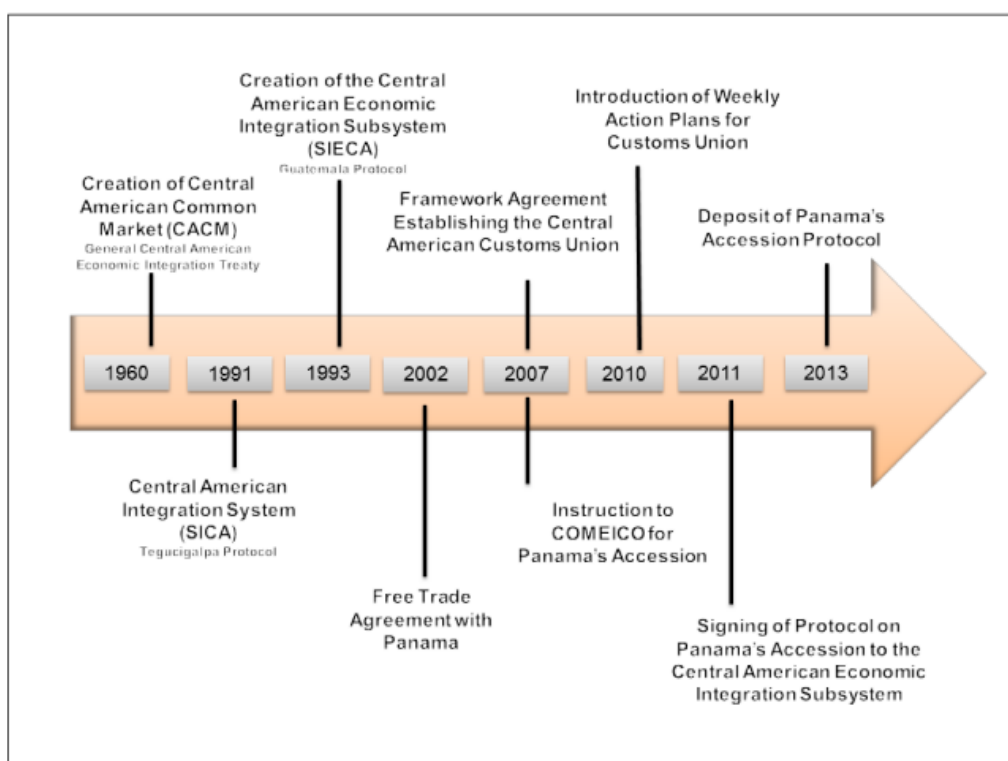
The five countries also have a Tariff and Customs Regime Convention, an Agreement on Investment and Trade in Services, a Dispute Settlement Mechanism, and a Convention on Mutual Assistance and Technical Cooperation between the Tax and Customs Administrations.

Trade relations with Panama were governed by the Free Trade Agreement signed in 2002,[1] and, in 2007, the Council of Ministers for Central American Economic Integration (COMIECO) was instructed by SICA to begin assessing the conditions for Panama's incorporation in the economic integration process. The same year, the countries established a roadmap for the formation of the Central American Customs Union with the signing of a Framework Convention and, in 2010, implemented the six-month plans to move forward via negotiation tables with specific short-term objectives, in which Panama took part as an observer.

Panama's Accession Protocol was signed in 2011, and [it was deposited in May 2013 by the country's National Assembly](#) in the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) for its entry into force.

Graph 1: Evolution of Central American integration and Panama's accession

Most relevant milestones



Source: Based on Valerio (2011) and SIECA (2013).

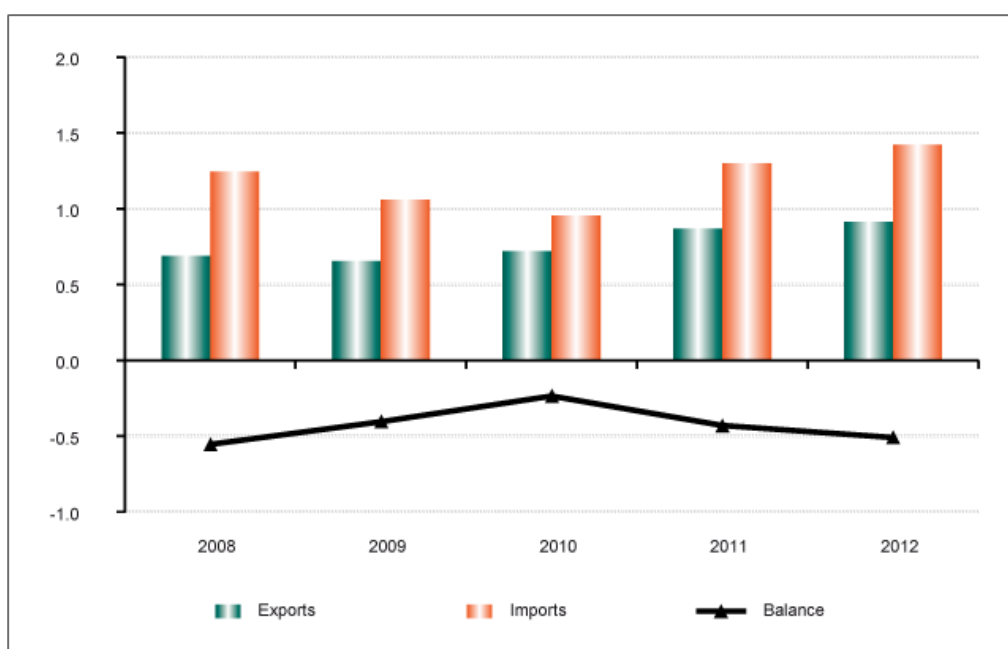
The Protocol sets terms, deadlines, conditions, and modalities for Panama to meet the integration conditions governing the other five countries in a gradual fashion. It will adopt the SIECA's legal instruments by no later than 2017. Panama will have to negotiate the tariff elimination timetable within two years in order to have free trade with the other partners in the region, while maintaining protection on certain sensitive goods. It was also agreed that the harmonization period for the common external tariff will be a year, to be applied in a maximum of two years. The Central American rules of origin will be adopted immediately, although some exceptions will be negotiated. The technical regulations will be adapted over a six-month period, also with exceptions, and accession to the Central American Services and Investment Agreement is expected to be negotiated in the same timeframe. In addition, the adoption of the Protocol was a prerequisite for Panama's inclusion in the EU-Central America Association Agreement.[2]

Panama's trade with Central American partners

After the contraction in exports in 2009 due to the international economic crisis, shipments from the Central American countries to Panama recovered in 2010 and continued to grow in the following years at an average cumulative annual rate (c.a.) of 11.7%, reaching US\$913.2 million in 2012. Imports grew at similar rates, though taking a year to get back on the road to recovery, culminating at US\$1.4216 billion in 2012. Even so, there is still a US\$508.4 million trade deficit for SIECA member countries with their new partner (Graph 2). Most purchases from Panama originate in the Colón Free Zone.


Graph 2: Central America's trade with Panama 2008-2012

In billions of US\$



Source: SIECA. Not including trade in maquilas.

8.2 % of Panama's shipments overseas are destined for the subregion, while only around 3% of purchases originate in those countries. This percentage is similar to Panama's importance as a destination and origin of Central American trade. Costa Rica is the leading exporter to the Panamanian market, while Guatemala is the Isthmus's biggest buyer.



Although both import and export flows are relatively diversified, medicines are of great relevance in bilateral trade, reflecting the presence of multinational pharmaceutical companies with subsidiaries in several Central American countries.

[Panama is to chair the COMIECO for the first time in the second semester of 2013](#) and will be in charge of organizing three six-monthly rounds to consolidate the customs union, as well as other obligations involved in the Subsystem's pro tempore presidency (PPT).

In relation to the current semester under the PPT of Costa Rica, the [second negotiating round](#) was held April 19, with new breakthroughs in trade facilitation, and improved competitiveness through the harmonization of regulations and tariff management.

Bibliography:

- Valerio, Federico. [Lineamientos de la política de comercio exterior de Costa Rica 2010-2014](#). October 2011.
- SIECA. [Estado de Situación de la Integración Centroamericana](#). March 2013.

Related articles:

- IDB-INTAL. "[Panama's accession to the SIECA](#)," in *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 191*, July 2012.

Guatemala requests consultations with Peru in the WTO

The Guatemalan delegation to the World Trade Organization (WTO) sent its Peruvian counterpart a [request for consultations](#) April 12, with respect to the implementation of an additional duty on imports of certain agricultural products, such as rice, sugar, corn, and dairy products. The duty, it is alleged, is incompatible with the Agreement on Agriculture, among other WTO provisions.

This rate applies to imports of the goods mentioned when international prices are below certain Price Floor levels, and tariff rebates when they are higher than certain Price Ceilings, both identified in the customs tables, which are updated semimonthly. These additional variable duties, together with the ad valorem duties, cannot exceed the tariff consolidated by Peru with the WTO.

[3]

The Guatemalan delegation's concern reflects the importance of this market for Guatemalan exports: two thirds of the total that Guatemala sends to Peru is represented by cane sugar, whose price has been in sharp decline since mid-2011 and, in the last year alone, has lost 22.0% of its value.

Costa Rica's FTA with Jamaica comes into force

In May, the Jamaican Government approved the implementation of the free trade agreement (FTA) signed by the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) with Costa Rica in 2004. Jamaica thus becomes the fifth country to put it into force, following its ratification by Barbados, Belize, Guyana, and Trinidad & Tobago.

Through the agreement, in addition to the bilateral concessions, Costa Rica grants unilateral tariff-free access for goods originating in the less developed CARICOM countries: Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts & Nevis, and Saint Vincent & the Grenadines. Since 2006, trade between this country and CARICOM has risen at an average annual rate of 4.2%, from US\$191 million to US\$244 million in 2012. The main products exported to that market include food preparations, antisera, plastic locking devices, and fruit, while imports include iron or steel products, natural gas, urea, etc. Trinidad & Tobago is Costa Rica's main trading partner within the Caribbean bloc, with around 90% of purchases coming from that origin and a third of sales targeting that market. The second most important destination is Jamaica, accounting for 30% of the total exported by the Central American economy to CARICOM.

For more information, click [here](#).

[1] Although a requirement for its entry into force was the signing of bilateral protocols setting tariffs and rules of origin for sensitive goods, ratified with El Salvador in 2003, with Costa Rica in 2008, and with Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua in 2009.

[2] See "[Central America signs Association Agreement with EU](#)," in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 191*, July 2012.

[3] Article 4 of Supreme Decree No.153-2002-EF.



IDB supports development of shipping in Mesoamerica

The [Workshop for the Validation and Consultation of the Preliminary Report of the Feasibility Study on the Development of Short Sea Shipping \(SSS\) In Mesoamerica](#) was held in Managua, Nicaragua, April 9-10. The event was attended by representatives of Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, and Dominican Republic, and by the Central American Commission on Maritime Transport and Panama's Maritime Authority.

The meeting examined the preliminary results of the feasibility study, which was funded almost entirely by nonreimbursable Technical Cooperation from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The document also examines potential lines of SSS in Mesoamerica, institutional design, and a management model, taking into account that around 60% of Mesoamerica's intraregional trade in 2010 was conducted by ship.

The initiative is part of the Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project (MIDP), particularly of the region's efforts to create an efficient [Mesoamerican Multimodal Transport System \(STMM\)](#), involving the use of different means of transport (road, rail, sea, river, and air).

The Mesoamerica Project is a mechanism for dialogue, coordination, and cooperation, and is supported by IDB to coordinate the countries' integration efforts, and to facilitate the management and implementation of projects that aim to improve the quality of life of the region's inhabitants.

For more information, click [here](#).



Andean Community

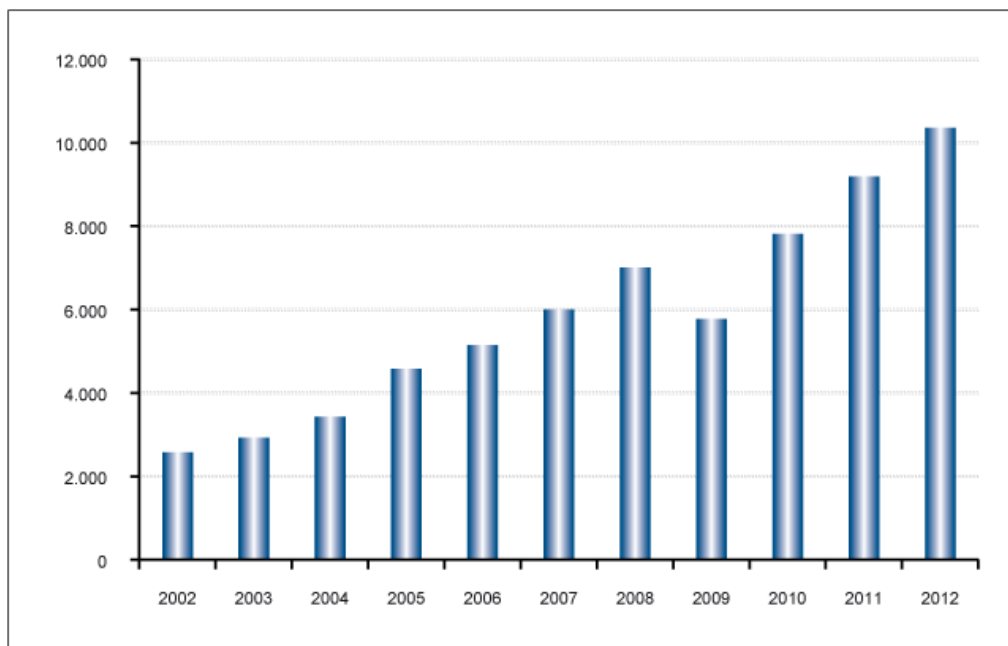
Andean Business Meeting promotes interregional trade

The 2nd Andean Business Meeting took place in Bogota, Colombia, April 24-25, with the participation of over 700 companies from the four countries of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) and the guest country, Brazil. First held in 2012, the event aims to strengthen interregional trade and support the internationalization of CAN countries' small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The meeting achieved sales commitments for US\$92.5 million, 43.6% up on 2012. The Andean countries' export promotion agencies issued a [Joint Communiqué](#) on the subject, highlighting the increase in intraregional exports, which were over US\$10 billion in 2012 and 73% of which were in manufacturing.

As shown in Graph 1, intra-CAN exports expanded at an annual cumulative average rate of 14.9% over the last decade. Intraregional trade increased every year, with the exception of 2009, when the Andean economies were affected by the international crisis.

Graph 1: Intra-CAN exports 2002-2011

In millions of US\$



Source: CAN General Secretariat, Integrated Foreign Trade System (SICEXT).

The main manufactured products trade within CAN in 2012 were: Oilcake and other solid residues resulting from the extraction of soya-bean oil (Bolivia), soybean oil and its fractions (Bolivia), refined copper wire (Peru), cane or beet sugar, and chemically pure solid sucrose (Colombia), ultralight aircraft assembled weighing over 15,000 kg unladen (Colombia), and motor vehicles (Ecuador).[1]

For more information, click [here](#).

[1] Andean Community of Nations. [Dimensión Económico Comercial de la Comunidad Andina](#). CAN: Lima. April 2013.



Colombia and Singapore conclude negotiations toward investment agreement

The negotiations toward an investment promotion and protection agreement between Colombia and Singapore concluded April 26, after three rounds of talks. The agreement seeks to establish firm, clear rules for investors on both sides. The text of the Treaty sets out issues relating to standards of responsibility assumed by the States toward investors, rules for cases of expropriation, and dispute settlement procedures.

The direct investment by Singapore in Colombia that accumulated between 2001 and 2012 was US \$ 3.4 million. According to Colombia's Ministry of Industry, Tourism, and Trade, FDI flows from Singapore over the past five years were concentrated mainly in the real estate sector.[1]

Colombia has investment agreements with Spain, Switzerland, Peru, China, and India, and is awaiting agreements with United Kingdom, Japan, Turkey, and Kuwait to come into effect. Its free trade agreements with United States, Mexico, Chile, the Northern Triangle (Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador), the European Free Trade Association, and Canada, and those signed with the European Union, South Korea, and Costa Rica soon to be implemented, also include chapters on the treatment of investments.

[1] Colombian Ministry of Industry, Tourism, and Trade, <https://www.mincomercio.gov.co/publicaciones.php?id=6318>.



CAN countries seek to ensure free movement and residence for citizens within the regional bloc

At the 4th Andean Migration Forum in Bogotá, Colombia, May 9-10, the countries of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) and their partner, Chile, reviewed the proposal for an Andean Migration Statute. This seeks to approve a community standard to guarantee rights of movement and residence for Andean citizens within the bloc's four member countries.

The Forum concluded with a [Joint Statement](#) highlighting not only the importance of moving toward the consolidation of Andean citizenship, but also of working to strengthen the South American space in terms of movement and residence in the framework of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR).

It should be noted that the Andean Migration Forum is the main forum for dialogue on migration within CAN and has been held since 2008 to addressing to safeguard the rights of Andean migrants both within the bloc and in the rest of the world.

Related articles:

- IDB-INTAL. "[Regional integration and migration policies in Latin America](#)," in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 195*, November 2012

MERCOSUR: Progress in Bolivian membership and bilateral relations

The last month has seen some relevant events in MERCOSUR's internal agenda: progress in Bolivia's accession process, on the one hand, and certain issues in the member countries' bilateral relations, on another.


Progress in Bolivia's accession process as a full MERCOSUR member

April 29, [Bolivia](#) submitted to the MERCOSUR Secretariat the annexes to the Accession Protocol to become a full bloc member. The instrument, signed at the end of 2012, is now in a position to be ratified by the parliaments of Bolivia and the MERCOSUR member States, after which Bolivian authorities will take part in all MERCOSUR meetings.

Over the next 180 days, the Working Group for Bolivia is to set the timetable for the adoption of MERCOSUR's normative acquis and the Common External Tariff (CET), while also defining third-country conditions. To this end four subgroups were set up to work on issues of origin, the MERCOSUR Common Nomenclature (NCM), CET, special arrangements, and exceptions; relations with extrazone blocks; membership regulations; and the operation, structure, and contributions of MERCOSUR institutions. The first of these subgroups' meetings is to take place in Montevideo, Uruguay, in the first week of June.

Once membership is complete, Bolivia will become the bloc's second nonfounding member, after the accession of Venezuela in mid-2012.

[Ecuador](#), on the other hand, reported that it will seek to join MERCOSUR once it has concluded the partnership agreement with the European Union, welcomed by the bloc in the [statement](#) of Uruguay's pro tempore presidency.



Meetings between the Venezuelan president and his Argentine, Brazilian, and Uruguayan counterparts

The president of Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro Moros, traveled to Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil, where he held meetings and signed agreements with his counterparts.

First, [Uruguay](#) and Venezuela addressed various bilateral issues regarding the Bilateral Commission for Strategic Planning and Follow-Up (COBISEPLAE), established in 2010. Notable are the objective of promoting trade between the two countries, cooperation in rural development, agricultural technology, and animal genetics, in hydrocarbons between the state-owned oil companies PDVSA and ANCAP, and related to shipbuilding. Among other things, they also discussed issues related to e-government, migration, and cultural affairs, while details were formalized concerning Uruguay's accession to the Unified System for Regional Compensation (SUCRE).

Second, the presidents of [Argentina](#) and Venezuela signed a series of cooperation agreements on various topics, notably:

- Venezuela's granting of import licenses for 10,000 **vehicles** manufactured in Argentina, including public transport, freight, commercial, and sedan-type. Assembly lines established in Venezuela and/or that submit projects to do so in that country will be given priority. Similarly, manufacturers must ensure after sales service, submit investment projects at the national level, and provide technical assistance and technology transfer in the Venezuelan automobile parts industry.
- Conducting feasibility studies to promote Argentine **food** exports (especially dairy, poultry, meat, oilseeds, and cereals) to the Venezuelan market.
- Agreement in the health field for the authorization of slaughterhouses, and processing, storing, and refrigeration plants linked to the export of **animal products** from Argentina to Venezuela.
- Promotion of cooperation in the field of **fisheries and aquaculture**.
- Creation of a working group for the exchange of experiences in the field of **industrial parks**.
- Cooperation and technical assistance on **science and technology**.

Third, [Brazil](#) and Venezuela reiterated their commitment to bilateral strategic partnership and the deepening of existing cooperation projects on food, electricity, oil, agriculture, and social and housing development, while discussing the possibilities of progress on issues such as supply, food security, and energy provision.

Progress toward dredging the River Uruguay

The process to carry out the [dredging, buoying, and maintenance of the River Uruguay](#) has seen a fresh breakthrough after the consulting firm hired by the Administrative Commission of the Uruguay River (CARU) presented the results of feasibility studies (including environmental impact studies) to authorities and representatives of civil society from Argentina and Uruguay. This process is of vital importance for MERCOSUR trade, enabling overseas vessels to reach port terminals, which is key to exports from Argentina and Uruguay – particularly of grains – as it alleviates the pressure on other ports in the region. By the end of May, the two countries' Foreign Ministries are expected to decide on the start of dredging on the basis of bids approved by the CARU.

Related articles:

- IDB-INTAL. "[Venezuela, a MERCOSUR member](#)," in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 192*, August 2012.
- IDB-INTAL. "[MERCOSUR grows](#)," in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 196*, December 2013.



Key aspects of MERCOSUR countries' external links

Argentina and Paraguay seek closer ties with Mexico

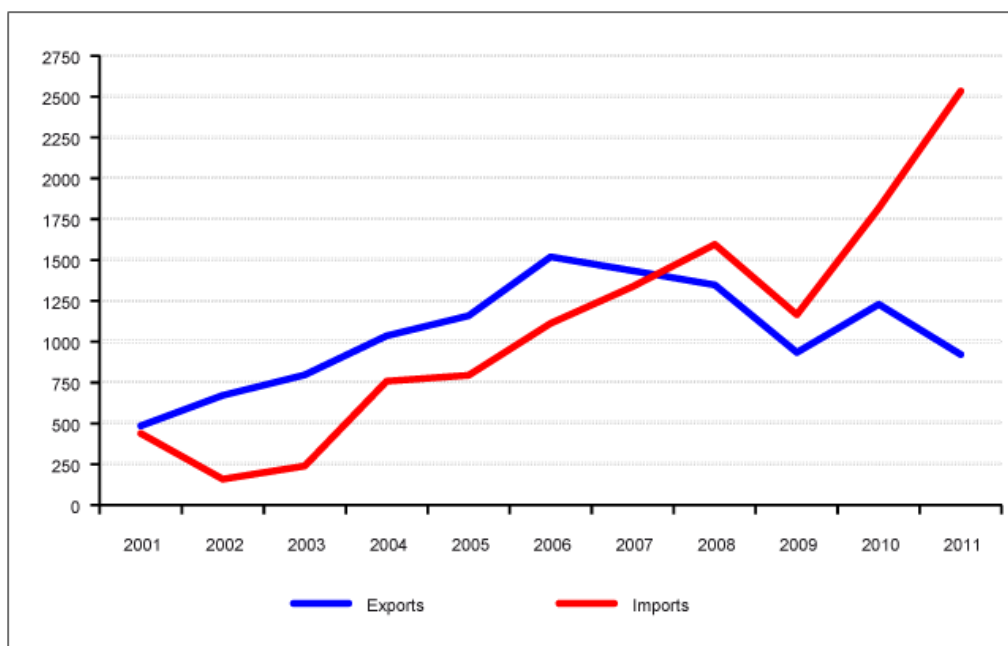
[Paraguay](#) and Mexico resumed bilateral talks aimed at changing Partial Scope Agreement No. 38 (PSA-38) to an Economic Complementation Agreement (ECA) to establish free trade between the two countries. The objective is to sign the agreement next August, which will take a further three new rounds of talks. In other business, the foreign ministers of [Argentina](#) and Mexico held a meeting to set the bilateral work agenda under the current agreement between the two countries and tabled joint trade promotion missions.

It must be remembered that [ECA-54](#), signed in 2002 and in effect since 2006, works as a framework agreement for the creation of a free trade area between the MERCOSUR countries and Mexico. Likewise, [ECA-55](#) establishes the basis for trade liberalization and productive integration between them in the automotive sector. This agreement is in force for all the countries involved, with the exception of Paraguay. So far, the only member of the South American bloc to have signed a [free trade agreement](#) with Mexico is Uruguay.

As shown in Graphs 1 and 2, Argentina and Paraguay have a trade deficit with Mexico. In the last five years, imports from Mexico have proved far more dynamic than shipments to that destination, in contrast to the previous five years. The reversal of the trade surplus with Mexico since 2008 – due largely to the automotive sector – forced Argentina last year to suspend the concessions provided for in ECA-55 and later replaced by a quota scheme. In 2011, Argentine exports to Mexico totaled US\$921 million, and purchases, US\$ 2,533 million. Paraguay, for its part, saw imports from Mexico for US\$188 million in 2011, while its sales to that country totaled just US\$9.8 million.

Graph 1: Argentina's trade in goods with Mexico

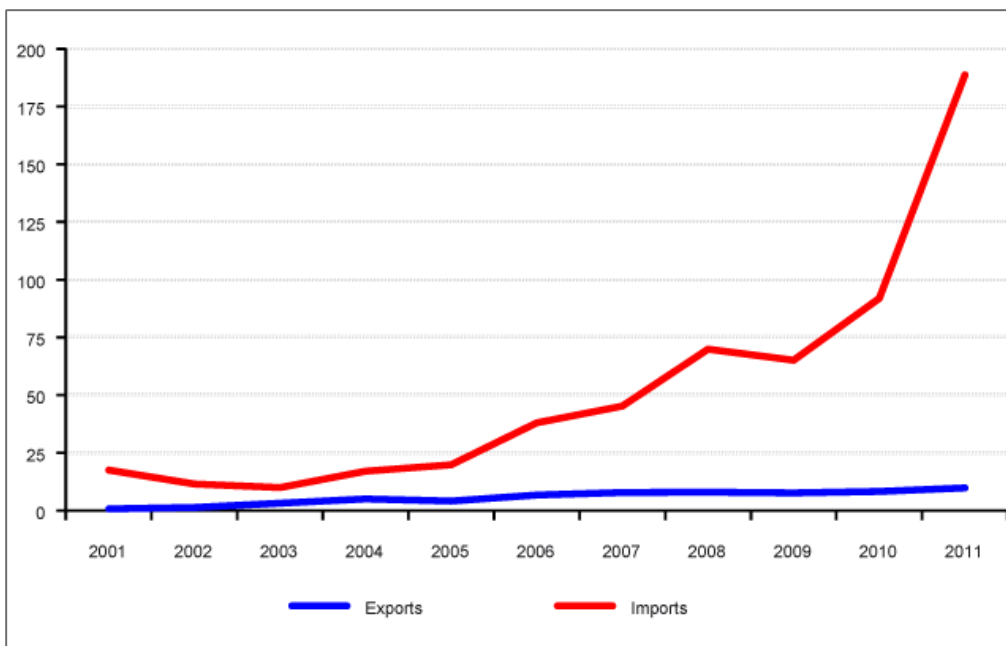
In millions of US\$



Source: DATAINTAL.

Graph 2: Paraguay's trade in goods with Mexico

In millions of US\$



Source: DATAINTAL.

In line with the objective of strengthening its extraregional ties, Paraguay requested accession as an observer to the [Pacific Alliance](#), consisting of Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. Uruguay, it must be remembered, participates as an individual observer, and MERCOSUR as a whole asked to be incorporated in that capacity during the last summit of the Common Market Council, in which Paraguay did not take part due to its suspension.

Other observer countries are Australia, Canada, Spain, Japan, and New Zealand, while Costa Rica and Panama have applied to join the Pacific Alliance as full members.

It should also be mentioned that Brazil has signed an [air services agreement](#) with Ecuador, whereby the countries grant each other various rights for the exploitation of specific routes.



Related articles:

- IDB-INTAL. [“Brazil and Mexico to negotiate FTA,”](#) in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No.157*, August 2009.
- IDB-INTAL. [““Pacific Alliance”: a fresh initiative uniting Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru,”](#) in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No.177*, May 2011.
- IDB-INTAL. [“Following up the internal and external agendas,”](#) in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No.187*, March 2012.
- IDB-INTAL. [“More trade measures in MERCOSUR countries,”](#) in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No.191*, July 2012.
- IDB-INTAL. [“MERCOSUR Summit,”](#) in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No.196*, December 2012.



12th Meeting of ACTO Foreign Ministers

The [Twelfth Meeting of Foreign Ministers from member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization \(ACTO\)](#), which includes Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela. The authorities pledged to broaden, deepen, and strengthen the process of regional cooperation, stimulating the harmonious and comprehensive development of the Amazonian territory in their respective countries.

Representing approximately 60% of the surface of the Amazon rain forest, [Brazil](#) approved the non-refundable financing of US\$12 million for the Forest Cover Monitoring Project in the scope of the ACTO. This is the Amazonia Fund's first international project and the first time that it has provided this type of funding for an international organization.



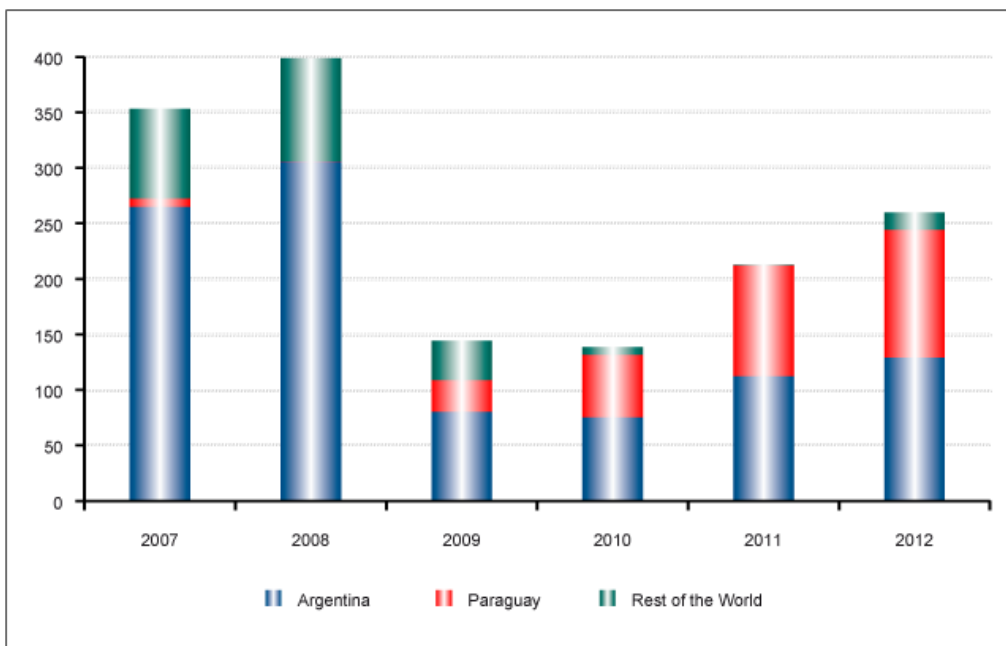
Chilean restrictions affect Argentine and Paraguayan corn exports

Chile's National Commission in Charge of Investigating the Existence of Price Distortions on Imported Goods ([CNDP](#)) decided in April to impose a 9.7% [safeguard](#) on maize grain imports. While these measures apply to purchases originating in any country, they primarily affect Argentina and Paraguay, which together provide 94.7 % of the volume of Chile's foreign purchases of this product.[1]

Around four of every ten tonnes of corn consumed in Chile are imported. The main Chilean regions devoted to corn cultivation are the VI (Libertador General Bernardo O'Higgins) and the VII (Maule), located in the center of the country. Together they account for 73% of production.

Graph 1: Origin of Chilean corn grain imports

Tariff positions 10059000,10059020, and 10059090, in millions of US\$

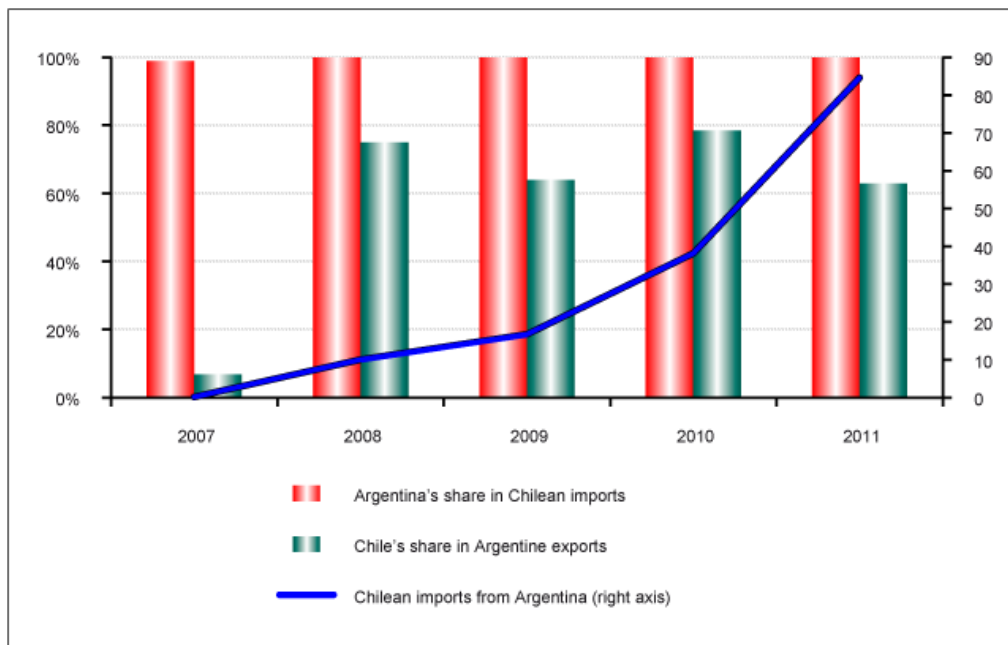


Source: DATAINTAL and COTRISA.

This restriction, it should be remembered, is in addition to the 10.8% [antidumping duty](#) set in Chile last March on split corn originating in Argentina (the sole foreign supplier of this product in the Chilean market). It is worth mentioning that the Chilean market is of great importance for Argentine exports of this commodity, with a 62.9% share in 2011 (Graph 2). In the case of the corn grain, Chile, on the other hand, takes up only 2.3% of Argentina's external sales.

Graph 2: Chilean imports of split corn originating in Argentina

Tariff position 11042300; value in million US\$; Argentina's share in Chilean imports and Chile's share in Argentine exports of this product as percentage



Source: DATAINTAL and Comtrade.

The rationale of Chilean producers demanding the application of these additional duties is that the rate on trodden corn exports in Argentina is 15%, with a refund of 3.4%, whereas the aliquot for external sales of corn grain is 20%. This differential favors exports of the former. It should be noted that the stepped structure of Argentine export duties has also led to the implementation of surcharges on imports of wheat flour and dairy products originating there.[2]

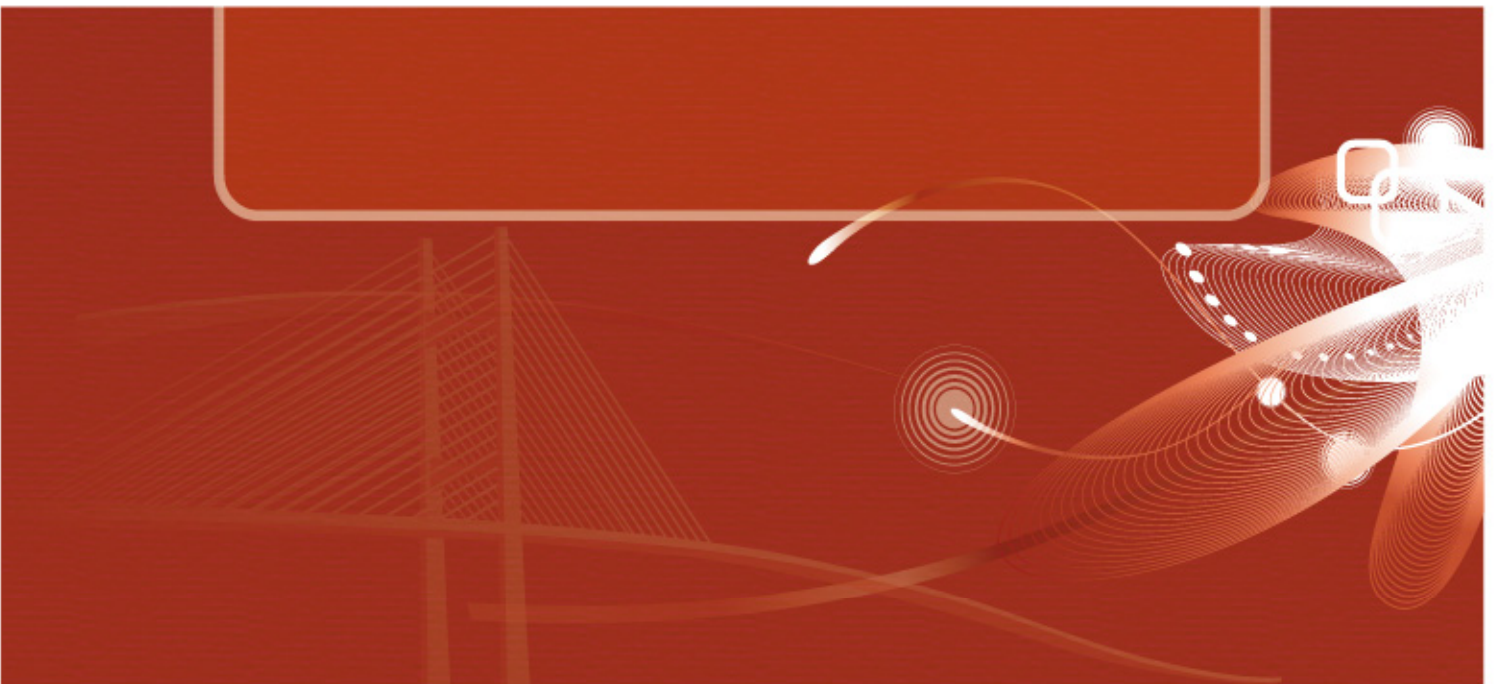
[1] During 2012, Argentina provided 52% of the volume of corn grain imported by Chile and 42.7% imported by Paraguay. Source: CODEPA.

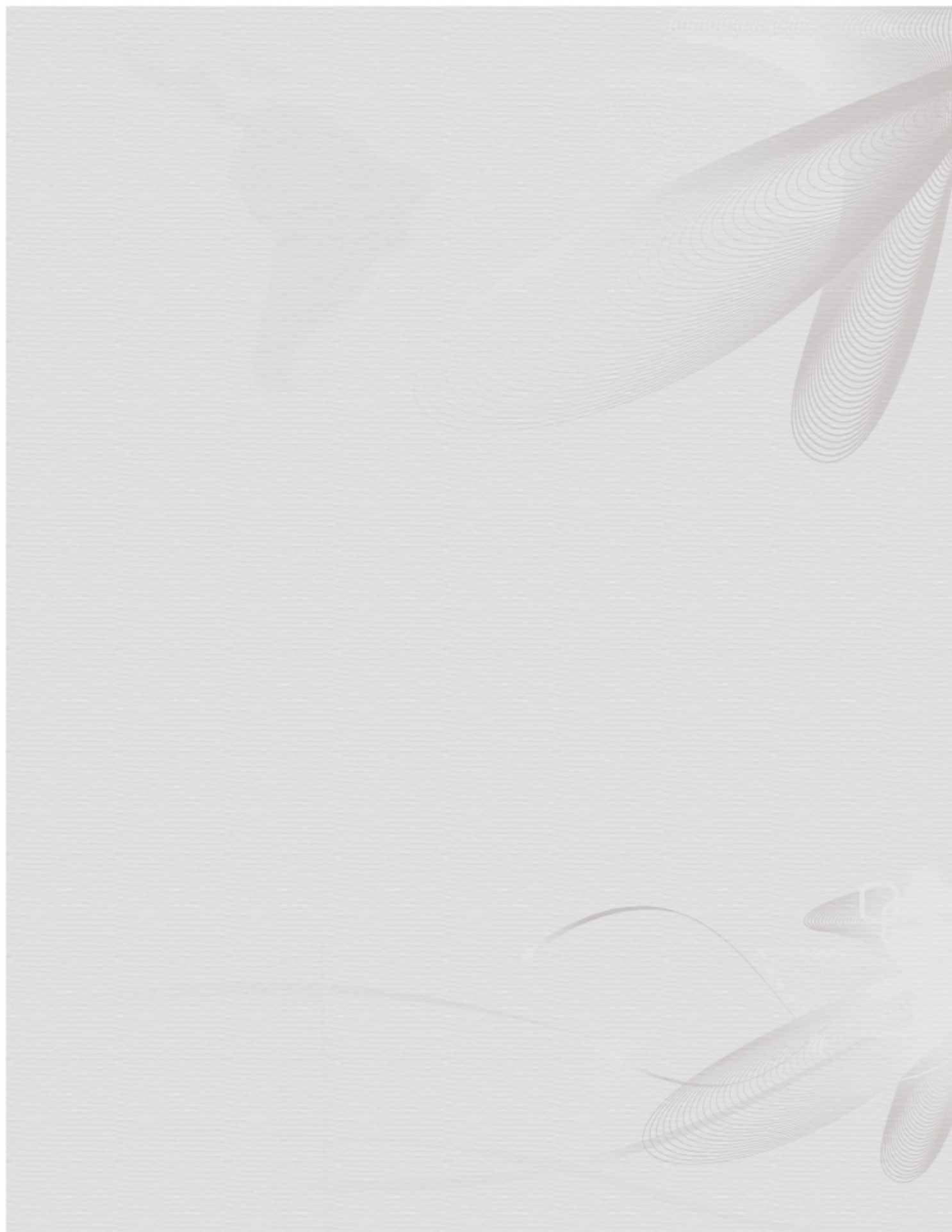
[2] Soybean value. [El gobierno chileno evalúa volver a restringir el ingreso de maíz pisado argentino: últimos días para registrar exportaciones](#). Tuesday, January 8, 2013.





Regional And Global Overview







Negotiating scenarios in the major economies

The world's four largest economies – China, United States, Japan, and the European Union – have, in recent months, been developing trade negotiations. The scenarios are different in every case, although their purposes are similar: in response to the paralysis of the Round Doha, there is interest in providing incentives for agreements that energize and deepen trade relations. On the one hand, the emerging world led by China, seeks to harmonize existing agreements in the Pacific; on the other hand, the developed countries are driving the deepening of their trade relations. All the initiatives take an integral approach, which is present in the integration processes of recent years, including issues that go beyond tariff matters and focus on the reduction of non-tariff barriers, such as regulations, standards, and customs procedures, as well as services, investment, government procurement, intellectual property, etc.

Trade agreement harmonization in the Pacific

The first round of negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, May 9-13, to discuss the scope and methodology of the negotiations.

The background to this negotiation lies in the feasibility study for a free trade agreement (FTA) between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), China, Japan, and South Korea, known as ASEAN+3, which included Australia, India, and New Zealand in 2007 to become ASEAN+6. The study process was completed in 2011, giving rise to the concept of RCEP.

The RCEP was launched in November 2012 at the 21st ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, with the goal, on the one hand, of integrating existing FTAs and, on the other, of deepening cooperation and economic integration. In this regard, one of the difficulties for the negotiation arises from the region's "spaghetti bowl" of existing agreements and, more specifically, of rules of origin and tariff classifications. ASEAN currently has agreements with each of the remaining six countries (Table 1), some of which also have FTAs or else are negotiating. Only Japan and New Zealand, on the one hand, and China and India, on the other, have no ongoing bilateral integration process, although it should be noted that the latter two have carried out a feasibility study to that end.

Table 1: Trade agreements between member RCEP countries

Dates of entry into force or start of negotiation

	ASEAN	Australia	New Zealand	China	Japan	South Korea	India
ASEAN	Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand (1992) Vietnam (1995) Laos and Myanmar (1997), Cambodia (1999)	2010		2010	2008	2007	2010
Australia				Under negotiation (2005)	Under negotiation (2007)	Under negotiation (2009)	Under negotiation (2011)
New Zealand	2010	1983		2008	n.a.	Under negotiation (2009)	Under negotiation (2010)
China	2010	Under negotiation (2005)	2008	China-Japan-South Korea: Under negotiation (2012)			Feasibility Study (2007)
Japan	2008	Under negotiation (2007)	n.a.				2011
South Korea	2007	Under negotiation (2009)	Under negotiation (2009)				2010
India	2010	Under negotiation (2011)	Under negotiation (2010)	Feasibility Study (2007)	2011	2010	

Source: Own data.

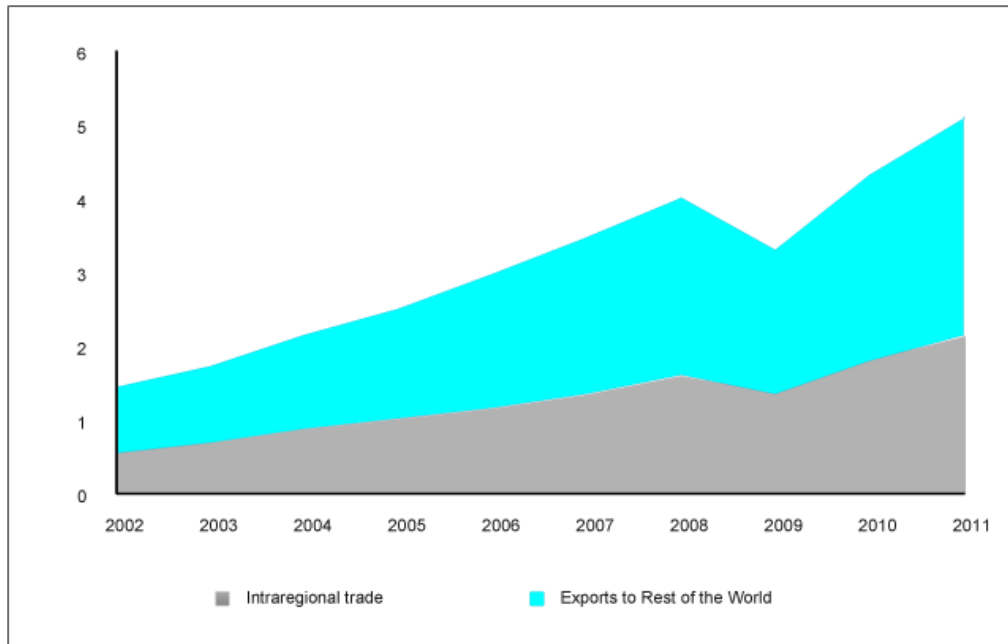
According to the [Guiding Principles and Objectives for Negotiating the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership](#), the agreement will cover issues of trade in goods and services, investment, cooperation, intellectual property, and competition, as well as dispute settlement provisions. The document also says that the RCEP will be consistent with the standards of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), and the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), and will take into consideration the countries' different levels of development, providing technical assistance and support for the development of skills so that all parties can actively participate in the negotiations.

The [Joint Statement of the First Meeting of the Trade Negotiating Committee](#) says that the negotiations are expected to be concluded by the end of 2015, and that the second round is to be held in Australia in September 2013.

As mentioned in [INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 200](#), this group of countries represents approximately 30% of world GDP and trade, and around half the world's population. In 2011, trade between the economies negotiating the RCEP reached US\$2.133 billion, accounting for around 40% of their total exports. It should also be noted that, in the past ten years, this set of countries have quadrupled their intraregional flows (Graph 1).

Graph 1: Evolution of intra-RCEP trade and with ROW

In billions of US\$



Source: Based on COMTRADE data.

EU and Japan: non-tariff barriers and government procurement

The negotiations between the European Union (EU) and Japan were launched in March 2013, after the EU Council endorsed the negotiations on the basis of an impact study conducted in 2012. The first round was held in Brussels, April 15-19. The most relevant issues to negotiate are non-tariff barriers and government procurement, in addition to liberalization in goods, services, and investments.

Japan is the EU's seventh largest trading partner, and the second largest in Asia after China, while the EU is the third most important partner for the Japanese economy, after China and United States. Trade between these two economies is mainly intraindustrial, in the machinery and transport equipment, and chemicals sectors, although the EU also exports agricultural goods to this market. In 2011, European sales to Japan reached €49 billion, while imports from that origin amounted to €69.2 billion. Taken together, the two economies account for one-third of world output.

United States and the European Union: regulatory issues

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership agreement to be negotiated by the EU and United States, once the European Council approves it, will seek to remove non-tariff barriers to trade, the current tariffs being relatively low (around 4% on average). The main barriers to trade are found in customs procedures and some regulatory constraints arising from the differences in safety and consumer protection standards.

Taken together, the two economies account for nearly half of world output and a third of total trade flows. In 2012, the EU exported €291.880 billion to United States and imported €205.778 billion from that origin, a surplus of €86.102 billion. It should be noted that the economies are each others' main trading partners. As with Japan, trade is mostly intraindustrial, in the machinery and transport equipment, and chemicals sectors, although some agricultural products and fuels are also exchanged.

Sources:

ASEAN

<http://www.asean.org/>

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/fta/rcep/>

China FTA Network

<http://fta.mofcom.gov.cn/english/index.shtml>

European Commission

<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/>

FTA Portal Information Service of Korea

<http://www.customs.go.kr/kcshome/site/index.do?layoutSiteId=engportal>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

<http://www.mofa.go.jp/index.html>

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

<http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Trade-and-Economic-Relations/2-Trade-Relationships-and-Agreements/RCEP/>



New WTO Director General

The General Council of the World Trade Organization (WTO) appointed Ambassador Roberto Carvalho de Azevêdo as the organization's new Director General at an extraordinary meeting last May 14. Azevêdo, who had until then been Brazil's Permanent Representative to the WTO, will take office September 1 for the next four years.

The selection process to replace current Director General, Pascal Lamy, began in October 2012. The delegations initially submitted nine candidates, subject to three selection rounds. The Brazilian's appointment was mainly backed by China and other emerging powers.

In his [statement](#), Azevêdo highlighted the General Council's work in his capacity to reach consensus for the final appointment and pledged to work steadfastly to restore the WTO to the role and preeminence it deserves and must have. He also mentioned the Ministerial Conference in Bali, to be held December 3-6, 2013, as the next challenge to be faced.

For more information, click [here](#).



Competitiveness, innovation, and sustainable development: axes of the World Economic Forum on Latin America

The World Economic Forum on Latin America was held in Lima, Peru, April 23-25. The event forms part of one of six regional meetings related to the [World Economic Forum](#) in Davos, Switzerland. Under the slogan “[Achieving Growth, Strengthening Societies](#),” over 600 international leaders and experts took part in a debate based on three pillars: enhancing competitiveness, social innovation, and sustainable development. The Forum’s [program](#) consisted of meetings and seminars in which political leaders and players from the business world discussed the situation of Latin American countries in the international context. Among the prominent figures taking part in the meeting was the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Luis Alberto Moreno. Also present were representatives of other international organizations and regional heads of government.

For more information, click [here](#).

Related articles:


- IDB-INTAL. “[“Resilient Dynamism”. New edition of the Davos Forum](#),” in *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 198*, February 2013.

Pacific Alliance: Finance Ministers seek to strengthen financial integration

The Economy Ministers from the [Pacific Alliance](#) countries (Colombia, Chile, Peru and Mexico) met in parallel to the Economic Forum for Latin America in order to discuss topics related to the strengthening of financial integration and capital markets within the bloc. They specifically worked toward establishing mechanisms to harmonize tax treatment and regulate their investments in the near future.

The Presidential Summit of the Alliance’s countries will be held in the Colombian city of Cali next May 23.

For more information, click [here](#).

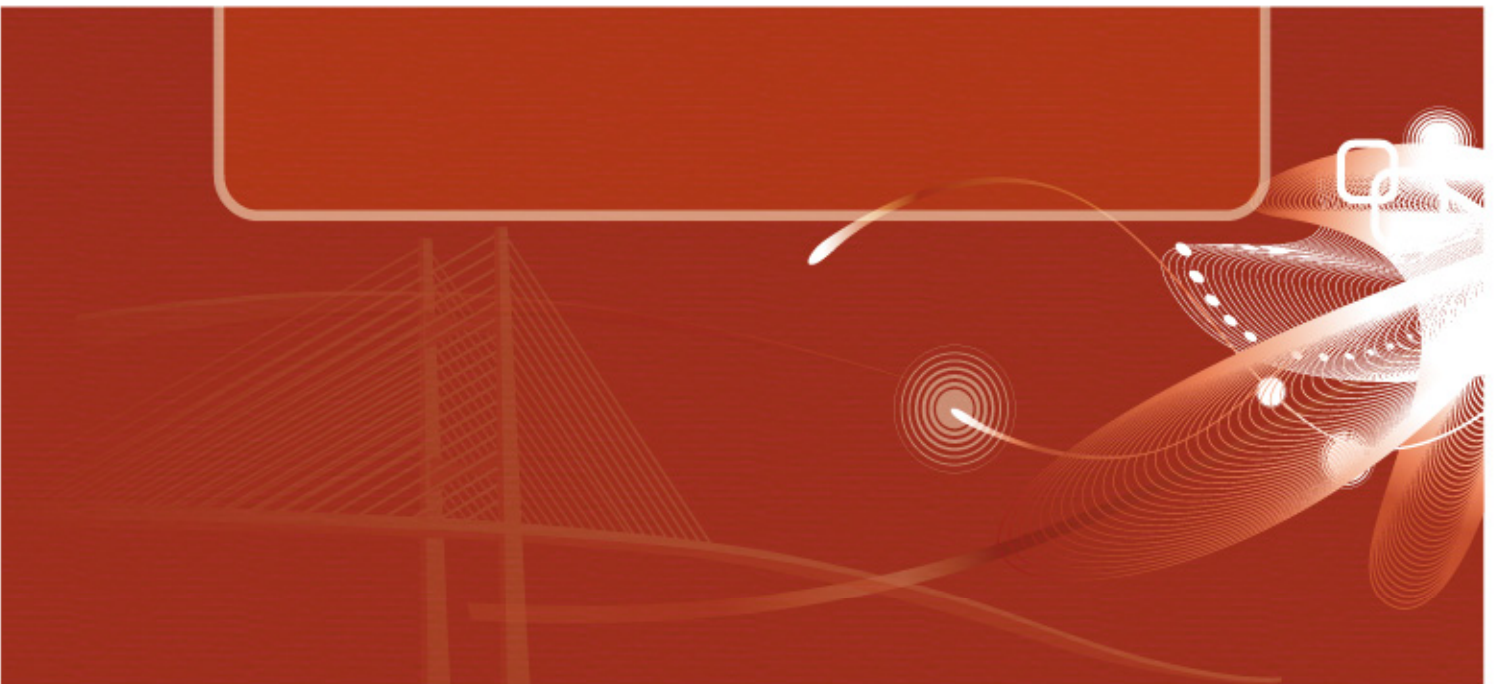


Related articles:

- IDB-INTAL. [“Pacific Alliance tables 2013 work schedule,”](#) in *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 197*, January 2013.
- IDB-INTAL. [“New dimensions in Asia-Latin America ties,”](#) in *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No.190*, June 2012.
- IDB-INTAL. [“Pacific Alliance leaders approve framework agreement,”](#) in *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 187*, March 2012.
- IDB-INTAL. [“Pacific Alliance outlines its goals,”](#) in *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 184*, December 2011.
- IDB-INTAL. [““Pacific Alliance”: a fresh initiative uniting Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru,”](#) in *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 177*, May 2011.



Other IDB Activities





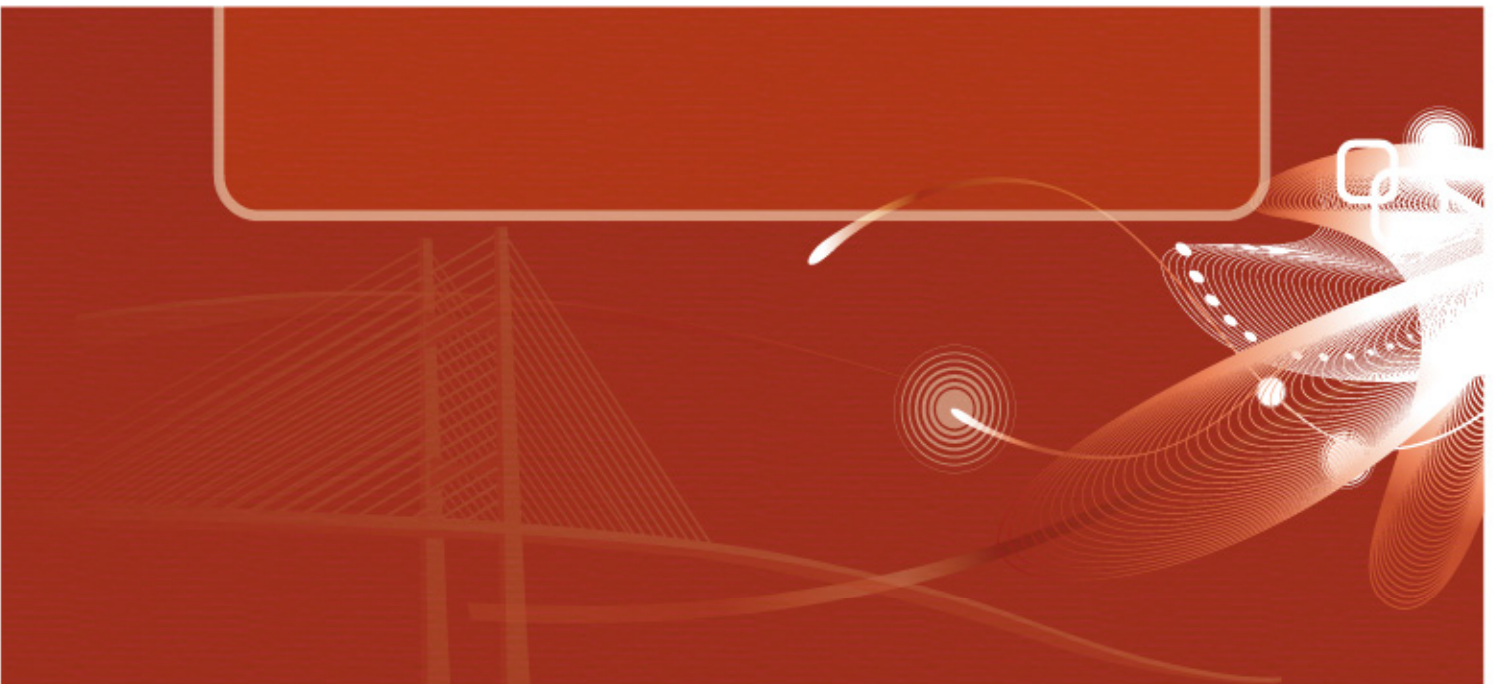


Additional financial resources required for Latin America and the Caribbean to achieve climate stabilization

New findings estimate that about \$100 billion would be required annually to implement key mitigation strategies ([link](#)).



INTAL Documentation Center








Reviews

Ruchansky, Beno. Integración eléctrica en América Latina: antecedentes, realidades y caminos por recorrer. Edición: Santiago de Chile: CEPAL, Febrero de 2013 [150 p.] (only in Spanish)

El trabajo consiste en una descripción de la integración eléctrica en América Latina, señalando los beneficios y los principales obstáculos que enfrenta. Para ello se basa en una recopilación de estudios de casos de los países de la región, elaborados por distintos autores especialistas en la materia.

El primer capítulo plantea la importancia de la integración física y de la conectividad entre los distintos países, como condición necesaria de los procesos de integración económica y política. En particular, la integración energética es valorada por su rol fundamental en la consolidación de los procesos de integración de la región. Se revisan los antecedentes de la integración eléctrica, señalando a las represas binacionales de Salto Grande (1980), Yacyretá (1994) e Itaipú (1984) y la creación de la Organización Latinoamericana de Energía (OLADE) en 1973 como los primeros hitos relevantes. Si bien se plantean los beneficios potenciales de la integración eléctrica, tales como el aprovechamiento de complementariedades por diferencias en husos horarios, la estacionalidad climática y la generación de escalas óptimas, el obstáculo principal reside en que cuando un país tiene dificultades para abastecer su demanda interna, suele privilegiar el mercado interno en detrimento del cumplimiento de sus compromisos de exportación.

El segundo capítulo trata sobre la integración eléctrica entre Colombia, Ecuador y Perú. El trabajo distingue entre dos fases en este tipo de procesos. La primera consiste en transacciones internacionales de electricidad (TIE), que implican reglas de operación técnica y económica para interconectar los sistemas nacionales, en tanto que la segunda, no alcanzada aún por este grupo de países, representa una mayor integración e implica proyectos de inversión comunes en transmisión y generación. A continuación se analiza el marco regulatorio y la infraestructura para el intercambio de energía, mostrando que ha tenido lugar principalmente entre Colombia y Ecuador y solamente ha comprendido a los excedentes mediante transacciones de corto plazo. El trabajo muestra que no se ha podido desarrollar un mercado de contratos bilaterales a largo plazo porque las decisiones apuntan a la autosuficiencia de los países. La investigación también proyecta los




escenarios de generación de energía de los tres países en el largo plazo, mostrando los futuros excedentes de Colombia y Ecuador y la autosuficiencia de Perú. En ese marco, el documento plantea la necesidad de algún grado de coordinación en la planificación de la expansión, en particular de las fechas de ingreso de nueva capacidad si se busca el desarrollo de un mercado regional. El trabajo señala que, de lo contrario, los intercambios continuarán limitándose a ciertas condiciones hidrológicas o a situaciones específicas en relación con los costos marginales de los sistemas en determinados momentos.

El tercer capítulo describe la conformación del mercado eléctrico regional de América Central. Se señala la firma del Tratado Marco del Mercado Eléctrico en 1996 y de sus dos Protocolos como el paso más importante en la integración energética regional, ya que fijan el marco legal para el desarrollo del proyecto del Sistema de Interconexión Eléctrica para los Países de América Central (SIEPAC). El SIEPAC consiste en la creación de un Mercado Regional de Electricidad (MER)- en el que pueden participar los seis países del istmo, respetando su soberanía- y la construcción de una línea de transmisión para intercambios entre países. El trabajo sostiene que, desde la primera interconexión en 1975, el intercambio de electricidad ha sido muy modesto, y solo ha tenido lugar en situaciones de emergencia o de excedentes de generación hidroeléctrica por condiciones climáticas favorables. El documento hace una revisión del funcionamiento del MER, su diseño e instituciones y su interconexión con Colombia y México. Se incluye una evaluación del proyecto SIEPAC, que remarca la necesidad de coordinar la planificación e impulsar el desarrollo de los contratos de largo plazo con el fin de facilitar la aparición de plantas de generación de gran tamaño que aprovechen las economías de escala y de ese modo alcanzar beneficios regionales. Se sostiene que el proceso de integración eléctrica centroamericana está perdiendo su dinamismo inicial, en parte porque prima el criterio del autoabastecimiento y la autonomía. Se plantea la necesidad de la promoción de plantas regionales, con vocación de exportar energía a largo plazo.

El cuarto capítulo describe la integración eléctrica de Argentina con sus países vecinos. Se describen los vínculos con Brasil, a través de las interconexiones Garabí I y II y Paso de los Libres-Uruguayana, como también los recursos compartidos, tales como el río Uruguay. Con Paraguay, los vínculos se dan a través de la interconexión de sistemas eléctricos, por la venta de energía “en tránsito” de Paraguay a Uruguay y también por los recursos compartidos como las centrales hidroeléctricas Yacyretá y Corpus. Se describen también las interconexiones con Uruguay y Chile. Se presentan los principales obstáculos a la integración energética en el MERCOSUR, que son principalmente los cambios profundos y frecuentes en los marcos regulatorios.

El último capítulo detalla la integración eléctrica internacional de Brasil, principalmente las interconexiones con Itaipú Binacional y con la Argentina a través de la convertidora de Garabí. El sistema eléctrico brasileño posee una variedad de proyectos nacionales que permite el abastecimiento del país con seguridad y a costos competitivos, principalmente de fuente hídrica. En este sentido, el impulso a la integración eléctrica con los países vecinos no deriva de la necesidad de asegurar la provisión de energía eléctrica a bajo costo, sino que las inversiones de Brasil en el sector eléctrico en el exterior - lideradas por ELETROBRAS, con el apoyo del BNDES- tienen como objetivo la integración económica y la internacionalización de las empresas brasileñas. La investigación sostiene que el modelo comercial brasileño (a través de la firma de contratos que representan una garantía de suministro y no de intercambios de energía física) si bien es adecuado y eficiente para el funcionamiento del sector en el país, impone condiciones al comercio internacional de energía que restringen las posibilidades de construir una integración completa de mercados. La dificultad para implementar este mercado integrado se debe



principalmente a las diferencias del modelo brasileño en comparación con el de los otros países, que se basan en el intercambio de energía física. Se describen además los vínculos con Bolivia (Central Térmica de Cuiabá), Uruguay (Conversora de Rivera) y Venezuela (Línea de transmisión de Guri a Roraima).

El valor de la publicación reside en echar luz acerca de la integración eléctrica, a través de un análisis amplio, que incluye la regulación, las operaciones de intercambio de energía y las inversiones conjuntas entre los distintos países de América Latina. Si bien los estudios de caso esbozan cuáles son las principales problemáticas para avanzar en la integración eléctrica, el trabajo adolece de conclusiones generales y recomendaciones de política, que lo volverían una herramienta útil para la planificación energética de la región.

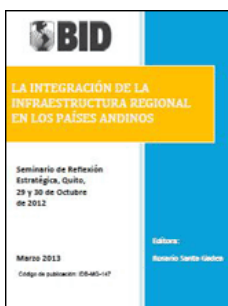


Bibliographic alert

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

* Santa Gadea, R., ed. (2013). La integración de la infraestructura regional en los países andinos. Washington: BID



Santa Gadea, R., ed. (2013). La integración de la infraestructura regional en los países andinos. Washington: BID

Autor: Santa Gadea, Rosario, ed.

Título: La integración de la infraestructura regional en los países andinos


Otros responsables: Cuenin, Fernando; Rodríguez Molina, Raúl

Edición: Washington: BID, March 2013 [210 p.]

Temas: <INTEGRACION FISICA><INFRAESTRUCTURA><PASOS DE FRONTERA><INTEGRACION FRONTERIZA><CUENCAS FLUVIALES><RECURSOS HIDRICOS><CUENCA DEL AMAZONAS><TRANSPORTE FERROVIARIO><TRANSPORTE TERRESTRE><ENERGIA><TELECOMUNICACIONES><COMUNIDAD ANDINA, CAN, >

Geográficos: <AMERICA LATINA>

Resumen: El presente documento pretende recopilar el contenido del Seminario de Reflexión Estratégica 'Los Países Andinos y la Integración Física de América del Sur', celebrado el 29 y 30 de octubre de 2012, en Quito, Ecuador, su organización se llevó a cabo de Manera Coordinada por Departamento de Países del Grupo Andino, Sector de Infraestructura y Medio Ambiente y Sector de Integración y Comercio del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo. Los orígenes del Seminario se remontan al Taller sobre Integración Física en América del Sur, celebrado el 16 de noviembre de 2011, en Lima, Perú en donde los representantes de los Gobiernos compartieron puntos de vista y necesidades de apoyo en los proyectos incluidos en la Agenda de Proyectos Prioritarios de Integración (API) y otros de interés regional. Este seminario tuvo los siguientes objetivos: (i) propiciar la reflexión y el diálogo, tanto entre los países,



como entre ellos y el Banco, sobre la integración de la infraestructura regional en los países andinos, centrando la atención en la integración de las telecomunicaciones, el rol de los pasos de frontera en la interconexión y el desarrollo fronterizo de los países, y la integración energética. Para cada uno de estos temas se presentaron documentos de base elaborados por consultores que incluyeron análisis de oportunidades y desafíos, así como buenas prácticas implementadas en otras regiones; (ii) revisar el avance de los proyectos específicos de integración de interés de los países, que se identificaron en el taller de Lima de 2011, examinar los mecanismos de apoyo técnico y financiero del Banco y la agenda de trabajo a futuro. El presente documento da a conocer los aportes y resultados de este seminario. En primer lugar, se ponen de manifiesto las tendencias generales en América Latina y el Caribe (ALC), con respecto a la demanda y la calidad de la infraestructura...

Nota general: Documento resultado del Seminario de Reflexión Estratégica 'Los Países Andinos y la Integración Física de América del Sur', celebrado el 29 y 30 de octubre de 2012, en Quito, Ecuador.

Nota de contenido:

Índice

Resumen ejecutivo

Introducción

Capítulo I: La integración de la infraestructura regional en los países andinos

Capítulo II: Integración de las telecomunicaciones. El anillo de banda ancha sudamericano: oportunidades y desafíos

Capítulo III: Pasos de frontera: rol en la interconexión y desarrollo fronterizo de los países andinos

Capítulo IV: Integración energética: iniciativas en marcha, evolución de la oferta y la demanda y potencialidades de integración gasífera y eléctrica

Capítulo V: Avances en proyectos identificados en taller realizado en Lima 2011

- Proyectos del eje Andino
- Interconexión fronteriza Colombia - Ecuador
- Sistema de conectividad de pasos de frontera Colombia-Venezuela
- Centro binacional de atención en frontera (CEBAF) desaguadero
- Proyectos del eje del Amazonas
- Mejoramiento de la navegabilidad del río Putumayo
- Mejoramiento de la navegabilidad del río Morona
- Proyectos del eje interoceánico central
- Corredor ferroviario bioceánico central (tramo Boliviano)
- Doble vía La paz - Santa Cruz (tramo Yapacañi - Montero)

- Proyectos del eje Perú - Brasil - Bolivia
- Paso de frontera y construcción del CEBAF IÑAPARI (frontera Perú - Brasil) y otros componentes vinculados
- Proyectos de energía y telecomunicaciones
- Sistema de interconexión eléctrica andina (SINEA)
- Anillo de fibra óptica sudamericano

Comentarios Finales

Bibliografía

Anexo 1. Agenda

Anexo 2. Lista de participantes

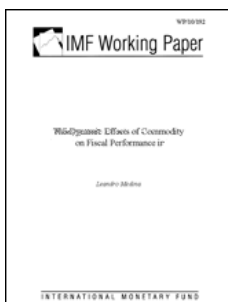
Anexo 3. Reseña de expositores

Accesos al documento: E 338 / BID-INT / 2013

Documento Electrónico

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

* Medina Cas, S.; Swiston, A. y Barrot, L. (2012). Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic : Trade Integration and Economic Performance. Washington: IMF



Autor: Medina Cas, Stephanie; Swiston, Andrew; Barrot, Luis Diego
Título: Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic : Trade Integration and Economic Performance
Edición: Washington: IMF, September 2012 [40 p.]
Serie: IMF Working Papers; 12-234
Temas: <INTEGRACION ECONOMICA><COMERCIO INTRARREGIONAL><EXPORTACIONES><ACUERDOS DE LIBRE COMERCIO><RELACIONES COMERCIALES><TECNOLOGIA><ADUANAS>
JEL: F13; F14; F15; F43; O11
Geográficos: <AMERICA CENTRAL><PANAMA><REPUBLICA DOMINICANA>

Resumen: This paper studies the potential for the export sector to play a more important role in promoting growth in Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic (CAPDR) through deeper intra-regional and global trade integration. CAPDR countries have enacted many free trade agreements and other regional integration initiatives in recent years, but this paper finds that their exports remain below the norm for countries of their size. Several indexes of outward orientation are constructed and suggest that the breadth of geographic trading relationships, depth of integration into global production chains, and degree of technological sophistication of exports in CAPDR are less conducive to higher exports and growth than in fast-growing, export-oriented economies. To boost exports and growth, CAPDR should implement policies to facilitate economic integration, particularly building a customs union, harmonizing trade rules, improving logistics and infrastructure, and enhancing regional coordination.

Accesos al documento: eHM FMI-DT 12-234 [2012]
Documento Electrónico

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

* Coatz, D. (2013). Política pyme en América Latina a la luz de los cambios globales. Madrid: IELAT; Centro de Información Financiera, CIFF; Universidad de Cantabria



Autor:Coatz, Diego

Título:Política pyme en América Latina a la luz de los cambios globales

Edición:Madrid: IELAT; Centro de Información Financiera, CIFF;

Universidad de Cantabria, Marzo 2013 [42 p.]

Serie:Documentos de Trabajo UC-CIFF-IELAT; 11

Temas:<DESARROLLO ECONOMICO><INTEGRACION

REGIONAL><CRISIS><COYUNTURA ECONOMICA><PEQUEÑAS Y MEDIANAS EMPRESAS, PYMES><GLOBALIZACION>

Geográficos:<AMERICA LATINA>

Resumen:Durante la primera década del siglo XXI, América Latina y el Caribe registró su período de mayor crecimiento desde los años ochenta, expandiéndose a un ritmo superior al de la media mundial. Prueba del desempeño satisfactorio de la región fue la resiliencia de los países latinoamericanos durante la fase más aguda de la crisis internacional que viene acechando a la economía global desde mediados de 2007. Con la crisis de la deuda de comienzos de los años ochenta la región exhibió un magro comportamiento que mejoraría a partir de la década siguiente al ingresar en la primera fase ascendente (1991-1997) de los últimos veinte años, etapa que coincidió con un apalancamiento de financiamiento externo y déficit recurrente de cuenta corriente que alimentaba el ciclo y una mayor volatilidad externa. El mejor desempeño de la región se acentuó en la segunda mitad de los años 2000 (2003-2011), una vez superada la media década perdida de estancamiento del nivel de actividad hacia fines de los años 90 lo que coincidió con un proceso de progresivo desendeudamiento...

Accesos al documento:eHM UC-CIFF-IELAT DT 11 [2013]

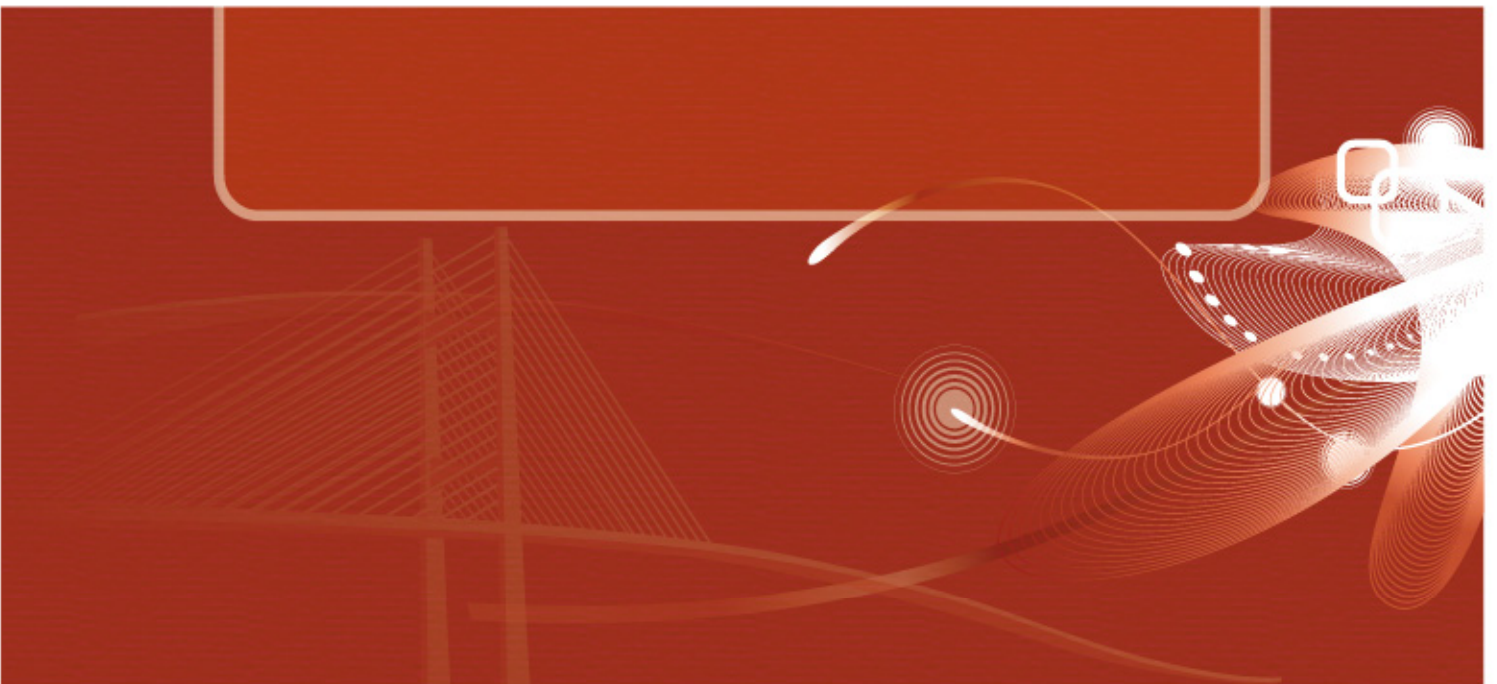
Documento Electrónico

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





Editorial Staff





This Monthly Newsletter follows the alphabetical order of the contents of the Spanish version. It is published electronically and can be freely accessed at the IDB-INTAL homepage.

Steering Committee:

Antoni Estevadeordal
Ricardo Carciofi

Coordination:

Alejandro Ramos Martínez

Technical advisory:

Rosario Campos
Romina Gayá
Gala Gómez Minujín
Kathia Michalczewsky
Carolina Osorio Duque
Verónica Toscani

Assistance to compilation:

Andrea Benítez
Enzo Di Muro
Eugenia Piasentini

Editing:

Susana Filippa
Pablo Palumbo
Julieta Tarquini

Web Editing:

Federico Mazzella
Pedro Grondona

R.P.I.: 5095067
ISSN: 1027-2550

This is a monthly publication property of the Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB-INTAL). All rights reserved.

Information sources: Press releases and clippings from: LAIA; IDB; CARICOM; Andean Community; Euro-Lat; Group of 77; ACS; Group of Rio; MERCOSUR; PARLATINO; LAES; SG-SICA; SIECA. Official and International Agencies. INTAL Press.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Inter-American Development Bank, its Board of Directors, or the countries they represent.


The unauthorized commercial use of Bank documents is prohibited and may be punishable under the Bank's policies and/or applicable laws.

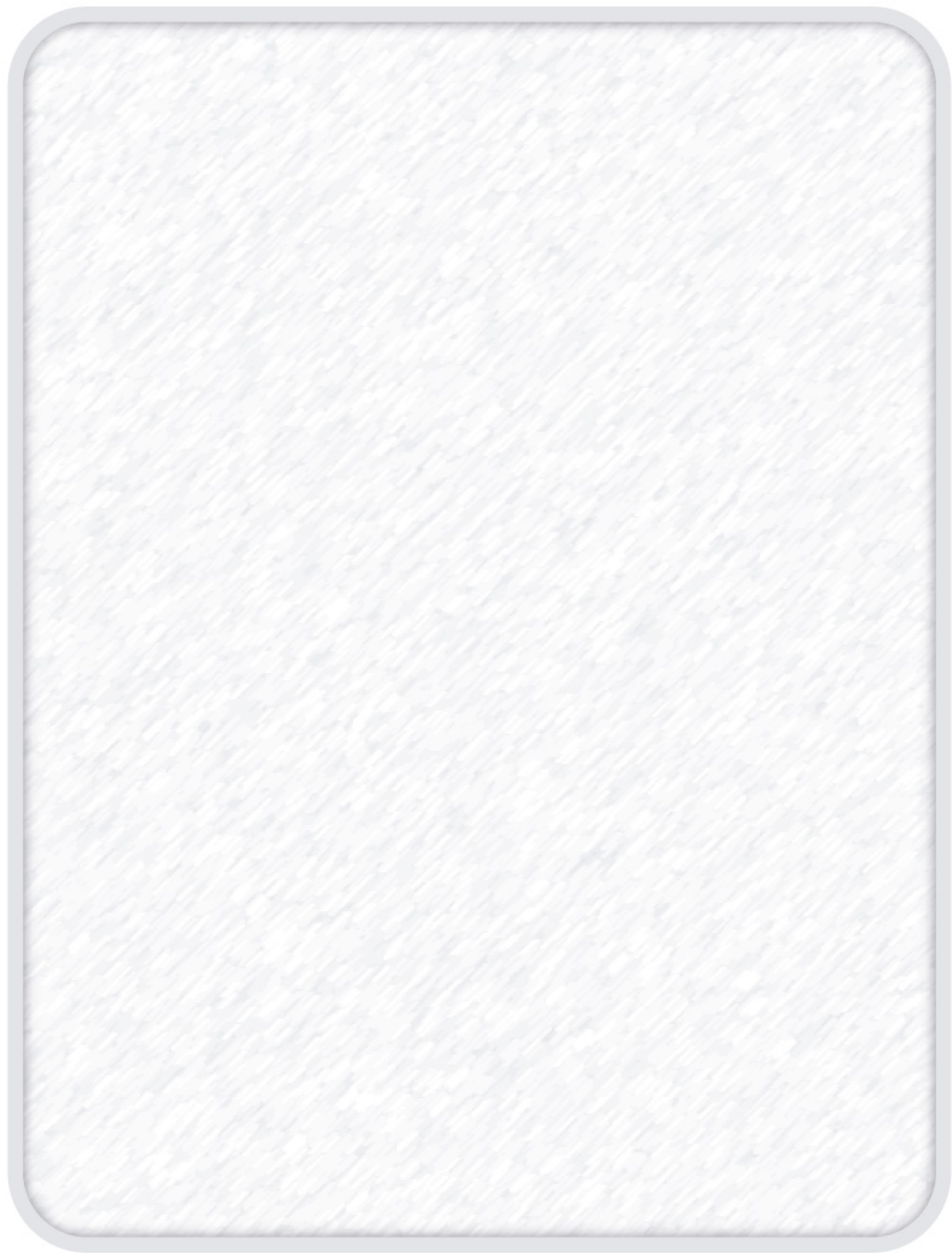
Copyright © [1996] Inter-American Development Bank. All rights reserved; may be freely reproduced for any non-commercial purpose.

IDB-INTAL | Esmeralda 130, 11th & 16th floors | (C1035ABD) Buenos Aires, Argentina

Links to original information sources in this number:

- Bolivia Inicia Proceso de Adhesión al Mercosur (2013). Montevideo : Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Bolivia. [Link](#).
- Chile. Decreto 680. (2012, junio 30). Aprueba establecimiento de derecho antidumping definitivo a las importaciones de harina de trigo originaria de argentina. Santiago : Ministerio de Hacienda. [Link](#).
- Chile. Decreto 105. (2013, marzo 28). Aprueba establecimiento de derecho antidumping provisional a las importaciones de maíz partido provenientes de argentina. Santiago : Ministerio de Hacienda. [Link](#).
- Chile. Decreto 129. (2013, abril 23). Establece medida de salvaguardia provisional a las Importaciones de mercancías que indica. Santiago : Ministerio de Hacienda. [Link](#).
- Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation : Intersections between public health, intellectual property and trade. (2013). Geneve : WTO. [Link](#).
- Encuentro Empresarial Andino : folleto. (2013, 24 y 25 de abril). Bogotá : CAN. [Link](#).
- Dimensión económico comercial de la Comunidad Andina. (2013, abril). Lima : CAN. [Link](#).
- Perú : derecho adicional sobre las importaciones de determinados productos agropecuarios solicitud de celebración de consultas presentada por Guatemala. (16 de abril de 2013). Ginebra : OMC. [Link](#).
- World Economic Forum on Latin America 2013 : Meeting Overview (April 23-25, 2013). Lima : WEF. [Link](#).
- World Economic Forum on Latin America 2013 : Programme (April 23-25, 2013). Lima : WEF. [Link](#).
- Association of Southeast Nations. (2013). Guiding Principles and Objectives for Negotiating the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. Jakarta : ASEAN. [Link](#).
- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP): Joint Statement. The First Meeting Of Trade Negotiating Committee. (9-13 MAY 2013). Jakarta : ASEAN. [Link](#).

- 
- Caribbean small states : challenges of high debt and low growth (February 2013). Washington IMF. [Link](#).
 - Honduras usará \$75 millones de Petrocaribe para viviendas y represas. (16 de mayo de 2013). Tegucigalpa : El Heraldó. [Link](#).
 - Lobo, Porfirio. (16 de mayo de 2013). Reincorporación de Honduras a PetroCaribe. Caracas : SiBCI. [Link](#).



INTAL

Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean



IDB

Inter-American Development Bank