

WORK UNDERTAKEN

AREA OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION



There follows a brief description of the objectives pursued and the activities undertaken through operations begun in 1998. The status of those that are ongoing is presented in detail in the section devoted to INTAL's 1999 work program.

INTAL Contributions Fund (Project Document 532/98). «Identity and Integration: Latin American Dilemmas at the Turn of the Century»

Objectives To identify the main thinking of Latin American leaders with regard to economic integration and the region's insertion into a globalized world, and to describe current thinking on the problem of the region's identity, particularly from a broad historical-cultural perspective.

Activities The objective was pursued through a review of the available literature, interviews with and forward-looking questionnaires to senior figures, and surveys of members of the Latin American elites. This project was conducted jointly with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

ATN/SF-5205-RE (Project CTR-013/98-REG). «Academic Colloquium of the Americas»

Objectives To contribute to the process of establishing the FTAA by creating a space for reflection and analysis that allows the active participation of the hemisphere's civil society.

Activities Organization of an academic colloquium with the participation of experts from the hemisphere's private and academic sectors to address issues related to the establishment and operation of the FTAA. Joint collaboration with the Division of Integration, Trade and Hemispheric Issues (INT/ITD) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the University of Costa Rica's Institute of Economic Research. The project led to the first Academic Colloquium of the Americas, organized in the framework of the Fourth Business Forum of the Americas in San José, Costa Rica, in March 1998. Participants in the event included a large number of representatives from the hemisphere's governmental, academic and business sectors, whose papers will be available on the Institute's web site during the first quarter of 1999.

ATN/SF-5205-RE (Project CTR-014/98-CEN). «The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Countries of the Central American Common Market, Belize, Panama and the Dominican Republic»

Objectives This project aimed to contribute to trade policy decision-making in the countries of the CACM, Belize, Panama and the Dominican Republic.

Activities The objective was pursued by means of an empirical assessment of the impact of NAFTA on the above countries' exports to the United States and Mexico, and on the flows of foreign direct investment that they received, particularly in the garments and non-traditional agricultural goods sectors

It was carried out jointly with the Division of Integration, Trade and Hemispheric Issues of the IDB, ECLAC, and the North American Integration and Development Center of the University of California, U.S.A.

ATN/SF-5205-RE (Project CTR-015/98-REG). Title: «Support to Trade Negotiations for Latin America and the Caribbean»

Objectives To help improve the negotiating capacity of the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean with regard to the norms and disciplines established by the World Trade Organization, for their practical use in the sub-regional, hemispheric and multilateral spheres.

Activities As part of this project, in 1998 the following seminars addressed various areas of trade negotiation:

4 - 7/05/98 "Regional Seminar on WTO Rules on Subsidies for Countries of South America", Bogota, Colombia. *Participating countries:* Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Organized jointly with Colombia's Institute of Foreign Trade (INCOMEX).

16 - 17/06/98 "Workshop on Rules of Origin", Guatemala City, Guatemala. *Participating countries:* Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Nicaragua. Organized jointly with the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA).

20 - 24/07/98 "Workshop on Market Access Issues", Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. *Participating countries:* Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Surinam and Trinidad and Tobago. Organized jointly with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

21 - 22/07/98 "Workshop on Rules of Origin", Brasilia, Brazil. Organized jointly with the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA).

10 - 14/08/98 "Workshop on Market Access", San José, Costa Rica. *Participating countries:* Costa Rica, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic. Organized jointly with the Program of Human Resources Training (PROFICA) of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE).

24 - 25/08/98 "Workshop on Rules of Origin", Buenos Aires, Argentina. *Participating countries:* Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

26 - 28/08/98 "Seminar for Negotiators from the MERCOSUR Countries and Chile. Trade in Services". Buenos Aires, Argentina. *Participating countries:* Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

21 - 24/09/98 "Regional Seminar for Negotiators on Multilateral Disciplines in Subsidies", Guatemala, Guatemala. *Participating countries:* Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic. Organized jointly with the Program of Human Resources Training for Central American Integration (PROFICA) of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE).

15 - 16/10/98 "Workshop on Rules of Origin", Lima, Peru. *Participating countries:* Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. Organized jointly with the General Secretariat of the Andean Community.

ATN/SF-5205-RE (Project CTR-016/98-AND). Title: "Support for Border Integration between Ecuador and Peru".

Objectives Objectives: This project aims to help identify and put in place financial support mechanisms to foster priority joint border projects between Ecuador and Peru.

Activities

The objective is pursued by means of a study on the establishment of a binational fund to be used by the governments of Ecuador and Peru to mobilize the resources of the public and private sectors, as well as of international institutions, to develop priority joint projects in the border area. This project is carried out jointly with the Division of Integration, Trade and Hemispheric Issues, and with Regional Operations Department 3 (RE3).

ATN/SF-5205-RE (Project CTR-017/98-REG). «INTAL Integration Research Centers Network – REDINT»

Objectives

The aim of the project is to help strengthen research capacity on integration issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Activities

On the basis of guidelines set out by the Executive Directors of the IDB, a network of research centers was established with a view to strengthening their technical and academic capacity and experience. The first call for project proposals was made on 6 July 1998. The consortia composed of research centers registered with REDINT from the Andean Community, the Central American Common Market and MERCOSUR presented their proposals. The following were chosen after the assessment process: (i) **Andean Community**: “Sectoral Impact of the Sub-regional Integration Process in the Andean Community: The Dairy Products Chain”, presented by the Instituto de Estudios Rurales of the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana de Colombia and the Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas (IVIC), and “Sectoral Impact of the Sub-regional Integration Process in the Andean Community: The Textile Sector”, presented by the Fundación para la Educación Superior y el Desarrollo (FEDESARROLLO) of Colombia and the Centro de Investigaciones of the Universidad del Pacífico, Peru; (ii) **Central American Common Market**: “Sectoral Impact of the Sub-regional Integration Process in Central America: The Dairy Sector and the Metal-mechanical Sector (electrical apparatus)”, presented by the Instituto de Investigaciones Económicas (IICE) of the Universidad de Costa Rica and the Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES); and (iii) **MERCOSUR**: “Sectoral Impact of Sub-regional Integration: The Case of Footwear and Fine Chemicals”, presented by the Centro de Estudios para la Estructura Económica (CENES), Faculty of Economics, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, the Fundación Centro de Estudios de Comercio Exterior (FUNCEX) of Brazil, and the Centro de Investigaciones Económicas (CINVE) of Uruguay. It is anticipated that the studies will be completed in the first half of 1999.

ATN/SF-5205-RE (Project CTR-018/98-REG). « Trans-Pacific Business Network – Red Trans-pacífica de Negocios»

Objectives

The aim of the project is to design and implement the initial stage of an electronic information system on business opportunities for the countries of Latin America and Asia-Pacific.

Activities

The Trans-Pacific Business Network will be based on an information system covering the following areas: (i) economic information, including basic economic indicators, norms, tariffs and non-tariff measures related to trade and commercial control, World Trade Organization information on tariffs and on other obligations and rights of its member countries, trade agreements, etc.; and (ii) business information, including data on the potential and characteristics of markets, business opportunities (supply and demand) and company profiles (importers and exporters). The project is undertaken jointly with Chile's Economy Ministry, the Asian Development Bank and the International Trade Center (ITC-UNCTAD/WTO).

ATN/SF-5205-RE (Project CTR-019/98-REG). «Support for the Establishment of the Temporary Secretariat of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)»

Objectives

The aim of the project is to support the initiation of the FTAA negotiations, facilitating the operation of the negotiating groups and the establishment of the Temporary Secretariat of the FTAA.

Activities

Hiring a project coordinator, logistical organization of the meetings of the negotiating groups, and coverage of travel costs for interviewing potential personnel of the Secretariat. The project is administered under the technical responsibility of the IDB's Division of Integration, Trade and Hemispheric Issues.

ATN/SF-5205-RE (Project CTR-020/98-AND). «Program of Andean Community/INTAL Internships»

Objectives

The aim is to promote awareness of the principles and achievements of Andean integration and the internationalization of the Andean countries' economies, as well as to provide a training mechanism for familiarizing Andean professionals with the operation of the Community so as to facilitate the process to which the sub-region is committed.

Activities

Activities: Internships will be given to young professionals of the member countries in the General Secretariat of the Andean Community. These internships will involve theoretical training in Andean and other integration strategies, as well as in the structure and nature of the Andean Community, so as to generate direct knowledge of the way in which the Community operates and of each of its issue areas. The internship will end with the preparation of a study on one of the Community's areas, allowing the intern to deepen and to put into practice the knowledge that he or she has acquired. This project is technically supported by INT/ITD and the General Secretariat of the Andean Community.

Associated Technical Cooperation ATN/SF-5974-RG. «Reducing the Lack of Micronutrients in MERCOSUR»

Objectives

To support the development of a joint strategy to address the lack of micronutrients in the MERCOSUR countries in accordance with a request from the presidential summit in resolution MERCOSUR-CMC-DEC No. 10/97; to promote the identification of shared needs and the specific requirements of each country, as well as the most appropriate solutions, by preparing consensual documents establishing the common elements of such a strategy.

Activities

Activities: (i) a document will be produced on the "Common Regional Micronutrients Strategy" for consideration at the Meeting of Health Ministers. The document will consist of: (a) Main Document of the Common Regional Strategy; (b) Annex I: Reinforcing Foodstuffs; and Annexes II, III, IV and V on the Situation, Needs and Programmatic Guidelines for each of the countries of the region; (ii) review of the literature and background; (iii) identification of conditions on the ground; (iv) strategic and feasibility study; (v) first draft of the "Regional Strategy"; (vi) circulation of the draft among specialists in the countries, and search for consensus; and (vii) final version of the Documents "Regional Strategy" and "Annexes". INTAL is to carry out this project with the support and technical responsibility of the IDB's Sustainable Development Division (SDS).

Associated Technical Cooperation ATN/SF-5791-RG. «Globalization and Management of Agricultural and Agroindustrial Technological Integration in the Southern Cone»

Objectives

To support the institutional reform of the national Agricultural Research Institutes and of PROCISUR. This is to be undertaken with particular attention to the scientific-technological system and the demands of the Southern Cone farming and agroindustrial sector, so as to consolidate a network for sub-regional technological cooperation and integration and to strengthen the management capacity of the innovation process in the context of the enlargement of the Southern Cone economic bloc.

Activities

The project involves five studies analyzing the institutional and technical frameworks of the main sectoral productive chains in the sub-region. It will be carried out by the Programa Cooperativo para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Agropecuario del Cono Sur (PROCISUR), through the Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA), with the technical support of INTAL. Technical responsibility in the IDB lies with the SDS.

As part of the ongoing technical cooperation involving **Fora and Special Events**, particular mention should be made of the selection process for the winners of the INTAL Prize on the issue **“Labor Standards and Income Distribution in Relation to Trade”**. Four entries were pre-selected from all those submitted, and these were subject to a final assessment by a panel of international experts.



The panel decided that the winning entry was a study entitled “Labor Standards and International Trade” by

ROBERT M. STERN, an American, Director of the International Program of the Institute of Public Policies Studies at the University of Michigan, United States. The other three studies selected for special mention were the following:

GRACIELA BENSUSÁN AREOUS/BODIL DAMGAARD, for “Estándares laborales y distribución del ingreso en su relación con el comercio”. Doctor Bensusán, an Argentine, is a graduate in political science and works in the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco in Mexico City. Doctor Damgaard, a Dane, is also a graduate in political science and is currently a researcher in the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) in Mexico City.

MORLEY GUNDERSON, a Canadian, for “Labour Standards, Income Distribution and Trade”. Doctor Gunderson has a Ph.D in economics and is Director of the Centre for Industrial Relations and professor of the Department of Economics at the University of Toronto, Canada.

ANGELIQUE LAWRENCE, from Trinidad and Tobago, for “Labour Standards, Income Distribution and Trade: Implications for Regional/Hemispheric Integration”. Ms. Lawrence graduated in International Economics and African Studies and is currently an independent consultant.

The prizes will be awarded during the ILO Caribbean Symposium on “Labour Issues in the Context of Economic Integration and Free Trade” in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 20 - 22 January 1999. The main aim of the Symposium is help clarify two main questions: How can labor policies facilitate the transition from a protected to an open economy? And what is the probable impact of globalization and economic integration on the labor markets of the Caribbean and on the region's institutions? During the event, which is organized jointly by INTAL and the International Labor Organization (ILO), the authors of the winning prizes will present their studies in a panel organized by IDB/INTAL on the issue “Labor Standards, Income Distribution and Trade”, which was selected for the INTAL prize.



In the area of fora and special events, two policy fora and eleven special events were co-organized with other bodies and institutions during 1998. Over 5,000 people attended these gatherings, which gave rise to a substantial number of documents that have been distributed in the form of books, CD-ROMs and papers, as well as through INTAL's web page and other institutions' Internet sites. The full list with dates, venue and name of the event is presented in a summary chart at the end of this chapter.

The two policy fora organized by the Institute concerned the issues of "**EXPORT PROMOTION**" and the "**SECTORAL IMPACT OF INTEGRATION: THE MERCOSUR CASE**". More than 700 people took part in these two events, which produced a significant set of technical documents. Hence, in the case of the Export promotion Forum, Issues 4 and 5 of INTAL's journal *Integration & Trade* were specially devoted to the presentation of nine articles on this topic. In view of the strong resonance that this event had at the regional level, the pro tempore presidency of the Andean Community requested a similar Forum in the sub-region during 1999. Moreover, in coordination with INT/ITD, it was decided to organize another event on the issue in the IDB's headquarters, also in 1999, given the interest of the governments of the region in advancing discussion and analysis of the topic as part of the policy decision-making process in this area.

As regards the Forum on the sectoral impact in MERCOSUR, the four studies on the dairy, automotive, machine tools and petrochemicals sectors will be published as a book during the first four months of 1999, and a summary version of the studies as technical articles will appear in INTAL's journal *Integration & Trade*. Since the sectors analyzed offer an interesting competitive scenario for investors from various parts of the world, the IDB's Office in Japan has asked INTAL to organize a seminar in which the findings of the studies can be presented to the Japanese business community. This activity forms part of INTAL's 1999 work program, as shown later in this document. There have been several indications of interest in the content of these studies, once they are published, from Europe and the United States.

*DISSEMINATION AND INFORMATION*

Activities concerned with dissemination and information are channeled through three different lines of action: the services of INTAL's Documentation Center (IDC); databases and other information systems; and the Institute's publications.

As regards the services of the IDC, statistical data on its activity in 1998 clearly reveal the intensive work carried out by the Center. The most pertinent information on activities undertaken is as follows:

- Some 40 bibliographical searches on specific issues, at the request of users resident abroad;
- Some 1,550 consultations in the IDC reading room;
- Responses to 1,326 telephone consultations;
- Responses to 700 consultations by mail, fax and/or electronic mail;
- Some 30 loans of IDC bibliographical material to other institutions;
- Searches for information for INTAL's Monthly Newsletter, and to update the collection on the Institute's special issues. This involved making 1,920 telephone calls, and sending 1,300 faxes and/or e-mails, notes and inter-library loan requests;

- Activities to acquire bibliographical material via purchase, exchange or donation. As regards purchase, work was carried out for 15 subscriptions to periodical publications, 25 books, and 55 documents. With respect to exchange, the IDC responded to 40 exchange requests for Integration & Trade, and 15 for the MERCOSUR Report;
- The IDC received 2,000 documents, including those from the LAIA, SELA, and the Andean Community, and 2,017 issues of periodical publications;
- With regard to dissemination of bibliographical material acquired, the documentation received and/or located via Internet was circulated weekly, which involved: photocopies of covers and summaries of periodicals; photocopies of covers and summaries of books and/or documents; 240 press clippings; 720 press releases from various institutions; and an average of 4,200 articles taken from the Internet, including those of Inter Press Service (IPS);
- As regards technical processing of bibliographical material, some 1,650 records were introduced into INTAL's databases (books and documents); Kardex (periodicals); DOCINT (documents from international organizations);
- In the area of coordinating and supervising technical cooperation for technical processing of the bibliographical material, 11 bibliographical lists containing the incoming books and 10 with the titles and details of periodical were revised;
- The IDC controlled the entry of data in the DOCINT database (577 records);
- As regards negative selection of the collections, 450 documents and 1,300 issues of periodicals were rejected because their issue area was not of central interest to the Institute, or because the editions were not updated;
- With respect to the relocation and cataloguing of shelved material, 275 shelves corresponding to the books collection, 55 corresponding to documents from international organizations, and 110 of the periodicals collection were moved and labeled;
- Some 17 issues of INTAL's Monthly Newsletter were analyzed thematically, and work began on drawing up an analytical-thematic index for the years 1996-1997;
- INTAL's bibliographical database, with 15,618 records, was prepared and sent to the University of Colima, Mexico, for its inclusion in the CD-ROM "Bibliographical Databanks of Latin America and the Caribbean V";
- Bibliographical databases, with 4,387 records, were prepared for the Internet;
- Some 18 forms were completed to update information on INTAL requested by international institutions and/or publishing companies;
- A list of bibliographical material was prepared, with 224 titles, to be offered as a donation; it was sent by e-mail to 25 institutions; and
- Adding together the various types of consultation mentioned above, it can be seen that 3,576 consultations were attended to (in situ, by telephone, mail, fax, e-mail) most of them international requests.

The **IDC BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DATABASE (INTEG)**, available on the Institute's web page, has helped prompt a strong increase in the number and type of services offered by the Center, a trend which is expected to be further accentuated in the future.

In the field of information systems, the sources of "hits" on **INTAL's Internet page** are noteworthy; most originate in the United States, Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, Colombia, Japan, Uruguay, Chile, Spain and Canada.

The **TRADE STATISTICS SYSTEM OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE (DATAINTAL)** was presented in CD-ROM format and over 400 copies were distributed. The description of INTAL's 1999 work program below includes comments on the future evolution of this project, which is being developed jointly between INTAL and the IDB's Statistics and Quantitative Analysis Unit (INT/STA). At the same time, work continued on updating the **INTAL-MERCOSUR DATABASE (BIM)**, which is available via Internet and which includes the basic juridical instruments of the integration process such as the resolutions, decisions and directives of the respective executive and technical bodies.

A joint project with the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, whose current situation is mentioned below, gave rise to the publication in CD-ROM format of a **DIRECTORY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH ASIA-PACIFIC**, a database of information on relevant governmental and non-governmental actors working in the field of inter-regional relations. Finally, work finished recently on the database of **BASIC INSTRUMENTS OF INTEGRATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**. This system, available on the Internet through the Institute's web site, complements and updates the compendium of juridical instruments published by INTAL under the same title in 1992.

With regard to publications, in addition to the textual databases available via INTAL's web site, 49 publications were issued. Details of these are provided in the following summary chart. As well as continuing INTAL's habitual publications series, Integration & Trade, the Monthly Newsletter, the Dissemination Papers and the MERCOSUR Report, two new series of publications are to be produced jointly with INT/ITD.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION 1998	
Identity and Integration: Latin American Dilemmas at the Turn of the Century	
Academic Colloquium of the Americas	
The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Countries of the Central American Common Market, Belize, Panama and the Dominican Republic	
Support to Trade Negotiations for Latin America and the Caribbean	
Support for Border Integration between Ecuador and Peru	
INTAL Network of Research Centers on Integration - REDINT	
Trans-Pacific Business Network - Red Transpacífica de Negocios	
Support for the Establishment of the Temporary Secretariat of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)	
Program of Andean Community/INTAL Internships	
ONGOING TECHNICAL COOPERATION (1996-1997)	
Project for the Integral Development of Andean Border Regions	
The Small MERCOSUR Countries and the European Union: Their Regional and Global Economic Insertion, and Their Role in the Integration Process	
Preparatory Assistance for the Program to Strengthen Latin America and Caribbean Economic Relations with Asia-Pacific	
ASSOCIATED TECHNICAL COOPERATION	
Reducing the Lack of Micronutrients in MERCOSUR	
Global PROCISUR/IDB Project. Organization and Management of Agricultural and Agroindustrial Technological Integration in the Southern Cone	

POLICY FORA
4-5/06/98 - Policy Forum on Export Promotion, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
23-24/11/98 - Policy Forum on the Sectoral Impact of Integration: The MERCOSUR Case, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
SPECIAL EVENTS
24 - 26/02/98 - Seminar on Energy and Transportation Infrastructure of MERCOSUR Tokyo, Japan. Organized jointly with the IDB office in Japan.
23/07/98 - Seminar for Journalists and Social Communicators: Key for the Analysis of MERCOSUR Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego - Argentina. Organized jointly with the MERCOSUR Specialized Meeting on Social Communication.
14-15/09/98 - II Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Asia-Pacific Studies Centers, Lima, Peru. Organized jointly with the Latin American Economic System (Sistema Económico Latinoamericano, SELA).
23 - 25/09/98 - XI Congress of Central American and Caribbean Economists (ACARIBE 98), Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Organized jointly with the Colegio Hondureño de Economistas.
23/10/98 - Academic Seminar in Homage to ECLAC and Raúl Prebisch, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Organized jointly with the Fundación Raúl Prebisch.
4/11/98 - First Expoeconómicas, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Organized by the Consejo Profesional de Ciencias Económicas.
18-19/11/98 - Business Workshop of the FTAA Negotiating Group: Subsidies, Antidumping and Countervailing Duties, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Organized jointly with the Unión Industrial Argentina (UIA).
19-20/11/98 - Seminar Argentina and Brazil at the Turn of the Twentieth Century, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Organized jointly with the Fundación de Centros de Estudios Brasileiros (FUNCEB).
20/11/98 - Expert Meeting to Discuss Trade Policy in the Context of the Present International Economic Crisis, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Organized jointly with the Under-secretariat for Foreign Trade of Argentina.
26-27/11/98 - Seminar on the Prospects for the Establishment of a Free Trade Zone between the Andean Community and MERCOSUR, São Paulo, Brazil. Organized jointly with Brazilian Foreign Ministry, the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), the Federation of Industries of São Paulo State (Federación de Industrias del Estado de São Paulo, FIESP) and the São Paulo Commercial Association (Associação Comercial de São Paulo (ACSP)).
27/11/98 - Expert Meeting on the International Crisis and Trade Policy in MERCOSUR, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Organized jointly with the Under-secretariat for Foreign Trade of Argentina.

TRAINING SEMINARS (CTR-015/98-REG)	
4 - 7/05/98 - Regional Seminar on WTO Rules on Subsidies for Countries of South America, Bogota, Colombia	
16 - 17/06/98 - Workshop on Rules of Origin, Guatemala, Guatemala	
20 - 24/07/98 - Workshop on Market Access Issues, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	
21-22/07/98 - Workshop on Rules of Origin, Brasilia, Brazil	
10 - 14/08/98 - Workshop on Market Access, San José, Costa Rica	
24-25/08/98 - Workshop on Rules of Origin, Buenos Aires, Argentina	
26 - 28/08/98 - Seminar for Negotiators from the MERCOSUR Countries and Chile. Trade in Services, Buenos Aires, Argentina	
21 - 24/09/98 - Regional Seminar for Negotiators on Multilateral Disciplines in Subsidies, Guatemala, Guatemala	
15-16/10/98 - Workshop on Rules of Origin, Lima, Peru	
PARTICIPATION IN SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES	
5-6/02/98 - International Forum: Impact of the Free Trade Area of the Americas on the Productive Sector Lima, Peru. Organized by the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú and the Asociación de Exportadores (ADEX).	
26-27/03/98 - The Institute for Infrastructure Finance and the New Latin American Infrastructure Story, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Organized by the Institute for Infrastructure Finance (New York, U.S).	
12 - 14/05/98 - XXIII International Spring Colloquium: Latin America and the European Union: Competition and Cooperation, Mexico, DF, Mexico. Organized by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.	
1 - 2/06/98 - II Meeting of MERCOSUR Foundations, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Organized by the Federación de Fundaciones Argentinas (FEDEFA).	
4 - 6/06/98 - Municipalities in the Latin American Integration Process, São Paulo, Brazil. Organized by the Latin American Parliament's Committee on Sub-regional and Municipal Affairs.	
9/06, 20/08 and 18/11/98 - Presentations on MERCOSUR for Groups of Japanese Entrepreneurs and Eximbank Officials, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Request made by the Eximbank of Japan.	
10 - 11/06/98 - XXIII National Foreign Trade Convention: Integration: Threats and Opportunities for Latin American Business, Lima, Peru. Organized by the Asociación de Exportadores (ADEX).	
26/08/98 - International Seminar: International Competition for Foreign Investment, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Organized by the Fundación Foro del Sur.	
7/09/98 - Forum on Education and Employment: A Vision without Borders, Mendoza, Argentina. Organized by the Universidad de Congreso.	
10 - 12/09/98 - Conference on Foreign Trade, the Environment and Sustainable Development in MERCOSUR. The Role of Civil Society, Punta del Este, Uruguay. Organized by the Fundación ECOS.	
29/09 and 22/10/98 - Presentation on MERCOSUR for the ADESG group of Brazil, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Request by the Brazilian Ministry of the Army High Command.	
5-6/10/98 - FTAA and MERCOSUR Conference: The Brazilian Economy and the Sub-regional and Hemispheric Integration Processes, Brasilia, Brazil. Organized by the Instituto de Investigación de Economía Aplicada (IPEA).	
13 - 15/10/98 - Seminar on the OAS. The OAS at Fifty, Reflections on the Twenty-first Century, Madrid, Spain. Organized by the Casa de América, Madrid.	
22 - 24/10/98 - III LACEA Conference on The Sectoral Impact of Integration, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Organized by the Universidad Torcuato Di Tella and the Asociación de Economía de América Latina y el Caribe.	
30/11 and 1/12/98 - First Congress on Economic Integration and the Juridical System of MERCOSUR, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Organized by the United Nations Commission for International Trade Law (U.N.C.I.T.R.A.L.)	
2/12/98 - ACI-Americas Regional Conference. The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA): Challenges of the New Millennium, Montevideo, Uruguay. Organized by the Alianza Cooperativa Internacional.	

PUBLICATIONS

Intégration & Trade

Issues 4/5 and 6 in Spanish and English



Monthly Newsletter

Issues 18 to 29 in Spanish, English and Portuguese



REPORT

MERCOSUR

Report N° 4 in Spanish, English and Portuguese



INTAL Dissemination Papers

N° 3: Evolución institucional y jurídica del MERCOSUR . Vicente Garnelo

INTAL - ITD

Occasional Paper N° 1. ALCA: un proceso en marcha. Nohra Rey de Marulanda.



Working Paper N° 1. Una evaluación de la homogeneidad macroeconómica y del desarrollo de la región centroamericana. Florencio Ballesterio



Working Paper N° 2. Towards an evaluation of regional integration in Latin America in the 1990s. Robert Devlin and Ricardo Ffrench Davis



DATA BASES



Sistema de Estadísticas de Comercio Exterior (CD-ROM)

- Base INTAL-MERCOSUR (BIM). (Free access in Internet).
- Base de datos bibliográficos (INTEG). (Free access in Internet).
- Directorio de las Relaciones Económicas de América Latina y el Caribe con Asia-Pacífico. (Free access in Internet from 1999).
- Instrumentos Básicos de integración económica en América Latina y el Caribe-II (Free access in Internet)

WORK PROGRAM



AREA OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Preparatory Assistance for the Program to Strengthen Latin American and Caribbean Economic Relations with the Asia-Pacific Region

The studies and surveys undertaken in this project have generated a considerable amount of publishable analysis which will be made available during 1999. First, the project led to the production of a series of academic studies on relations between the two regions, as well as surveys that facilitated the preparation of the Directory of Latin American and Caribbean Economic Relations with the Asia-Pacific Region. These studies will be made available during the first quarter of 1999, both in CD-ROM format and on INTAL's Internet web site. The studies included in the Report on Latin American and Caribbean Economic Relations with the Asia-Pacific Region will also be published as a book during the first four months of 1999.

Identity and Integration: Latin American Dilemmas at the Turn of the Century

Research on this project has advanced considerably. The field studies are expected to be completed by March-April 1999. The study's results and conclusions will be available in June 1999; its publication as a book and dissemination via INTAL's Internet web site is anticipated for the third quarter of 1999.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Countries of the Central American Common Market, Belize, Panama and the Dominican Republic

Research activities planned in the project, including field research, have begun and are expected to be finished in the third quarter of 1999. The studies will subsequently be published jointly by INTAL and ECLAC and, in late 1999 or early 2000, INTAL will hold a policy forum in a Central American country to evaluate the results and final conclusions of the study.

Support for the Establishment of the Temporary Secretariat of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)

This project supports the launching of the Temporary Secretariat of the FTAA, as well as the start of the negotiation process of the hemispheric integration initiative via the relevant negotiating groups and special committees. This project is expected to conclude in February 1999.

ADDITIONALLY, AND GIVEN THEIR LONGER-TERM NATURE, THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS WILL CONTINUE DURING 1999:

Project for the Integral Development of Andean Border Regions

In this project, studies on the bilateral border between the Department of Santander in Colombia and the Department of Tachira in Venezuela were concluded in 1997. Following submission of the studies to the Border Commissions of both countries, and after a series of technical meetings attended by specialists from INTAL, INT/ITD and RE3, the presidents of both countries signed a memorandum of understanding in November 1998, stating the following: "The Integral Border Development Program, developed by IDB/INTAL and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), will be considered a fundamental component of the National Development Plans of both countries, and should therefore be included in the national budgets. The National Planning Directorate (DNP) and the Central Cooperation and Planning Office of the Presidency of the Republic (CORDIPLAN), as well as the Ministries of Finance, will arrange for the financial resources and/or loans necessary for the Program's execution". The presidents also declared that they would "request IDB/INTAL and the CAF to conduct similar studies and projects for other border regions". Consequently, this INTAL project could be expanded to undertake new studies in other border regions declared as priority areas by the governments.

Border Integration in the Uruguay River Basin

The preparatory phase of this project, initiated in 1997, centered on the technical assistance to be granted for cleaning up the Uruguay River Basin. Following the completion of this preparatory phase in 1998, the national and local governments of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, as well as Bank specialists, assessed the report completed in that phase. As a result of this assessment, it is expected that the governments will promote a reformulation of the project in early 1999, suggesting the study of new topics such as productive development in the area and the modernization of the border crossings, and also incorporating Paraguay.

Support for Border Integration between Ecuador and Peru

The original project concerned the preparation of a document describing the scope of the Ecuador-Peru Broad Agreement on Border Integration, Development and Neighborliness, and the Binational Plan for Border Region Development. This document was prepared during 1998. Given the progress made in discussions between Ecuador and Peru to facilitate the implementation of the joint initiatives, both governments sought the IDB's support in creating viable mechanisms for obtaining resources to promote such initiatives. Consequently, the budget and scope of this project will be expanded to support – together with other resources mobilized by RE3 – the preparatory phase of the implementation of the Binational Plan for Border Region Development.

Transpacific Business Network

This project began in 1998 through the International Trade Center (UNCTAD/WTO). It was conducted via surveys undertaken with regional export promotion agencies that participated in the Policy Forum on the topic organized by INTAL. In early 1999, surveys will be undertaken in the remaining Latin American and Asia-Pacific countries selected for the project; studies in the latter region will be conducted with the support

of the Asian Development Bank. It is expected that a pilot design for the Network will be ready in 1999, for presentation at a meeting of both regions' trade ministers to be held during the year.

Andean Community-INTAL Internship Program

The Secretariat of the Andean Community announced the program and completed the selection of interns in 1998. The two internship modules planned in the project will be developed during 1999, and will involve a total of 20 interns from the member countries of the Andean Community.

Intra- and Extra-subregional Dissemination of Information on MERCOSUR

Activities in this project began in 1998 with the organization of a meeting for social communicators of the sub-region. Implementation of the project will continue in 1999 with the organization of various events and activities aimed at disseminating the scope and implications of the MERCOSUR integration process regionally and extra-regionally.

Support for Latin American and Caribbean Trade Negotiations

As indicated above, in 1998, INTAL organized a total of nine training seminars for negotiators in the fields of subsidies, market access, rules of origin and trade in services. These activities took place in the Andean, Caribbean, Central American and Southern Cone sub-regions, and involved almost 300 participants. In 1999, a new, similar program of seminars will be organized in all sub-regions, covering new subjects that have arisen from specific requests presented by the participating governments. This project is being jointly developed with the Technical Cooperation and Training Division of the World Trade Organization, with technical support from INT/ITD.

INTAL NETWORK OF RESEARCH CENTERS ON INTEGRATION

In 1999 INTAL will organize REDINT's First Integration Forum, where the consortia of centers chosen in the Network's first call for proposals will present their studies. Additionally, the second call for papers, on a topic yet to be determined, will be made around mid-1999. It should be noted that, during 1999, REDINT is expected to involve a total of some 100 centers in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

In 1999 INTAL will organize REDINT's First Integration



FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICAL SYSTEM – DATAINTAL

In 1998, INTAL issued the first CD-ROM based version of DATAINTAL. In 1999, the Institute will modernize the system's software and issue a new version of the system on CD-ROM.

New requests for technical cooperation are expected to be made by the region's governments in 1999, as well as by other institutions involved in integration processes. INTAL will, moreover, play an important role in the implementation of technical cooperation projects linked to the Regional Programming Papers prepared by INT/ITD for the Andean, Caribbean and MERCOSUR sub-regions, as well as in relation to a possible Training Program for the Negotiators of Countries C and D.

In 1999, INTAL will also begin, as an Associated Technical Cooperation, implementation of the component termed “**MERCOSUR BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES SYSTEM**” of the Program to Support State Reform and Fiscal Strengthening of Buenos Aires Province, Argentina, partly financed with the IDB's loan No. 979/OC-AR.



This project covers all the Fora and Seminars programmed for 1999, as described below:

January

20 - 22. SEMINAR ON "LABOR STANDARDS AND TRADE". Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. This seminar will include a panel in which the four studies on labor standards and trade selected in the INTAL Prize competition will be presented, and the four trophies will be given to the competition winners. This event is co-organized with the International Labor Organization and the IDB's Regional Operations Department 3.

March

16. SEMINAR ON "THE EURO AND ITS INTERNATIONAL IMPACT". Paris, France. This seminar, organized jointly with INT/ITD, will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of Governors of the Bank. The seminar will include a presentation by Roberto Zahler, Consultant for INTAL, on the implications of the creation of European Monetary Union and the single currency, the Euro, for the Latin American economy and, in particular, for the development of financial and monetary integration processes.

22. SEMINAR ON "RELATIONS BETWEEN MERCOSUR AND THE EUROPEAN UNION". London, United Kingdom. This event, co-organized with the London School of Economics, aims to evaluate the current status and prospects of bloc-to-bloc negotiations on the establishment of a free trade area. Government officials and academic specialists from both regions will participate.

April

7 - 8. POLICY FORUM ON "EXPORT PROMOTION". Bogota, Colombia. This event, the continuation of a previous seminar organized by INTAL in 1998, aims to help policy formulation in this area through analysis of the regional (Latin American and Caribbean) as well as extra-regional experiences of both private and public sector representatives.

9. ANDEAN COMMUNITY-MERCOSUR BUSINESS MEETING. Bogota, Colombia. This event seeks to evaluate the progress of Andean Community-MERCOSUR free trade negotiations and their implications for the private sector in both regions. The event is part of a series of meetings promoted by the private sector which began in November 1998 with the first business meeting at the headquarters of the Federation of Industries of the State of São Paulo (FIESP) Brazil. The latter event was organized jointly by INTAL and the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA).

21. SEMINAR ON "THE SECTORAL IMPACT OF INTEGRATION: THE CASE OF MERCOSUR". Tokyo, Japan. This seminar aims to present to the Japanese business community the results and conclusions of the four sectoral studies presented at the Policy Forum held at INTAL in November 1998. The seminar will be co-organized by the IDB's Office in Japan.

May

27 - 28. POLICY FORUM ON "ELECTRONIC COMMERCE". INTAL, Buenos Aires, Argentina. This Policy Forum will examine the technical, financial, economic and legal implications of electronic commerce in the framework of trade policy developments in the countries of the region. It will also explore the influence of electronic commerce and its prospects in the various negotiations at sub-regional, hemispheric and multilateral level. Participants in the Forum will include panelists from the public, private and academic sector, as well as technical experts on the subject.

May-June

31/5 - 2/6. SEMINAR ON "INTEGRATION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE REGIONS". INTAL, Buenos Aires, Argentina. This event, which will be co-organized with the Training Center for Regional Integration (Centro de Formación para la Integración Regional, CEFIR), will examine the different regional and extra-regional experiences of, and instruments for addressing, the impact of integration processes on internal regions of participating countries, with particular emphasis on border regions. Participants from academia and the public sector will give presentations designed to promote policy decisions to enhance the positive impact and mitigate the negative effects at local level of the sub-regions participating in integration processes.

September

DATE TO BE DETERMINED. POLICY FORUM ON "EXPORT PROMOTION". Bank Headquarters, Washington D.C., United States. This event, the continuation of a previous seminar organized by INTAL in 1998, aims to help policy formulation in this area by analyzing regional (Latin American and Caribbean) as well as extra-regional experiences of both private and public sector representatives.

October

DATE TO BE DETERMINED. REDINT INTEGRATION FORUM ON "SECTORAL IMPACT OF SUB-REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROCESSES". INTAL, Buenos Aires, Argentina. This will be the first forum to address the studies undertaken by research centers of the region in the REDINT framework. At this event, the consortia of centers chosen in the Network's first call for proposals will present sectoral studies for the Andean, Central American and MERCOSUR sub-regions. Similar studies will also be presented covering Mexico within NAFTA and extra-regional experiences such as those of the European Union.



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