



INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
VICE-PRESIDENCY FOR COUNTRIES (VPC)

ACTIVITIES 2007

INSTITUTE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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Inter-American Development Bank Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean (IDB/INTAL)



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to describe the main activities undertaken by IDB/INTAL during 2007. From the institutional point of view, it is worth mentioning that during the past year the Inter-American Development Bank implemented a new organizational model. This restructuring aimed at strengthening the Bank's strategic capacity to respond to the new demands in Latin America and the Caribbean and to meet its mandate to foster the economic and social progress of the region. As for the internal management of the organization, we aimed at making our decision-making process even more dynamic


and transparent as well as enhancing the efficiency of our supervision and control functions.

Under this new institutional design, IDB/INTAL becomes part of the Vice-presidency for Countries and also coordinates activities with the Integration Sector, within the purview of the Vice-Presidency for Sectors and Knowledge.¹ To this end, a new organization was designed in order to meet three basic function groups: central institutional function, support to countries, and institutional support services. The central institutional function is concerned with designing the Bank's vision and corporate strategy as well as the policies that are to guide the organization's activities. The support to countries function involves managing the relationship between the Bank and the countries, such as the dialogue between them, defining the strategy to be followed, developing and implementing programs as well as enhancing the operating efficiency and effectiveness of the institution's activities in the countries concerned. Lastly, the institutional support service function entails the management of functional services rendered to other areas of the institution.

Thus, IDB/INTAL will have a two-fold role in the new organizational structure of the Bank. On the one hand, it will be involved in the planning and design process of regional operations; on the other, it will serve as a platform for a series of trade and integration-related outreach, training and capacity building activities.

Work under this scheme started in 2007, but will be gradually reinforced in the annual activity programs to be launched in the future. Beyond these aspects inherent to the internal organization, IDB/INTAL's mission keeps its identity, preserving the principles that led to its creation forty years ago: to render support services to governments of the Bank's member countries and the public interested in integration and trade issues.

¹ For further details about this restructuring process, visit the Bank's website on this topic: <http://www.iadb.org/aboutus/IV/realignment.cfm?language=English>



The activities described in this report are organized on the basis of the different operational areas that make up IDB/INTAL, namely:²

- ✓ TRAINING: TRADE AND INTEGRATION-RELATED CAPACITY BUILDING
- ✓ SUPPORT TO RESEARCH NETWORKS
- ✓ PUBLICATIONS
- ✓ FORA, EVENTS AND SEMINARS
- ✓ DOCUMENT AND INFORMATION CENTER (CDI) AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES
- ✓ IIRSA

² For more detailed information on the activities described herein, visit INTAL's website:
<http://www.iadb.org/intal/index.asp?idioma=ENG>



TRAINING: TRADE AND INTEGRATION-RELATED CAPACITY BUILDING



IDB/INTAL organizes and coordinates courses and seminars on different topics related to integration and trade, among which the activities jointly organized with the World Trade Organization (WTO), IDB's Integration and Trade Sector (INT) and the General Secretariat of the Andean Community (CAN) are worth our attention.

❖ Courses with the World Trade Organization - WTO

IDB/INTAL continued cooperating with the WTO Secretariat, having thus completed its tenth year of joint work. Such work was undertaken in 2007 within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between IDB and WTO in February 2002.

In order to meet the demands of technical assistance from Latin American and Caribbean countries and to strengthen their negotiation capabilities on different fronts, the technical training program, targeted for governmental officials, continued in 2007 with special attention on multilateral trade negotiation issues.



The courses were planned to meet the Latin American and the Caribbean governments' requirements, channeled through the WTO Technical Cooperation Division. Courses and workshops were given by experts from WTO and IDB. The topics dealt with were closely related to the dynamics of the trade negotiating process, paying special attention to the Doha Agenda issues and their significant impact for the countries in the region.

The training program continued to be carried out in cooperation with other regional and international institutions, such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, the Andean Community (CAN) General Secretariat, the ALADI Secretariat, the Secretariat for the Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) and the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM).

Twelve courses and workshops were held in 2007. They were addressed to trade negotiators from Latin America and the Caribbean and focused on issues such as trade facilitation, negotiation on non-agricultural market access (NAMA), sanitary and phytosanitary measures, settlement of disputes, agriculture, trade and development. Of the twelve activities conducted, five were targeted for the Caribbean countries and seven for the Latin American countries. A total of 520 officials from the Ministries of Trade and Foreign Affairs were trained.

The list below shows the activities conducted in 2007:³

³ For further information, visit http://www.iadb.org/intal/detalle_articulo.asp?idioma=ENG&aid=329&cid=266&nivel=

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1. **Course for Central American Countries on the Status of WTO Negotiations**
Venue: Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Date: 7-11 May 2007
Organizing institutions: IDB/INTAL, WTO and SIECA
 2. **Seminar for Latin American Countries on Doha Development Agenda Negotiations**
Venue: Buenos Aires
Date: 21-24 May 2007
Organizing institutions: IDB/INTAL, WTO
 3. **Regional Workshop for Latin American Countries on the WTO Trade Facilitation Negotiations: Identification of Needs and Priorities**
Venue: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Date: 25-29 June 2007
Organizing institutions: IDB/INTAL, WTO, with the participation of UNCTAD, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO)
 4. **Seminar on Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) for the Caribbean Countries**
Venue: Barbados
Date: 26-29 June 2007
Organizing institutions: IDB/INTAL, WTO and CRNM
 5. **Regional Workshop for the Caribbean Countries on the WTO Trade Facilitation Negotiations: Identification of Needs and Priorities**
Venue: Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
Date: 9-13 July 2007
Organizing institutions: IDB/INTAL, WTO and CARICOM Secretariat, with the participation of UNCTAD, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO)
 6. **Seminar on the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures for the Caribbean**
Venue: Kingston, Jamaica
Date: 30 July-3 August 2007
Organizing institutions: IDB/INTAL and WTO with the cooperation of IICA, IPPC, OIE and Codex
 7. **Seventh Short Course on Trade Policies for ALADI countries**
Venue: Montevideo, Uruguay
Date: 3-14 September 2007
Organizing institutions: IDB/INTAL, WTO, Government of Spain, and ALADI Secretariat
 8. **Regional Seminar for the Caribbean Countries on WTO Dispute Settlement Rules, Procedures and Practice and WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding Negotiations**
Venue: 17-21 September 2007
Date: Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
Organizing institutions: IDB/INTAL, WTO, and CARICOM Secretariat
 9. **Regional Workshop For Latin American Countries On Agricultural Negotiations Under The Doha Round Framework**
Venue: Lima, Peru
Date: 15-16 October 2007
Organizing institutions: IDB/INTAL, WTO and the Andean Community General Secretariat

10. Seminar on Non-agricultural Market Access (NAMA) for Latin American Countries

Venue: Bogotá, Colombia

Date: 23-26 October 2007

Organizing institutions: IDB/INTAL and WTO.

11. Regional Course for Latin American Countries on WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism: Rules, Procedures and Current Negotiations

Venue: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Date: 19-23 November 2007

Organizing institutions: IDB/INTAL and WTO

12. Regional Seminar on Trade and Development for the Caribbean

Venue: Georgetown, Guyana

Date: 26-28 November 2007

Organizing institutions: IDB/INTAL, WTO, and CARICOM Secretariat

❖ IDB/INTAL-CAN Traineeship Program

The objective of IDB/INTAL-CAN Traineeship Program is to promote knowledge of Andean integration principles and progress and of the internationalization of these economies as well as to familiarize professionals from member countries with the Community's ways of operating in order to facilitate the process to which the subregion is committed; this will be accomplished through a training mechanism.

This Program is addressed to young professionals concerned with the public sector in CAN member countries, and each module includes the participation of two officials from the Ministries of Foreign Trade, Treasury and Finance, Planning and Central Banks of each Community's member state.

Traineeships last 18 weeks, of which five are devoted to the theoretical knowledge and updates on the sub-region's different legal, institutional, social and political cooperation issues. Specifically, trainees attend courses on globalization and internationalization of CAN's economies, the strengthening of integration and the common market (study of Andean rules and regulations in the different fields of regional integration), development and competitiveness, political cooperation and social agenda. This is followed by a six-week practical training module and the seven remaining weeks are used to write a monographic paper on a topic of interest for their respective country within the Andean integration process. This research work is submitted to a jury made up of General Secretariat's officials.

In 2007, these courses were held for the sixteenth time, with nine consecutive years of sustained support by the Bank, having trained approximately 178 officials from the Andean Community. Taking into consideration this important long period already covered and given the need to revise IDB/INTAL's objectives of institutional cooperation, this Program will be deemed concluded by the first semester of 2008. An evaluation of this program will be made and duly submitted next year.

✓ SUPPORT TO RESEARCH NETWORKS



IDB/INTAL provides support to integration and trade research networks, in coordination with INT at IDB's headquarters and the Bank's offices in Europe (SOE) and Asia (ASI).

REDEALAP- Latin American and the Caribbean Studies Network on Asia-Pacific


IDB/INTAL supports and sponsors the activities undertaken by the Latin American and the Caribbean Studies Network on Asia-Pacific (REDEALAP) as part of a strategy geared to improving the relationship between its member countries and the Asian region.

This network is made up of institutions and experts from Latin America and the Caribbean who conduct research on the relationship of the region with the Asian continent at different academic institutions.

The goal pursued by REDEALAP is to support research and outreach activities related to the inter-regional relationship between Latin America and the Caribbean, on the one hand, and Asia, on the other, with the purpose of contributing to the design and implementation of public and private strategies and policies concerning this field of action.

It was in this context that the Seventh Annual Meeting of REDEALAP was held on May 23 and 24, 2007, in Mexico DF. The event was organized by IDB/INTAL in cooperation with the Colegio de México, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana and the Mexican Senate's Foreign Relations Committee. The agenda for the meeting presented the research works selected through a call for papers organized by the Academic Committee, made up of representatives from the Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero (UNTREF), the Colegio de México and Fundación Chilena para el Pacífico, under the supervision of IDB/INTAL.

The meeting focused on "The Asia Pacific and Latin America: Competition or Cooperation?" and it was divided into four panels. The first one discussed the economic potential of the integration of both blocs and the design of strategic policies for their bilateral relationship. The second panel dealt with competition and cooperation between MERCOSUR and the Pacific Asian countries as well as with Argentina's trade integration strategies with the hemisphere. The third module focused on the new role of China and India within the Latin American context. In particular, it analyzed the impact that the trade with both countries may have on the Argentine industry as well as India's relationship with Latin America. The last module or panel discussed the experiences to bring Latin American and Asian countries closer, drawing special



attention to the commercial exchange and investments made by Asian companies in Argentina and the free trade agreement between Japan and Mexico.⁴

❖ **The Euro-Latin Studies Network on Integration and Trade (ELSNIT)**

IDB, through its Special Office in Europe (SOE), the Trade and Integration Sector (INT) and IDB/INTAL have launched the "Euro-Latin Studies Network on Integration and Trade (ELSNIT)".

This initiative creates a forum in Europe on integration and trade issues that are deemed relevant for Latin America and the Caribbean. The main objective of the network is to encourage research, studies and discussions on these topics, based on the rich European experience and prospects, while increasing interaction among researchers from both regions.



The ELSNIT network is coordinated by a Committee currently made up of representatives from Centro de Investigación en Economía Internacional (International Economic Research Center - CREI), Barcelona, Spain; *Centre d'Études Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales* (CEPII), Paris, France; *Institute for World Economics* (IfW), Kiel, Germany; *Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies* (RSCAS), Florence, Italy, and from IDB, represented by SOE and INT.

The **IV Latin American ELSNIT Meeting** was held in the city of Mexico DF., in August 2007 and was co-organized by the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM). The meeting was divided into three sessions, during which integration and trade issues were discussed from the macroeconomic, economic policy and institutional dimensions. Each session had a moderator, a European speaker, a Latin American speaker and a commentator. Moreover, there was a special presentation on European-Latin American relations, and in the closing session the major topics discussed in the event were summarized.

Furthermore, the **V Annual ELSNIT Meeting**, co-organized with the Centro de Estudios Económicos de Barcelona (CREI) and the Institut Barcelona D'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI), was held in October 2007. The papers submitted had been selected from a call for papers held in March. The evaluation of these papers was made jointly by the IfW, RSCAS, the Centro de Estudios Económicos de Barcelona (CREI), CEPII, SOE and INT. IDB/INTAL covered the expenses of all Latin American participants.

The meeting focused on integration and trade issues with which ELSNIT has been concerned since its creation: macroeconomics, economic policies and institutional aspects. Eighteen presentations were made on these topics, an important number of which focused on Latin American issues. These studies analyzed the microeconomic impact of the post-NAFTA competition, the incorporation of technology in Argentina within the framework of MERCOSUR, foreign direct investments (FDIs), structural reforms and institutional quality in Latin America, the impact of institutions on the competition and cooperation with Asian countries in the Brazilian pharmaceutical sector, the impact of MERCOSUR dispute settlement mechanism on the WTO dispute settlements and energy integration in South America.

⁴ For further details on the REDEALAP meeting, see http://www.iadb.org/intal/detalle_evento.asp?cid=233&origen=&id=318&idioma=ENG



In addition, Simon Evenett, professor at St. Gallen University (Switzerland) honored the event with his presentation, during which he analyzed the reasons why the Doha Round talks have come to a halt. He identified four relevant factors. Firstly, the decision to negotiate under the *single undertaking* approach, which slows down the whole negotiation process. This problem has become even more significant due to the principles that govern negotiations: reciprocity, which reflects a profit-oriented approach and is not related to the political realities of the countries involved; the excessive emphasis on agriculture, about which there is the underlying idea that liberalization should be stronger than in other sectors; the non-reciprocity principle, whereby developed countries should grant more concessions than developing economies; and the decision to apply non-linear tariff reduction formula.

Other obstacles identified by Prof. Evenett were the pressures from political sectors for and against the conclusions of the Doha Round talks, the scope of unilateral reforms previously introduced and the challenges derived from the strong growth of the main emerging economies. Within this framework, the speaker proposed that the initiatives to resume negotiations would only become effective if they were substantially relevant to the goals pursued by WTO and its member countries and were politically and practically feasible.

✓ PUBLICATIONS



Publications issued by IDB/INTAL are the Monthly Newsletter, the Integration and Trade Journal and the Sub-regional Integration Reports. Below are the main features of these documents as published in 2007.


- **Monthly Newsletter:** It kept its usual format and purpose, covering the most salient information on regional issues, particularly on the evolution of the sub-regional integration process. This year, it incorporated a fixed column to analyze current events.
- **Integration and Trade:** In 2007, issued N° 26 and 27 were published. The former focused on the new regionalism and compiled a series of papers submitted at the Conference jointly organized by CEPIL and IDB, through INTAL, INT and the European Office. Its main topics were the economic justification for regional trade agreements, the impact of regional trade agreements on trade flows, the relationship between such trade agreements and international cooperation agreements, monetary integration, the regional integration process in the Americas and the impact of public policies on multinationals and foreign investments, and the importance of training public officials concerned with negotiations.

The second semester publication was mainly devoted to the relation between migrations, remittances and development. It should be noted that in the last years remittances by emigrants have been increasing steadily, reaching unprecedented levels. In several Latin American countries, (Mexico, Bolivia, Paraguay, most Central American countries, among others), revenues from this source are far higher than foreign direct investments and in some cases they account for 10% of the GDP. The articles compiled for this issue analyzed the effort made by financial institutions to leverage the relationship between financial intermediation and remittance transfers, the impact of remittances on employment creation and human capital formation, and the social, economic and political factors in Paraguay and Argentina to foster migration from the former to the latter. Likewise, several papers analyzed the Mexican case, by examining the impact of remittances on poverty, the health care system, participation in labor activities, educational inequalities in rural areas, the relation between emigration to the United States and investments in micro enterprises, and the use of paid or unpaid employment and profits in micro enterprises.

- **Sub-regional Integration Reports:** During 2007, the *Central American Report N° 3* and the *MERCOSUR Report N° 12* were published.

- *The Central American Report N° 3* reviews the main features of the integration process in the Central American Common Market (CACM) between 2004 and 2006: its macroeconomic situation, its trade and investment flows, the status of formal integration, the free trade agreement with the United States and the Dominican Republic (DR-CAFTA) and its most relevant challenges for the future.

During the period under analysis, the global economic situation has been relatively favorable for the CACM, a factor fostering growth and improving the export performance of the region, although



the bloc countries continued to be highly vulnerable to changes in the international context. The main threat as far as trade is concerned lies with the competition with Asian products.

In addition, CACM member countries have made great efforts to strengthen their free trade area, reinforce their customs union and sign the DR-CAFTA agreement. However, important difficulties had to be solved prior to its approval, and its implementation is faced with obstacles yet to be removed.

- *MERCOSUR Report Nº 12* covers the period from the second semester 2006 to the first semester 2007. It keeps its usual format and focuses on four key issues related to the integration process: the macroeconomic evolution of the countries in the region, trade and direct investments and the internal and external agenda of the bloc.

The report emphasizes the bloc's good macroeconomic performance as a result of a favorable international context and the adoption of sound domestic policies, particularly at the fiscal policy level. Despite this, the growing volatility of the global economy poses new challenges.

In this context, trade has been growing at the intra-bloc level as well as in relation to the rest of the world, reaching its maximum historical level. As far as direct investments are concerned, an unprecedented event took place: for the first time in history disbursements by MERCOSUR countries (especially Brazil) abroad exceeded direct foreign investments in the bloc's economies.

The most significant item on the internal agenda was the treatment of asymmetries and the Structural Convergence Fund, an instrument designed to reduce such asymmetries. Other important issues were the Common External Tariff, the project to make local currency transactions within MERCOSUR, the initiatives to strengthen production integration and major sectoral conflicts, among others. Finally, the report deals with the bloc's main foreign agenda items, among which the growing concern for energy issues stands out.

Within IDB/INTAL Publications Program, the Institute learnt about a research project coordinated by Ms. Mercedes Botto, a researcher from FLACSO, whose development was being financially supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Scientific and Technical Department (SECyT). This research was almost concluded but the publication of the resulting papers was still pending. It was in this context that the Institute lent its support to publish a book with the results, thus disseminating the study more effectively. The book was published under the title *Saber y política en América Latina. El uso del conocimiento en las negociaciones comerciales internacionales*.

Thus, the public can have access to important research through several articles on a common topic: the capacity and limitations of academic research to contribute to the design and adoption of internationally relevant trade and strategic policies. Its authors deal with this topic from different angles: conceptual aspects, regional issues, and analysis of national and sectoral cases. In addition to this conceptual approach, several chapters are devoted to fieldwork information that broadens and enhances the understanding of the problems. It is clear that the support given by IDB/INTAL to this publication does not presuppose our agreement with the conceptual approach, opinions or viewpoints expressed by the authors.

In addition to the documents listed, IDB/INTAL has published several other papers under the auspices of INT, within the **Working Papers and Occasional Papers** series. The list of papers published in 2007 is found below. All these papers can be read online on IDB/INTAL's website. Details are included in the attached table.



IDB/INTAL PUBLICATIONS IN 2007

Periodic Publications

Integration & Trade. Journal published every six months. Acquired by subscription or on an individual basis. N° 26-27 (English and Spanish)

INTAL Monthly Newsletter (English, Spanish and Portuguese - Internet). N° 126 to 137

Sub-regional Integration Reports

MERCOSUR Report. Annual publication (English, Spanish and Portuguese). N° 11 (English); N° 12 (English, Spanish and Portuguese)

CENTRAL AMERICAN Report. Annual publication (English and Spanish). N° 3

Special Reports

Desarrollo Rural y Comercio Agropecuario en América Latina y el Caribe (Spanish). Paolo Giodano, César Falconi and José María Sumpsi.

Working Papers

Remittances and Healthcare Expenditure Patterns of Populations in Origin Communities: Evidence from México (English). Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes, Tania Sainz and Susan Pozo. INTAL-ITD WP-25. 2007.



Mexican Microenterprise Investment and Employment (English). Christopher Woodruff. INTAL-ITD WP-26. 2007.

La Cooperación al Desarrollo como Instrumento de la Política Comercial de la Unión Europea: Aplicaciones al Caso de América Latina (Spanish). Antonio Bonet Madurga. INTAL-ITD WP-27. 2007.

Emigration, Remittances and Labor Force Participation in Mexico (English). Gordon H. Hanson. INTAL-ITD WP-28. 2007.

Regional Integration. What is in it for CARICOM? (English). Mauricio Mesquita Moreira and Eduardo Mendoza. INTAL-ITD WP-29. 2007.

Trade Costs and the Economic Fundamentals of the Initiative for Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America (IIRSA) (English) Mauricio Mesquita Moreira. INTAL-ITD WP-30. 2007.



Honduras: Desafíos de la Inserción en la Economía Internacional (Spanish). Jaime Granados, Paolo Giordano, José E. López Córdova, Ziga Vodusek and Alberto Barreix. INTAL-ITD WP-31. 2007.

Costa Rica: Ante un Nuevo Escenario en el Comercio Internacional (Spanish). Jaime Granados, Ziga Vodusek, José E. López Córdova and Christian Volpe. INTAL-ITD WP-32. 2007.

Fiscal Policy and Equity. Estimation of the Progressivity and Redistributive Capacity of Taxes and Social Public Expenditure in the Andean Countries (English). Alberto Barreix, Jerónimo Roca and Luiz Villela. INTAL-ITD WP-33. 2007.

Convergence in the Rules of Origin Spaghetti Bowl: A Methodological Proposal (English and Spanish). Rafael Cornejo and Jeremy Harris. INTAL-ITD WP-34. 2007.

Nicaragua: Inserción Internacional en Beneficio de la Mayoría (Spanish). Ziga Vodusek, Eric Zeballos, Jaime Granados and Alberto Barreix. INTAL-ITD WP-35. 2007.



✓ FORA, EVENTS and SEMINARS



In 2007, IDB/INTAL inaugurated the new facilities of the Raúl Prebisch Auditorium, enlarging its capacity and upgrading its technology. The works lasted from March to October. Thus, only two seminars were held in November with a wide range of participants concerned with the progress of integration processes.

The first seminar, *"Methodologies of Integration in Europe and South America: Lessons and Experiences"*, was organized by the Jean Monnet module and was sponsored by IDB/INTAL. Two papers were presented. The first one by Edward Best aimed at identifying the key elements feeding into the strong integration process in the European case. The analysis presented by the speaker was intended to draw lessons that could be useful to other integration experiences. The other document, written by Félix Peña, compared and confronted the elements that are absent and present in Europe and South America. Here, the different dimensions are viewed as a starting point and the underlying question is whether one can identify any sign of convergence in the two processes.

The second seminar, *"Brazil in South America: Implications for Argentina and the Region"*, was organized by Universidad de San Andrés, FLACSO Argentina -within the framework of the Master's Degree in International Relations and Negotiations- and IDB/INTAL. This event was an opportunity to present the local public a research conducted by a group of Brazilian experts and scholars who analyzed the role of Brazil in South America. The key question posed is whether the increasingly complex relations in the economic, social and security fields make it advisable for Brazil to strengthen a multifaceted integration process with South America.

The table below shows the complete calendar of fora and events organized directly by or under the auspices of IDB/INTAL. Furthermore, IDB/INTAL's website includes the programs and documents related to each meeting.



CALENDAR OF FORA AND EVENTS 2007

INTAL Seminars

“Brasil en América del Sur: Implicaciones para la Argentina y la Región”. Universidad de San Andrés (UdeSA), FLACSO Argentina, IDB/INTAL. Buenos Aires, 19 November.

Informative Talk to Students from the Universidad Argentina de la Empresa (UADE) and Universidad de Palermo (UP) on the activities undertaken by the Inter-American Development Bank and INTAL. IDB (Argentina), INTAL. Buenos Aires, 23 November.

Research Network Meetings

VII Meeting of the Latin American and the Caribbean Studies Network on Asia-Pacific (REDEALAP): "Pacific Asia and Latin America: Competition or Cooperation?" Mexican Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, Colegio de México, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, IDB/INTAL. Mexico D.F., 23-24 May.

IV Latin American Conference of the Euro-Latin Study Network on Integration and Trade (ELSNIT). Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), IDB/SOE, IDB/INTAL. Mexico D.F., 22 August.

Fifth Annual Conference of the Euro-Latin Study Network on Integration and Trade (ELSNIT). Barcelona, 26-27 October.

IDB-INTAL-Sponsored Events

International Seminar "The New Agenda for International Trade Relations as the Doha Round Draws to an End". Observatory of EU-Latin America Relations (OBREAL), International Chair WTO-Regional Integration. Barcelona, 29-30 January.


Seminar "Production Integration in MERCOSUR". Mercosur's Commission of Permanent Representatives, MERCOSUR Secretariat. Montevideo, 24 July.

Seminar "Production Integration in MERCOSUR" (Continued). Mercosur's Commission of Permanent Representatives, MERCOSUR Secretariat. Montevideo, 28 August.

Workshop "Training as an Instrument for a Better MERCOSUR Integration and Institutionalization". Steering Committee of Instituto MERCOSUR de Formación (IMEF), Foreign Service Institutes in Member Countries, Presidency of Mercosur's Commission of Permanent Representatives (CRPM). Montevideo, 11-12 September.

Seminar "Mobilizing Aid-for-Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean". Workshop of the Private Sector and the Aid-for-Trade Initiative, Session II: Infrastructure, Trends and Funding. World Trade Organization (WTO); Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Integration and Trade Sector (INT). Lima, 12 September.

International Seminar "Methodologies for the Integration of Europe and South America: Lessons and Experiences". Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero (UNTREF), European Module: Jean Monnet Action. Buenos Aires, 13 November.



Seminar "Regional Integration: The Challenge of Building the Productive and Social Areas of MERCOSUR". Red de Organizaciones para el Desarrollo con Inclusión. Buenos Aires, 16 November.

Seminar "Cooperative Companies and their Contribution to Economic and Social Development". Workshops: Public policies on Cooperatives in MERCOSUR Countries; Systems and Instruments for Promotion, Supervision and Legislation. Specialized Meeting of Cooperatives in MERCOSUR (RECM). Santiago de Chile, 22-23 November.

Invitations received from other institutions to participate in Meetings/Seminars

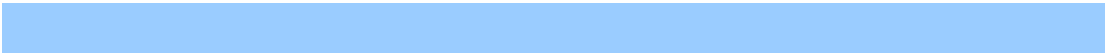
Meeting of Infrastructure Work Team. South American Community of Nations (CASA). Bogotá, 23 March.

Seminar "Development Paradigms and Options in Latin America". Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB). Santiago de Chile, 21-22 June.

International Conference "Implications of a Transforming China: Domestic, Regional and Global Impacts". Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya. Kuala Lumpur, 5-6 August.

National SME (Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises) Businessmen Forum. Panel: "International and Regional Scenario: Opportunities and Challenges to Strengthen MERCOSUR". Expo Sepyme 2007. Buenos Aires, 16 August.

Meeting with the Board of the Bolivian Institute of Foreign Trade (IBCE) and Representatives of the Chambers of Industry, Commerce, Services and Tourism in Santa Cruz (CAINCO). Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 22 August.



✓ DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION CENTER (CDI). OTHER OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



In 2007, the digitalization of IDB/INTAL's publications was a major activity undertaken among the other services rendered to CDI's clients. To this end, a new section was created on IDB/INTAL's website known as *Digitalized publications prior to 1996*, including the *Latin American Integration Review* and *Integration Law*, both IDB/INTAL's publications issued between October 1967 and May 1995. *Latin American Integration Review* is available on the Internet since its issue, dated November 2007, onwards. Each review is fully transcribed and the bibliographic and thematic references of all articles included as well as the information contained in each issue are loaded on a database to facilitate access by author, title or topic. *Integration Law* will be available on the website as from April 2008, with the same access features.

With regard to the dissemination activities performed by CDI, much work has been carried out so that IDB/INTAL be present on other websites, such as browsers, respositors, open access services and directories. Thus, Google-Books has included the Institute's total publications between 1996 and 2007, 210 documents with ISBN, of which 102 are already available through this popular browser. Since July 2007 to date (10 December 2007), 29,708 queries were made on IDB/INTAL's contents —this accounts for an average of 5,940 queries per month and 200 per day. Of these 29,708 queries, 3,500 visits (reading, printing, storing) were made to documents on our website, i.e. 11.8% of the total number of queries.

Concerning the database, 1,300 documents were incorporated throughout 2007, 900 of which are electronically available. Of a total number of 13,700 entries in the database, 5,200 (29%) have direct link to the full document. Moreover, the number of visits to electronic journals (reviews) doubled, from 72 to 139, and the contents of "Bibliographies on Integration Blocs" were updated.

As for the queries received by the Center, the results were as follows:

Type of Query	Number of users	Percentage
Reading room	1,450	30.8%
Telephone	850	18.0%
E-mail	2,400	51.2%
Total	4,700	100.0%

Finally, it should be noted that the inauguration of CDI's new premises was another achievement of this period, which contributed to improving the comfort of users and facilitating access to reference material. The new facilities include a reading room, a meeting room, a space designed to store collections and a work area.

OTHER OUTREACH ACTIVITIES:



The Institute's outreach activities were continued throughout 2007. That INTAL's users have access to updates of new publications available and of the events scheduled is deemed vitally important. To this end, communications are regularly sent via intra and Internet, including access to electronic publications/agendas and texts produced for or during the events. Through the database, the user can get permanent contact with the Institute and send his/her comments either by replying to these communications or visiting our website to write his/her feedback in the space left for this purpose (Link: [Contact us](#)) Furthermore, in order to create an exchange forum, users have been invited to send their comments on the analytical sections published monthly under [INTAL Monthly Newsletter](#).

INTAL has recently redesigned its website to improve its browsers' efficiency so as to facilitate access to specific information in the different sections.

✓ IIRSA SECRETARIAT



The Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America (IIRSA) seeks to promote the development of transport, energy and communications infrastructure from a regional viewpoint, aimed at the physical integration of the twelve South American countries and the achievement of an equitable and sustainable territorial development pattern. The Initiative was adopted at a Meeting of South American Presidents held in the city of Brasilia, Brazil, in August 2000, at which the region's leaders agreed to take joint actions to promote South American political, social and economic integration that includes the streamlining of regional infrastructure and specific measures to foster the integration and development of isolated sub-regions.



In operational terms, IIRSA provides for coordination and exchange information mechanisms among Governments, the three multilateral financial institutions in the region that make up IIRSA's Technical Coordination Committee (CCT) —IDB, the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) and the Financial Fund for the Development of the River Plate Basin (FONPLATA)— as well as the private sector and the civil society, so as to attain the multisectoral objectives pursued. In this regard, the CCT is supported by a Secretariat whose permanent headquarters are located at IDB/INTAL, from where the work of the three agencies as well as IIRSA's annual action plan are coordinated.

The Initiative has been operating for five years already, a period during which the following achievements can be mentioned: IIRSA has become a major forum for building a common agenda on physical infrastructure integration issues; a project portfolio was agreed upon by consensus in 2006, which is made up of 351 projects with an investment estimated at US\$ 37,882.2 million; an Implementation Agenda based on Consensus (AIC) has been defined with 31 strategic integration projects; modern management tools, such as the indicative territorial planning and strategic management information system (SIGE),⁵ have been used and diagnostic studies have been made on issues related to several integration sectoral processes (PSI).

In December 2005, the Seventh CDE Meeting was held. During this meeting, the 2006-2010 Strategic Plan was approved. It defines four action areas on which IIRSA should focus its efforts in the coming five-year period: Implementation; Planning - Stage II; Integration Sectoral Processes - a new approach, and a broad Outreach Campaign.

In the period covered by this report, the CCT Secretariat performed tasks related to the four courses of actions already mentioned. With regard to project implementation, it participated actively in IIRSA's Portfolio review process, which led in November 2007 to a portfolio made up of 507 integration infrastructure projects with an estimated total investment of US\$ 68,990.4 million. At present, the 2003-2006 Project Portfolio is underway —US\$ 21,194 million were invested to execute 41.5% of them. Moreover, the Secretariat continued to support the use of SIGE in AIC's 31 projects as well as the development of the database to be applied to IIRSA's Project Portfolio. As for territorial planning, the Secretariat has given its support to strengthen

⁵ SIGE is a tool to give technical support to AIC's 31 projects. It runs on an IT platform managed by the countries. With this system, the status of the projects can be monitored on real time and information mechanisms can be created to help decision making at the highest-ranking governmental levels.



the methodologies for Production Chains, Logistics Chains and Strategic Environmental and Social Evaluation, and to develop a methodology for evaluating integration projects and create a geo-referenced information database (GEOSUR). Moreover, work with integration sectoral processes, especially financial instruments and border crossings, was continued and, in relation to outreach activities, the newly designed website was launched, three documentary videos on AIC projects were shot and new institutional reference material was published to disseminate IIRSA's activities.

In 2007, the CCT's Secretariat organized a total of 14 meetings, whose agendas focused on technical aspects, portfolio reviews and updates and on IIRSA coordination activities. It should be stressed that of these 14 meetings 6 were attended by the twelve countries that make up the Initiative.

For further information, see <http://www.iirsa.org>.