



THE CARIBBEAN

CARICOM Summit

The Conference of the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) held an inter-sessional meeting in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, on 14-15 February.

During the year in which this Community celebrates its thirtieth anniversary, the Conference agreed that the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) should be implemented before December 2005 and that those members that are ready to implement it beforehand, must do so before the end of December 2004. The urgency stated by the member countries is related to the agenda agreed upon for the entry into force of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and its resulting impact on the sub-regional integration process.

On this occasion, the Heads of Government accepted the Work Plan set forth, that will be used for implementing the CSME by the year 2005. Likewise, they highlighted the necessity to meet technical and financial assistance needs that will be required during the transition

period, both by the member States as well as by the CSME Unit of the Community's Secretariat. The Conference also underlined the imperative need for convergence of efforts by all regional institutions and other participants of the integration process –particularly the private sector of the sub-region's economies- during this transition period.

As part of its strategy for expediting implementation of the CSME, the Conference accepted the proposals of the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee, which is working on this matter, in the sense that in the next four months they should focus on dealing with pending issues related to the free movement of persons and the enormous legal agenda required to effect implementation of the CSME.

The meeting in Port of Spain dealt with another crucial issue for the Caribbean integration: the establishment of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ). On this occasion, Dominica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines signed the pertinent

agreement, thus bringing to thirteen the number of countries that have signed this CARICOM legal instrument.

Likewise, the Conference approved measures aimed at establishing the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission. Additionally, the Heads of Government of the Community authorized the setting up of a task force to start working on the inauguration of the Court. This inauguration will take place before the end of the second half of 2003.



CENTRAL AMERICA

Discussion network on the FTA with the United States

The Association for Research and Social Studies (ASIES – Guatemala), with the support of the Canadian International Development and Research Center (IDRC – Canada) and the Ford Foundation (FF – USA) launched a broad invitation to participate in the discussion network on “Central America vis-à-vis the FTA with the U.S.A.”. This network will be open to the participation of all those interested while the free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations take place. Among its objectives, this initiative aims at creating communication channels among the different segments of Central American society, considering the importance that this subject has for the future of the countries in the region.

Those interested in participating in this initiative must register at the ASIES site on the Internet (<http://www.asies.org.gt/ca/redes.asp>) and then go to the pertinent discussion network. It is also possible to read what other network participants have written. In that case, you must go to: http://www.asies.org.gt/ca/listaforos_sinregistro.asp.

Comments set forth in this virtual forum are personal opinions, unless it is explicitly stated that the person is invested with institutional representation.

Network organizers made available to its users a series of articles to trigger debate. Likewise, they offer links to access information related to trade negotiations, which are renewed and communicated periodically. Hereafter is a list of these sites of interest for following up negotiations, identified by type of source:

- **United States Government sources**

The United States Trade Representative,

<http://www.ustr.gov/new/fta/cafta.htm>

United States International Trade Commission,

<http://www.usitc.gov/>

United States Embassy - San José, Costa Rica,

<http://www.usembassy.or.cr/Cafta/cafta.html>

Embassy of the United States of America - Tegucigalpa, Honduras,

<http://www.usmission.hn/cafta/home.htm>

- **Central America official sources:**

Secretaría de Integración Económica Centroamericana (SIECA),

<http://www.causa.sieca.org.gt/>

Ministerio de Comercio Exterior de Costa Rica (COMEX),

<http://comex.go.cr/negociaciones/usa/default.htm>

Ministerio de Economía de El Salvador,

<http://comex.go.cr/negociaciones/usa/coleccion.htm>

Ministerio de Economía de Guatemala,

<http://www.mineco.gob.gt/mineco/tlcusa/pp.htm>

Ministerio de Fomento, Industria y Comercio de Nicaragua (MIFIC),

<http://www.mific.gob.ni/direxterior/negcomerciales/tlcusa/antecedentes.asp>

- **Civil society sources**

Join U.S. and Central American Groups Fighting Against CAFTA,

http://www.cispes.org/english/Campaign_Against_CAFTA_FTAA/index.html

IDB financial support for electricity interconnection

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) signed two loan agreements with El Salvador for a total of US\$ 40 million to support an electricity interconnection project in Central America, which is a first step towards the integration of this region under the Puebla-Panama Plan.

The loans for El Salvador were signed in the capital city of Honduras this month, during the meeting of IDB governors of Central American Isthmus countries and the Dominican Republic.

The financing consists of a US\$ 30-million loan from IDB's ordinary capital and a soft loan for the equivalent in Euros of US\$ 10 million from a Spanish fund administered by IDB.

Both loans are part of a US\$ 240-million package approved by IDB for the US\$ 320-million project of the Electricity Interconnection System for the Central American Countries (SIEPAC).

The other participants in SIEPAC –Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama- have already formalized their own loan contracts and, therefore, this project that was originally proposed three decades ago can now move forward.

SIEPAC will establish the first regional power network and a wholesale electricity market among the six participating countries of the Central American Isthmus. To that effect, a 1,830-km, 230 kV transmission line will be built from Panama to Guatemala, with greater capacity and more reliability than existing connections.

The SIEPAC project seeks to add the advantages of integration to the efforts made in recent years by Central American countries to upgrade their electricity systems. Over time, it will allow qualified agents to buy or sell electricity, regardless of their location on the Isthmus.

The creation of a regional market with clear, standard rules is expected to provide incentives for the establishment of larger and more effective generating plants, fed by cleaner fuels. Such investments would help cut electricity costs in Central America, reinforce the reliability of their energy supply systems and reduce the environmental impact of power generation.

Future interconnections will link the SIEPAC with the power grids of south-southeast Mexico and Belize, setting the foundations for the energy integration process proposed by the Puebla-Panama Plan. This plan fosters economic and social development and the consolidation of integration among the Central American Isthmus countries and the states in southern Mexico.

SOUTHERN COMMON MARKET



The ESCF's stance on international negotiations

National Coordinators of the Economic and Social Consultative Forum (ESCF) met in Montevideo, Uruguay, on 3-4 February, with members of corporations, trade unions and other sectors from the four MERCOSUR countries.

Among its core objectives, the Forum had to elaborate a number of suggestions reflecting the view of organized civil society, which was represented at this bloc's consultative level.

These suggestions achieved by consensus harbor a clear stance in the sense that the strategy for ongoing international negotiations must cover the preservation of the MERCOSUR – by perfecting the customs union – and the objective of building a common market.

The ESCF also stated the need to intensify the Integration of productive chains for improving MERCOSUR's international competitiveness and increasing employment rates in each country. It also ratified the importance of a major institutionalization of MERCOSUR and the strengthening of the Technical Secretariat to enhance its dialogue capacity at the international level.

The Forum's participants agreed to emphasize the significance of negotiations between the MERCOSUR and the Andean Community of Nations (CAN). In their opinion, the widening of the South American integrated space would be a suitable instrument to increase the capacity of the region's countries in the vital international negotiations they are carrying forward.

Regarding MERCOSUR's objectives in negotiating the Free Trade Area of the Americas and the Birregional Association with the European Union, the Forum agreed that besides reaching an equitable trade openness, negotiators must: (1) promote an increase in both competitiveness and the subregion's exports; (2) proceed in such a way that the result of these negotiations has a positive impact on employment; (3) foster a greater social cohesion, the betterment of quality of life and the reduction of poverty in the subregion.

Likewise it was considered that establishing trade disciplines, particularly those referred to the agricultural sector, is equally or more important than exchanging lists of products. These disciplines must be oriented to a drastic tariff reduction and the elimination of subsidies and non-tariff restrictions. In the final agreements, it was also deemed necessary to include provisions for our countries whereby the existing productive asymmetries vis-à-vis developed countries could be contemplated.

The Forum considered that the complex integration scenarios faced by the MERCOSUR could affect the economic and social cohesion of its member countries. Consequently, ensuring an effective, continuous participation of the private sector was deemed essential. This should include: (1) a permanent and timely information and consultation of negotiations as a whole and of specialized topics (for instance, rules of origin, technical standards, etc.); (2) the presence in the negotiating rounds of observers representing the ESCF and all sectors involved.

The declaration issued at the end of the Montevideo meeting states that this contribution of the ESCF is the result of seven years of continuous meetings nourished by permanent consultations with the sectors of organized civil society. Therefore, such contribution states a consensus that goes beyond the sectoral or local positions of the MERCOSUR countries.

Foreign Affairs Ministers' Meeting

The Foreign Affairs Ministers of the MERCOSUR held a meeting in Montevideo Uruguay to reassert the transformation process of the MERCOSUR Administrative Secretariat (MAS) into a Technical Secretariat.

The implementation of this institutional reform process was defined as a meaningful step within regional integration. The new Brazilian Director of this bloc's technical body, Reginaldo Braga Arcuri, presented an overview of his action program for the next few months to the Member Countries' Foreign Affairs Ministers.

The situation of two vital foreign negotiation processes of the MERCOSUR was also evaluated during this meeting. In this respect, the ministers agreed on the importance of jointly maintaining negotiations oriented to build the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and the Biregional Association with the European Union (EU). Moving further on this basic agreement, the Ministers gave basic guidance so that the technical officials can elaborate MERCOSUR's list of offers to be timely submitted in compliance with an established schedule: 15 February for the FTAA and 28 February for the EU. In the case of the FTAA, MERCOSUR's offer shall include goods and services, while government procurement and investments will be defined during March 2003 for their presentation in due time. As to the EU, a revised offer of goods shall be presented.

At the same meeting the Ministers met with representatives of the Economic and Social Consultative Forum (ESCF) who set forth proposals for strengthening the integration process of their foreign relations (see the pertinent article in this Monthly Newsletter). At this point, it was stated by consensus that MERCOSUR must favor social development, which led to the decision of including social issues in the Member Countries' agenda on a permanent basis. More precisely, the Foreign Affairs Ministers pointed out that the fight against hunger and poverty deserves a priority treatment within the MERCOSUR. In order to immediately start actions in this field, they requested the *Pro Tempore* Presidency of the MERCOSUR to summon a meeting of Social Development Ministers and Authorities of the MERCOSUR at the earliest possible date.

The Foreign Affairs Minister of Paraguay announced at the Montevideo meeting that his country's Congress had adopted the Olivos Protocol on Dispute Settlement in the MERCOSUR and that Argentina had delivered the ratification instrument a few days before this meeting. Paraguay shall proceed likewise in February. In turn, Brazil and Uruguay informed on the progress made in this respect, which in due time will allow the implementation of the MERCOSUR Permanent Tribunal, headquartered in Asuncion, Paraguay.

Finally, the Ministers issued a common statement on Iraq. While repudiating terrorism and mass destruction weapons, they disclosed their support to peaceful efforts for full enforcement of the United Nations Security Council's Resolution No. 1441. In this respect, they expressed MERCOSUR's trust in the international inspectors who must take the necessary time to perform their duties with the Iraqi government's full and integral cooperation. Moreover, the Ministers stressed that the Security Council, responsible for security and peacekeeping at the international level, is the only body that may legitimately authorize the use of force in international relations.

Competition policies and regional markets

Changes in the Latin American economic model in the last few years –characterized by privatizations, deregulation and trade liberalization- together with the growing interest that these countries voiced for sub-regional integration during that same period have placed competition in a central position of national and regional economic policies.

The *Latin America Competition Bulletin* aims at providing a forum of debate where different viewpoints tend to explain and respond to this core issue for economic development, both at the national and regional levels. In this respect, Bulletin No. 16 (February 2003) includes close to 20 papers, which tackle different topics related to competition in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, the MERCOSUR and the European Union.

This compilation shows the persistence of serious hindrances for an adequate functioning of the economic agents in Latin American markets. In the case of Central America, a study by Edgar Reyes Escalante upholds that there is overall a legal and institutional lag that is evidenced in the number of countries that still do not have legislation on promotion and defense of competition. Likewise, the author notes an unequal development of the agencies regulating infrastructure services.

In Latin America, 12 countries have specific legislation on competition, while eight are still in the process of preparing and enacting laws in this respect.

Guatemala's Director for the Promotion of Competition highlights that the nations that first passed legislation on competition were the biggest economies of the region, those representing over 80% of its Gross Domestic Product (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Mexico). On the other hand, small countries of the region, accounting for 10% of that GDP only enacted their legislations in the last decade. Such is the case of Costa Rica, Jamaica, Panama, plus a couple of relatively bigger countries like Peru and Venezuela.

One of the conclusions of Reyes Escalante's paper is that there are signs of correlation between development of the economies and market complexity. If this reflection is correct at the national economies' level, it could be inferred that the complexities inherent to market enhancement at the sub-regional levels –which are the natural result of the various integration processes- make the study of competition policies increasingly important as time goes by.

Thus, as has been published in different Latin American Competition Bulletins, a deeper look into this matter – many times of a comparative nature- would become essential to place this issue at the top of the list when discussing trade and integration.

The *Latin American Competition Bulletin, No. 16*, and prior issues of this publication can be found at the following address on the Internet: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/international/others>

European Parliament ratifies agreement with Chile

On 12 February, the European Parliament ratified the association agreement between the European Union (EU) and Chile.

Part of the agreement ratified this month by the Parliament in Strasbourg came into effect at the beginning of February after both parties signed the agreement in Brussels in November 2002.

Negotiations, which had started in the year 2000, included provisions on political dialogue, cooperation and trade liberalization for over 90% of the trade in both directions. It has been pointed out that the liberalization of the services and investments sector is a lot broader than the one negotiated a time ago between the European Union and Mexico. The latter was the first Latin American country to sign an agreement of this kind with the EU.

On the first day of February, the Agreement's chapter on free trade came into force, save for the opening up of financial services and investments. These two sectors, together with the chapters on political dialogue and cooperation, will become effective once the international instrument has been ratified by the legislative powers of the 15 EU member countries. It is estimated that this ratification process could take approximately one year and a half. It must be recalled that the Chilean Parliament ratified the agreement at the end of last year.

Chris Patten, in charge of External Relations at the European Commission, recommended to the European Parliament –the day before its assent- to endorse the agreement which he stated was a model for the EU since it is the most complex that has been negotiated with a country outside the Union.



Investments and regional integration: a microeconomic view

Within its Series RedINT, this month the Institute published "*Visión microeconómica de los impactos de la integración regional en las inversiones inter e intrarregionales: El caso de la CAN*" (Microeconomic view of the impacts of regional integration on inter and intra-regional investments: the CAN case)

The study, prepared in coordination with the *Centro de Investigación, Universidad del Pacífico* (Peru), with the participation of the *Centro de Estudios sobre Desarrollo Económico, Universidad de los Andes* (Colombia) and the cooperation of the *Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral* (Ecuador), is part of a second summoning by INTAL's Integration Research Centers Network (RedINT). Such summoning promoted studies that privileged a microeconomic

view of the impacts of sub-regional or regional economic integration processes on investments in enhanced economic scenarios.

In this respect, the Andean Community (CAN) case study aimed at identifying the most important factors in Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) attraction by exploring the main preferential trade agreements that exist both at the sub-regional as well as regional levels. Besides studying the interrelations between the changes in trade and investment patterns at both levels of analysis, the research studied in detail the factors leading to the location of investments in the CAN.

The results of this research work reflect, overall, that the Andean integration process seems to have a certain impact on the attraction and concentration of investments linked to sub-regional exports in some CAN countries. However, the authors consider that the insufficient development of the enhanced market does not yet make the sub-region attractive as a whole for investments, above all those related to important manufacturing industries.

The main investment incentives in the sub-region are still linked to the exploitation of natural resources. More recently, these incentives were connected to non-tradables related to the privatization processes. However, countries like Colombia were able to somehow leverage integration in order to develop a regional export industry.

This paper illustrates, through the automotive sector case, the presence of an Andean policy that tends to promote sectoral development through foreign investment, although it shows the exclusion of Bolivia and Peru from this process. The information used indicates that there has been no consolidation of a regional market but that, on the contrary, it continues to be segmented by country and does not allow more than one assembly industry, since the economies of scale required by the sector have not been achieved.

In turn, the case of the beer industry states how local capital moved and expanded to other countries of the region. In this area, it is noted that an attempt is being made to "jump" over natural trade barriers and other structural market barriers through the investment in company shares.

Finally, an analysis of the pharmaceutical sector shows that the Andean market still lacks integration and that local advantages are determining factors for the relocation of companies.

This document is available in Spanish in PDF format at INTAL's web site:

http://www.iadb.org/intal/publicaciones/Serie_RedINT.htm



Workshop on negotiating techniques in the Caribbean

INTAL and the University of the West Indies organized a workshop on negotiating techniques. The meeting was addressed to government officials and private sector representatives of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries, as well as to representatives of the International Affairs Institute of the above University.

Within the framework of this event, which took place in Trinidad on 17-20 February, a work tool was presented under the name of Strategic Planning Aid to Negotiation (SPAN). The usefulness of this instrument, particularly suitable for trade negotiations, was

illustrated firstly through two policy exercises on tariffs and services. For that purpose, two exercises were carried out on parallel bilateral negotiations related to trade liberalization in which the SPAN methodology was applied to analyze three trade policy issues: tariffs, government procurement and joint institutions. The exercise included an analysis of topic priorities and the possible alternative results in the three areas under consideration, targeted to preparing bilateral negotiations.

The exercises at the workshop showed that the participants could satisfactorily manage the tools used for bilateral

negotiation simulations. These exercises were gradually made more complicated until reaching the point when relatively sophisticated competitive strategies were used to carry out asymmetric negotiations. In this last type of negotiations, the SPAN methodology was also applied, although in this case another four trade policy issues were analyzed: foreign investments, competition policy, services and agriculture.

Finally, multilateral negotiation exercises were carried out to summarize the theoretical knowledge and experience achieved through the simulations of prior days.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES



RENATO BAUMANN, *et al.*

LOS PROCESOS DE INTEGRACIÓN DE LOS PAÍSES DE AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE 2000-2001: AVANCES, RETROCESOS Y TEMAS PENDIENTES
Santiago de Chile: CEPAL, 2002. 84 pp.

This publication of the ECLAC International Trade Series provides an overview of the main integration processes in which Latin American and Caribbean countries participate. It includes information on the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Andean Community (CAN), the Central American Common Market (CACM) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). It also analyzes the development of the North American Free

Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

The analysis of the evolution of the integration processes shows a significant increase in intra-regional trade within each of the integration agreements during the nineties. Detailed statistics of the report show, for instance, that trade within the MERCOSUR increased from around 9% of total trade in 1990 to 21% in 2000. The same trend appears in the cases of CAN (in the same period it went up from 4% to 9%), CACM (up from 16% to a little less than 23%) and CARICOM (from 12% to 19%).

Side-by-side with this significant progress, the paper points out that intra-regional trade has also displayed its vulnerabilities vis-à-vis the region's macroeconomic fluctuations. As from 1997, the succession of financial and macroeconomic instability episodes affected the volume of intra-regional trade in the MERCOSUR and CAN systems. ECLAC's study states that this circumstance reveals the impact of the economic cycle fluctuations (which started with the recession triggered by turbulences in Asia) on trade within the integration agreements. This crisis was followed by a series of shocks, which originated abroad as well as in the region itself.

Regarding the FTAA, the report highlights a set of pending issues and the steps needed to conclude negotiations. Overall, it is argued that many of them are complex and will require great efforts to match the various interests and thus achieve balanced concessions and conclude an agreement that favors all participating countries. One of the

highly sensitive issues is related to the different sizes and development levels of the Hemisphere's countries. That is so because the treatment of asymmetries will bring about implications for the countries' capabilities to mitigate the adjustment costs of the liberalization process.

Beyond the inherent complexity of these negotiations, there are other challenges for the countries of the region. One of those highlighted in this publication refers to the future of the sub-regional processes if FTAA succeeds. So far, the sub-regional processes have been an integral part of FTAA's construction. However, the paper recalls that, in line with the agreement reached at the Ministerial meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, the regional processes can co-exist with the hemispheric one to the extent that the rights and duties are not encompassed by this agreement. Therefore, the possibility of having sub-regional agreements co-exist with the FTAA will depend on the respective capabilities of each to consolidate, progress and deepen their integration.

Co-authors of this publication, together with Renato Baumann, are Inés Bustillo, Johannes Heirman, Carla Macario, Jorge Máttar and Esteban Pérez.

This volume of ECLAC's International Trade Series can be requested from this agency's Distribution Unit (publications@eclac.cl) or through its site on the Internet (<http://www.eclac.cl>).

CHRISTIAN LOHBAUER Y JOSÉ A. PÉREZ-TORO

LA PREPARACIÓN DEL AREA DE LIBRE COMERCIO DE LAS AMÉRICAS: DESAFÍOS Y ESTRATEGIAS DESDE LAS PERSPECTIVAS DE BRASIL Y LA COMUNIDAD ANDINA

Rio de Janeiro, Brasil: Fundación Konrad Adenauer y Programa de Estudos Europeus, Universidade Federal do Rio do Janeiro, 2002. 48 págs.

This volume of the *Europa-América Latina. Análisis e Informaciones* Series consists of two papers. The first by Christian Lohbauer discusses, from a Brazilian viewpoint, the technical and political aspects of the negotiations for setting up the FTAA. The author states that to make a pragmatic analysis of the FTAA as the one proposed, it is necessary to take into account three fundamental factors: (1) The FTAA is not yet a reality and maybe it will never materialize. It is a negotiations process with a broad, complex

agenda and it is not yet possible to envisage many of its results, unless you participate in the negotiations; (2) The United States has a lot more important priorities in the world and its objective of hemispheric integration is a natural outcome of the expansion process of its markets and of the capitalist system; (3) Brazil is a more interesting market than NAFTA. According to this same author, it is a country that must face negotiations more cautiously than the remaining 33 participants of the FTAA because it has more to lose. However, a confrontation with the FTAA without a given strategy or reason would bear no practical results for the main MERCOSUR country.

Lohbauer argues that Brazil cannot run the risk of becoming isolated and that the liberalization process is unavoidable given the fact that the new interdependence of the international economy imposes integrated production chains throughout the world. From his standpoint, there is no way out for Brazil's competitive insertion than to systematically negotiate agreements that take into account the country's interests. In this respect, he states that a feasible strategy would be to strengthen the MERCOSUR and attract other South American countries and Mexico through trade preference bilateral agreements. In brief, he considers that Brazil should carry out multiple negotiating efforts but be aggressive in its pursuit of regional agreements and cautious when it comes to agreeing with the United States.

In turn, José Pérez-Toro analyzes FTAA's strategic scenarios from an Andean viewpoint. This author upholds that CAN is facing an exceptional opportunity in history since there is the possibility that large markets open up to Community products and that there be investment opportunities in the Andean region. From his standpoint, to deepen negotiations with North America can be an important strategic objective since almost half of CAN's trade is with these countries. In this respect, he acknowledges that the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) law of 2002 has timely terms and mandates which authorize the Executive Branch of the United States to negotiate trade agreements with countries and economic blocs and he believes that the adjustment of CAN priorities could be justified taking into consideration hemispheric negotiations. Just like the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed between Chile and the United States, Pérez Toro considers it convenient to leverage the terms established by the TPA in order to reach agreements on crucial issues, such as agriculture, services, dispute settlement, customs facilitation, competition, investment and the environment.

This publication can be purchased at konrad@adenauer.com.br. For further information go to: konrad@adenauer.com.br.

Fellowships for Master studies in Regional Integration

The University of Buenos Aires (UBA) and the MERCOSUR Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC-MERCOSUR), Argentine Section, are jointly calling to the Competition for Fellowships to attend the first year of the Master courses in Regional Integration-MERCOSUR to be delivered at UBA's Higher Studies Center.

The main objective of this fellowship is to promote access of MERCOSUR State Parties and Associates to a formal postgraduate syllabus, highly qualified and specialized in the study of regional integration.

In 2003, the UBA/JPC-MERCOSUR fellowship will cover the Masters' tuition fees for one citizen from each MERCOSUR member state (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and associate states (Bolivia and Chile). All other expenses (lodging, etc) must be borne by the fellows themselves. The Fellowship can be extended for a second year depending on the academic performance assessment of the fellow that will be carried out at the end of the first year.

Candidates admitted for the year 2003 course can apply for these Fellowships. During the admission interview they must submit a research project on issues related to the MERCOSUR integration process, which will be assessed together with each applicant's background. A Jury made up of representatives from the University and the JPC will grant the UBA/JPC-MERCOSUR Fellowships. This jury will assess the background of candidates already accepted for the Master as well as the research project that they intend to develop throughout their postgraduate studies.

The fellowship application shall be submitted with a letter addressed to the Chair of the JPC and to the Director of the Master, together with the Admission Forms.

Further information on the Fellowship or the Master and the forms can be requested from:

- **Comisión Parlamentaria Conjunta del MERCOSUR - Sección Argentina**
Bartolomé Mitre 2085, Piso 1, Of. 1, (1039) Capital Federal. Argentina.
Teléfono: (54-11) 4953-3911/8988
Página web: <http://www.cpcmercosur.gov.ar>
Correo electrónico: cpcmercosur@hcdn.gov.ar
- **Maestría en Procesos de Integración Regional-MERCOSUR**
Centro de Estudios Avanzados de la Universidad de Buenos Aires
José E. Uriburu 950, Piso 1, (1114), Capital Federal, Buenos Aires, República Argentina.
Teléfono: (54-11) 4508-3618 (int. 118, todos los días a partir de las 16:00 hs.)
Fax: (54-11) 4508-3628
Correo electrónico: mercosur@sis.rec.uba.ar / info@cea.uba.ar

Virtual Masters in regional integration

The University of Murcia and the *Instituto Universitario Ortega y Gasset* offer on the Virtual Campus *El Principe.com* a Virtual Masters in Regional Integration as from April 2003. Within this context, the International Institute on Government, Management and Policy, University of Georgetown, will also offer a Certificate in Globalization and Regional Integration.

Contents of this Masters will have to do with the effects brought about by globalization in the regional scenarios and the analysis of consequences on the economy, international trade and macroeconomic regimes. Likewise, growth will be examined as well as the international agenda of Latin America, the political economy of regionalism in the Western hemisphere, the experience of the European Union in integration and the emergence, development and influence of trade blocs such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), the Common Southern Market (MERCOSUR), the Central American Common Market (CACM) and the Andean Community of Nations (CAN). Techniques for international and multilateral negotiations will also be studied.

Those responsible for the initiative announced that professors and prestigious international experts from Argentina, Brazil, Spain, the United States and Mexico will participate both in the Masters and in the Certificate courses.

The Director of Pedagogy of *El Principe.com*, María Teresa Lugo, considered that the fact of having a virtual career is an added value since it favors competencies to be able to operate in the information society in an interactive manner, allowing education to be in line with the community's demands and needs. In this respect, she highlighted the two-way pedagogical modality and the features inherent to its training products, qualified as open, flexible and tailored to the possibilities of each professional.

The Masters, sponsored by the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Fundación Exportar, is addressed to Ibero-American professionals from the public and private sectors. One of its main objectives, as stated by those responsible for this initiative, is to generate capabilities and skills to be able to act in a complex context of international cooperation, negotiation and interaction processes, so as to leverage regional markets in a context of globalization.

For further information, please visit maestria@elprincipe.com.



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N° 79 February, 2003

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

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*R.P.I. 202159
ISSN: 1027-2550*

Information sources: Press releases and clippings from: LAIA; IDB; CARICOM; Andean Community; Euro-Lat; Group of 77; ACS; Group of Rio; MERCOSUR; PARLATINO; LAES; SIECA. Gazeta Mercantil, Inter-Press Service. INTAL Press