

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Seventh Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Network on Asia-Pacific (REDEALAP)

Mexico, November 2006

#### I. Introduction

The First Meeting of Representatives from the Latin American and Caribbean Centers for Studies on Asia Pacific was held in July 1997 under the auspices of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), with the collaboration of the Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB-INTAL). The outcome of the meeting was the creation of the *Latin American and Caribbean Study Center Network on Asia-Pacific*. Over thirty institutions are currently members of this network, encompassing almost all Latin American countries and a few from the Caribbean.

Among the Network's objectives it is worth mentioning the following: (a) to contribute to increasing and deepening relations between Latin America-the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific so as to favor better mutual knowledge by carrying out research work, meetings, exchange of information and cooperation in human resource training; (b) to strengthen and promote the activities of such centers at the regional and international levels, increasing their interaction capabilities with public and private bodies in charge of formulating and implementing strategies and policies related to Asia-Pacific; (c) to establish cooperation bonds with similar networks and entities in Asia-Pacific and with others of an inter-regional nature which focus on the study of processes in Asia-Pacific and the establishment of closer bonds between both regions (for instance, initiatives such as: IDB-ADB/LAEBIA, FOCALAE, ASEM, etc.).

As from its creation, the Network has carried out a wide range of research work and has prepared dissemination publications and held several annual meetings under the auspices of IDB-INTAL, with the participation of experts from Latin America, Asia and other regions. As from 2003, the "Casa Asia" from Spain joined in as a new member. Taking into account the growing interest these topics arise in Latin America and Asia-Pacific, the Network decided to enlarge its membership so as to include the participation of renowned personalities and experts from the region on an individual level. It was thus given the name of *Latin American and the Caribbean Studies Network on Asia-Pacific (REDEALAP)*.

The Seventh REDEALAP meeting will be held at the Colegio de Mexico in Mexico City, in November 2006. It will be supported and funded by IDB-INTAL. The purpose of the meeting is to present and discuss up to 12 papers selected from those delivered on the basis of this call. The selection will be entrusted to an Academic Committee made up of the following institutions: *Centro de Estudios de Asia y África del Colegio de México* (Mexico); *Fundación Chilena del Pacífico* (Chile); the *Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero* (Argentina); and the Inter-American Development Bank (through its Integration and Regional Programs Department).

## II. Call for Papers

### Latin America vis-à-vis Asia: competition or cooperation?

At the end of the eighties, political and academic discourses asserted that the 21st century would be the century of the Pacific; to favor grandiloquence the current trend as from the beginning of the reconstruction of Europe and Japan was ignored: the United States and, together with this country, the whole of the Americas progressively lost ground in the trade competitiveness race.

In the Pacific region, the Japanese "miracle" was emulated by the Koreans and Taiwanese, who encountered immediate economic success. Since the middle of the seventies, Japan became the second economy worldwide and, throughout time, contributed to the industrialization of the Asian coastline countries. Once the factors which allowed Japan, Korea and Taiwan's reconstruction and economic expansion had been exhausted, the Japanese, Korean and Taiwanese corporations redefined their productive processes on the basis of an international division of manpower which assigned specific functions to each type of national economy in the region. This brought about a two-fold result: on the one hand, Asian manufactures were produced at very competitive prices and with quality standards difficult to surpass; on the other hand, a regional industrial center was established, fully integrated in productive, commercial and financial terms. In the absence of direct intervention by the region's governments, the integration process was qualified as "informal" or "de facto".

In 1983, the informal integration inherent to the Asian economies on the Pacific coast allowed regional exports to surpass those of the three North American countries that, ten years later, established the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). In 1986, the same happened with the American continent's total exports; since then, the trade gap has widened in favor of the Asian economies and in detriment of the American ones. The entry into force of NAFTA in 1994 enabled a temporary upturn of North American exports but as from 1999-2000 they have declined sharply.

Meanwhile, on the Asian side of the Pacific basin, the emergence of the People's Republic of China as the main destination of direct global investment re-launched trade expansion in the region, leading its exports to surpass -as from 1999- those of the six countries that initially made up the European Economic Community.

In the Pacific region, competition through two forms of organizing production underlies the trade competitiveness race: on the American side, governments insist on the free market philosophy in a fundamentalist manner, subjecting public and private decisions to supply and demand; on the Asian side, governments continue to act as promoters of economic growth but base their decisions on market operation conditions.

Experience in the last fifty-eight years shows the commercial superiority of the Asian production organization over and above the American system in force. Nowadays, Latin American public and private economic actors are facing a crucial option: if they insist on maintaining the free market as a paradigm of economic policies, trade competition with the Asians will be inevitable; if they wish to avoid a competition lost beforehand, they must change their paradigm and bet on cooperation among Latin Americans as well as between Latin Americans and Asians.

Through this call for the submission of papers, the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Network on Asia-Pacific (REDEALAP) invites interested parties to submit research papers for their presentation at the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Network. These studies must address relations between Latin America and Asia and explore the conditions of commercial and financial competition as well as the possibilities of constructive cooperation in specific economic and social fields.

Papers will be considered in the following thematic areas:

#### Thematic Area I

##### The context of competition

- a. Continuity and changes in trade and financial relations between countries along the Pacific coast of Asia and the United States (North America) and the European Union.
- b. Trade and financial relations of Latin American countries with countries along the Pacific coast of Asia, the United States (North America) and Europe.

#### Thematic Area II

##### Regional Trade Agreements: between competition and cooperation

- a. Regional or sub-regional integration projects in Latin America: are these blocs generating economic competition or potential cooperation mechanisms between Latin American countries as well as between Latin American and Asian countries?
- b. From the project of having a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) promoted by the United States through to a potential American Agreement of Economic Association promoted by Latin American countries.

#### Thematic Area III

##### Commercial and financial cooperation or competition?

- a. Trade and financial repositioning of the Asians, overall, and of the Chinese, particularly, so far in the 21st century.
- b. Latin America's responses to the new conditions of competitiveness arising in the countries along the Pacific coast of Asia.
- c. Chinese, Indian, Japanese and Southeast Asian companies and investments in Latin America and of our region's corporations in those countries: location strategies, corporate culture, their potential role in selected value chains (ICTs, pharmaceutical sector, agro-industry).

#### Thematic Area IV

##### Cooperation between countries along the Pacific coast of Asia and Latin America: specific experiences

- a. SARS.
- b. Avian flu.
- c. Reduction of natural disaster-related risks.
- d. Non-traditional security issues.
- e. Changes in tertiary level education systems in China, Japan and Korea and their incidence on Latin America.

Papers will be selected according to the Network's objectives listed in Section I of this Call for Papers and to the quality and importance of the papers for policy discussions in each of the thematic areas described in this section. The selected papers will be submitted at the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Network and will be available on the IDB-INTAL web page and posted on the forthcoming REDEALAP web page, as well. Furthermore, the documents may be published as part of a series of Network Working Papers.

### III. Procedures for the submission of proposals

All individual researchers or those working for research centers in Latin America and the Caribbean who are nationals or permanent residents of Latin American and Caribbean IDB member countries are eligible to submit proposals within this call for papers.

The proposals should include a detailed summary of the document (or a preliminary version of the paper if a complete text is not yet available) and a brief CV of the author/s, with due reference to the institutions they represent and their nationality. The thematic area covered by the paper should be stated, according to the terms of reference of Section II.

The deadline for proposal submission is **October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006**. This documentation must be forwarded by e-mail to: **Redesintal@iadb.org**.

The selected proposals will receive US\$ 1,000 plus travel costs (economy class) and per diem to cover expenses of the author or one of the authors -should there be more than one- to attend the Seventh REDEALAP Meeting.