

February 2007

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## In Our Words

[Emerging Mexico](#)

By Eric Farnsworth

1 February 2007, *Poder*

Recent elections in the U.S. and Mexico offer a significant opportunity to build the bilateral relationship in broader, more balanced terms. President Calderon has already taken concrete steps to partner with the United States on law enforcement and other complex issues including migration.

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## Upcoming Events

[Andean Panel: New Governments, New Directions](#)

February 20, New York

[Click here to register](#)

[Cuba After Fidel w/U.S. Commerce Secretary Gutierrez](#)

February 21, Washington

[Click here to register](#)

[H.E. Luis Carranza Ugarte, Minister of Economy and Finance of Peru](#)

February 22, New York

[Click here for information](#)

[The Future of Ethanol, Biofuels, and Energy Policy in the Americas](#)

February 22, New York

[Click here to register](#)

[FIEL Chief Economists: Argentina's Economic Outlook](#)

February 28, New York

[Click here to register](#)

[View all events](#)

## Regional Leaders In Depth

### [Exclusive Interview: U.S. Representative Gregory Meeks on Free Trade](#)

Rep. Meeks, a leading voice in the U.S. Congress on votes to open markets abroad, believes that the Peru trade agreement is "a bill that could be passed." He notes an important message: The loss of U.S. jobs is with countries where the U.S. does not have trade agreements. Trade has become more balanced where free-trade agreements are in place.

#### [Full Interview](#)



### [Tom Shannon Outlines U.S. Policy in the Americas](#)

The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs calls for 2007 to be the year of engagement, both with new leaders and existing partners. The U.S. will work with any government independent of where it falls on the ideological spectrum.

#### [Full Public Remarks](#)



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## Events and Analysis

### [Happily Ever AAFTA](#)

Robert Zoellick, former U.S. Trade Representative and former Deputy Secretary of State, proposes the creation of a new Association of American Free Trade Agreements. AAFTA should advance economic integration while linking development and democracy with trade and aid.

#### [Full Article](#)



### [Annual Latin America Conference Explores Regional Policy](#)

Current and former high-level policymakers from the U.S., Canada, Chile, and Mexico presented in-depth analyses on the implications of the hemisphere's recent elections. With over 100 public and private sector participants in attendance, the conference cast new light on the democratic and economic direction of the Americas.

#### [Full Summary](#)



News From

**FT.com**  
FINANCIAL TIMES

### [Colombia and U.S. close to free trade deal - February 1](#)

A free trade deal between the US and Colombia could be ratified by June, the Andean country's foreign minister said. "We need this deal. There are 150,000 jobs at stake. If we do not have the framework these jobs will be destroyed."

### [Mexico protest prompts food price assurance - February 1](#)

Mexico's president has promised measures to maintain price stability in basic goods and services.

### [Ecuador reinforces fears of default - January 31](#)

Ecuador's government reinforced fears of default when it presented a budget that set aside funds for debt servicing but warned again that it may not pay.

### [Chavez's socialism may sacrifice cheap petrol - January 25](#)

Venezuelans are bracing themselves for perhaps the most shocking everyday economic impact yet: an end to virtually free petrol.

## [Focus on Competitiveness Not Just Trade](#)

Free trade aside, Jerry Haar writes that Latin America will fall further behind in the global marketplace without institutional, infrastructure and human capital reforms. Greater competitiveness is the most important factor in shaping economic destiny.

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## Viewpoints Americas

### [Beyond Ethanol: Renewable Energies in Latin America](#)

Stefan Krauter, Chair of Rio World Climate and Energy Events, and Keith Parsons examine alternative energies in Brazil and throughout the Americas. Both large and small projects, including wind energy initiatives, will be critical to meeting energy demands.



[Full Article](#)

### [Latin American Equities: Another Nasdaq-Style Bubble or a Long-Term Bull Market?](#)

Dario Lizzano, Global Head of Equities at Grupo Santander, believes 2007 will mark a fifth consecutive year of positive returns for regional equities and outperformance over both emerging and developed markets. Improvements in the region's economic position are linked to both domestic and external factors.

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## Hemispheric Updates

### [Argentina Country Update](#)

With presidential elections in October, the AS/COA takes a first glance at the political environment and potential candidates. One of the central campaign issues will be the economy, which has expanded at impressive rates and is expected to keep growing.

[Full Update](#)



### [Trade Update-Key Provisions in Pending Bilateral Agreements](#)

The future of the Colombia and Peru Trade Promotion Agreements is now in the hands of the U.S. Congress. But, what is in the fine text of these agreements? The AS/COA unravels how ratification would affect market access, labor, services and investment.

[Full Update](#)



### [Brazil roads U-turn puts spotlight on statist](#) - [January 14](#)

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's chief of staff announced that concessions for running seven federal highways, previously expected to be put out to tender, would no longer be offered to the private sector.

### [IDB/IC Inter-American Business Forum](#)

March 17, Guatemala City  
[Click here for agenda and registration](#)

#### News & Views

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### [Mexico Country Update](#)

While President Calderon has made inroads on domestic security, he has had to face the formidable challenge of rising tortilla prices and its economy-wide effects. The new government is intent on raising Mexico's profile in the Americas and beyond.

#### **[Full Update](#)**

### [Venezuela Country Update](#)

President Chavez has begun his new term with a bang—pledging to nationalize telecommunications and electricity industries. The AS/COA moves beyond the headlines to explore these industries and other political developments.

#### **[Full Update](#)**



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