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.

Full Article
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

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

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.
Full Article

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.
Full Article

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 statistcs -
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/IDC Inter-American
Business Forum
March 17, Guatemala City
Click here for agenda and
registration

News & Views
from AS/COA is published
monthly by Americas
Society and Council of the
Americas, © 2007

Jason Marczak
Editor

Sofia Manchego
Washington Editor

Alana Tummino
Eva Fernandez
Juan Cruz Diaz
Kelli Bissett
Maria Lotito
Mateo Samper
Veronica Prado
Virginia Resende
Contributors
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

Return To Top