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THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ISSUES

ACTIVITY REPORT CY 2006

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THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ISSUES

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

February 2006



THE CENTER took full advantage of its new location during 2006. It hosted a number of very successful conferences in its new, large meeting room. This lovely setting is an excellent location for conferences, training sessions, and other activities. The facility has helped make the Center a focal point for debate on major Latin American Issues.

Our second grant from the Department of Education has enabled us to finance several programs. We were able to help finance research in Latin America by several of our professors, we provided many publications for the university's library as well as subsidized the travel of numerous professors and students to Latin America. This last activity is especially rewarding as we take great pleasure in helping students pursue their studies and research overseas.

The year, 2007, promises to be a good period for the Center. For the first time in several years, we have a Minerva Program in the spring semester and prospects for having another group in the fall are promising. If these prospects come true, 2007 will be our best year since 2004.

Our success has been due to the support and cooperation that we have received from many people and institutions. I would like to thank all of the individuals and firms that have contributed so much to our activities. We owe a special debt of gratitude to the Department of Education for all of its support. We thank all those who have helped to make our program so successful in 2006, and we trust that we can count on them again in 2007.

James Ferrer, Jr.
CLAI- Director

CLAI ACTIVITIES – 2006

MINERVA PROGRAM

CLAI hosted another Minerva Program group in January-April 2006 – our twentieth. The Minerva Program is CLAI's intensive sixteen-week economics course for middle-level Brazilian public officials. Initiated in the fall of 1994, the Minerva Program has been administered by CLAI in collaboration with the *Instituto Cultural Minerva*, a public organization founded in Rio de Janeiro by our private-sector sponsors specifically for the purpose of funding the Minerva Program. The program, which includes lectures, panel and round-table discussions, visits to government and private institutions, and regular university courses, gives the participants a concise summary of modern market economics, emphasizing the importance and benefits of stabilization and liberalization. In addition, each participant writes a paper on a topic of his or her choice. Throughout, the program emphasizes the importance of good public administration and of responsible, ethical public service.

The ten participants in the Spring 2006 Minerva Program came from Brazil's National Electric Energy Regulatory Agency (ANEEL), Caixa Econômica Federal, and Banco do Brasil, as well as the State Governments of Bahia and Rio Grande do Sul.

Our twenty-first Minerva cohort arrived in Washington in January 2007. As the number of Minerva participants expands, the program's positive impact spreads throughout the Brazilian civil service and society. Many of the 324 officials who have completed the program have advanced to senior positions within the government. These Minerva graduates are not only leaders in the public service; many also teach at universities in such cities as Brasília, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, utilizing their experiences from the United States to enrich the Brazilian educational system.

REGULATORY TRAINING

In October, CLAI received a fifth cohort of Brazilian officials for its specialized regulatory training program. The 22 Brazilian officials came from the National Health Agency (ANS); the National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA), National Electric Energy Regulatory Agency (ANEEL), the National Motion Picture Agency (ANCINE), and the Office of the President. To date, 105 Brazilian officials have participated in CLAI's five regulatory training programs.

The CLAI regulatory program enhances participants' technical expertise in, and understanding of, the regulatory field in both theoretical and practical terms. The theoretical portion of the program consists of lectures about the history of regulation in the United States, about competition and antitrust policy, and about international experiences with regulation. These classroom sessions are administered by professors of The George Washington University and by regulatory experts. Visits to U.S. regulatory

agencies for discussion of real cases and issues reinforce the theoretical classroom sessions.

During its two-week program, the October cohort visited the Antitrust Division of the Justice Department, the Federal Trade Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, the Maryland Health Care Administration, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, and the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

PUBLIC FORUMS

CLAI continued its active pace of public forums on important public policy issues. Either on its own or in collaboration with other University programs (such as the Elliott School's Andean Seminars) and outside partners, CLAI hosted more than twenty public forums during the year. The subject matter ranged from country-specific topics, such as Brazil's energy outlook and Argentina's economic prospects, to regional and hemisphere-wide issues, such as the rise of neo-populism in Latin America. A list of the CLAI forums is presented in Annex A.

Among the many distinguished speakers at CLAI forums during 2006 were the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, the Honorable Tom Shannon; the ambassadors of Peru, Chile, and Bolivia; leading contenders in presidential races from Argentina and Nicaragua; and leading scholars and experts from Mexico, Peru, Argentina, and Brazil, among other countries.

In the summer, the U.S. Army War College awarded CLAI a contract to organize and host a series of colloquia on hemispheric security issues. The series, dubbed 'Hemispheric Perspectives', was launched in September, with a colloquium on the spread of neo-populism. That event was followed in October by a colloquium on transnational crime in the hemisphere, and one in December on Mexico and hemispheric security. CLAI recruited prominent experts from the region and from the United States as speakers for the series, which is to continue in 2007.

CLAI forums continued to be well attended, with space in the Center's ample conference room in the new Business School headquarters building frequently at a premium. Experts from multilateral agencies, diplomatic missions, U.S. government agencies, other think-tanks, non-governmental agencies, and other institutions continued to attend CLAI forums in large numbers.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

RESEARCH DATABASES: The Center continued to maintain its database of Brazilian economic and social indicators, a valuable resource for scholars conducting research on that country. The Brazil database is available on the Center's Brazil-centric Web site, www.gwu.edu/~ibi. With funds from a U.S. Department of Education grant, CLAI began developing an analogous database for Peru. The Peru database should be ready to go on line on CLAI's main Web site, www.gwu.edu/~clai, in the course of 2007.

CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAINING PROGRAMS: Encouraged by the success of its flagship Minerva program (see above), CLAI began development on a short-term training program aimed at strengthening the management skills of public service managers from countries that have recently concluded free-trade agreements with the United States. These include the five countries of Central America, plus the Dominican Republic, Panama, Peru, and Colombia. The new program would bring to GW groups of mid-level managers from the region, and representing a cross section of public service agencies and departments within those countries, for short-term, intensive study and training in areas critical to helping those countries derive maximum benefit from the economic opportunities created by the new trading arrangements. Participants in these ‘capacity-building’ training programs would learn about the attributes that define successful market economies and democratic societies; about the workings of the U.S. economy and U.S. political institutions; and about the importance of public accountability and the rule of law. Participants would also explore how to address economic and social problems within their respective areas of responsibility in ways that would help accelerate the development process in their respective countries and in the region as a whole. CLAI has received broad encouragement for the initiative from a wide range of U.S. and regional policy-makers, and hopes to launch a pilot program in the coming year.

ENERGY ACTIVITIES: Convinced that energy issues would continue to grow in importance on the U.S.-regional agenda, CLAI continued to devote attention to the subject during the year. In addition to hosting public forums on energy issues in Brazil and Peru (see ‘Public Forums’ section), CLAI teamed up with the Embassy of Peru and with the American Chamber of Commerce in Peru to develop an energy business mission to Lima. The business mission, scheduled to visit Lima in 2007, was formally designated by the U.S. Commerce Department as a Certified Trade Mission. The business mission is to explore with key government and private sector players in Peru opportunities for participation by U.S. firms in development of that country’s energy sector. The Center plans further energy-related activities in 2007.

SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH

One of the Center’s most important activities is supporting research by GW faculty and scholars on issues affecting the countries of Latin America and the region as a whole. The Center does this mainly through grants to GW researchers for original, previously unpublished working papers, and through grants for research-related travel by GW scholars to the region. The working papers are published on CLAI’s Web site, and are available for downloading there free of charge. During 2006, one new working paper was published in CLAI’s *Working Paper Series*, on corporate social responsibility, based on data from Central America. Also, CLAI provided research travel grants during 2006 to support the work of three professors

ABOUT CLAI

The Center for Latin American Issues (CLAI) is a not-for-profit entity within The George Washington University School of Business (GWSB). Chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1821, The George Washington University (GW) is one of the oldest institutions of higher education in the United States. With a student population of more than 20,000, GW serves the higher education needs of the region, the nation, and the world from a most privileged vantage point: the nation's capital.

CLAI is dedicated to the scholarly research and study of policy issues pertaining to Latin America and the western hemisphere as a whole, and to disseminating knowledge and understanding of those issues. The Center's key objectives are:

- ? to promote academic study and research on major Latin American and hemispheric issues, and on how those issues affect the interests of states within and beyond the region;
- ? to accelerate the development of human resource capabilities in the region, and especially the professional skills and competencies of public servants and managers;
- ? to propagate the ideals of political and economic democracy throughout the region; and
- ? to foster greater mutual understanding among the peoples of the hemisphere.

CLAI depends on program revenues and outside grants for all its funding. Contributions to the Center and its programs are welcome, and are tax deductible under U.S. tax laws and regulations.

CLAI CONFERENCES AND PUBLIC FORUMS – 2006

January 23, 2006

“The Rise of Indigenous Movements in Bolivia and Ecuador and the Political Struggles for Citizenship”

Speakers: Deborah Yashar, Director of Latin American Studies, Princeton University
Kevin Healy, GW Adjunct Faculty

February 10, 2006

Presentation: “Peru's Economic Performance and Impact of the Peru-U.S. Free Trade Agreement”

Speaker: HE Eduardo Ferrero, Peruvian Ambassador to the United States

February 10, 2006

Presentation: “The Brazilian Economy”

Speaker: Otaviano Canuto, Executive Director for Brazil, World Bank

February 15, 2006

Ambassadors Forum: “Recent Elections in Bolivia and Chile”

Introduction: Karl F. Inderfurth, Director of the MA in International Affairs, GWU

Speakers: HE Jaime Aparicio Otero, Ambassador of Bolivia
HE Andrés Bianchi, Ambassador of Chile

Moderator: Dr. James Ferrer, Jr., Director of The Center

for Latin American Issues

February 16, 2006

“Peru's 2006 Election”

Speakers: Carlos Iván Degregori, Professor, Latin American Studies Program- Princeton University
Cynthia McClintock, Professor of Political Science, GWU.
Michael Shifter, VP for Policy -Inter-American

Dialogue
Washington Office on Latin America. Coletta Youngers, Senior Fellow-

February 23, 2006

Panel: “The Doha Round: The Outlook for Negotiations and the Implications for the Western Hemisphere”

Welcome: Dr. James Ferrer, Jr., Director- The Center for Latin American Issues
Speakers: Uri Dadush, Director of the International Trade Department- World Bank
Alejandro Casiró, Minister of Economic and Commercial Affairs- Embassy of Argentina
Angelos Pangratis, Deputy Head, Delegation of the European Commission to the U.S.
Moderator: Patrick Kilbride, Director of Government Relations at the Council of the Americas

March 1, 2006

“Colombia's 2006 Election”

Panelists: Phillip McLean, Senior Associate at CSIS, Adjunct Professor-GWU.
Michael Shifter, VP for Policy-Inter-American Dialogue
Adam Isacson, Director of Programs - Center for International Policy.
Maria Carmenza McLean, Inter-American Development Bank.

March 21, 2006

Presentation: “Brazil’s Energy Outlook”

Speaker: Jerson Kelman, Director General of the National Electric Energy Agency of Brazil (ANEEL)

April 26, 2006

“Energy Politics in Peru”

Speaker: Carol Wise, University of Southern California, 2006 Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center

Discussants: Elizabeth Brito, Senior Environmental Specialist, Private Sector Department, IADB

Jaime Quijandria, Executive Director and Energy Policy Practitioner, World Bank.

May 1, 2006

Presentation: Argentina: “Realidad 2006 y de Cara al Bicentenario”

Speaker: Elisa Carrió, Member of Argentine Parliament
Director of the Hannah Arendt Institute of Cultural and Political Training

May 15, 2006

Presentation: “The State of U.S. Relations with Latin America”

Welcome: Dr. James Ferrer, Jr., Director- The Center for Latin American Issues

Introduction: Susan Phillips, Dean of the GW School of Business

Speaker: Thomas A. Shannon, Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere

Affairs

May 31, 2006

“Peru’s Incoming Government”

Speakers: Jo-Marie Burt Professor of Government and Politics, George Mason University
Carlos Indacochea, Professor, George Washington University.

June 6, 2006

Symposium: “Argentina’s Economic Condition and Prospect”

Presenter: Dr. Eugenio A. Diaz-Bonilla, Executive Director for Argentina, IADB

Commentator: Dr. Claudio Loser, Professor, GW Elliott School of International Affairs.

June 7, 2006

“Making Institutions Work in Peru”

Presenter: Francisco Durand, Professor of Political Science, University of Texas, San Antonio

June 15, 2006

Event: “Nicaragua: Toward Growth with Equity”

Presenter: Eduardo Montealegre Rivas, Presidential Candidate, Nicaraguan Liberal Alliance

August 17, 2006

Seminar: “Seminar on Latin America for Secondary School Teachers”

Introduction: Dr. James Ferrer Jr., Director, The Center for Latin American Issues

Speakers: Peter Klarén, Professor of History and International Affairs, GWU
Michael Shifter, Vice President for Policy, Inter-American Dialogue
Phillip McLean, Adjunct Professor (GWU); Senior Associate at CSIS
Dr. James Ferrer Jr.

September 21, 2006

Conference: “Hemispheric Perspectives: The Rise of Neo-Populism”

Speakers: Julio A. Cirino, Director of Foreign Relations, Fundación Pensar Argentina
Gustavo O. Coronel of Venezuela
Glenn Alexander Crowther, Colonel, U.S. Army

HE Jaime Aparicio Otero, Ambassador of Bolivia

October 19, 2006

Conference: “Challenges Facing Peru’s New Government”

Speakers: Felipe Ortiz de Zevallos, Ambassador of Peru
Julio Cotler, Senior Researcher, Instituto de Estudios Peruanos
Shane Hunt, Professor Emeritus, Boston University

Moderator: Carlos Aramburu, Executive Director, CIES

October 24, 2006

Conference: “Hemispheric Perspectives: Transnational Crime in the Western Hemisphere”

Speaker: Max Manwaring, Research Professor of National Security Affairs at the Strategic Studies Institute

Panelists: Luis Bitencourt, Professor of National Security Affairs at the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies
Dan Erikson, Senior Associate for U.S. Policy at the Inter-American Dialogue

November 20, 2006

Ambassadors Forum: “Bolivia’s Cultural and Democratic Revolution: A Dialogue with Ambassador Gustavo Guzmán”

Speaker: HE Gustavo Guzman, Ambassador of Bolivia

December 7, 2006

Conference: “Hemispheric Perspectives: Mexico and Hemispheric Security: A Colloquium”

Presenter: Manuel Suarez-Mier, Professor of Economics and Finance, American University

Commentators: David Merchant, Executive Director, Policy Studies Organization, and Representative in Washington, D.C., of Universidad de las Americas, Puebla, Mexico
Arman Perschard, Director, Mexico Project, CSIS

Moderator: G. Alexander Crowther, Research Professor of National Security Studies, Strategic Studies Institute, US Army War College

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International LNG Alliance

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* Dr. Ferrer left this position in August 2006.