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7th FEALAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting (San Jose, Costa Rica)

The 7th Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) was held on August 19-21 2015 in San Jose, Costa Rica with the attendance of 513 delegations from 35 FEALAC member states, amongst them 15 Foreign Ministers as well as representatives from international and regional financial institutions such as World Bank, IDB, CAF, IFC, SELA, BCIE, and Korea Eximbank.



The Retreat Session and the Plenary Session were held on August 21 where participants approved the Final Report of the 16th Senior Officials' Meeting and discussed at length strategies to further strengthen bi-regional co-operation. In particular, the member countries considered enhancing cooperative relationship with financial institutions in order to gain access to available financial and technical supports, as well as expertise in the life cycle of the FEALAC projects.

At the Closing Session, participants also approved the Final Report of the 7th Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the 'Declaration of San Jose,' appointed the Republic of Korea and Guatemala as the next Regional Coordinators and agreed to hold the 8th Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Korea in 2017.

The outcome documents of the 7th Foreign Ministers' Meeting include the 'Guideline for FEALAC Working Process' proposed by Thailand, as well as the 'Project Review Survey' and 'Guideline for the Use of FEALAC Logo' proposed by the Cyber Secretariat.

All the reports and documents of the Meeting are available at the official FEALAC website (<http://www.fealac.org/documents/all.jsp>).

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<Special Feature>

Ministerial Statements at 7th Foreign Ministers' Meeting



The Heads of Delegation of FEALAC member countries, including 15 Foreign Ministers, made statements at the Plenary Session of the 7th Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM). The featured summaries of statements were submitted by the member states, and are arranged in their alphabetical order.

(Argentina)

**Ambassador María Carolina Pérez Colman,
UnderSecretary of Foreign Policy**

Stressed the importance of FEALAC as a unique space for dialogue and cooperation that brings together two regions with shared challenges as well as with relevant complementarities, within the spirit of South-South Cooperation.

Ratified Argentina's compromise with the principles and objectives that inspired the creation of FEALAC, as well as with the eloquent guidance motto chosen by Costa Rica for the meeting: "two regions, one vision", a compromise that includes the strengthening of this Forum through concrete projects and actions in diverse sectors.

A firm compromise founded also in the strategic importance that Argentina attaches at its ties with Asia-Pacific, consistent with the historic opportunity that the international context offers today to both regions, Latin America and East Asia, in order to devise and fulfill ambitious goals.

Supported the initiatives, then approved during the meeting oriented at increasing an efficient projects' management with due follow-up and at starting the preparation of the new action plan to be presented in 2017.

Stressed the relevance of the San José Declaration, to be adopted in the meeting, as a document that reflects both the challenges facing Latin America and East Asia and the relevant contribution that our regions can make towards the construction of a more democratic, just and equitable international system, that adequately takes into account the legitimate interests of developing countries in general and our regions in particular.

Referred to the fundamental role of a genuine multilateralism and, in this context, highlighted the work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Committee on Sovereign Debt Restructuring Processes, as mandated by General Assembly resolutions 68/304 and 69/247.

Condemned the bombing incident that took place in Bangkok, on August 17, 2015 and extended Argentina's condolences to the people and to the Government of Thailand.

Expressed Argentina's appreciation for the participant delegations' support to the projects presented by Argentina within the Working Groups and commended the efficient and valuable work carried out by the Cyber Secretariat.

Finally, also praised the extraordinary contribution made by the Co-Chairs (Costa Rica and Thailand) during the last two years and anticipated Argentina's fullest cooperation with Guatemala and Korea, countries that assumed the respective regional coordination for the next biennium.

(Australia)

Mr. Tim George
Ambassador to Mexico

Australia recognizes that FEALAC acts as a conduit to increase understanding and cooperation to build a stronger, safer and more prosperous future for all our people. Working together to pursue opportunities to liberalise trade and improve investment links will stimulate strong economic growth in the two regions.

That is why Australia is committed to concluding the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations; supporting the APEC vision of creating a seamless regional economy and continuing to be an enthusiastic and active observer of the Pacific Alliance.

The removal of import tariffs is critical to reforming the global trading system. But addressing non-tariff measures is also important, and that is why Australia formally accepted the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation in June 2015 and why we encourage all WTO members, who have not done so, to move swiftly to ratify the Agreement.

The importance of improving connectivity between our two regions cannot be understated. Trade, investment, and tourism linkages, with FEALAC members are already strong but Australia is always looking to deepen such linkages. More direct air links would help boost these areas and also help to strengthen the links between our educational institutions and improve student mobility between our two regions.

Australia remains a strong and committed advocate for gender equality, internationally and in our region. The full and equal realisation of women's and girls' human rights, gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment is crucial to achieving sustainable development, increasing global economic growth and reducing poverty.

The efforts of Costa Rica and Thailand have reinvigorated FEALAC and positioned the organization to develop its effectiveness and to consolidate collaboration between our two regions.

Australia looks forward to participating in FEALAC under the leadership of Korea and Guatemala in the coming two years.



(Brazil)

Ambassador José Alfredo Graça
UnderSecretary General of Foreign Affairs

The head of the Brazilian delegation to the 7th FEALAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Ambassador José Alfredo Graça Lima, in his statement, pointed out the Forum's success in bringing together two regions that aim at reaching a higher international presence, commensurate to their growing economic and diplomatic weights.

Brazil supported all projects that aspire to make FEALAC's activities more efficient and concrete, as means to strengthen the existing links between both regions. In this regard, Brazil reiterated its commitment to initiatives that improve the Forum's management, such as the NEW ACTION PLAN FEALAC 2029 and the "FEALAC Project Review Survey".

The Brazilian representative expressed, as well, the country's thorough engagement with the work being done within the Working Groups and full disposition to fully cooperate with the new co-chairs.

Ambassador Graça concluded his intervention emphasizing Brazil's full commitment to FEALAC.



(Brunei Darussalam)

**His Royal Highness
Prince Mohamed Bolkiah,
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

In his opening remarks, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam conveyed his appreciation to Costa Rica for the warm welcome and hospitality received.

In his statement, His Royal Highness highlighted that the theme "Two regions, one vision" focuses on the future and that FEALAC is an institution first of its kind that responds to emerging new 21st century challenges. In addition, His Royal Highness stated that FEALAC has set up a structure of meetings leading to programmes and projects which has a new kind of secretariat that is important to all successful institutions. Further to this, His Royal Highness said that a new trend may emerge which is far reaching and inspiring that recognises that FEALAC is divided in history, geography, culture and faiths.

FEALAC recognises that we all share resources vital for progress in the 21st century and represents the skills and talents of 40% of the world's population.

His Royal Highness highlighted that FEALAC is the only institution at the moment that has the basis to establish such new directions for bilateral and multilateral cooperation across the whole world.

In his closing remarks, His Royal Highness highlighted that FEALAC is not to strengthen and consolidate what has already been achieved, but to look far ahead and set up ways for nearly three billion people.

(China)

**Mr. Yin Hengmin,
Special Representative of the Chinese
Government on Latin American Affairs**

Special Representative of the Chinese Government on Latin American Affairs Yin Hengmin expressed in his speech at the plenary session of the 7th Foreign Ministerial Meeting of FEALAC that East Asia and Latin America are regions with most emerging markets.

Facing the new political and economic circumstances of the world, the two regions have an increasingly intense aspiration to enhance coordination.

As the only intergovernmental trans-regional dialogue mechanism, the FEALAC has played an important role in promoting common development between Asia and Latin America since its establishment 17 years ago.

China put forward four proposals regarding the future development of the FEALAC: first, stick to equal treatment and enhance mutual trust; second, adhere to mutual benefit and win-win results and push forward practical cooperation; third, insist on people-oriented theory and strengthen cooperation in the area of livelihood; fourth, persevere in a pioneering and innovative spirit and improve FEALAC mechanism.

Yin Hengmin said that China always values and actively participates in FEALAC cooperation and as so far held over 80 activities under the FEALAC framework, marking its due contribution to FEALAC development and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two regions.

China always devotes to cooperation in the East Asian region and takes an active part in cooperation mechanisms of the region. China-Latin America cooperation has also entered a new stage where bilateral cooperation and overall cooperation advance side by side.

China-Latin America cooperation constitutes an organic part of Asia-Latin America cooperation, and China and Latin America to enhance cooperation will bring more opportunities to Asia-Latin America cooperation.

(Japan)

**Mr. Yasuhide Nakayama,
State Minister for Foreign Affairs**

Japan places great importance on FEALAC in its potential for establishing strong cooperative relations between the two regions.

In order to assist the education of future engineers in the regions, Japan agreed with IEEE that Asian schools will be able to participate in the IEEE Latin American Robotic Competition in Brazil this October, and the winner will get the FEALAC Award which has a potential to be a landmark bi-regional project for FEALAC with the participation of many schools in the future.

With regards to disaster prevention and sustainable development, Japan has been inviting young leaders to Japan to share experiences on disaster prevention and sustainable development every year since 2001.

This year, we plan to carry out this program under the theme of “Use of Science and Technology towards disaster prevention and sustainable development”. Japan will continue to deepen its engagement with FEALAC through the regional projects mentioned above.



(Republic of Korea)

**Mr. Yun Byung-Se,
Minister of Foreign Affairs**

The Republic of Korea appreciates the significance of FEALAC, as East Asia and Latin America are expected to serve as important growth engines in today's global economy.

As we celebrate 16 years of its foundation, FEALAC stands at an important juncture to develop into a more mature consultative mechanism. In the same vein, FEALAC should enhance its profile and visibility by mustering political willingness of its member states; boost the bond among its members through FEALAC-wide projects; and seek cooperation in the areas of mutual interest; including development, healthcare and medical service, trade and cyber security – all in an effort to enhance the connectivity between the two regions.

First, Korea recognizes the importance of top-level engagement in FEALAC, as to raise its visibility and revitalization. In accordance, Korea proposes to have a Troika Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the previous, current, and upcoming regional coordinating countries.

Another option could be holding the FEALAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting in the first half of the year to provide a way to boost ministerial-level attendance, as Ministers are usually engaged in a series of multilateral conferences in the latter half of the year.



In addition, Korea proposes convening a Summit Meeting—as recommended by the FEALAC Vision Group. Through the Summit, member countries could reaffirm their shared commitments and raise FEALAC's profile and visibility. Ideal time for the first Summit could be 2019, the year FEALAC celebrates its 20th anniversary.

Second, Korea recognizes the role of FEALAC-wide projects in cementing solidarity among FEALAC members. As in the recommendations of the Vision Group, the establishment of FEALAC Fund should be considered to secure sustainable resources for FEALAC-wide projects. The establishment of the FEALAC Fund could be discussed in depth with financial institutions at the next Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2017 in Korea.

Also, the areas of FEALAC-wide projects should be carefully selected, considering shared interests of the member countries. Korea's view is that development cooperation, public health, climate change, cyber-security, and trade could be prime fields for such collaboration. Against this backdrop, Korea is planning to host a Seminar on Inter-regional Trade in March 2016, on the occasion of the FEALAC Cyber Secretariat Workshop.

Lastly, the connectivity between East Asia and Latin America should be strengthened to overcome geographical distance between the two regions. In this respect, Korea recognizes the importance of cultural and people-to-people exchange, as well as substantive cooperation through mechanisms such as FTAs. These mechanisms could include direct flights to ease the flow of people, and streamlining customs procedures to expedite the exchange of goods.

In the same vein, a serious thought should be given into institutionalizing the Business Forum at the next FEALAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

For 2015-2017 term, the Republic of Korea will serve as the Regional Coordinator for East Asia until the 8th FEALAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2017 in Korea. Korea appreciates the trust placed by the member countries and reaffirms its commitment to actively contribute to FEALAC's development by building upon its experiences in hosting the Cyber Secretariat and leading the FEALAC Vision Group.

(Peru)

Ambassador Raul Armando Patino, Director General of Asia and Oceania

Peru considers that the work, initiatives, projects, dialogues and exchanges of experience in these past fifteen years in the framework of FEALAC, have contributed significantly to bring to Latin America and East Asia, distinct and distant realities. Peru believes progress has been made in achieving the objectives of the Forum; however, they are still insufficient. There is unanimity among its members that more must be done.

The FEALAC Member States have felt the need to adapt to the rapid changes in the international arena. To this end, the creation of the "Vision Group" in 2011 in Buenos Aires, was an initiative which sought to align the Forum to new realities and, at the same time, strengthen and promote it.

Peru wishes to express its commitment to actively participate in the implementation of these agreements and decisions; it also considers that the New Plan of Action FEALAC and administrative procedures are of utmost importance in order to improve the working methods; and believes that agreements and decisions taken in the 7th Ministerial Meeting should be a point of inflexion in the existence of FEALAC.

Peru envisions a pragmatic forum, which focuses on generating interregional projects and initiatives that involve participation of international financial entities and civilians, which strongly encourages connectivity, trade and economic partnerships with small, medium and large businesses in both regions.

(Singapore)

Ambassador Ashok Kumar Mirpuri, Ambassador to United States of America

Singapore believes that there is much scope for cooperation between Asia and Latin America. Globalisation, improvements in technology, and the growth of inter-regional trade have shortened the distance between our regions.

Beyond trade, both regions also face similar challenges, in confronting the social and physical effects of growth, such as rising urbanisation and dealing with the effects of greater industrialisation. Within Southeast Asia, ASEAN will realise the ASEAN Economic Community by the end of 2015, and also has a growing middle class with increasing purchasing power, making it an attractive consumer market for Latin American companies.

The various proposals, initiatives, and projects by FEALAC members are good concrete steps towards strengthening FEALAC and promoting more effective cooperation between our regions.

They provide the foundation for closer region-to-region cooperation, especially at the people-to-people and business-to-business levels, and add substance to the FEALAC framework. FEALAC could look at having more plurilateral projects, as a bridge between national and FEALAC-wide projects. Such projects would be led by two countries, one from each region, involving countries from both regions, but not necessarily all FEALAC members.

Singapore will host the 16th edition of the FEALAC Journalists Visit Programme, from 11 to 16 October 2015, in line with our goal to promote greater awareness and understanding between East Asia and Latin America.

We look forward to the continued support and participation of FEALAC member countries at the Programme, which will be held in conjunction with the Latin Asia Business Forum, a premier platform for fostering investment, trade, and thought leadership between Asia and Latin America.



16th Senior Officials' Meeting (San Jose, Costa Rica)

The 16th Senior Officials' Meeting(SOM) was held on August 20 2015 in San Jose, Costa Rica, and was co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, H.E. Manuel Gonzalez Sanz, and the Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, H.E. Norachit Sinhaseni.

The Meeting was attended by delegations from 35 FEALAC member states and other representatives from international and regional financial institutions such as World Bank, IDB, CAF, IFC, SELA, BCIE, and Korea Eximbank.

Participants approved the election of new co-chairs for the four Working Groups; discussed in depth possible measures for FEALAC to establish closer relationship with various financial institutions; and finalized outcome documents to be submitted to the Foreign Ministers' Meeting, including the Final Reports of the four Working Groups as well as the 'Declaration of San Jose.'

During the Meeting, the invited financial institutions recognized the role of FEALAC and its potential in bridging the two regions, and further expressed interests in the National and Regional Projects that are carried out by FEALAC member countries.

Announcements

Appointments for the 2015-2017 Term

❖ New Regional Coordinators

Latin America	East Asia
Guatemala	Republic of Korea

❖ New co-Chairs for the Working Groups

Socio-Political Cooperation and Sustainable Development	
Costa Rica	China
Culture, Youth, Gender and Sports	
Ecuador	Vietnam
Commerce, Investment, Tourism and MSMEs	
Honduras	Indonesia
Science, Technology, Innovation and Education	
Colombia	Japan

7th FMM & 16th SOM Follow-up

❖ Official Meetings for 2015-2017 Term

- 17th Senior Officials' Meeting
 - Year 2016, Guatemala
- 8th Foreign Ministers' Meeting and 18th SOM
 - Year 2017, Republic of Korea

❖ FEALAC Project List for 2015-2016

- Registered number of projects:
 - National: 50 projects
 - Regional: 16 projects
- The FEALAC project list for 2015-2016 term is available at Focal Point Zone, under the 'Project Dialogue' section.
- Please submit the web registration form and relevant concept paper (also available at Focal Point Zone) for your country's project to the Cyber Secretariat.

**** Please note that one ID is issued per country.**

**** For lost ID and password, please notify the Cyber Secretariat.**

FEALAC Newsletter

The FEALAC Newsletter aims to enhance communication among FEALAC member countries through dissemination of information on the activities of FEALAC and the Cyber Secretariat. The articles contained in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official views of FEALAC and the Cyber Secretariat. We welcome readers' comments and suggestions. Any inquiries about this Newsletter should be addressed to: <fealac@mofa.go.kr> or <cybersecretariat@fealac.org>.