

FEALAC Newsletter

Forum for East Asia–Latin America Cooperation

April 2014

4th FEALAC Cyber Secretariat Workshop



The 4th FEALAC Cyber Secretariat Workshop took place on March 13, 2014 in Seoul. The first and the second session were moderated by Vision Group chairpersons, professor Kim Won-ho (Korea, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies) and professor Carlos Aquino (Peru, San Marcos National University) respectively. Speakers from Korea, Argentina, China, Brazil, Indonesia and Colombia made presentations on the follow up measures for the Vision Group's recommendations in the first session, followed by speakers from Japan, Costa Rica, Thailand, Vietnam and Venezuela in the second session.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Lee Kyung-soo, Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, evaluated that the Vision Group's Final Report presented thorough and insightful recommendations on the ways and means for strengthening and deepening the comprehensive cooperation between the world's two most rapidly growing regions, and asked the member countries to discuss ways to expand cooperation and exchange ideas on the future of FEALAC on this occasion.

(Korea)

As a means of implementing the Vision Group's recommendations, Korea is Δ planning to carry out its mid/long-term national projects in the field of 'Industry & Academy Collaboration', Δ continuously expanding FEALAC Cyber Secretariat activities, and Δ willing to assume the co-chairmanship of the Working Group on Trade, Investment, Tourism, and SMEs.

- The Vision Group underlined the importance of national projects as the primary form of FEALAC projects, while pointing out the problems of many on-going projects for having only an isolated impact and little prospect for continuity. To this end, Korea hopes to pursue a steady and long-term Industry & Academy Collaboration project. The "FEALAC Seminar on Industry-University Collaboration" was held in Seoul in October 2013, and Korea would like to share its successful 'LINC (Leaders in Industry-University Cooperation)' project with other members through cooperative projects including seminars, site visits, joint workshops and researches.
- In order to expand the Cyber Secretariat activities, the FEALAC Cyber Secretariat held the Youth Forum (Dec. 2013), started mailing services of 'FEALAC Members' Press Release' and 'Reports & Articles' (Feb. 2014), and is continuing its efforts to facilitate communications among FEALAC members.

Korea is undertaking internal procedures to assume the co-chairmanship of the Working Group on Trade, Investment, Tourism, and SMEs for the East Asian side, and is willing to cooperate closely with Thailand (East Asian Regional Coordinator) and Argentina (Latin American chair of the said Working Group).

(Argentina)

Argentina, in accordance with the recommendations of the Vision Group and its iconic projects, is working on a DB building for investment opportunities for FEALAC member countries.

Argentina also proposed other possible projects for FEALAC, such as food security, human rights, university network and diplomatic training.

To overcome difficulties of costs involved in moving delegation around the world to participate in FEALAC events, Argentina proposed to organize sub regional open ended events. These events could be repeated in different sub regions from Asia and Latin America where co-chairing countries should be identified. Another way to overcome these limitations would be with more use of modern technology as the Cyber-Secretariat is showing us the way.

(China)

China values the role of the Vision Group and participated in the deliberation and drafting of the Final Report of the Group.

- As co-chair for WG on Socio-Political Cooperation and Sustainable Development, China will fully cooperate with Thailand as the East Asian Coordinator and work with China's counterpart Ecuador to make new contributions to the accomplishment of FEALAC's objectives.

Out of 8 cooperation programs China has organized since June of last year, the 1st FEALAC Young Diplomats Visiting Program and the 1st FEALAC Law Forum were organized in FEALAC-wide projects as was suggested by VG.

- China also participated in programs organized by other countries of FEALAC: FEALAC Cyber Secretariat Youth Forum, Workshop on Social Inclusion through Sports.

For future development of FEALAC, China suggests Δ Strengthening FEALAC's function as a platform for communication and dialogue, Δ Promoting pragmatic cooperation in economic and social areas as well as people-to-people exchange, Δ Enhancing cooperation with regional and international organizations and influential think tanks, and Δ Enhancing the role of the Cyber Secretariat as a bridge.

- Providing information in a timely fashion and sharing more information with each other

(Brazil)

Brazil, following the recommendations of the Final Report of Vision Group, has been working on Guidelines on Tourism, University Network and Seminar on Biotechnology.

- Guidelines on Tourism: Approved in the IV Meeting of the Sub-WG, and is to be finally approved on the next FMM
- University Network: Approved in the V FMM (2011), University presidents meeting in preparation
- Seminar on Biotechnology: Discussion on the proposals for bi-regional cooperation in the field of biotechnology and health (8-9 April)

(Indonesia)

Indonesia has a commitment to follow the recommendations of the Vision Group as well as the Uluwatu Declaration, and suggests a periodic meeting of FEALAC member countries focal points and re-creation of Vision Group.

Indonesia's national projects and other efforts:

- WG on Politics, Culture, Education, Sports
- WG on Science and Technology

Initiatives that are on-going or being developed:

- FEALAC Youth Conference
- Sports Industry Seminar
- Traditional Sport Promotion
- FEALAC Youth Leaders Dialogue/Outreach Program
- FEALAC Journalist Visit Program
- ASEAN-FEALAC Initiative on Science, Technology and Innovation through ABGC

(Colombia)

FEALAC as the only bridge between Latin America and East Asia has a more important role now that the global multilateralism appears to be inadequate to face global and urgent issues, and individual governments cannot address them by themselves.

Colombia's efforts to increase visibility of FEALAC:

- "Social Inclusion through Sports (2010 Buenos Aires / 2013 Bogota)"; Sports and social inclusion, peaceful coexistence and intercultural dialogue
- "1st FEALAC Business Forum (2012)"; Access to global chains and interregional business integration

Proposals for strengthening FEALAC: Institutionalizing business forum, using social media (SNS, Cyber-Secretariat, FEALAC website), taking a strategic approach for FEALAC official declarations (SOM, FMM)

(Japan)

Japan has hosted seminars and conferences as well as the 4th FMM, in the context of strengthening the cooperation among the FEALAC member countries.

- Invitation Program for Young Leaders of FEALAC on Sustainable Growth, FEALAC Latin America Robot Competition

(Costa Rica)

It is of high priority to expand the existing academic, scientific and business networks to increase FEALAC visibility.

- More involvement of governmental and non-governmental organizations in the process of bi-regional cooperation is needed. (FLACSO, Investigation centers on Latin American Studies, CAF)

Costa Rica's role for inter-regional coordination of FEALAC will; support the dissemination of WG outcomes, strengthen by all members of the use of Cyber-Secretariat, expand ways to bring on board more non-governmental institutions, highlight the importance of inter-regional dialogue, support ways to enhance more frequent high level contacts between Latin America and East Asia, and host the Foreign Ministerial Meeting of FEALAC 2015.

Costa Rica suggests inter-regional cooperation in political, social, labor, economic and innovation issues.

- Sharing experiences on natural disaster prevention, social security, trade and investment opportunity, expansion of university exchanges on green growth and sustainable development, teaching of foreign languages, digital government experiences, invitation program of next generation leaders, and Latin America Robot competition

(Thailand)

Suggestions to integrate national projects of member countries into a regional project level should be made and discussed in the SOM meeting to be held in Bangkok, Thailand in August 2014.

- Promote both National projects and Regional projects at the same time, with as many member countries involved as possible
- Focus areas should be defined for each Working Group and redundant national projects from different countries can be integrated.
- The 15th FEALAC SOM is to be held in Bangkok on 19-22 August 2014, for which three events are planned. (Seminar on Tourism – Academic/STI Roundtable – Business Forum)
- The concept paper and the agenda for the SOM meeting will be ready by April to be sent to all FEALAC member countries as well as the Cyber-Secretariat, so that conclusions and consensus on national projects can be made at the SOM meeting.

(Peru)

In order to enhance the visibility of FEALAC, the participation of various sectors along with that of the governments is necessary, and the roles of the Working Group, FEALAC-wide Projects, and the Media are needed.

- Working Group: new and more specific areas / follow up WG activities / better focal points coordination / inter-sessional follow up
- Vision Group verified three levels of projects (national / subgroup / FEALAC wide projects). The FEALAC-wide projects are to be an annual program requiring the participation of all member countries. In order to identify priority areas for FEALAC projects, a survey could be carried out among all member countries so that they can indicate their interests

Journalists exchange in the internal, regional, and global levels to increase FEALAC visibility, Network of media in FOCALAE, Journalists FAM trips to Ministerial and SOM meetings, FEALAC DB building

(Vietnam)

Vietnam highly evaluates the Vision Group Final Report and has been actively implementing its Recommendations on a variety of thematic fields as follows:

- Politics – Culture - Sports : (i) Elaborating iconic project in Cultural Exchange “*East Asia-Latin America Cultural Exchanges in Festival Hue*” which attracted 25 artist groups from 17 FEALAC member countries in 2012; (ii) Presenting Annual Country Report on Tourism; (iii) Promoting more press coverage on FEALAC’s events and Vietnam’s participation.
- Economy - Society : Organizing the “*Vietnam - Latin America Ministerial Forum on Trade and Investment*” (7/2012) and “*Experience of FEALAC countries in transforming growth model for sustainable development*” (6/2013), aiming for more opportunities to cooperate and share experiences
- Vietnam’s upcoming projects : (i) Festival Hue (4/2014), which will attract artist groups from 20 FEALAC member countries; (ii) 2nd “*Vietnam-Latin America Ministerial Forum on Trade and Investment*” (planned for 2015 or 2016)

(Venezuela)

Venezuela suggests the creation of Institutes FEALAC, which aims to increase the mutual comprehension in political, economic, cultural, educational and of science and technology relations and to overcome the geographical barrier and the difficulties of communication between Latin America and East Asia.

The creation of an “Educational Fund” will come from the governments of the member countries, international organizations, and the private sector. There is (or will be) a minimum

need for budget as the classes will be given in different public places. The majority of the budget should be directed to hire teachers, promote student exchange, and organize conferences.

Greater mutual understanding will possibly lead to economic trade and technological cooperation, greater and better knowledge of FEALAC by the public of the Member States, and the participation of the private sector.



Thailand



Workshop



Dinner



Cultural Site Visit