



**OBSERVATORY**  
LATIN AMERICA  
ASIA PACIFIC

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

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**BY OBSERVATORY**  
LATIN AMERICA – ASIA PACIFIC

**2012 - 2015**





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**REPORT ON ACTIVITIES BY THE  
LATIN AMERICA – ASIA PACIFIC OBSERVATORY  
2012 - 2015**

**1. Background**

The initiative resulted from the framework of debates relative to the need for including, in the agenda of the LAIA (Latin American Integration Association), the strategic global issues that have an impact on the region. One of such issues has been identified as the new worldwide economic and political scenario, and more specifically the effect of the economic relations between the region and Asia Pacific, in what concerns trade, investment and productive aspects.

As a result, and on 14 December 2011, the LAIA's Committee of Representatives approved, by way of Resolution number 393, the organization of an Observatory of Relations between Latin America and Asia Pacific.

The Latin American Integration Association - LAIA (ALADI as per its Spanish acronym), the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean – ECLAC (CEPAL as per its Spanish acronym), agreed upon the joint development of the project submitted to the LAIA's Secretary General's Office on 31 May 2012. On 2 July of that year, a tripartite cooperation agreement was subscribed for the operation of the referred Observatory, which commenced functioning in late 2012.

**2. Objective**

The purpose of the Observatory is to increase knowledge about the economic relations between both regions, and to establish a permanent mechanism for providing the actors from the two regions with all the information necessary in adopting related policies and strategies.

The Observatory's activity covers thirty-seven countries, nineteen of which are Latin American countries, while the other eighteen are in the Asia – Pacific region. The institute comprises a virtual space for providing important data regarding the trading and economic relations existing between the two regions, and another space for different activities (like forums and seminars, and publications, among others) which lead to an in-depth knowledge and reflection about such strategic relations. All this is possible, based on the cooperation of



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the countries involved, as well as with international and regional organizations, and integration mechanisms that contribute to making the project possible.

## 2.1 Specific Objectives

- Creating a discussion forum for analyzing strategic topics referred to the economic relations between the two regions.
- Preparing and publishing studies to provide the bases for defining and applying policies oriented at strengthening the relations between the two regions.
- Building tools to systematize, in a clear and simple manner, all information regarding the trade of goods, investments, agreements and negotiations, among other aspects.

## 3. Activities

### 3.1 Seminars

The Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory has organized numerous seminars relative to the economic and trade relations between the two regions.

**Presentation of the book “Tejiendo Redes. Estrategias de las empresas transnacionales asiáticas en América Latina”** [Creating Networks. Strategies of Asian trans-national corporations in Latin America]

Audience: 70.

Area of interest: Latin America and China.

With the framework of the Observatory, and with the participation of authorities of LAIA, CAF and ECLAC, the book “*Tejiendo Redes. Estrategias de las empresas transnacionales asiáticas en América Latina*” was presented on 18 September 2012.

The book was presented by editors Carlos Moneta and Sergio Cesarín, both qualified academicians from the *Tres de Febrero* National University of Argentina. Also present at this event was Economy Professor Gustavo Bittencourt, who participated as special guest to comment on the referred work.



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For details on this event, access the link:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1364&ci=2&page=3>

**Seminar: “Las relaciones de la ASEAN y Japón con América Latina”** [Relations between the ASEAN and Japan, and Latin America]

Audience: 100.

Area of interest: Latin America, Japan and Southeast Asia.

The seminar “Relations between the ASEAN and Japan, and Latin America” was held on 7 March 2013 at the LAIA headquarters. Among those attending the event was Mr. Roberto Urmeneta – Economic Matters Officer from the Foreign Trade and Integration Division of ECLAC.

This expert commented on “The bonds existing between the ASEAN and Latin America & the Caribbean”, while Professor Mikiyo Kuwayama, from the Global Policies Department of the School of Law of the Hose University (Japan), made a presentation on “The relations between Japan and Latin America”.

Further information on this event may be accessed at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1363&ci=2&page=3>



### **Presentation of web portal web of the Latin America — Asia Pacific Observatory**

Audience: 130.

Area of interest: Latin America and Asia Pacific.

On 15 May 2013, in Montevideo, the LAIA, CAF and the ECLAC launched the Web Portal of the Latin America — Asia Pacific Observatory.

This event was held at the LAIA headquarters in Montevideo, with the presence of LAIA Secretary General Carlos Álvarez, CAF Director and representative for Uruguay Ms. Gladis Genua, the Economic Matters Officer from ECLAC’s International Trade and Integration Division Mr. Roberto Urmeneta, and the coordinator of the Latin America-Asia Pacific Observatory, Mr. Ignacio Bartesaghi, in addition to ambassadors and high diplomatic officials from Latin America and Asia Pacific, as well as renowned academicians from the two regions.



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Further information on this event may be accessed at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1378&ci=2&page=3>

Access to the recording of this event is available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqnvxvfMml8>



### **First Academic Seminar: “Trade Relations between Latin America and Asia Pacific: challenges and opportunities”**

Audience: 60.

Area of interest: Latin America and Asia Pacific.

The First Academic Seminar, entitled “Trade Relations between Latin America and Asia-Pacific: challenges and opportunities” and organized by the LATIN AMERICA - ASIA PACIFIC OBSERVATORY, took place on Wednesday 21 August 2013, at the ECLAC headquarters in Santiago de Chile.

ECLAC’s Osvaldo Rosales was in charge of opening the event, along with CAF’s Mr. Juan Carlos Elorza, and Mr. Diego Fernández in representation of the LAIA.

The event included presentations by distinguished specialists in Asia Pacific, like Mia Mikic’s on the bi-regional trade relations from the ESCAP perspective, Korea’s view on the trade relations existing between Latin America and Asia Pacific presented by Professor Won Ho Kim, and Professor Wu Guoping’s on the Chinese perspective on the economic relations between the two regions.

The agenda included presentations of articles submitted to the call for papers and selected by an International Assessment Committee comprising specialists from Argentina, Cuba, Japan, Mexico, Korea and Uruguay.



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Further information on this event may be accessed at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1385&ci=2&page=2>

**Conference: “Balance and perspectives of the Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory” and presentation of book “Las relaciones comerciales entre América Latina y Asia-Pacífico: desafíos y oportunidades”** [Trade Relations between Latin America and Asia-Pacific: challenges and opportunities]

Audience: 70.

Area of interest: Latin America and Asia Pacific.

In an event by LAIA’s Committee of Representatives in Montevideo on 19 February 2014, the conference “Balance and perspectives of the Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory” was held in combination with the presentation of the book “*Las relaciones comerciales entre América Latina y Asia-Pacífico: desafíos y oportunidades*” [“Trade Relations between Latin America and Asia-Pacific: challenges and opportunities”].

The meeting was welcomed by the new Chairman of LAIA’s Committee of Representatives Ambassador B. Hugo Saguier Caballero, LAIA’s Secretary General Mr. Carlos Álvarez, and Ms. Gladis Genua, Director and Representative of CAF – Development Bank of Latin America in Uruguay. During the event, the Coordinator of the Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory, Mr. Ignacio Bartesaghi was in charge of presenting the publication entitled «*Las relaciones comerciales entre América Latina y Asia-Pacífico: desafíos y oportunidades*» [“Trade Relations between Latin America and Asia-Pacific: challenges and opportunities”], which includes the nine papers submitted by academicians from Latin America and Asia Pacific to the Observatory’s First Academic Seminar, held on 21 August 2013, at the ECLAC headquarters in Santiago de Chile.



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Further information on this event may be accessed at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1410&ci=2&page=1>

### **Seminar: “India: a partner for Latin America”**

Audience: 100.

Area of interest: India and Latin America.

The Latin America - Asia Pacific Observatory held the seminar “India: a partner for Latin America” in an activity organized at LAIA’s headquarters, that took place on 11 June 2014 at 9:30 AM.

The meeting was led by a committee comprising three renowned experts on the relations between India and Latin America: Amarendra Kathua -Ambassador of India in Argentina-, César Ferrer -Director for Africa, Asia and Oceania of the Ministry of External Affairs of Uruguay-, and Deepak Bhojwani -former ambassador of India in different Latin American countries, and currently acting as consultant for the firm LATINDIA and counsel for Indian companies in Latin America. This event was opened by the LAIA Secretary General Mr. Carlos Álvarez and chaired by the Coordinator of the Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory, Mr. Ignacio Bartesaghi.



A m b a s s a d o r  
Khatua and  
Mr. Ferrer,  
commented on  
their experience  
in relation to the  
relations between  
the two actors,

pointing out some of the activities they engage in as part of their respective positions, with mention of the governmental and corporate context that currently relate India with all of Latin America.

Bhojwani’s presentation informed the audience in relation to aspects about India such as geography, languages, political organization, culture and the economic and trade variables that indicate the recent transformations undergone by the Asian country, considered similar in magnitude to those experienced by China.

Further information on this event may be accessed at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1418&ci=2&page=1>

Access to the recording of this event is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/videoForm.jsf?ni=4>



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## **Seminar: TPP and Latin American integration**

Audience: 70.

Area of interest: Latin America and Asia Pacific.

This seminar allowed for experts from the region to discuss the significance of TPP negotiations for Latin America.

The event, organized by LAIA's, CAF's and ECLAC's Observatory for Latin America – Asia Pacific took place on 30 October at the LAIA headquarters.

LAIA's Secretary General Carlos Álvarez, was in charge of opening the event, accompanied by Sebastián Herreros as ECLAC's representative, and Juan Carlos Elorza on behalf of the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF).

The committee also included the presence of Mr. Arturo Oropeza -a research specialist from the Legal Research Institute of the Mexico National Autonomous University- who presented his book entitled "*El Acuerdo de Asociación Transpacífico ¿bisagra o confrontación entre el Atlántico y el Pacífico?*" [TPP: a bridge or a confrontation between Atlantic and Pacific?]. The author shared his opinions regarding the TPP's political and economic background and questioned its origin, and its restricted participation and confidential contents. He also considered as probable economic and political consequences for signatory countries, and the possibility of confrontation between China and the U.S.A. in relation to global hegemony.



Further information on this event may be accessed at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1435&ci=3&page=1>

Access to the recording of this event is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/videoForm.jsf?ni=7>



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## **Publications Meeting**

Audience: 60.

Area of interest: Latin America and Asia Pacific.

In the context of a Publications Meeting, the Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory presented its two latest books: “*Concuso de Ensayos. Las relaciones económicas y comerciales entre América Latina y Asia Pacífico*” [Essay Contest: Economic and Trade Relations between Latin America and Asia Pacific], and “*Crisis Global Respuestas Nacionales. La Gran Recesión en América Latina y Asia Pacífico*” [Global Crisis and National Responses. The Great Recession in Latin America and Asia Pacific].



This event, held at the LAIA's headquarters, was welcomed by the LAIA Secretary General, Mr. Carlos Álvarez, who specifically pointed out the role of South-Asian countries and the significance of their relations with Latin America, with whom they are considered very similar.

Other members attending this event were Carlos Moneta (L.D.), José Luis León–Manríquez (L.D.), Economist Martín Olivera, and the Coordinator of the Coordinator of the Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory, Mr. Ignacio Bartesaghi (Ph.D.)

Further information on this event may be accessed at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1450&ci=2>

### **3.2 Publications**

As part of its regular activities, the Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory periodically issues a variety of reports on the study of the economic and trade relations between the two regions.

In addition to the specialized publications, different reports are regularly published, which include: **Statistical Bulletins, Monthly Bulletins, and News Bulletins.**

The Observatory has also created a bibliographical base with over 2,000 specialized publications concerning the relations between Latin America and Asia Pacific. Access to this base is free at the “publications” section of the institute’s web portal.



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## **Statistical Bulletin**

This half-yearly bulletin analyzes economic and trade issues between the two regions. It inquires on the progress of the trade of goods, the main exports and imports and advances in negotiations between Latin America and Asia Pacific. Five issues have been published to date, all of which are available in Spanish, English and Portuguese versions.

Access to this publication is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.org/OBSExternalUI/pages/public/bulletinList.jsf?ci=2&search=YES>

Public interested: 350 accesses, on average.

Area of interest: Latin America and Asia Pacific



## **Monthly Bulletin**

Monthly bulletins compile information on the Observatory's different activities, including scheduled events, special activities, and different publications.

These monthly issues also include a section with the top news relative to academic and entrepreneurial events, the latest publications released and information on trade negotiations and agreements.



A total of 15 issues have been published to this date, all of which are available in Spanish, English and Portuguese versions.

Access to this publication is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSExternalUI/pages/public/bulletinForm.jsf?fi=24&ci=1>

Public interested: 450 accesses, on average.

Area of interest: Latin America and Asia Pacific



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**News Bulletins**

News Bulletins refer to a variety of topics. So far, the three existing issues have been published on a quarterly basis, with news on Asia Pacific’s economy and trade as well as other entrepreneurial news in the first case, while the second issue deals with Agreements and Negotiations, and the third with Development Plans in Asia Pacific countries.

Access to these publications is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.org/OBSExternalUI/pages/public/bulletinList.jsf?ci=3&search=YES>

These publications are available in Spanish and in English.



## **Report on interventions included in the presentation of the LAIA/ CAF/ ECLAC project “LATIN AMERICA - ASIA PACIFIC OBSERVATORY”**

The Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory published a compiled report on the interventions that were part of the Observatory’s presentation in 2012.

This report compiles the presentation of the Observatory’s scope and structure as introduced by LAIA Under-Secretary Pablo Rabczuk, as well as the presentation of the book entitled: “*China y América Latina y el Caribe. Hacia una relación económica y comercial estratégica*” [“China and Latin America & the Caribbean: towards a strategic economic and trade relationship”] by Mr. Osvaldo Rosales, the Director of the ECLAC’s International Trade and Integration Division.

Additionally, the report includes speeches by the leading authorities of LAIA member countries and representatives from Asia Pacific countries.

This publication is available in Spanish.

Access to this publication is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/publicationForm.jsf?ni=1209&ci=1&page=4>



## **Report: discussion on “Mega agreements in Asia Pacific”**

In observance of one of the objectives set forth by the Academic Forum of the Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory during its First Academic Seminar in November 2013, the first academic debate was held in relation to one of the main topics relative to foreign trade today, which is the Mega Agreements in Asia Pacific.

This publication is available in Spanish and in English.

Access to this publication is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/publicationForm.jsf?ni=1861&ci=1&page=3>



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**Report: discussion on “China and Latin America: a new scenario for relations?”**

The Latin America-Asia Pacific Observatory published the results of the second debate by the Academic Forum entitled: “China and Latin America: a new scenario for relations?”

Publication available in Spanish and in English.

Access to this publication is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/publicationForm.jsf?ni=1967&ci=1&page=2>



**BRICS: Closer relations between Brazil, China and India?**

In continuing with one of the objectives set forth by the Academic Forum of the Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory, the third debate by the Academic Forum was published containing the case considered in reference to the relations between Brazil, China and India, within the BRICS framework.

This publication is available in Spanish and in English.

Access to this publication is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/publicationForm.jsf?ni=2046&ci=1>



**ASEAN: Inter-relations and potential with Latin America and the Caribbean**

Publication: “ASEAN: *Interrelaciones y potencialidades con América Latina y el Caribe* [ASEAN: Inter-relations and potential with Latin America and the Caribbean]

This document was prepared by the Economic Affairs Officer of the ECLAC’s International Trade and Integration Division, Mr. Roberto Urmeneta.

The objective of this publication is to promote the study of the relations existing between Latin America and Asia Pacific, and specifically in this case with the ASEAN, considering the fact that it is one of the most dynamic regions in that part of Asia.

This publication is available in Spanish.



Access to this publication is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/publicationForm.jsf?ni=1213&ci=1&page=3>

### **Presentation by the Coordinator of the Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory**

The Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory published the transcript of the presentation by the Coordinator of the Observatory, Mr. Ignacio Bartsaghi, to the LAIA's Committee of Representatives, during their Extraordinary Meeting of February 19th, 2014.

Publication available in Spanish, English and Portuguese.

Access to this publication is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/publicationForm.jsf?ni=1945&ci=1&page=2>

**Article: “América Latina y Asia Pacífico. Realidades que definen la agenda”** [Latin America and Asia Pacific: Realities that define the agenda]

The Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory published an article entitled: “Latin America and Asia Pacific. Realities that defined the agenda”.

This publication is available in Spanish, English and Portuguese.

Access to this publication is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/publicationForm.jsf?ni=1995&ci=1&page=1>



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**Article: “Las relaciones entre China y América Latina. Una perspectiva desde la potencialidad de las inversiones”** [Relations between China and Latin America: a perspective from the potential of investments]

The Latin America-Asia Pacific Observatory and the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) published the article entitled: “Relations between China and Latin America: a perspective from the potential of investments”.

This publication is available in Spanish, English and Portuguese.

Access to this publication is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/publicationForm.jsf?ni=2005&ci=1&page=1>



**“Las relaciones comerciales entre América Latina y Asia-Pacífico: desafíos y oportunidades”** [Trade Relations between Latin America and Asia Pacific: challenges and opportunities]

This publication, released in February 2014, includes the presentations made at the el Academic Seminar organized in August 2013 by the Observatory which took place in Santiago de Chile.

In addition to the introductory and closing speeches, the texts include nine articles selected by a Committee of International Experts, from a total of thirty pieces submitted by academicians from the two regions, which have been published in Spanish, English and Portuguese. This publication also includes the master presentations by four renowned specialists, and a special chapter on the making of the Academic Forum.

Access to this publication is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/publicationForm.jsf?ni=1920&ci=1&page=2>



**Essay contest: “Las relaciones económicas y comerciales entre América Latina y Asia Pacífico”** [Economic and Trade relations between Latin America and Asia Pacific]

In April 2015, and as part of the activities carried out by the Academic Forum of the Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory of LAIA, CAF and ECLAC, a publication was released containing a compilation of the articles that were the object of recognition at the first essay contest organized about the topic of Economic and Trade relations between Latin America and Asia Pacific.

The essays submitted to the contest dealt with the main economic and trade aspects of the relations existing between the two actors.



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This publication is available in Spanish (presentation in English).

Access to this publication is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/publicationForm.jsf?ni=2047&ci=1>

### **Global crisis, national responses – The great recession of Latin America and Asia Pacific**

The book awarded the winning prize of the First Call by the Academic Forum for Support to the publications of books in 2014 was published in April 2015 as part of the context of the Academic Forum of the Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory.

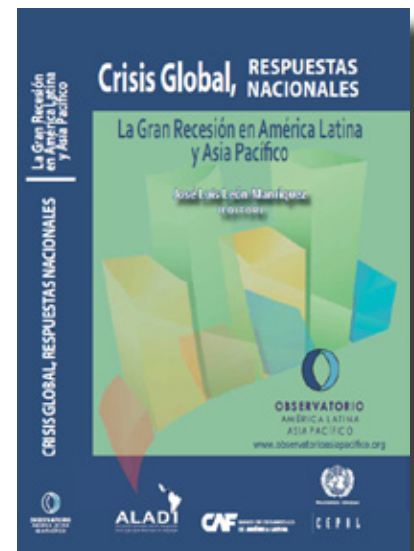
In addition to dealing with a subject of high significance for the two regions, which confers it an outstanding virtue, this book also applies a methodology to the cases subject to study (various economies from the regions considered) that includes the national responses in relation to the global crisis.

This lengthy publication has been structured into three sections and sixteen chapters by renowned experts who provide a clear and in-depth treatment of the topics that attract those interested in this field.

The articles were submitted in Spanish, English and Portuguese, and the presentation has been made available in both Spanish and English.

Access to this publication is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/publicationForm.jsf?ni=2048&ci=1>



### **3.3 Representation of the entity**

The Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory is in charge of an institutional representation that implies regular trips to seminars and events on the topics of interest, taking place in different countries of the Latin American and Asia Pacific regions.



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### **1<sup>st</sup> FEALAC Entrepreneurs Summit**

The Observatory was part of the First Entrepreneurs Summit offered by the FEALAC, held on October 16<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in the city of Bogota, Colombia.

The representative for this participation was the LAIA's Under-secretary for Cooperation, Technical Assistance and Support to Countries with Lower Relative Economic Development, Mr. Pablo Rabczuk, who made a presentation relative to the Observatory's objectives, the activities already accomplished, and the activities planned for the months to come.

Access to these news is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1368&ci=3&page=9>



### **6th Conference on International Relations**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Conference on International Relations organized by the International Relations Institute of the National University of La Plata (Argentina) took place from November 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.

The representative for the Observatory was its Coordinator, Mr. Ignacio Bartesaghi, who spoke about the Observatory's objectives and the advances attained.

At the time, this participation was part of the Observatory's objectives aimed at generating spaces for dialog for the academic context of the two regions.

Access to these news is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1369&ci=3&page=8>



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## **Official visit to Japan**

Upon an official invitation by the Ministry of External Affairs of Japan made to LAIA Secretary General Mr. Carlos Chacho Álvarez (B.A.), LAIA Under-Secretary for Development of LAIA's Free Trade Space, Mr. César Llona (L.D.), representing the head of the institution during a visit made to Japan from February 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of 2013.

Access to these news is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1370&ci=3&page=8>



## **1st Anniversary of FEALAC's Cyber Secretariat Workshop, and 1st Vision Group Meeting**

The Observatory took part in the event organized by FEALAC on occasion of the “1st Anniversary of FEALAC's Cyber Secretariat Workshop, and 1st Vision Group Meeting”, held in Seoul (South Korea) on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

This participation was the presence of LAIA's Under-secretary for Cooperation, Technical Assistance and Support to countries with less relative economic development, Mr. Pablo Rabczuk, who was in charge of presenting the advances achieved by the Observatory and its yearly agenda.

The objective at time, which today continues to be one of the Observatory's activities, was to advance in the search for spaces and platforms for dialog aimed at strengthening the existing relations between Latin America as a whole with the countries of the Asia Pacific region, which has become a new hub amidst the international scenario, both from the political and the economic and trade perspectives.

Access to these news is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1371&ci=3&page=8>



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## **LAIA's and ECLAC's participation at the 2nd Exchange Forum between "think tanks" from China, Latin America and the Caribbean**

LAIA and ECLAC, through their respective Under-secretary for Cooperation, Technical Assistance and Support to countries with less relative economic development, LAIA's Mr. Pablo Rabczuk, and the ECLAC's Director of the International Trade Division, Mr. Osvaldo Rosales, were present at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Exchange Forum between *think tanks* from China, Latin America and the Caribbean, organized in Beijing by the Chinese Foundation for International Studies and the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013.

Access to these news is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1382&ci=3&page=8>



## **Meeting with the ASEAN's Ambassadors in Argentina**

The Coordinator of the Observatory, Mr. Ignacio Bartesaghi, attended a meeting in the city of Buenos Aires with the Ambassador of The Philippines in Argentina, His Highness King A. Carandang, and his Minister and General Consul Mr. Arvin R. de León, as well as with the Ambassador of Thailand in Argentina, Medha Promptheep, and Minister Counselor of the Malaysian Embassy in Argentina, Mr. Ahmad Kamrizamil Mohd Riza, which took place on September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Access to these news is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1389&ci=3&page=7>

## **Meetings with CARI and the ICBC Foundation**

The Coordinator of the Observatory, Mr. Ignacio Bartesaghi, had a meeting with the China Group of the Argentinean Council on International Relations (CARI – “*Consejo Argentino de Relaciones Internacionales*”), under the coordination of Ambassador Mr. Miguel Velloso, in an exchange of perspectives regarding the Observatory, and more specifically, its Academic Forum.

This trip was also an opportunity to take part in a variety of activities organized by the ICBC Foundations, upon the invitation received from Mr. Félix Peña (L.D.)

The meeting was held on September 18, 2013, at the CARI's headquarters in Buenos Aires, while the activities organized by the ICBC Foundation took place between September 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013.



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Access to these news is available at:

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### **Open class on China. Economy, Culture and Business. Successful experiences in approaching a complex market.**

The Coordinator of the Observatory participated in the “Open Class on China. Economy, Culture and Business. Successful experiences in approaching a complex market”, which was part of the series of Open Classes offered by the BA degree studies on International Trade and Integration at the Catholic University of Uruguay. This event took place on 30 September 2013, at the Student Hall of the referred University.



This class focused on the specificities of the Chinese market, the relations between Asia Pacific and Latin America, and the opportunities for an approach between the two markets through

successful experiences such as the Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory, and the Programme for Professional Practice Travels implemented by the ICBC Foundation.

Access to these news is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1391&ci=3&page=6>

### **Meeting with Colombian academicians**

The Coordinator of the Observatory, Ignacio Bartesaghi, held meetings with Colombian academicians to whom he presented the activities that the Observatory had developed, and more specifically those relative to the creation of the Academic Forum.

The meetings were held in Bogota, on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, with Ms. Ángela Iranzo Dosdad, the Coordinator of the Centre of International Studies of the Andean University. Meetings were also held with Mr. Enrique Posada Cano, the Director of the Virtual Asia Pacific Observatory of the *Jorge Tadeo Lozano* University in Bogota, and with Pío García, Lina Luna and Soraya Caro Vargas, three experts on Asia Pacific from the Graduate University of Colombia.



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### **Visit to the Embassy of India in Buenos Aires**

On 26 March 2014, the Coordinator of the Latin America-Asia Pacific Observatory visited Ambassador of India in Buenos Aires Amarendra Khatua.

The Coordinator, Mr. Ignacio Bartesaghi, was received in Argentina by the concurrent Ambassador to Uruguay and Paraguay, for the purpose of analyzing possible joint work on the Observatory's agenda for the 2014-2016 period.

Mr. Bartesaghi pointed out the significance of implementing activities on the economic and trade relations of India and Latin America based on the potential existing in the trade and investments field. To that end, he made the Observatory available as an adequate context for receiving academicians and governmental authorities from India, so as to advance in the knowledge

about that country and its relations with Latin America.

Access to these news is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1414&ci=3&page=4>

### **Visit by the Coordinator to Proinvex Panamá**

The Coordinator of the Observatory, Ignacio Bartesaghi, visited the Investment Promotion Agency of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Panama (Proinvex), where he was welcomed by Ms. Miroslava E. Vilar, National Director for the Promotion of Investment and General Director of Multinational Companies Headquarters. The meeting was held in Panama City, on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2014, at the Proinvex offices. The referred Director commented on the activities of Proinvex in which the Observatory is interested, and the Coordinator presented the Observatory's objectives and agenda. An aspect considered was the idea of including the agencies' data in the Observatory's web portal and starting joint work towards studies relative to the access to markets.

Access to these news is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1420&ci=3&page=3>



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### **Pacific Alliance: a valid instrument for insertion in the Asia Pacific region?**

The Latin America-Asia Pacific Observatory took part in the event entitled: Pacific Alliance: a valid instrument for insertion in the Asia Pacific region?

This event was implemented through the INTEGRANET network which comprises the Northern University of Barranquilla in Colombia, the Valencia University in Spain, and the Graduate University of Colombia.

Access to these news is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1427&ci=3&page=2>



### **Visit by the Coordinator to some of ASEAN's member countries**

The Coordinator of the Latin America–Asia Pacific Observatory, Mr. Ignacio Bartesaghi, visited Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore from September 22 through October 3, 2014.

Access to these news is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1431&ci=3&page=2>



### **“Training Programme on Mercosur – ASEAN businesses”**

The Coordinator of the Observatory Latin America-Asia Pacific, Ignacio Bartesaghi, participated in the course “Programa de Capacitación en negocios Mercosur – ASEAN” [Training Programme on Mercosur-ASEAN businesses].

This conference was offered on 25 November, at the Uruguay Space of the Gral. Artigas Building of the city of Buenos Aires (Bartolomé Mitre 979, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor), Argentina.



Access to these news is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1434&ci=3&page=1>

### **Meeting of Top Level Specialists**

The Coordinator of the Observatory Latin America-Asia Pacific, Ignacio Bartesaghi, took part in the Meeting of Top Level Specialists organized by the ICBC Foundation and the Tres de Febrero National University.



### **Visit by the Coordinator to China, Japan and India**

In March 2015, the Coordinator of the Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory, Mr. Ignacio Bartesaghi (Ph.D.), visited China, Japan and India.

Access to these news is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1448&ci=3>



### **Seminar: “Chile, Latin America and the Asia Pacific region. Regional Initiatives towards Global Integration”**

The Coordinator of the Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory participated in the seminar entitled “Chile, Latin America and the Asia Pacific Region. Regional Initiatives towards Global integration” held in Santiago de Chile on 8 April 2015.

This event was organized by Pacific Foundation of Chile and the KAS Foundation.



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The speakers were the Executive Director of the Chile Pacific Foundation -Mr. Manfred Wilhelmy von Wolff, former President of Chile and current Ambassador for the country Mr. Eduardo Frei, Ms. Adriana Roldán from the EAFIT University of Colombia, Mr. Felipe de la Balze from CURI of Argentina, and Mr. Ignacio Bartesaghi.

Access to these news is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1442&ci=3>

### **Seminar: “Expanding the participation of SMEs in chain values between Asia and Latin America”**

The Coordinator of the Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory, Mr. Ignacio Bartesaghi (Ph.D.), took part in the seminar entitled “Expanding the participation of SMEs in chain values between Asia and Latin America”.



Access to these news is available at:

<http://www.observatoryasiapacifico.com/OBSEExternalUI/pages/public/eventForm.jsf?ni=1449&ci=3>

## **4. Other instruments**

### **4.1 Academic Forum**

The Academic Forum was created upon the First Academic Seminar entitled “Commercial relations between Latin America and Asia Pacific: challenges and Opportunities”, offered by the Observatory at the ECLAC headquarters on 21 August 2013.

It involves over one hundred academicians and institutes from the two regions, attending as members, who may be contacted through the Support Network section.

All academicians who are members of the Academic Forum regularly submit highlights on the publications and events they deem of interest to the academic community. Additionally, all members may present proposals on different activities of interest that may eventually be supported by the Academic Forum.

The members of the Academic Forum’s Advisory Committee are: Marcel Vaillant from Uruguay, Carlos Moneta from Argentina, Enrique Dussel Peters from México, Mikio Kuwayama from Japan, Won Ho Kim from Republic of Korea, and Wu Guoping from China.



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