

July/August 2006

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[Brazil: Creating New Global Opportunities](#)

August 4, São Paulo

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[Uruguay in the Global Economy](#)

August 9, Montevideo

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[Argentina: Growth and Investment Opportunities](#)

August 10, Buenos Aires

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News From

FT.com
FINANCIAL TIMES

[Analysis: Why Lula will shun the populist path](#)

"I won't take any populist measures of the kind that you celebrate at night and regret the next day"

In Our Words

[Recast Labour Law to Rescue Latin America's Youth](#)

By Chris Sabatini and Eric Farnsworth

22 June 2006, *Financial Times*

The choice is stark for democratically elected leaders in Latin America: deal head-on with the need to improve labor markets at the cost of triggering a potentially destabilizing wave of protest, or do nothing significant and watch a political time-bomb develop of disaffected, unemployed youth.

[Full Article](#)

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Regional Leaders In Depth

[Interview with Ecuadorian Presidential Candidate Cynthia Viteri](#)

On October 15, Ecuadorians will vote in the first round of a presidential election presently featuring over 15 candidates. To understand some of the complex issues facing the country, AS/COA speaks with Cynthia Viteri of the Social Christian Party, one of the leading candidates in the polls.

[Full interview - English](#)

[Full interview - Spanish Original](#)



[Peruvian President-Elect Alan García on Economic Growth](#)

In an exclusive, wide-ranging speech opening our Lima 2006 Latin American Cities Conferences Alan García highlights his vision for Peru and administration priorities. García explains his plans to strengthen regional relations, increase investment, ensure stability and bring greater social justice. He will assume office on July 28.

[Full Speech - Spanish](#)



[President of Peru Alejandro Toledo Looks at Poverty and Democratic Governability](#)

Giving the keynote address at our Lima conference, Alejandro Toledo speaks about the need to reduce poverty with social inclusion. Taking stock of his government's achievements while looking forward, Toledo outlines the importance of domestic and foreign private investment for continued growth.

[Full Speech - Spanish](#)

[Andean FTAs: Chief Peruvian Negotiator Assesses Trade Agreement with the U.S.](#)

Pablo de la Flor analyzes the future of the U.S.-Peru FTA and its implications for both countries and the region. Ratified in Peru, De la Flor notes that 60% of the population thinks the agreement will be beneficial to the country's interests and urges passage in the U.S. Congress.

[Full Speech - English](#)

[Full Speech - Spanish Original](#)

[Chilean Minister of Finance Andres Velasco Outlines Plans for Increasing Prosperity](#)

Speaking before nearly 200 private sector and policy leaders at the Santiago meeting of our 2006 Latin American Cities Conferences, Andres Velasco charts a course for economic advancement. Velasco looks towards better structural balance, greater public savings and stronger institutions.

[Full Presentation - Spanish](#)



[Analysis: Peso power brings hope to poor](#)

The idea is simple: empower poor people economically, through credit from companies or microfinance from lending institutions.

[Candidates should calm passions - 23 July](#)

Mexico's post-electoral landscape has brought out the worst in the country's two main candidates: Felipe Calderón of the ruling centre-right National Action Party (PAN) and Andrés Manuel López Obrador of the leftwing Democratic Revolution Party (PRD).

[García's choice of finance minister cheered - 21 July](#)

The appointment of a fiscally orthodox technocrat as Peru's finance minister was welcomed on Friday both in Lima and internationally.

['Superpowers' grab puts Kirchner in driving seat - 20 July](#)

Buoyed by comfortable majorities in both houses of Congress, Néstor Kirchner is assured smooth passage for two new laws allowing the executive to alter budget spending without congressional approval and normalising its ability to use emergency executive decrees.

Events and Analysis

[Testimony on the Future of Democracy Delivered in the House of Representatives](#)

AS/COA Senior Director of Policy, Chris Sabatini, offers a comprehensive assessment on the status of democracy in the Western Hemisphere, testifying before the House International Relations Committee. He emphasizes that democratic stability is provided for when countries link up to the global system in ways that bring broad-based benefits for all citizens.

[Full Testimony](#)

[Council of the Americas Provides Testimony on Energy Security Before Congress](#)

In a written statement to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, COA Vice President, Eric Farnsworth, highlights the importance of increasing U.S. partnership in hemispheric energy matters. He concludes that competitiveness hinges on the development and utilization of energy resources, including alternative fuels.



[Full Testimony](#)

[President Toledo and President-Elect García Address Annual Lima Conference](#)

Over 200 high-level private sector representatives and decision makers attended the Lima meeting of the AS/COA 2006 Latin American Cities Conferences. Peru: Investment and Development with Social Equity focused on the country's economic outlook and prospects for increasing private investment.



[Full Summary](#)

[Council Urges Passage of the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement](#)

COA Vice President, Eric Farnsworth, notes the Council's support for expanded trade and investment before both the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Ways and Means. His statement calls for Congressional approval of the trade agreement.

[Full Testimony](#)

[Venezuela to put pep into Mercosur summit - 19 July](#)

Following formal accession this month, Venezuela is one of five full members of Mercosur, along with Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. The bloc's area of influence now stretches from the Caribbean in the north to Patagonia in the south.

[García faces battle in winning over Peru's highlanders - 18 July](#)

Unlike in 1985, when Mr García was swept into office on a wave of adulation, he will be forced to act quickly to show he is serious about extending the benefits of Peru's economic boom, particularly to the impoverished highlands.

[Two Brazilian candidates with much in common - 4 July](#)

Although six candidates are expected to run for president, there are two main contenders at this stage: Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of the leftwing PT, president since January 2003, and Geraldo Alckmin of the centrist PSDB.

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Viewpoints Americas

[The Future of Global Trade Liberalization: A Bleak Winter Ahead](#)

Shanker Singham, a Partner at Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP, sees a need for Doha negotiators and others to rethink how trade negotiations are approached, moving away from the zero sum mentality that currently dominates trade negotiations.

[Full Article](#)

[The Asia - Latin America Technology Gap](#)

AS/COA Senior Director of Policy, Chris Sabatini, and Policy Program Officer, Jason Marczak, look at the divide between Asia and Latin America in technical innovation, a key factor for increasing competitiveness.

[Full Article](#)

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Hemispheric Updates

[Brazil Election Update](#)

As the October election approaches, AS/COA looks at issues currently dominating Brazil's presidential campaign. One of the primary topics will be the violence that is currently plaguing São Paulo.

[Full Update](#)



[Mexico Post-Election Update](#)

While the country awaits the decision of the Federal Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Branch on the presidential election, AS/COA provides an update on the process and results from congressional and state elections.

[Full Update](#)

[Ecuador Election Update](#)

Our Andean Updates series turns to the October elections in Ecuador. With former President Lucio Gutierrez prohibited from running, the field of candidates remains wide open, with only a few registering significant support in the polls.

[Full Update](#)



[Bolivia Country Update](#)

The Andean series provides an overview of recent Constituent Assembly elections and the referendum on regional autonomy in Bolivia.

[Full Update](#)

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Latin America - Asia Trade Review

We hear a lot about Asia-Latin American trade. But who is trading with whom? This update provides an overview on the status of trade agreements between some of Latin America's largest economies and their Asian partners.

Full Review



Brazil Energy Policy Review

Brazil is less vulnerable to the rise in global oil prices thanks to advancements in ethanol production, offshore drilling and other refining techniques. AS/COA provides an update on recent developments.

Full Review

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