



9th Senior Officials' Meeting

FORUM FOR EAST ASIA – LATIN AMERICA COOPERATION - FEALAC -
Buenos Aires, April 7th – 8th 2009

COORDINATORS' REPORT ON THE 9th SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING (9th SOM) FORUM FOR EAST ASIA-LATIN AMERICA COOPERATION

Buenos Aires, April 7th- 8th 2009

The 9th Senior Officials' Meeting (9th SOM) of the *Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation* (FEALAC) was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on April 7th - 8th 2009.

The meeting was co-chaired by the Argentine Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Victorio TACCETTI and by the Director-General for Latin America, Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Satoru SATOH.

Delegations from all 33 FEALAC member countries participated in the meeting, namely: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Rep. of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela and Vietnam. Honduras and Mongolia were invited to participate as observers.

The list of delegates is attached here to as Annex I (SOM/2009/11/Final).

Participants addressed the following topics:

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Participants approved and adopted the Meeting's agenda (document SOM/2009/1).

The motion to change the order of the Agenda and address the "New Members" item in second place was accepted.

2. New candidates to join FEALAC

The Senior Officials' Meeting welcomed Honduras and Mongolia as observers. Furthermore, it decided to request that the 4th Ministerial Meeting accept the application submitted by both countries to become FEALAC members.

The Meeting agreed that following the admission of Honduras and Mongolia as FEALAC members, future membership applications should be assessed on the basis of specific membership criteria to be worked out.



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3. Consideration of the Reports submitted by Working Group Co-Chairs

I) Working Group on Politics, Culture and Education:

Senior Officials considered the Reports submitted by the Co-Chairs of the 5th and 6th Working Group Meetings on Politics, Culture and Education (SOM/2009/2.1. and SOM/2009/2.2). The conclusions were presented by the Group Co-Chairs, Indonesia and Colombia, respectively. The Meeting decided to submit the recommendations to the approval of the 4th Foreign Ministers' Meeting (4th FMM) and welcomed the outcomes of the Working Group and the efforts made by the Co-chairs.

The delegations submitted their contributions to the consideration of the 9th SOM, as follows:

Ecuador considered that this Working Group could make further progress regarding the Politics, Culture and Education dialogue. This Delegation proposed that mechanisms be analyzed so as to facilitate cooperation.

Bolivia expressed that the Ministers should be proposed to appoint teams in each Working Group to look into technical cooperation.

II) Working Group on Economy and Society:

Senior Officials considered the Reports by the Co-Chairs of the 5th and 6th Meetings of the Working Group on Economy and Society (SOM/2009/2.3 and SOM/2009/2.4) presented by Korea and Ecuador, and decided to submit the recommendations to the approval of the 4th FMM. The SOM welcomed the outcomes of the Working Group and the efforts made by the Co-chairs.

The delegations submitted a few issues to the consideration of the Meeting, namely:

-The modalities agreed upon at the 6th. Meeting of this WG in connection with the Tourism Sub-Group were put to consideration of the Senior Officials' Meeting.

-Regarding the ways to create a network of finance and trade information for business organizations, member countries decided, in principle, to utilize the existing mechanisms including the FEALAC web site, and also agreed to submit the result of the discussion to the 10th SOM for its consideration.

-Ecuador made a presentation on the Proposal to set up a Bi-regional Small and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Brazil and Peru Delegations commented on the economic implications of the project. The latter expressed that in its opinion the project should be less costly and thus could use the



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facilities made available by FEALAC web site. Peru estimated that it would also be necessary to get the Inter American Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank involved in the discussion about the project start-up. The importance of this initiative in the current world economic crisis was underpinned. Ecuador put a proposal to the consideration of the Senior Officials in connection with this issue (SOM/2009/2.6).

The Senior Officials' Meeting resolved to pose two draft decisions concerning the Biregional Center for SMEs Development and the Tourism Sub-Group, to be put into consideration at the Ministerial Meeting to be held in Tokyo. These state:

"DRAFT DECISION No I

The 4th Ministerial Meeting,

Recognizing the importance of improving the capacities of SMEs as a concrete means for the creation of jobs and the reduction of poverty

Expressing the intent of reinforcing the regional development of micro, small and medium enterprises,

DECIDES

Request the Working Group on Economy and Society to conclude in the next annual meeting the revision of the feasibility project for the establishment of the Bi-Regional Center for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), document VI/ESWG/ECU/2008/07, which encompasses the following elements:

A network of financial and commercial information regarding business organizations, which will be devised by interested countries with the aim of monitoring, identifying and disseminating investment and commercial opportunities in both regions.

A data bank that will allow the dissemination of opportunities for SMEs operating in different member countries, especially related to academic research activities or business experiences.

Use of information regarding experience and best practices for SME training, especially regarding the development of exporting skills.

Operational Structure

Likewise, the Senior Officials express their wish that the Working Group on Economy and Society will make recommendations to the SOM in order to be submitted to the coming Ministerial Meeting."



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DECISION PROJECT No 2

“The IX SOM recommends to the IV Ministerial meeting the following decision:

DECISION PROJECT

SUB GROUP OF TOURISM OF FEALAC

INSPIRED by the spirit of friendship prevailing in the relationships between the two regions;

CONSIDERING the strengthening of cooperation ties between Latin America and East Asia;

MOTIVATED by the wish to promote greater rapprochement between the respective peoples in the area of tourism;

CONVINCED that tourism is an excellent instrument to promote not only economic development but also understanding, goodwill and the rapprochement of their people;

BEARING IN MIND the decision on Tourism of the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Forum for East Asia-Latin America cooperation (FEALAC), which set up the Sub-Group on Tourism.

The IV Ministerial meeting of FEALAC decides as the modalities and responsibilities:

I. MODALITIES OF THE SUBGROUP ON TOURISM OF FEALAC

Sub-group meetings will be open to all FEALAC member countries.

The coordination of the Sub-Group will be shared by the co-chairs of the FEALAC Working Group on Economy and Society.

The coordinators of the Sub-Group will prepare the provisional agenda of the Meeting and will circulate it among its members.

The Sub-Group will meet in conjunction with the FEALAC Working Group on Economy and Society meetings at the same venue¹.

The coordinators of the Sub-Group will be responsible for:

The elaboration of the reports on the Sub-Group activities;

The submission of its recommendations to the FEALAC Working Group on Economy and Society;

¹ It was understood that the Sub-Group would gather at the same time as the FEALAC Economy and Society Working Group and in the same place.



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The report of the Sub-Group meeting, along with its recommendations will be approved by consensus.

The recommendations adopted by the Sub-Group will be submitted to the FEALAC Working Group on Economy and Society for its considerations

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

FIRST

Promote bringing together national tourism sectors to examine the measures and mechanisms aimed at increasing tourist flows between the two regions;

SECOND

Foster the adoption of regional cooperation measures and mechanisms, aimed at creating opportunities for the exchange of successful experiences for the mutual development of, and access to, markets of member countries;

THIRD

Coordinate common positions in international organizations and at conferences and fora dealing with tourism;

FOURTH

Give incentives to environmental preservation and share successful experiences on sustainable tourism management policies, plans and processes, especially in view of the importance of the issue of climate change;

FIFTH

Promote the exchange of poverty by creating jobs in the tourism sector, contributing to achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals;

SIXTH

Foster the exchange of knowledge to examine measures and mechanisms aimed at promoting cultural heritage preservation;

SEVENTH

Promote the discussion and exchange of information about rates and investments, as well as the incentives that each country offers to foreign investors;



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EIGHTH

Promote cooperation between analysts, consultants and experts from both regions, for the purpose of boosting the level of specialization and professionalism of the persons involved in promoting and developing tourism

NINTH

Encourage students and instructors of tourism to take advantage of scholarship opportunities offered by schools, universities and training centers of the other member countries.”

III) Working Group on Science and Technology:

The Senior Officials' Meeting considered the Report by the Co-Chairs of the 5th Working Group Meeting on Science and Technology (SOM/2009/2.5) and decided to submit its recommendations to the approval of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs. Participants in the Senior Officials' Meeting expressed their satisfaction at the efforts made by the co-chairs of the Working Group, Panama and New Zealand.

The Meeting highlighted the importance of using the Internet and other Information and Communications Technologies in all phases of FEALAC activities. The WG on Science and Technology should engage on assessing and making available action plans for the best use of these technologies to favour FEALAC operativeness.

4. National Projects

The Senior Officials' Meeting thanked Peru for the valuable national report submitted by it (SOM/2009/3.1) and encouraged other countries to draft similar documents reflecting the follow-up on FEALAC policies within each of the countries.

The Senior Officials' Meeting thanked Argentina for the country's valuable contribution through the submission of four projects of interest to FEALAC, based on the emphasis placed on the topics sustainable development, social inclusion and the environment. These projects are the following:

- a. Education: Issuance of “Spanish Language Certificate: Language and Use” (CELU, by its Spanish acronym) (SOM/2009/3.2). Argentine proposal on education based on linguistic integration as a factor of integration between both regions.
- b. Sports as a social inclusion mechanism (SOM/2009/3.3)
- c. Infrastructure for integration: Transport, communications and energy in the framework of regional integration in the context of open regionalism



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as a means to facilitate trade between Latin America and East Asia (SOM/2009/3.4).

d. Presentation by the National Institute for Agricultural and Cattle Breeding Technology (INTA, as per Spanish acronym) "Institucional INTA Presentation" and "Potential And Concerns On Jatropha Production In Argentina" (SOM/2009/3.17 and SOM/2009/3.18).

The Brazilian Delegation considered that the fact that the sports issue had been addressed by FEALAC was very positive, as well as the social inclusion approach. The Delegation stated that it could be included in the Working Group on Politics, Culture and Education.

The Meeting reached consensus and proposed that the Working Group on Politics, Culture and Education be also called "Sports".

Senior Officials appreciated the efforts made by Thailand to keep an active position within FEALAC through projects such as those submitted at this meeting:

- a. Invitation for FEALAC member countries to request fellowships to attend cooperation courses and post-graduate (SOM/2009/3.6)
- b. International Symposium on Pan-Oceanic cooperation for climate disaster risk reduction (SOM/2009/3.7)
- c. International Symposium on FEALAC academic network among tertiary institutions (SOM/2009/3.8).

The Meeting welcomed the two national projects presented by the Japanese Delegation:

- a. FEALAC Young Leaders' Programme (SOM/2009/3.9)
- b. Study on trade and investment between Asia and Latin America (SOM/2009/3.10)

The Meeting was thankful for Colombia's contribution on the following projects:

- a. SENA virtual formation (SOM/2009/3.11).
- b. A workshop on best practices in the struggle against human trafficking (SOM/2009/3.12).
- c. A seminar on Terrorism (SOM/2009/3.13)
- d. "Colombia Is Passion": enhancement of the country's image through a successful communication strategy (SOM/2009/3.14).
- e. Scholarly exchanges with Colombia (SOM/2009/3.15).

Korea made a presentation on the current situation and future actions to be taken on the FEALAC official web site. In the presentation, Korea announced the completion of the second renewal of the web site. The changes include the



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improvement of the general layout and the creation of tool bars on business information, press releases and photo gallery, as well as the SMEs focal point registration. Korea also explained the current utilization of the web site by member countries and stressed a need for more participation and involvement of the member countries regarding the web site.

The Senior Officials considered Korea's endeavors highly positive in that the official FEALAC web site was created and maintained.

The Meeting appreciated Korea's efforts on the three new FEALAC national projects in the framework of the WG on Economy and Society:

- a. FEALAC SMEs promotion tour
- b. FEALAC expert meeting on current issues (renewable energy).
- c. The second FEALAC Eco-Tourism Conference

The Meeting welcomed the Chinese on-going projects in the framework of the Working Group on Politics, Culture and Education which are mentioned in the reports submitted by this group.

Senior Officials reiterated their acknowledgment to Cuba, as stated in the Reports (WG on Politics, Culture and Education), for its cooperation on literacy implemented in Latin America as well as East Asia countries which Cuba has offered to extend to other FEALAC members.

Bolivia submitted a document listing "project profiles" (SOM/2009/3.11) in the following sectors (SOM/2009/3.16):

Mining and metallurgy
Hydrocarbons
Traditional medicine
Telecommunications and IT sector

The Bolivian Delegation was invited to elaborate on these projects in the respective Working Groups.

5. FEALAC in the current context.

Senior Officials recalled that the sense of global cohesiveness and inter-connection between the regions must be encouraged as a means to ensure that interdependence benefits all and that international peace and stability are preserved. This statement, which inspired the creation of FEALAC and is stated in the Framework Document adopted in Santiago de Chile, has become even more important within the context of the world economic and financial crisis which currently affects us all and calls for additional efforts by all international community members. As stated by the Ministers at their 3rd Meeting in Brasilia



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“In the current complex and multifaceted world order, no single country, or group of countries, would be able to tackle alone the interconnected threats facing the international community. Therefore, there must be broad, deep and sustained multilateral co-operation among States, including stronger cooperation among States from different regions. One of the ways could be fostering the triangular cooperation.”

Delegations agreed that FEALAC has made a valuable contribution to interregional dialogue and cooperation since its establishment 10 years ago. They further agreed that it was important to endeavor to improve the focus of the process and to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency through improvements to its operating procedures. It was in this context that delegations discussed themes for the 4th Ministerial Meeting in Japan and considered proposals for new operating arrangements.

With a view to the forthcoming Ministerial meeting, Senior Officials analyzed themes as well as methodological proposals aimed at identifying FEALAC's “added value” within the current context.

a) **Themes.**

The Senior Officials who met in Buenos Aires underscored the potential for dialogue among FEALAC countries representing 40% of the planet's inhabitants, living in thirty-three sovereign States in two of the most dynamic regions worldwide, with a growing membership. They, therefore, decided to recommend that the Ministers of Foreign Affairs include on the Agenda of their 4th Meeting issues taking into account the current situation, seeking FEALAC's own perspective and avoiding overlapping efforts. This FEALAC “vision” aims at reinforcing inter-regional dialogue and cooperation including south-south and triangular cooperation, with a strong emphasis on social inclusion and the environment.

Senior Officials were very pleased to see that the document on social inclusion submitted by Argentina (SOM/2009/4.1) was included under this item, as well as the presentation by the Argentine Delegation concerning its experience with the Fondo Argentino de Cooperación Horizontal (FO-AR) (the *Argentine Fund for Horizontal Cooperation*), circulated as SOM/2009/4.2.

The Senior Officials' Meeting adopted by consensus the tentative agenda of the next Ministerial Meeting to be put to the Ministers' consideration namely.

- Economic and Financial Crisis
- Social Inclusion
- Environment and Sustainable Development
- FEALAC future direction.



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Senior Officials highlighted the fact that these issues would be addressed in the scope of FEALAC competence, pursuant to objectives such as fostering biregional dialogue and cooperation, avoiding duplications and overlappings with other fora. This proposal is considered a guideline for debate and shall be addressed with flexibility.

Several delegations made further statements about their country's positions.

b) Methodology.

Senior Officials reiterated the opportunity to reinforce FEALAC mechanisms and improve on its capacity to foster understanding, dialogue and cooperation between both regions. With this common purpose in mind, they analyzed the methodological proposals submitted by Japan (SOM/2009/4.3; SOM/2009/4.4 & SOM/2009/4.5) and Argentina (SOM/2009/4.6).

Senior Officials agreed upon the following by consensus:

i) Propose the inclusion of a Technical Cooperation segment in the FEALAC Working Group meetings and Senior Officials' Meetings.

Several delegations considered that the IDB and the ADB could be invited to attend these meetings. The Venezuelan Delegation expressed that other regional financial Institutions could be also invited.

In the light of the approval of the Japanese methodological proposal, the technical cooperation segment would be streamlined with and will take up the same period of time as the FEALAC meeting.

ii) Japan's proposal in connection with SOM/2009/4.3, SOM/2009/4.4 and SOM/2009/4.5 was accepted with wide consensus. The Senior Officials Meeting thus resolved to recommend that the proposal be accepted "on a trial basis". Further, Japan also resolved to consider proposal modalities during the next Senior Official's Meeting, in particular issues concerning costs, coordinator roles in the Working Groups, adoption of follow-up and assessment mechanisms and expert involvement

iii) The flexibility principle was reaffirmed, subject to member contribution.

iv) The Meeting noted Thailand's proposal pursuant to a more efficient FEALAC cooperation (SOM/2009/3.5).

6. Tokyo Ministerial Meeting (Preparation)

The Asian Co-Chair (Japan) addressed this topic. The SOM considered the following information:



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- a. Logistic Preparatory Work (SOM/2009/5.1)
- b. Ministerial Work Agenda (as per details under 5.a)
- c. Final Document (SOM/2009/5.2)

The Japanese Coordination, in particular, expects to get comments by e-mail on these documents by 24/04/2009.

7. Schedule of FEALAC Meetings

Senior Officials held a preliminary exchange of views and discussed the Schedule for future FEALAC meetings. The WG Meetings and Senior Officials' Meetings are to be held in 2010. It was deemed appropriate to hold the 5th Ministerial Meeting in 2011 so as to keep up the current pace of high level FEALAC meetings. Senior Officials will be revisiting the schedule of future meetings.

8. Election of Deputy Regional Coordinators and Co-Chairs of the Working Groups

The 9th Senior Officials' Meeting welcomed the FEALAC Deputy Regional Coordinators on behalf of Asia, Indonesia as well as Argentina, which will keep on being the Regional Coordinator for Latin America.

Indonesia and Argentina have thus been appointed as Deputy Coordinators for Asia and Latin America.

Furthermore, participants exchanged views on the appointment of Co-Chairs to head the three Working Groups as from the 4th Ministerial Meeting.

Working Group Co-chairs will thus be

for the WG on Politics, Culture and Education, Korea and Colombia.

for the WG on Economy and Society, Philippines and Ecuador.

for the WG on Science and Technology, New Zealand and the Latin American coordinator, either Mexico or the Dominican Republic, once the current discussions are closed.

9. Drafting and Approval of the Coordinators' Report

Participants in the 9th Senior Officials' Meeting considered and approved the Regional Coordinators' Report (SOM/2009/10/FINAL).



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10. Acknowledgments

Senior Officials expressed their appreciation to the host country, Argentina, for having organized the 9th Senior Officials' Meeting and for the warm reception and hospitality given to the delegations. Their appreciation was also extended to Japan for having co-chaired the Meeting.