

CO CHAIRS' STATEMENT

1. The Sixth Meeting of the Working Group Meeting on Politics, Culture, and Education, Forum for East Asia – Latin America Cooperation - FEALAC was held in Bogotá, Colombia, on the 18th March 2009. The meeting examined existing projects, presented new projects, furthered the work of the previous working group meetings, held in Singapore (1-3 May 2002), Chile (8-9 May 2003), Singapore (9-10 September 2004), in Bogotá (27-28 February 2006) and Bali (16th July, 2008). The Meeting was co-chaired by Colombia and Indonesia.
2. The meeting was attended by delegates from Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela and Viet Nam. The list of Delegates appears as Annex A.
3. H.E. Ambassador Victoria Senior, Vice Minister (Acting) of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, opened the Meeting and welcomed all the delegates to Bogotá. She made reference to the Importance of this 6th Working Group Meeting and the continuity of the cooperation with regards to the projects of the working group. Following this intervention the delegate from Indonesia, Dian Irengjurit, co-chair with Colombia of the Working Group, expressed that the success of the Working Group depends on the commitment and the cooperation in the activities developed in this Working Group.
4. The head of the Colombian Delegation and co chairman of the group, Olga Bula Escobar, thanked the attendance of the delegates to the sixth meeting of the Working Group on Politics; Culture and Education and took the opportunity to invite them to the workshop on the world drug problem that will take place on March 19, 2009.
5. The Co Chairman of the meeting submitted the agenda for approval of the delegates and mentioned the new projects announced previously by some countries. The Working Group adopted the agenda, which is related in Annex B.
6. During the opening session, Colombia -as the Latin American Co Chair- presented a paper with the balance of the Politics, Culture and Education Working Group that was left to further consideration of the delegates. This document underscored some concerns within the FEALAC framework, including the minimum number of objectives that has been achieved due to the existence of barriers between the two regions and also the lack of concrete programs. In this context, a debate should take place to review the timing and the venue for future working group meetings. The meeting also emphasized the need for FEALAC cooperation to be beneficial to all sectors of society.
7. The meeting reviewed the proposed and ongoing political, cultural, and education projects undertaken by the working group. The meeting welcomed new initiatives and the

continuity of the existing cooperation among FEALAC countries, to be implemented for the prosperity of the people of both regions.

8. The meeting also emphasized the need to take stock of ongoing and future initiatives to avoid overlapping of programs conducted under the three working groups of FEALAC.

9. The meeting asked that the new cooperation initiatives to be presented before the working group should have a bi-regional approach and the definition of their scope and financing, if relevant, in order to achieve the FEALAC objectives.

10. It was also informed that according to the final statement of the last meeting of the Economy and Society Working Group, Thailand had agreed to include the project "Training Course on Cooperation for the Reduction of Poverty, into the working program of the said Working Group.

11. The following decisions were made regarding projects presented at the meeting:

Political Cooperation

Review of current Projects

a. Indonesia presented the project "Seminar on Counter Terrorism". The meeting emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation in addressing terrorism threats within the framework of FEALAC. Indonesia presented the results of the Seminar and proposed the next seminar to be hosted by a Latin American country. Colombia offered to host the next meeting and committed to send further information regarding tentative dates to the member countries.

b. The delegation of Japan presented a balance of the project "Young Leaders Symposium". The country informed that this project had its 8th version in 2008, on Business and the Environment based on the Mechanisms for Clean Development of the Kyoto Protocol. The meeting expressed its wish for Japan to continue with this program and made some recommendations on doing a follow up to the activities that took place in the symposium through a contact network between the participants and on using of the information technology available.

c. In relation to the project presented by Singapore on the Young Parliamentarians Forum, the meeting acknowledged Singapore's proposal and will make the necessary arrangements with the countries involved for its implementation.

d. The assistants to the meeting appreciated the presentation of Thailand's project "Workshop for Drug Cooperation" and its commitment to a future seminar on narcotic law enforcement. Thailand expressed its willingness to collaborate in the cooperation and exchange of information with FEALAC members in the technical field of the fight against drug trafficking.

e. Colombia presented the project "Network against Drug Trafficking and Drug Observatory". The Colombian delegation made a presentation on the integral public policy

of the Government in the fight against the world drug problem and asked for the help of the international community in this issue.

Colombia informed the realization of a technical workshop on the world drug problem, the next day (March 19th) in which Colombia expects to share its experience in this area and to offer theoretical and practical experience. There was also a presentation on the Drug Information Center created in June 28, 2002 within the framework of the International Conference for the Drug Control with the purpose of improving and strengthening the exchange of information.

f. Thailand made reference to the Buakaew Roundtable International for Foreign Officials. On its last version the Round Table worked on the issues of tourism, SMEs development and fishery. In this activity the members of FEALAC expressed their interest in a greater bilateral cooperation with Thailand. Thailand invited the members to suggest specific areas of cooperation for future round tables. Thailand informed that the next meeting will be on the subjects of tourism and agriculture. The details of this meeting will be presented to the member countries and the report will be presented in the next meeting of the Economy and Society Working Group.

g. China presented the results of the Junior/Senior Diplomats Workshop and Seminar (China) for Latin America and the Caribbean. In said workshop diplomats learnt about Chinese traditional culture, foreign policy among others. China promised to keep on strengthening the knowledge about China among the members of FEALAC. China also invited the members to participate in the second Senior Diplomats Workshop and Seminar to take place in July 2009. The meeting recognized the program as an important platform for achieving a better understanding between diplomatic members from both regions.

New Projects

h. Colombia, through its Minister of Foreign Affairs, offered a Workshop on Best Practices on the Fight against the Human Trafficking. The goal of this Project is to Exchange information and experiences in order to identify differences and similarities between the member countries in order to cooperate in the protection, prevention and attention to victims in the national and transnational human trafficking, as in the prosecuting and punishment of the persons involved.

i. Argentina presented the proposal of the creation of a Sub working Group on Infrastructure for the Integration. Said proposal was welcomed by the Working Group. It was agreed that the Argentinean delegation will present this project in the next SOM, where it will be discussed among the member countries. The possibility to build synergies between this project and the proposal announced in the Ministerial Meeting of Brasilia that makes reference to the building of strategic bi-regional alliances was discussed.

National Reports

12. National reports were submitted by the delegations of Colombia, China, Indonesia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam with the activities undertaken by these countries since the last meeting.

Cultural Cooperation

Review of Current Projects

j. Regarding the Journalist Visit Program of Singapore, the support of the member countries to this initiative was requested, given that this program is a good opportunity to promote the mutual understanding between East Asia and Latin America. It was also suggested that the member countries should look for solutions to reduce the transportation fares. Indonesia will host the Journalist Familiarization Trip in 2009 by inviting Journalists from FEALAC member countries to visit Indonesia and to see the cultural and economic activities of the people of Indonesia in any place in Indonesia.

k. Indonesia presented its proposal on the FEALAC Film Festival, FEALAC Food Festival, FEALAC Textile and Traditional Costume Exhibition, FEALAC Youth Cultural Camp. Indonesia invited the Embassies of Latin American countries in Jakarta to participate in the Food festival and encouraged those counties to exhibit their traditional costumes, exhibit their movies and agricultural products of high recognition, like coffee. Concerning the movie festival, the Indonesian delegate reported that it will be postponed to the second semester of 2009 (to confirm). The meeting supports Indonesia's array of initiatives in the cultural field and encourage the participation of all FEALAC members in the said activities.

New Projects

l. Colombia proposed the project "Colombia is Passion: The competitiveness behind country image trough a successful communications strategy", presented by Trust for Export Promotion - Proexport. This is a competitiveness strategy which objective is to build investors' confidence and increase the cultural, touristic and economic exchanges. Colombia proposed two projects in these area:

- Offered to host a Workshop in which the member countries can learn from the Colombian experience.
- Offered to invite journalists from South Asia in order to participate in a future meeting in which Colombia will present its country image. It was discussed the possibility of cooperating with other Latin-American countries in order to arrange visits to other countries.

m. Guatemala introduced the following new cultural national projects:

- Public Policy for the Artistic and Cultural Development for the Guatemalan indigenous peoples.
- Research and exhibition of the meaning of the Mayan Traditional Costumes from Almolonga, Guatemala. Its objective is to promote the history of the Mayan textiles among other aspects.
- Central American Associate Degree on Cultural Rights (Guatemala): Guatemala invited the delegates to assist to this activity.

The group acknowledged the Guatemalan projects and asked for a readjustment in order for them to have a bi-regional scope and be viable for their execution.

Education Cooperation:

n. The Philippines presented the project International Conference of the Philippines' Academic Consortium for Latin American Studies – PACLAS. The meeting recognized the Philippines' initiative and hoped for the participation of other Asian and Latin American centers for Latin American studies in PACLAS activities.

o. Thailand presented the project "Staff and Student Exchange Programs between Latin American Tertiary Institutions and Burapha University". The meeting acknowledged the importance of the project in improving the reality of the peoples of both regions. The meeting also thanked the initiative for focusing in a first moment in the pilot programs and in the next two years in the improvement of the academic network with Latin American Academic institutions. These pilot programs will have training courses on economy, society, culture and languages. An annual conference of this study center will be hosted by Thailand.

p. Indonesia put forward the Darmasiswa Scholarship Programs, a one year non-degree education program for the students of FEALAC member countries on arts and culture (music, dance and painting) in 50 universities throughout the country. It does not cover the transportation fares for the participants. The meeting acknowledged Indonesia's initiative and thanked its efforts in the strengthening of the cooperation in the education and cultural sectors in the framework of FEALAC.

q. Cuba presented the "Literacy Program", endorsed by UNESCO. The Group acknowledged Cuba's effort in supporting initiatives to end with illiteracy by 2015 according to the millennium development goals. The Group thanks the initiative presented under the name "I can", implemented in different Latin American countries. Its implementation in East Asia is expected.

r. Peru presented its bi regional program of scholarships for young diplomats and future diplomats for the 2009 – 2010 periods. This program is executed through the Diplomatic Academy of Peru which is the professional education center for the diplomatic officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru.

New projects

s. Linguistic Integration as a Trigger of inter-country exchanges: Argentine Examination of Spanish Proficiency "CELU". The Argentine delegation presented this project that proposes a Spanish proficiency certificate that could certify the Spanish apprentice abilities. This project will be discussed at the IX SOM meeting in Buenos Aires.

t. Sport as a Social Inclusion Tool. The Group thanked Argentina's project, which will allow using sports as a tool for social participation and development in order to comply with the Millennium development goals through sports and medical care.

- u. Program on Academic Mobility ICETEX. This program includes the Promotion Plan of Colombia and Exchange Programs: Graduate Scholarships, Language Assistants, Academic mobility (fellowships and internships).
- v. The Colombian delegation made a presentation about SENA's Virtual Training. The Scholarship program for the exchange of knowledge and technologies for the competitiveness was also presented.
- w. The group suggested elaborating a more detailed proposal directed to FEALAC members which includes the number of possible FEALAC participants and the responsibilities of each Colombian institution involved. The Group also enhances the Colombian Government effort on implementing technology for education for labor mobility projects and student exchange programs.
- x. Developing Countries Partnership (DCP) Scholarship or Beasiswa Kemitraan Negara Berembang (KNB). The meeting acknowledges the new initiative by Indonesia and appreciated Indonesia's efforts to foster education and cultural cooperation within the FEALAC framework. Indonesia will expand its offer to Latin American countries in the areas of postgraduate degrees on agricultural and human studies among others. Then it will be offered to the developing countries of Asia and Africa. The Group outlines that Indonesia cover the transportation fares for the participants.

Discussion of the Future Lines of Action for FEALAC:

- 13. The Group considered it is necessary to foresee a mechanism to analyze the initiatives in order to prevent Forum activities diverting from their main objectives. The Group recommends all projects and its results to be published on the FEALAC web site.
- 14. Ecuador emphasized on the need that initiatives and regional projects be framed within the guidelines and mandates provided for the Ministerial Declarations. Furthermore, suggested that the Working Group recommends to the IX SOM to structure more pragmatic mechanisms that allow framing cooperation initiatives into concrete lines of action with direct impact in the achievement of the Forum objectives, avoiding the delusion of the purposes that motivated any given project. Also, it reminded the participants about the need to receive observations from the FEALAC members on its document presented at the VI Economy and Society Working Group meeting on a Bi Regional Center for SMEs development, posted at the FEALAC web page.
- 15. Mexico suggested the possibility of advancing in the definition of the terms of reference and the guidelines of FEALAC projects.
- 16. Argentina proposed the inclusion of an international cooperation segment to allow the discussion and evaluation, on both sides, of the capabilities of the member countries in the areas of the topics discussed in each working group.
- 17. Japan passed its proposal on the new modalities in relation to FEALAC meetings, which the Group decided to solve at the IX SOM.

18. Chile proposed, in the framework of the X anniversary of FEALAC, to compile the names and institutions that have participated in each of the projects executed, in order to find a way to structure groups related to FEALAC in each member country.

19. On the occasion of the X anniversary of FEALAC, Indonesia proposed to divulgate the activities of FEALAC in their respective countries and to make a balance of its activities in its first decade. In addition to this in its national report Indonesia announced that it will publish two books on the Development of FEALAC and its role to enhance the relations between Asia and Latin America in line with the commemoration of ten years of the initiation FEALAC. The meeting appreciated the said initiative and asked the copies to translate into Spanish.

20. The group highly appreciated the suggestions of Chile, expressed in the last meeting of the Science and Technology Working Group, in relation to the scheduling of the annual activities of the Forum, the possibility of establishing a FEALAC award for young persons and about the benefits for the projects of active presence of officials from the Inter American Development Bank and of the Asia Development Bank in the meetings.

21. The group appreciated the efforts of Korea in the maintenance and renewal of the FEALAC web site for which it asked for the cooperation of all FEALAC member countries in keeping the web site updated and in designating FEALAC focal points and informing Korea of who their FEALAC focal points are. Korea expressed its plan to submit a comprehensive report on the situation and future actions to be taken regarding the web site to the next SOM in Argentine.

22. Peru proposed to take a greater advantage of the Information and Communication Technologies and of the WEB resources and utilities. On its part, Chile reminded the Korean proposal of transforming the web portal into a virtual secretariat.

23. Regarding the "Korea-Latin America Forum," Korea informed its decision not to continue it as a FEALAC project considering the major opinion of the FEALAC members that the project does not include all FEALAC member countries. Korea proposed the SMEs promotion tour for May 12-14, 2009 under the Economy and Society working group. Korea also proposed the Experts Meeting on Renewable Energy scheduled for the second semester in 2009 and the Second FEALAC Ecotourism Conference scheduled in 2010 under the Economy and Society working group.

Candidacies

24. Colombia announced its postulation as co-chair of the Economy and Society Working Group to be proposed at the next SOM in Buenos Aires, April 7 - 8, 2009. The Group welcomed this candidacy. Colombia also expressed its interest in relinquishing form the co-chairmanship on the Politics, Society and Education Working Group after two periods in such capacity.

Indonesia put forward its candidacy to be Regional Coordinator for Asia instead of Japan. Argentina could remain as Coordinator for Latin America if no Latin-American country puts up its candidacy. Nevertheless it was expressed that priority must be given to the countries which have not yet performed said role.

Next Meetings SOM IX, Argentine, April 7th-8th, 2009. IV Ministerial Meeting (FMM), Japan, 3rd and 4th September, 2009.

25. The Heads of the Argentine and Japanese Delegations invited the member countries to participate in the IX Meeting of High-Level Official and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the IVth Ministerial Meeting which will take place in Buenos Aires the 7th and 8th of April, 2009 and in Tokyo the 3rd and 4th of September, 2009, respectively. Argentina announced the submission of the candidacies from Mongolia and Honduras at the upcoming Meeting of High-Level Officers and their participation there as observers.

26. The Group thanked Colombia for the organization and the realization of VI Working Group meeting on Politics, Culture and Education, as well as for the hospitality and gratitude to the delegations of the member countries of FEALAC.