

ARGENTINA, BRAZIL CONSOLIDATE RELATIONS

The President of Argentina, Her Excellency Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, traveled to Brazil on 6 September 2008 to consolidate relations between the two G-15 countries. She was the guest of honor at Brazil's Independence Day celebrations on 7 September and witnessed the military parade in Sao Paulo. The following day, she held discussions with the Brazilian President H. E. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on a variety of bilateral issues including energy, defense and nuclear cooperation. Also on the agenda was trade and investment, including the proposed replacement of the US dollar with the Argentinean peso and Brazilian real in bilateral trade transactions.

The Argentinean President was accompanied by Foreign Affairs Minister Jorge Taiana and Federal Planning Minister Julio de Vido as well as Daniel Scioli, the Governor of Buenos Aires province. President Lula had visited Buenos Aires in February 2008, and it was then agreed to hold bilateral mini-summits every six months.

Source: brazzilmag.com, 8 September 2008

INDIA TO LAUNCH SATELLITE FOR ALGERIA

Antrix Corp. Ltd, the commercial arm of India's space agency, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), has won a contract from Algeria to launch an earth observation satellite in 2009. The contract, awarded by the Algerian space agency to launch Alsat-2A, a 200kg remote sensing satellite, is the first won by the Indian firm from an African nation. According to K.R. Sridhara Murthi, managing director of Antrix, the Algerian satellite, along with an Italian satellite and a 100kg satellite for Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and Cubesat, a three-satellite package from the Netherlands, would ride piggyback on heavier Indian satellites.

ISRO offers the Indian-made rocket PSLV to carry satellites of up to 1,700kg into low-earth orbit at a cost that's nearly 30% cheaper than that charged by firms from Western nations.

Source: www.livemint.com, 2 September 2008

PERU, BRAZIL STRENGTHEN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS

The President of Peru, H. E. Alan García, made an official visit to São Paulo, Brazil, on 18 September 2008 accompanied by an important ministerial delegation and a large number of Peruvian businessmen. During the visit, the Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva held a private meeting with the Peruvian President that was followed by a larger ministerial meeting. Economic relations between the two G-15 countries are on the rise with the bilateral trade exchange in the first semester of 2008 surpassing US\$ 1.53 billion, with Brazilian exports to Peru amounting to US\$ 1.049 billion and imports amounting to US\$ 489 million.

President Alan García also inaugurated the “Expoperu”, a business meet for Peruvian investment, trade, tourism and culture in Brazil, at the headquarters of the Federation of Industries of the State of São Paulo (FIESP). At the inauguration, he mooted the possibility of an alliance between Peru's state-owned company Petroperu and Brazil's federal oil giant Petrobras for the development of infrastructure projects in Peru such as the expansion of its oil pipeline.

Source: Ministry of External Relations, Brazil, 17 September 2008 and Peru Business News, 19 September 2008.

SRI LANKA, BRAZIL SIGN TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama, undertook the first ever foreign ministerial visit to Brazil on the invitation of his counterpart, held bilateral talks with the Minister of External Relations of Brazil, Celso Amorim, and signed a Framework Agreement on Technical Cooperation on 18 September 2008. The agreement aims at fostering close cooperation in areas such as agriculture, livestock and energy between the two G-15 countries.

He was accompanied by the Sri Lankan Minister of Housing Development, Geethanjana Gunawardena, who is also the Chairman of the newly established Sri Lanka-Brazil Parliamentarians Association.

Source: www.lankamission.org

INDONESIA, CHILE TO SET UP JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION

The governments of Indonesia and Chile have agreed to set up a joint technical economic commission as a forum for increasing their bilateral ties and exploring new cooperation opportunities. The Indonesian Foreign Ministry, in an official statement, said in Jakarta on 2 September 2008, that the agreement was contained in a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in Santiago, Chile by Director General for American and European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Retno L.p. Marsudi and Director General for Foreign Affairs of Chile, Juan Pablo Lira.

The two G-15 nations have existing arrangements for cooperating in the education, fisheries and maritime sectors. Both sides further committed themselves to increasing cooperation in the trade, air communications and energy fields. As part of the efforts to boost Indonesia's exports to Chile, Indonesia also organized a trade exhibition in Mall Plaza Oeste, Santiago, on 3-7 September 2008 where about 25 Indonesian businesses took part.

Source: ANTARA news (Jakarta), 3 September 2008

NIGERIA, JAMAICA STRENGTHEN CULTURAL, DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH BRAZIL

The Nigerian Minister of Tourism, Prince Adetokunbo Kayode, formally commissioned the Nigeria Cultural House in Pelourinho, the port city of Salvador in Bahia State of Brazil. This ceremony was the culmination of a process that began in 1998 when the Brazilian government donated the house to Nigeria to facilitate cultural and social exchanges between the two nations. Prince Kayode said the house would open another chapter in the cultural and economic relationship between the two countries. Representing the government of Brazil was the governor of Bahia and Jaque Wagner, the former Brazilian Ambassador to Nigeria, Pedro Rodrique. Pelourinho, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is regarded as a historic slave-trading centre in the Americas. Approximately, 80 percent of the population is black, mostly from Ghana, Angola and Nigeria.

Meanwhile, another G-15 country Jamaica, announced on 4 September 2008, its intention to establish an embassy in Brazil and to appoint Honorary Consuls in critical Brazilian cities. This was revealed at a meeting between Jamaican Prime Minister, Bruce Golding, and a Brazilian Committee on Foreign Affairs and National Defense in Kingston. The Prime Minister reiterated Jamaica's intention to establish greater ties with Brazil. The areas of cooperation being considered between the two G-15 countries are the expansion of the tourism market to attract Brazilians to Jamaica, the expansion of commercial trade and the development of sports, particularly as it relates to football.

Source: Daily Trust (Abuja), 12 September 2008 and Caribbean Net News, 8 September 2008.