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Prepares
IMF Reform
Proposal

REPORT: Growth of
domestic ICT
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SMBs

TOURISM in Brazil:
A Once-in-a-Lifetime
Experience

**IBSA Summit Steers
South-South Bond
Into Top Gear**

**Create a Win-Win Situation
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Dear Reader,

Greetings. When India, Brazil and South Africa set up IBSA, an apex trilateral trade organization to further forge South-South cooperation, they knew its potential. Because, the economies of the world's three most important developing nations from three continents are inclusive and on the right trajectory of growth. The first IBSA Summit, in which Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and President Mbeki of South Africa participated, was held in Brazil in September 2006. An IBSA Business Summit that preceded the top leaders' conclave provided the right issues for their discussion and added a new dimension to their interactions. As Prime Minister Singh put it, "The important thing was that we brought together a powerful team of business leaders from all the three countries and also greatly encouraged possibilities of joint ventures, investment in pharmaceuticals, agriculture, food processing and in energy. So people to people, business to business contact in some ways are far more important than government contacts," In fact, IBSA has started yielding results. India's ONGC Videsh has acquired a stake in Brazil's Petrobras. Similarly the Brazilian counterpart is also exploring the possibility of investment in India. The cover story of the current issue of Indo-LAC Business is on the IBSA summit and its spin-offs in terms of trilateral trade and individual economic benefits for all the three countries. Brazil and India share many similarities, agriculture being the most important among them. Brazil is ahead of India in developing agri-business and food processing industries. India's agri-business sector is now poised for a big leap and Brazil is the right country to draw upon the technological know-how to propel it. We carry a report. The focus section of the current issue covers two reports - MERCOSUR preparing IMF reform proposals and poor Latin American countries' waiting for debt cancellation. Small and Medium Businesses in both India and Brazil face similar challenges, especially in the fast-growing ICT sector. A study covering both countries suggests that growth of domestic markets is vital for the ICT sector to survive and thrive. Brazil is a country of silver-sand beaches and dense rainforests. It offers opportunities for both pleasure and adventure tourism. Visiting Brazil can be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The issue carries a detailed report on Brazilian tourism. In addition to all these items are our regular features.

Wish you happy reading,

Satya Swaroop

Managing Editor

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Buzzword: Trilateral Trade
Target: Trillions of Dollars
Partners: India, Brazil & S. Africa



IBSA Summit Steers South-South Bond Into Top Gear

By Dev Varam

Move away bilateral trade. You're passé. The buzzword is trilateral trade, industry, commerce, culture, et al. Take IBSA as your best example. Expand it, you get excited, like a child lighting a firework for the first time. Because, the answer is - sorry, no prizes for guessing - India, Brazil and South Africa, three most enterprising entities, energized to edge past into the elite club of economically developed nations. Very soon; very fast.

India, Brazil and South Africa, the world's three most important developing nations from three continents, whose economies are inclusive and on the right trajectory of growth, have pledged to step up trilateral trade to further forge South-South cooperation.

This was the essence of their mutual commitment at the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Summit held in Sao Paulo on September 13. The first IBSA Summit, in which Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and President Mbeki of South Africa participated, aided by their respective high-level delegations. An IBSA Business Summit that preceded the top leaders' conclave provided the right issues for their discussion and added a new dimension to their interactions.

As Prime Minister Singh put it, IBSA has already caught the imagination of observers from other regions, and the practical and pragmatic approaches discussed at the summit for South-South cooperation among the three locomotive economies of the three continents.

He said: "The important thing was that we brought together a powerful team of business leaders from all the three countries and also greatly encouraged I am

somewhat surprised by the enthusiasm of the business leaders in India possibilities of joint ventures, investment in pharmaceuticals, agriculture, food processing and in energy. Some concrete steps have already been taken our ONGC Videsh has already started, it has acquired a stake in Petrobras- similarly the Brazilian counterpart is also exploring the possibility of investment in India. So people to people, business to business contact in some ways are far more important than government contacts,”

The Summit's joint declaration identified key sectors for trilateral cooperation. The sectors include, energy with focus on biofuels, agriculture, Information Technology, transportation, civil aviation, science and technology, and healthcare. The Summit has set up sectoral working groups and drawn up a follow-up action plan for implementation of the former's recommendations at various levels.

The IBSA Joint Declaration & Action Plan

IBSA was set up three years ago with a specific agenda that included global concern on issues such as energy security, international terrorism and the challenges of sustainable and equitable development among developing nations, with a particular reference to the three sponsor countries, India, Brazil and South Africa.

In a “Joint Declaration” at the end of the first Summit meeting, the three leaders described IBSA as a “Dialogue Forum.” Created in 2003, the IBSA Dialogue Forum plays an increasingly important role in the foreign policies of India, Brazil and South Africa. It has become instrumental for promoting ever-closer coordination on global issues between three large multicultural and multiracial democracies of Asia, South America and Africa, and contributed to enhancing trilateral India-Brazil-South Africa cooperation in sectoral areas.

The importance of the IBSA Dialogue Forum goes beyond its positive impact on India-Brazil-South Africa relations. The Forum provides a framework that will give additional impetus to further contacts between Asian, South American and African developing countries, thus contributing to strengthening South-South cooperation.

Working Groups on key economic sectors

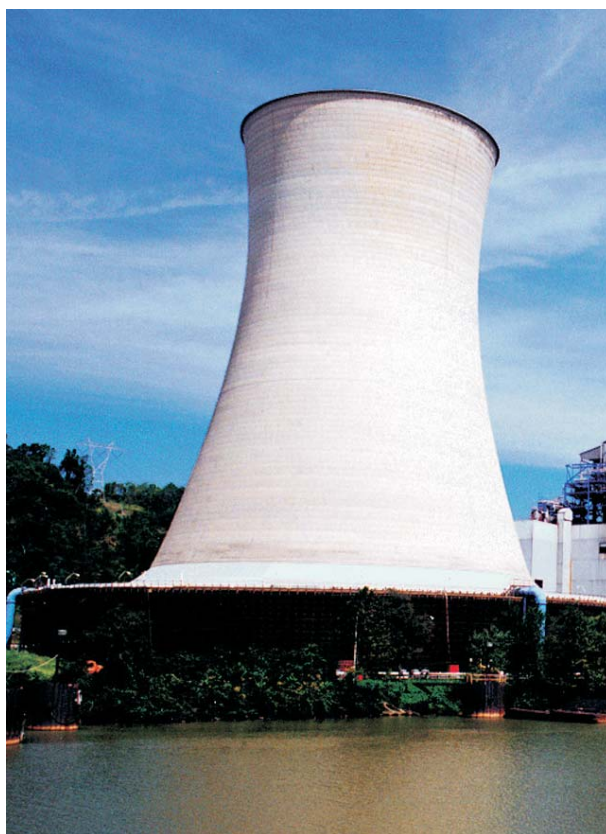
The Heads of State and Government had already met under the IBSA format in previous opportunities, such as the meetings in 2003 and 2005, in New York. Ministerial meetings of the Trilateral Commission were held in New Delhi, in 2004, Cape Town, in 2005, and Rio de Janeiro, in March 2006. Trilateral working groups were created in the areas of agriculture, culture,

defense, education, energy, health, information society, trade and investment, social issues, science and technology, tourism and transportation.

The three leaders highlighted their shared vision that participation of their societies in this diplomatic initiative must play a key role in the future of IBSA. Therefore, they noted with deep satisfaction the Business and Academic Seminars held in Brasília on 12 September 2006. Prime Minister Singh, President Lula and President Mbeki urged civil societies in India, Brazil and South Africa to enhance mutual contact and cooperation. They instructed their Governments to support initiatives with that purpose. In this regard, they also welcomed the launching of the IBSA Website, as an additional and useful tool for further promoting the IBSA Dialogue Forum with stakeholders in India, Brazil and South Africa.

Nuclear Energy

The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the inalienable right of all States to the peaceful application of nuclear energy, consistent with their international legal obligations. They called for a diplomatic resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue within the context of the IAEA.



They took note with satisfaction of the positive continuing cooperation among their countries at the

IAEA and other fora, with a view to ensuring the unimpeded growth and development of peaceful uses of atomic energy, through the supply of technology, equipment and material, under appropriate safeguards, and reaffirmed their will to intensify such cooperation.

IBSA Trilateral Cooperation

The three leaders reviewed initiatives for trilateral sectoral cooperation. South-South Cooperation is a key element for promoting economic and social development. In this context, the IBSA Dialogue Forum provides an invaluable framework to further trilateral cooperation among three of the most important developing countries in the world. They expressed deep satisfaction with new, concrete results achieved during the 1st IBSA Summit in the areas of Energy, Agriculture, Transportation, Trade, Science and Technology and Information Society. They decided to further explore additional opportunities for trilateral cooperation. In this regard, they took note and supported the launching of a Working Group on Public Administration.

Trilateral Trade

The leaders expressed their deep satisfaction with the signing, during the 1st IBSA Summit, of the IBSA Action Plan on Trade Facilitation for Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment. They noted that the Action Plan, which is one element of broader goals on business facilitation, is an important element to create a concrete basis for the increase of trade flows between IBSA countries. They also reiterated the commitment to enhancing trilateral trade through the envisaged conclusion of bilateral customs cooperation agreements.

The Heads of State and Government expressed their full support and commitment to the expeditious establishment of the Working Group to focus on the modalities for the envisaged India-Mercosur-SACU Trilateral Free Trade Agreement (T-FTA). They expressed the view that the T-FTA will have a significant impact with regard to the consolidation of the IBSA Dialogue Forum as an effective mechanism to promote closer relations between India, Brazil and South Africa, as well as between their respective regions. They also registered that a growing cooperation between India, Mercosur and SACU in the trade field can strongly contribute to a new scenario in international trade, suitable to their respective development goals.

They reaffirmed, in parallel, the importance of ongoing India-Mercosur and Mercosur-SACU negotiations with a view to broadening and deepening existing Tariff Preference Agreements. They noted, as well, the forthcoming India-SACU tariff preference negotiations, and underscored that all these efforts are an important step towards the envisaged India-Mercosur-SACU Free Trade Agreement.

Business Delegations & Associations

The three countries expressed their satisfaction with the fact that important business delegations from India, South Africa and Brazil took part in the 1st IBSA Summit Meeting. Leading businessmen from the three countries attended the "India, Brazil and South Africa Business Summit", organized by the Brazilian Confederation of National Industry (CNI) with the support of ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI from India, and BUSA, from South Africa. Furthermore, the Heads of State and Government held a meeting with business delegations from the three countries and had a fruitful exchange of views on perspectives and challenges for the expansion of trade among the IBSA countries.

Energy & Biofuels Forum

The three leaders addressed the issue of the dual and linked challenge of meeting energy needs and achieving sustained economic growth and



sustainable development. They noted their satisfaction with the progress of the trilateral dialogue on energy cooperation, and expressed deep appreciation for the signature, during the

present Summit, of a Memorandum of Understanding on Biofuels, with the decision to create a Trilateral Task Force on Biofuels to work on concrete areas of common interest.

The leaders praised the initiative launched by Brazil the Biofuels Forum to articulate and consolidate common objectives including the transformation of bioethanol into an energy commodity. They agreed on the need to work together to enhance and promote the use of ethanol and biodiesel as a vehicular fuel so as to increase energy security, while also bringing with it environmental, social and economic benefits.

Agriculture

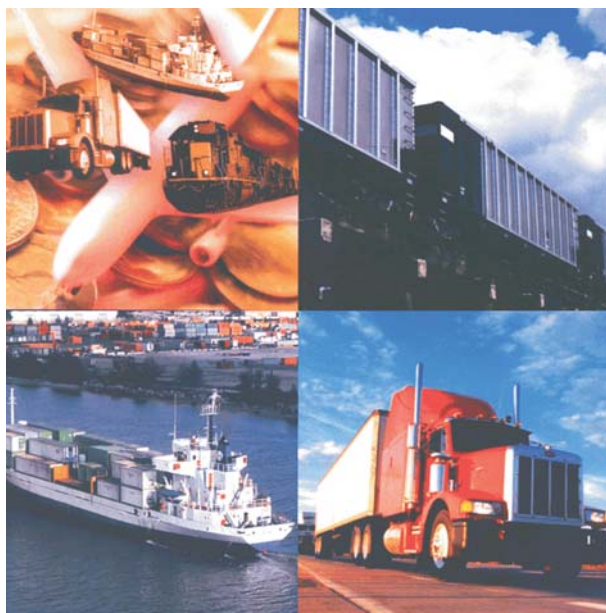
The three leaders reiterated the relevance of agriculture to the three countries and welcomed the meeting of IBSA



Ministers of Agriculture on the margins of the FAO Conference in November 2005, in Rome, as well as the meeting of Senior Officials in January 2006, in New Delhi. They agreed that the Memorandum of Understanding on Trilateral Cooperation in Agriculture and Allied Fields, signed during the IBSA Summit, will be an important instrument to promote socio-economic development and South-South cooperation.

Transportation

The Heads of State and Government welcomed the conclusion of the IBSA Maritime Transportation Agreement, which marks a new and tangible phase in the cooperation between relevant authorities and enterprises. They further noted with satisfaction that this agreement will create the framework for improving logistics, enhancing maritime skills base and fostering trilateral trade flows. They expressed the need for the relevant authorities in their respective countries to further identify other specific maritime related matters that can



support major trade initiatives.

Civil Aviation

They also emphasized the importance of implementing the Memorandum of Understanding on Civil Aviation as soon as possible, through the establishment of regular air services linking India, Brazil and South Africa. They encouraged airlines from the three countries to continue working towards this goal. In addition, they shared the belief that further discussions regarding cooperation arrangements in other aviation-related areas would be of great advantage for their countries.



In this connection, they also emphasized the need for the authorities responsible for the transport sector to develop an "Action Plan", with clear deliverables and timeframes, as a way of accelerating implementation of the commitments enshrined in the signed Agreements.

Science & Technology

The leaders recalled the role of Science and Technology in shaping the future of societies in the three countries,



particularly by providing tools for reducing poverty, promoting social inclusion and contributing to the attainment of the UN Millennium Development Goals. They noted with satisfaction the opportunities for scientific and technological cooperation between research and development institutions in the three countries, in areas such as health, biotechnology, nanosciences and oceanography. They noted with deep satisfaction as well the progress that has been made with the implementation of the 2005-2007 Work Program approved with the Rio Declaration on Science and Technology, signed during the 2nd Ministerial Meeting of Ministers of Science and Technology, in June 2005. They reaffirmed their strong support and commitment to the goal of continuing to cooperate in these and other areas of common interest.

Scourge of HIV/AIDS

The leaders also committed themselves to further enhancing trilateral cooperation in the field of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and to explore the possibilities of concluding a trilateral instrument for collaboration among all three countries for research and development of AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis diagnostic tools, drugs and vaccines. This would pool the significant capabilities that exist in the IBSA countries.



Healthcare

The leaders welcomed the meeting of the Working Group on Health held in Brazil from 6-10 February 2006. At this meeting, the Working Group developed an IBSA Implementation Plan on Health focusing on public health laboratories, health surveillance, traditional

medicine and sanitary control regulation. It also identified modalities to exchange experiences and explore solutions to meet health needs. In this regard, it was agreed that the Health Ministers will meet soon to adopt the Plan and to work together on global issues for achieving sustainable socio-economic development to end poverty, hunger and underdevelopment.

Information Society

The leaders underscored the importance of working together towards a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society and renewed their support for the results of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), held in Geneva and Tunis, in 2003 and 2005, respectively. They agreed to continue



to coordinate positions for the WSIS follow-up mechanisms, as well as for the other fora and organizations related to the Information Society and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

The leaders emphasized the need to promote and enhance close trilateral cooperation and capacity building between the three countries in the areas of digital inclusion, ICTs for development, as well as E-government and governance as a means of reducing the digital divide in their societies. They noted with satisfaction the progress made towards achieving this objective, particularly the signing of an IBSA Framework of Cooperation on Information Society, which provides the basis for future trilateral work aiming at reducing the digital divide in their societies.

Social Development

The leaders welcomed the creation of the working group on Social Development. At its first meeting held in Rio de Janeiro, from 12-14 June 2006, the working group focused on the main challenges India, Brazil and South

Africa will have to overcome in this area. It also identified new ways to exchange experiences and explore solutions to meet their social development needs. The IBSA Facility Fund for Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger will work in close relation with the working group on Social Development in order to identify new opportunities for South-South cooperation

IBSA Facility Fund

The three leaders emphasized the fact that the IBSA Facility Fund constitutes a pioneer and unique initiative of South-South cooperation. They took note of the accomplishments regarding the Fund and welcomed the renewed commitments of its Board of Directors to the achievement of its goals. They were also very supportive of the role of the UNDP South-South Cooperation Unit. They restated that the Fund is intended to make available best practices developed in IBSA countries to fight poverty and hunger, particularly to provide an IBSA contribution to South-South cooperation modalities.

Brazilian Example

The outcome of the bi-lateral summit has been summed up in the declaration that we issued and all of you are familiar with it. All I can say is that Brazil is the locomotive economy of Latin America, acting together with some other powerful economies in the region- there is an immense developmental potential- India is also on the move and therefore, there are new areas of complementarity- trade- cooperation in the field of agriculture, agricultural research in particular, cooperation in the field of science and technology, cooperation in the field of joint ventures and the promotion of energy security- particularly in the field of

bio-fuels and bio-gas in giving us more options to managing our energy security. Our trade in the last three years has grown enormously and we all agree that there is immense potential. But there are problems of connectivity, in air and in maritime transport.

Prime Minister Singh, fully satisfied with the outcome of the summit, said: "The three democracies in three continents. Brazil, South Africa are trying to achieve their economic and social salvation in the framework of an open economy and an open society, committed to democratic values. And it came out very clearly that we have a lot to learn from each other."

"And all the three economies have immense potential and we have identified important areas for the tri-lateral cooperation between our three countries. We will help to widen our developmental options. Energy security is a key element which figured both in our bi-lateral discussions and tri-lateral discussions."

Prime Minister Singh said he had also discussions at the tri-lateral meetings on promotion of cooperation in field of civilian nuclear cooperation and it was agreed that subject to appropriate safeguards in the international atomic energy agency framework we would cooperate in the field of civilian nuclear energy.

He said trade between the three countries had been growing handsomely. "We all agreed that we should expand the options - India-MERCUSOR, India - South Africa Customs Union(SACU). We will explore the possibilities of how SACU and MERCUSOR, which includes many other economies of Latin America, and India can bring about a trade arrangement to expand trade and investment opportunities between our two countries."

IBSA trade to touch \$10 bn by '07

There has been a quantitative leap in intra-IBSA trade, which is particularly dramatic between India and Brazil and India and South Africa. This is indicated in a paper by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) titled, IBSA: An emerging trinity in the new geography of international trade. The paper says that the "growing dynamo role (of IBSA partnership) in intra-regional and inter-regional South-South trade in general augurs well for IBSA trade and economic cooperation and for each country using the other partner as a gateway for intensifying inter-continental trade and investment links".

From a mere \$200 million in 1998 and \$800 in 2002, Indo-Brazil reached \$2.5 billion in 2005 and is expected to be \$3 billion in 2006. India-South Africa trade similarly has grown to \$4 billion in 2005. South Africa-Brazil trade stood at 1.5 billion in 2004. These trends indicate that IBSA is already close to the \$10 billion target set for 2007. These numbers do not fully reflect trade in service or the quantum of trade between them through third countries, nor do they factor in the major FDI proposals and joint ventures on the anvil or even in some cases the services trade that is taking place, the paper adds.



Create a Win-Win Scenario for all, Singh tells IBSA CEOs

The most unique among myriad features of the first India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Summit was a meeting of the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of top companies representing vast range of industries in the three countries. The meeting was held on September 12, a day before the IBSA Summit, in which

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and President Mbeki of South Africa participated. The CEOs meeting provided the right issues for the Summit discussions and added a new dimension to the interactions of the three leaders.

Following is the text of Prime Minister Singh's speech at the IBSA CEO's business meeting:

"It was just over three years ago that our three democracies, open economies seeking to build inclusive societies, decided to come together, linking three great continents. Reaching across geographical distances,

our partnership illustrates the global village in which we live together today. The success of our experiment to pursue development within the framework of an open economy and an open society is vital to the well being and empowerment of millions and millions of people in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

We are heartened by the cooperation that has developed in the IBSA framework over the last three years. It is India's firm belief that IBSA needs to be more than a project of three governments. We are, therefore, pleased with the success of the business event that was held yesterday in which representatives of the business communities of all three countries participated.

The advantages of such trilateral cooperation are plainly

evident when one considers, for example, the area of energy security. In IBSA, we are fortunate to have a veritable pool of expertise, wisdom and experience. Brazil is a world leader in the use of





ethanol. South Africa has coal gasification technology and a well-developed synthetic fuel industry. India, on the other hand, has expertise in wind and solar energy. IBSA can be effective in utilizing our respective competitive strengths in these alternative energy technologies.

The increase in intra IBSA trade over the last three years is a matter of considerable satisfaction. We need to pursue with determination the target of US \$ 10 billion in intra-IBSA trade that was set in the New Delhi Plan of Action adopted in March 2004. We are in discussion regarding a possible trade arrangement that would link India with MERCOSUR and the Southern African Customs Union. We expect this would create a large and expanding economic space that would allow the utilization of synergies in trade and technology. Besides trade liberalization, we also plan to institute arrangements that would address issues relating to the facilitation of trade in goods, services and of investments. As a start, we propose to establish an IBSA mechanism for exchange of information and

of experiences on regulatory issues and for the organization of sector-specific workshops and seminars on technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. We would also examine the possibilities of harmonizing standards.

We recognize that transportation links are critical and the challenge lies in operationalizing framework agreements in transport connectivity signed by the three countries. Trade and tourism remain much below potential because of problems of connectivity. On the other hand, for connectivity to be established, there is a requirement of a minimum demand base. There would be a willingness on our part to take bold decisions that have, as their basis, our common



faith in the future of IBSA.

I am very happy to have had this opportunity to meet the representatives of the business communities of the three countries in the distinguished presence of the Presidents of Brazil and South Africa. In each of our countries, business and government must work together to fully exploit the potential of IBSA. And I have no doubt that there is immense potential in unexplored areas in diverse fields of social and economic activity. Governments can at best work towards facilitating this. The gathering of leaders of business and trade is an expression of our joint commitment to make IBSA a win-win experience for all of us. Promoting greater understanding of each other and fostering the habit of working together regionally, multilaterally and in the context of our three countries is essential in this regard. This Meeting today is, therefore, an important part of the IBSA Summit and we look forward to hearing what the captains of our business community have to say."



Agri-Biz, IT & Pharma on Indo-Brazilian Tie-up List

India and Brazil, two fast growing economies and leaders among developing nations, have identified agriculture and Information Technology as two key areas for cooperation and collaboration, during a high-level meeting held recently in Sao Paulo between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

The two leaders signed as many as eight agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) covering cooperation in a vast range of economic sectors, reflecting the mutual desire to impart a strong impetus to the growing bilateral ties with a view to realizing the full potential of the relationship between the two countries.

Making a statement at the end of the bilateral talks, Singh said, "It is my sincere conviction that there is considerable scope for the expansion of our cooperation in the agricultural sector, particularly food processing. We would like greater interaction between our agricultural universities and food processing sectors. We invite Brazil to partake in India's success in IT, bio-technology and pharmaceuticals."

"It is my sincere conviction that there is considerable scope for the expansion of our cooperation in the agricultural sector, particularly food processing. We would like greater interaction between our agricultural universities and food processing sectors. We invite Brazil to partake in India's success in IT, bio-technology and Pharmaceuticals," he said.

Singh said, "India and Brazil are large pluralistic democracies. Our economic growth is broad-based and multifaceted. This provides opportunities for expansion of our bilateral trade and economic relations. Our economic growth is also of global significance, as part of the so-called BRIC countries."

Following are excerpts of Singh's statement.

We are indeed gratified that there has been an upsurge in investment flows. Major Indian companies such as Tata Consultancy Services, Ranbaxy, Dr. Reddy's among others, have taken advantage of opportunities in the Brazilian market. ONGC Videsh has earmarked approximately 400 million dollars for acquisition of a state in an offshore block in South-East Brazil.

We have supported the Ethanol Initiative proposed by President Lula. Indian companies from both public and private sector have evinced interest in exploring



production opportunities in Brazil to meet the anticipated growth in Ethanol used in India for both industrial as well as automobile use.

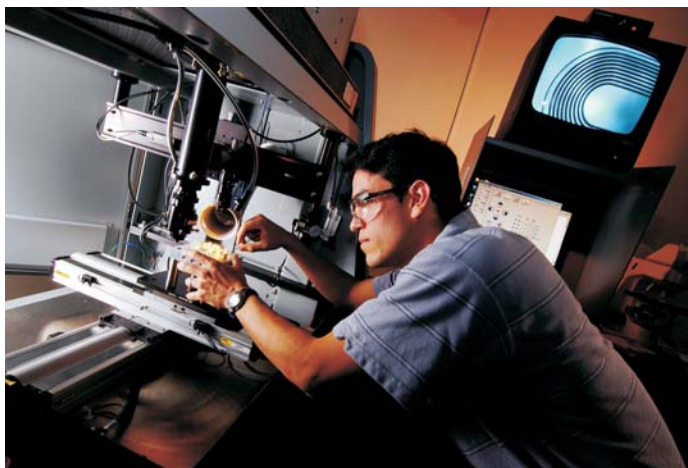
India and Brazil have a long tradition of cooperation in international fora including on global trade and economic issues. We have worked together in the WTO and are both united in our desire for a successful conclusion of the Doha Round of negotiations. We have been partners in the G-4 efforts to work towards expansion of the Permanent Membership of the UN Security Council. Brazil will have the distinction of hosting the first Summit of IBSA tomorrow.

Indo-Brazilian Joint Communique. The Key Initiatives

The two leaders noted with satisfaction the growth of bilateral trade and investment between India and Brazil. They expressed satisfaction at the quantum leap registered by the two-way bilateral trade and resolved to create an enabling environment to deepen and diversify the growing commercial and economic interaction encompassing trade, investment and technology. To this end, exchange of business delegations, increased participation in each other's trade events and promotion of mutual investment and setting up of joint ventures would be undertaken in a concerted manner. The two sides would also encourage establishment of business linkages in banking and other service sectors. They committed themselves to encourage the public and private sectors of their respective countries to increase and diversify the bilateral flows of goods and services.

Joint Committee on Biofuels

The two leaders emphasized the significance of bilateral technological cooperation in all aspects of energy research and development, with a view to improve and diversify the energy



supply and to develop more efficient, affordable and cost effective energy technologies. In this context, they encourage the development and use of alternative sources of energy particularly of bio-fuels to enhance sustainability and they reaffirmed that new forms of energy that are clean, safe and economically efficient should be fully explored. To this end, they decided to create a Joint Committee on Biofuels.

President Lula and Prime Minister Singh recalled the signing of the Exchange Programme on Cooperation in the field of Education, during the Joint Committee Meeting, in January 2006 and reaffirmed that priority should be given to the cooperation in fields such as post-graduation, research, professional education and remote education courses. They noted with satisfaction the strengthening of the relations among universities of the two countries, that will be further improved by the first meeting of the Joint Working Group, to be held before the end of the year.

The National Institute of Metrology, Standardisation and Industrial Quality (INMETRO) and the National Physical Laboratory of India (NPLI) agreed on the content of a Memorandum of Understanding, concerning scientific and technological co-operation in the areas of Chemistry, Physics and Engineering Measurement Sciences. Both sides manifested the intention of signing the document, during the meeting of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, to be held in Paris, during the current year.

The two leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to fighting hunger and poverty, promoting democratic values and fostering economic development and emphasized the importance of implementing the Millennium Development Goals. They supported, in this regard, the promotion of innovative financing mechanisms aimed at complementing existing ODA flows on a stable and predictable basis. In particular, they expressed their satisfaction with the launching of the International Drug

Purchase Facility (UNITAID), a mechanism based on innovative funding and other sources of long-term financing as a means of enhancing the access of poor people in developing countries to drugs against AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis at affordable prices.

Resumption of Doha talks

President Lula and Prime Minister Singh stressed their intention to continue working with the G-20 towards the resumption of the negotiations of the Doha Round. They agreed that the substantial, political and technical work that has been carried out so far provides a solid platform for the continuation of WTO talks and expressed their confidence that WTO members will be prepared to reengage in the negotiations in the near future.

IMF Reforms

The two leaders expressed the view that the IMF must be reformed to reflect the current realities of the global economy and this must include a reform of quotas with a higher allocation to the developing countries so as to ensure more effective participation by them in the decision making processes of the IMF. Any changes that are proposed must be based on these principles.

The two leaders signed as many as eight agreements covering cooperation in a vast range of economic sectors. These include: Bilateral Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation; Air Services Agreement; MoU on Cooperation in the field of Human settlements, MoU on Plant Health Protection; MoU on Conduct of Weeks of Indian Culture in Brazil & Weeks of Brazilian Culture in India; MoU between Bureau of Indian Standards & ABNT; MoU between Petrobras and ONGC-OVL; and MoU between Bharat Earth Movers and CCC.



Mercosur prepares IMF reform proposal

While the International Monetary Fund analyses reform proposals in Washington ahead of its Annual Meeting in Singapore, MERCOSUR countries, that include Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Venezuela and Paraguay, have coordinated a joint position to be put forward at the meeting. Governments are already aware of the resistance brought about by their proposals.

The early cancellation of most debts owed by MERCOSUR countries to the IMF places them now in a strong position to question the institution. Ahead of the IMF-World Bank Annual Meeting, MERCOSUR economy ministers will be meeting in Rio de Janeiro to unify their position.

The Argentine economy minister, Felisa Miceli, advanced information regarding the plans of the regional bloc in a seminar recently organised by her ministry in Buenos Aires about "Global Imbalances and International Financial Architecture". This meeting included the participation of UN economist Jan Kregel, and economist Ariel Buira, director of the G-24 Secretariat.

"The IMF should stop being part of the problem to

become a part of the solution", stated Miceli, revisiting a concept used by Miceli herself and her predecessor, Roberto Lavagna, to refer to the role played by the IMF in Argentina.

During her presentation, at the seminar's closing session, Miceli anticipated that in the next IMF

annual meeting to be jointly held with the World Bank in Singapore, Argentina will demand the institution to aim its revisions of the world economy at sustainable growth and the social situation of member countries rather than exclusively focusing them on fiscal accounts and adjustment.

The minister argued that "a change is needed at the IMF so as to better reflect the presence of developing countries in the global economy". For that purpose, she also demanded a modification to the formula used to calculate the quotas allocated to member countries: as it was explained, they should not only be determined according to the current size of economies but to the countries' purchasing power parity. The IMF reform should be "a profound one, not just a cosmetic or quota reform", she pointed out.

Miceli also proposed that the Fund should start to provide contingent credit lines for automatic disbursement in the event of crises, but admitted that such proposal would render the conditions the Fund currently imposes in exchange for financing ineffective. The IMF should be playing once again the role of "lender of last resort", she highlighted. Conditionalities only manage to intensify the situation of those countries that are granted financing.

Another initiative to be put forward by the bloc is for the



IMF to act as a sort of pledger of public bonds issued by countries, which would thus reduce interest rates for those placements.

However, the minister acknowledges that all her ideas brought about strong resistance among IMF staff, which has still not revised its position in spite of the systematic mistakes made in recent years.

African countries are found in the same situation as MERCOSUR governments and are also analysing a joint position to be put forward in Singapore, with regards to a reform of the quota system aimed at increasing their representation at the institution.

Moreover, different civil society organizations call on to

demonstrate against the IMF and World Bank during the next annual meeting in Singapore, by holding parallel seminars and events. According to a consensus paper disseminated by the organization Focus on the Global South, the IMF is perhaps at its most vulnerable state in years.

The institution is suffering a triple crisis – a crisis of legitimacy, a budget crisis and a role crisis – that is unparalleled in its 62 years of existence. These circumstances provide critics of the IMF with an opportunity to radically shrink, disempower, if not decommission it altogether. If not seized, this opportunity can slip by, and circumstances might come together to reinvigorate and save the Fund.

Poor LatAm nations await debt cancellation



Bolivia and other Latin American highly indebted poor countries are hopefully waiting for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to approve the debt cancellation, having the Special Committee of the IDB Board of Governors to discuss this issue. The Jubilee Foundation, together with international networks, is taking part in the international campaign Justice for Latin America, aiming at making the IDB to join the G8 initiative, being an important creditor of the countries within the region.

An international solidarity campaign has also called upon G8 rich countries to deliver their promise.

Bolivia and other Latin American highly indebted poor countries are hopefully waiting for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to approve the debt cancellation, having the Special Committee of the IDB Board of Governors convened a meeting to be held on 17 July in Washington D.C., US, to discuss this issue.

The most important antecedent for this initiative is the meeting held in June 2005, in

Scotland, where the world's eight richest countries (G8) announced an initiative for 100% debt cancellation to 18 highly indebted countries, so as to enable these countries to reach the Millennium Development Goals - mainly referred to the fight against poverty - by means of released resources.

One year on since this commitment was undertaken, Bolivia benefitted from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank debt cancellation, which accounts in total for 36 per cent of its external debt. Something similar happens in Honduras and Nicaragua. In view of these percentages, the commitment to cancel 100% of debts is not real, in spite of the fact that the country shows alarming poverty rates. In turn, African countries will see a debt reduction amounting to 70-90 per cent, given the fact that the African Development Bank has joined the G8 initiative.

The Jubilee Foundation (Fundación Jubileo - Bolivia), together with international networks, is taking part in the international campaign Justice for Latin America, aiming at making the IDB to join the G8 initiative, being an important creditor of the countries within the region.

The demands proposed for advocacy on the 17 July meeting are:

- Immediate cancellation of IDB debt, without conditions attached, for Latin American highly indebted poor countries, which in the case of Bolivia amounts to nearly \$1.6 billion; that is to say, 35 per cent of its total debt.
- To reinstate the Fund for Special Operations (which grants loans with low interest rates and long-term maturities), either with contributions made by rich countries or with profits generated by the IDB, so that future credits are not rendered more expensive and debt service does not excessively increase.

During the first half of 2006, different activities have

been carried out within the framework of the campaign in order to achieve this.

A declaration agreed and subscribed by international networks including the following has been disseminated: European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD), Latin American Network on Debt, Development and Rights (LATINDADD), International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (CIDSE), Instituto de Estudios Nicaragüenses and Observatory on Debt and Globalization.

Another declaration has been drawn up by Bolivian institutions and organizations, gathered in the Platform of Action against Poverty.

At the same time, representatives from our institutions participated in two IDB events in Brazil. In one of these events, documents by international and national organizations were submitted to the president of the institution, Luis Alberto Moreno.

These documents were also submitted to the Minister of Development Planning of Bolivia, in his capacity as representative before the IDB.

Organizations from Argentina and Brazil, carrying out advocacy before their governments, have also joined this effort, demanding support for Bolivia, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guyana, besides Haiti.

Another major effort is the participation of the Bolivian Episcopal Conference, demanding its peers from other countries to join the campaign, having received the support of the Episcopal Conferences of Brazil, Canada, Argentina and the United States.

Aiming at the importance of achieving IDB debt relief for Latin America, parallel events were carried out during the IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings, which had the participation of IDB executives.

For IDB debt cancellation to be materialized, social organizations and institutions call upon their national and international partners to make joint efforts, putting life before debt.

Political will is demanded from the International Cooperation, since this cancellation, in monetary terms, is not significant for rich countries; furthermore, if compared to the huge amounts allocated to the arms race.

The fight against poverty is a hard task which should not be exclusively faced by Southern countries; the support of developed countries is decisive in view of policies imposed and the unfair trade and finance rules which have widened the gaps between Northern and Southern countries.





India-Brazil ICT Study Released

Growth of domestic IT market vital for SMBs to flourish: Ramadorai

The National Association of Software Companies (NASSCOM), the trade body of the Indian IT industry, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, University of Sao Paulo and the London Business School has released a study "ICT Adoption and Productivity in Developing Countries: Brazil & India".

The study investigates the determinants of ICT adoption and its impact on firm's performance in the Small and Medium Business (SMB) segment in India and Brazil based on research across a thousand manufacturing firms in the two countries. It is a part of NASSCOM's larger initiative to create a conducive IT ecosystem that enables Indian SMB's to leverage the power of IT and become globally competitive. Ramadorai, CEO, TCS and Chairperson, NASSCOM, (Domestic IT Market Committee), said, "A robust domestic IT market is very important for the future growth of Indian IT. While the domestic IT market has been growing at a CAGR of 20 percent recently, there remains tremendous latent demand, which needs to be tapped. In India, there is a wide variability in IT adoption across verticals, regions & market segments ranging from sophisticated IT users to first time adopters. As a result, a 'one size fit all' approach may not work and the IT industry together with technology users needs to collaborate and identify pain-points and create solutions to address them."

"NASSCOM is very committed to the growth of the domestic IT market. We have constituted a committee with representatives from the IT industry, user industries and academic institutions to identify mechanisms and develop actionable plans for accelerating the growth of the domestic IT market." "Innovation will be critical not only in creating user specific products & solutions but also in developing new business models to deliver these solutions to end-users at affordable prices," he added.

Rajdeep Sahrawat, Vice President, NASSCOM, said "Under NASSCOM's focus on developing the domestic IT market, we have adopted a cluster development model where we will be collaborating with industry clusters to firstly identify the IT adoption challenges in the cluster and secondly prepare recommendations & action plans to address the user concerns. As part of this strategy, we are currently working with the auto component manufacturing industry. Going forward in 2007, we will be targeting other clusters including textiles, leather, agriculture, retail etc which have low IT adoption." Scope of the Study

The study targets manufacturing firms in six key verticals:

- Auto-components
- Soaps and detergents
- Electrical components
- Machine tools
- Wearing apparels
- Plastic products

These verticals were picked not only because they provide significant variation in their production processes - and hence in their likely adoption of ICT - but also because they comprise a



significant component of output and employment in manufacturing in both countries. In India, the six verticals account for nearly 17 percent of total manufacturing employment and over 20 percent of value added. In Brazil, these shares were around 30 percent and 32 percent respectively. In India, firms were sampled in nine states. In Brazil, firms were sampled in seven regions.

Key findings of the Study

The study provides an insight into the extent of ICT adoption at the firm level, examine the characteristics of firms adopting ICT and the consequences of adoption for performance. Some key findings are:

- Brazilian firms have on average adopted more ICT than their Indian counterparts and use that ICT more intensively.
- Size of the firm not important for the share of production workers using ICT-controlled machinery in Brazil, but the coefficient is both very significant and large in India. Larger Indian firms use more ICT intensive production processes relative to smaller Indian firms.
- In Brazil, older firms have higher ICT per worker and per unit of sales. In India age of the firm doesn't matter
- Foreign ownership tend to be associated with higher adoption
- There are very high returns on ICT adoption. The high returns persist even after including skills, occupation, management practices and other controls.
- Reduction in organizational hierarchies is associated with higher returns to ICT in Brazil, and is directly positively related to productivity growth in India. The evidence also suggests that this positive effect only kicks in above a certain threshold level of adoption. Low intensity users of ICT - still a major share of firms in both Brazil and India - receive little or no positive impact.
- Institutional features of a region or state impact both ICT adoption decisions and returns to ICT adoption. A combination of weak institutions and infrastructure result in lower adoption and lower returns, particularly in India. However, organizations in India located in states with better institutions and infrastructure have returns to ICT that are close to those obtained by Brazilian firms.
- Firms in power-disrupted States invest less in ICT ■

World Bank grants \$25 mln to Brazilian poverty reduction project

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has recently approved a \$22.5-million additional financing to the Rural Poverty Reduction Project in the State of Piauí, in Northeast Brazil.

The additional financing will benefit some 180,000 rural poor people in Piauí through the implementation of approximately 1,200 small-scale basic socio-economic infrastructure and productive subprojects aimed to:

- Improve well-being and incomes of the rural poor through greater access to basic social and economic infrastructure and services and support for productive activities, using proven community-driven development techniques;
- Increase social capital of rural communities and capacity to organize collectively to meet their own needs;
- Enhance local governance by greater citizen participation and transparency in decision-making, through creation and strengthening of community associations and Municipal Councils; and
- Foster closer integration of development policies, programs and projects in rural areas at the local level by assisting the project's participatory Municipal Councils to extend their role in seeking funding from, setting priorities for and making decisions concerning, the allocation of resources from other programs outside the Bank-supported project.

This fixed-spread IBRD loan in U.S. Dollars has a repayment period of 17 years, including five years of grace.



Brazil: A Once in a Lifetime Experience

Brazil evokes an ensemble of exciting images; of voluptuous women in exotic costumes; of roaring soccer stadiums; of crowds madly dancing to the Samba beat at Carnival; of the massive Amazon flowing through a country as big as a continent; and of the dark rainforests holding in their bowels an incredible variety of plant and animal life. That's Brazil, and visiting that country can be a once in a lifetime experience.

Brazil constitutes roughly half the landmass of South America. The only two countries in South America that Brazil does not share a common border with are Chile and Ecuador. Despite the size of the country virtually all Brazilians live within very close proximity to the Atlantic Coast. And their lives revolve around beaches.

For many, the first and only stop in Brazil is the world famous city of Rio de Janeiro. It is said the Rio has developed a culture based on pleasure and entertainment. This culture thrives around the fabulous beaches of Ipanema and Copacabana. In these areas you will find music, football, body worship and a focus on being outdoors. The highlight of Rio for many is the yearly Carnival. During these four days of "anything goes" the focus on pleasure and entertainment reaches its peak.

While Rio and the surrounding state are renowned for beaches, there is much more to do than sitting on the beach all day. Moving inland one finds tropical forests covering coastal mountains. The wildlife is incredible in this area. Here and there one also finds quaint colonial

towns and good national parks. These inland areas are very popular with locals and tourists as an area for outdoor adventures or scenic hikes. Transportation inland is easy to set up and most areas of interest are just a few hours away from Rio.

Carnival & Unending Festivities

Carnival is a four-day event that changes dates every year. It begins forty days before the Catholic holiday, Lent. The celebrations start Friday, prior to Ash Wednesday up until the following Tuesday. Ash Wednesday is a day used for recovering from the previous sleepless nights. However, some cities in Brazil will present Carnival activities until the following weekend.

Carnival is the peak holiday season in Brazil. Offices and businesses close during the festivities. Brazilians take time off and travel, so make sure to plan your trip well in advance. Remember, you are competing for a hotel room, not only with tourists from all over the world, but also with Brazilians.

The original samba schools originated in Rio de Janeiro in 1928. In 1930, thanks to President Getulio Vargas, the samba schools became an official part of Rio's world-famous carnival. However, it took years for the notion to gain national esteem. The original three schools were Estação de Sá, Estação Primeira de

Mangeira, and Portela. Today, 14 principal samba schools spend the entire year, as well as lavish amounts of money, preparing what they hope to be the best performance to date. The wealthiest schools' budgets often exceed \$1,000,000. The international fame of the escolas de samba (samba schools) continues to soar annually, as more and more people come to experience the evolutionized product of seven decades of energy, dedication, and passion!

Samba Schools

As a tourist, you too can experience the thrill of performing in the world's most exciting Carnival as an insider. Many samba schools offer you the opportunity to join them in their stunning costumes, mesmerizing dance routines, and over-the-top excitement.

As with most art forms, in order to fully appreciate the parade and the individual schools of samba one must first realize the history and significance. Although the parade aesthetically is absolutely spectacular, being able to evaluate each school according to how well they fulfill each component they are judged on enhances the experience immensely. Each school selects a plot. Over the course of 80 minutes the dancers unravel the plot through carefully chosen music and perfected evolutions, or movements. They use costumes and props to enhance visual appeal. The most honored positions



are held by the flag holder and the master of ceremonies who are responsible for carrying and protecting their flag. Ultimately, the schools are judged on how harmoniously they integrate each of the elements. Keep in mind that each of the 14 schools presents 10 awe-inspiring floats and 4000 multi-talented performers!

Bonito - Mother Nature's dazzling gift

For those who do not understand Spanish or Portuguese, the word Bonito translates in English to beautiful. However, many believe that this destination was not named justifiably...as Bonito simply does not describe the extraordinariness of the attractions! Merely a decade ago, this region remained undiscovered by tourists. Fortunately, by the time it became known, the sustainable tourism movement had already taken root. To this day, strict regulations modify the impact of humans on the natural treasures of Bonito. Far from the coastal zone, Bonito conceals one of Brazil's top diving destinations, offering exceptional cave diving and rappelling itineraries.

Within a 35-mile radius, nearly every mile offers a dazzling gift from Mother Nature. In creating Bonito, she was like Leonardo da Vinci with his beloved Mona Lisa; constantly making improvements. She spent six hundred million years perfecting the intricate details of each one of these gifts. Today, you can explore this wonderland, admiring her work, amazed at the grace and grandeur of each waterfall, crystal clear river (be it above ground or below), grotto, underwater garden, cave and crater. She chose a fine layer of limestone for her material and water as her sculpting tool. The final product is truly a masterpiece! Bonito deserves to be a primary destination. However, if you plan to be in the Pantanal North, taking a side trip to Bonito is an



absolute must! There are daily flights from Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo to Campo Grande. Bonito is 175 miles from Campo Grande, (approximately 3 hours by car due to road conditions).

National Parks

Imagine the Grand Canyon covered in lush vegetation, cascading waterfalls and thriving biodiversity. Nestled along the southern Atlantic coasts of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul among Brazil's most expansive canyons, five to be exact, is the 28,000 hectare National Park and conservation area. The area is truly comprised of two parks, Aparados da Serra and Serra Geral. The highlights of the parks are the Itaimbezinho Canyon and Fortaleza Canyon, which tower approximately 2,160 feet and 2,700 feet high respectively. In the late afternoon the mysterious fogs drift in, making everything a rulers distance from your face invisible. Hikers, campers, horseback riders and rappellers unite in this glorious manifestation of nature's contrasts! There are daily flights from Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo to Porto Alegre. From Porto Alegre to Cambará do Sul and Serra Geral National Park the distance is





approximately 100 miles.

Atlantic Rainforest

Stretching from parallel 5° south to 32° south, from the northeastern turn in the coast of Brazil, down to the Uruguayan border, the Mata Atlântica is a tropical rainforest that extends itself over coastal and quasi-coastal mountains, slopes, plains and islands as far out into the ocean as the Fernando de Noronha Archipelago. There are five different categories this forest can be divided among. These categories are Gallery Forest, Mangrove Forest, Low Montane Forest, Montane Forest, and Restinga. Colonialization brought destruction and despair to the Atlantic Rainforest. In fact, only about 7 percent of the Atlantic Rainforest survived.

The wonder in the case of Brazil is that the pockets that continue to thrive may be the most precious natural portion the region hosted in the first place, given that their variety of animal and plant species surpasses any other area on earth. The Mata Atlântica canopy is usually found between 100 and 130 feet high. Beneath its classic Palm trees there are rich



flowering shrubs which present this rainforest's distinctive orchids, bromeliads and moss carpets, among various other life forms. You can also watch golden lion tamarins and countless other tiny primates literally hang in the company of jaguars, tapirs, sloths, seven-colored tanagers, red-tailed parrots, and many other animals that are equally as attractive to wildlife viewers. The Atlantic Rainforest meets the Atlantic Ocean in fabulous places that invite you to either relax or react upon knowing that turtles, dolphins, manatees and various kinds of fish are often just a dive away.

Sea Turtles

Five main species of sea-turtles are found in Brazil. All of the species are legally protected. However, the turtles remain vulnerable due to environmental and human threats. The TAMAR project in Praia do Forte, Bahia, has dedicated years of research to the conservation and study of sea-turtles, the results of which they share with tourists. Praia do forte, in addition to being a naturally fascinating destination, allows visitors to take home arguably the best gift of all, the gift of knowledge. Praia do Forte makes for an excellent side trip from Salvador.

For those interested in Sea Turtles, it clearly makes sense to travel to the same destinations the turtles enjoy. The archipelago of Fernando do Noronha off the northeast coast of Brazil is a popular destination for sea turtles to mate and lay their eggs. Many of the beaches surrounding the main island are closed throughout the night from January to June in order to protect the spawning environment of these incredible creatures. The TAMAR project has a satellite visitor's center and museum on the archipelago

Stay for the Weekend

Make the most of your entire journey to



Brazil while there on business. Stay for the weekend and discover hidden wonders easily accessible from your hotel. Please do not feel that you are limited to the suggestions below. You are merely a flight away from many exciting destinations in Brazil. For example, a weekend in Salvador, Manaus or Iguassu Falls is also convenient, and well worth the short flight.

Rio de Janeiro

Angra dos Reis 105 miles from Rio de Janeiro and 240 miles from São Paulo, Angra dos Reis is in one of the valleys of the Serra do Mar mountain range. The Ilha Grande protects the small beaches and makes this bay a peaceful spot to rejuvenate your spirit.

Búzios 110 miles from Rio de Janeiro and 372.5 miles from São Paulo, this was Brigitte Bardot's favorite escape in the 60's and became a hot destination for Rio de Janeiro's residents looking for an upscale weekend escape.

Parati 163 miles from Rio de Janeiro and 189 miles from São Paulo, this 16th century village was commercially important between the gold and sugarcane cycles of Brazilian history. Considered a national heritage site, its architecture brings back the times when boats would leave full of gold...today returning with mostly French and German tourists.

São Paulo

Guaruja Only 55.6 miles away from São Paulo, this

beachtown offers excitement, charm, modern infrastructure and excellent services. Guarujá is the best option for those looking for a fast trip to the coast after a business meeting. ([link in Portuguese](#))

São Sebastião 125 miles from São Paulo, the area is known for being the summer spot for the young Paulistanos (people from São Paulo). Powerful surf and beautiful beaches during the day combined with endless options for the nightlife make it a very happening place. Want in on a hot secret everyone who is anyone must know? Go to Maresias. ([link in Portuguese](#))

Ilhabela 129 miles from São Paulo (plus a 15 min. ferry), the ambiance on the beautiful island is peaceful and serene. Known for its annual sailing week, this island is a great choice for water sports.

Curitiba, Florianópolis & Porto Alegre

Foz do Iguaçu (Iguassu Falls) 400 miles from Curitiba and a 3 to 4 hour flight from Rio de Janeiro or São Paulo, Iguassu Falls will undoubtedly make your business trip to Brazil worthwhile. The word Iguaçu in the native Indian language means "big water". The river arises in the mountains of Paraná and Santa Catarina and goes west for 372 miles before it sweeps, crashing in falls at the border with Argentina and Paraguay. The falls are over 2 miles wide and 262 feet high.

Niterói Contemporary Art Museum

The Niterói Contemporary Art Museum (Museu de Arte

Contemporânea de Niterói (MAC) is situated in the city of Niterói, Brazil, and is one of the city's main landmarks.

Designed by Oscar Niemeyer with the assistance of structural engineer Bruno Contarini, who had worked with Niemeyer on earlier projects, the MAC-Niterói is 16 meters high; its cupola has a diameter of 50 meters with three floors. The museum projects itself over Boa Viagem ("Bon Voyage," "Good Journey"), the 817-square meter reflecting pool that surrounds the cylindrical base "like a flower," in the words of Niemeyer.

A wide access slope leads to a Hall of Expositions, which has a capacity for sixty people. Two doors lead to the viewing gallery, through which can be seen the Guanabara Bay, Rio de Janeiro, and Sugarloaf Mountain. The saucer-shaped modernist structure, which has been likened to a UFO, is set on a cliffside, at the bottom of which is a beach. In the film *Oscar Niemeyer, an architect committed to his century* (Marc Henri Wajnberg, 2000), Niemeyer is seen flying over Rio de Janeiro in a UFO, which then lands on the site, suggesting this as the origin of the museum.

Today when the name Brazil is mentioned, the name Amazon also immediately comes to mind. The Amazon region contains both the largest tropical rainforest in the world and the world's longest river. This area is one of the most diverse regions in the world in terms of plant and animal life. The quantity and variety of species is overwhelming, with new ones being discovered all the time. For those travelers that have time, a visit to the

Amazon Basin is an incredible experience.

While the Amazon is Brazil's best known region, the Pantanal is another equally amazing area. It is the world's largest wetland area and offers the most diverse selection of fauna found anywhere in South America. This area is home to well over 200 different species of birds and includes macaws, parrots, toucans, stork and other exotic bird species. In addition to bird species one can also find jaguars, river otters and countless other animals. As such if a person has an interest in seeing some fascinating animals, the Pantanal is a great place to visit.

What else? For many, one of the more interesting stops is at the Foz do Iguaçu. These magnificent waterfalls lie on the borders of Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay. In terms of size, the Foz do Iguaçu are larger, and some more grander than either Niagara or Victoria Falls. No matter what part of Brazil you travel to, from the crowded beaches in Rio to isolated beaches in the north, you will always find Brazilians. For a Brazilian, life revolves around the beach. Rich and poor intermingle on the beaches.

Another area in Brazil that should not be missed is the city of Salvador. Once the capital of Brazil, this city offers a mix of colonial churches, fabulous beaches, excellent food and a diverse population. While Rio is most well known for its Carnival celebration, many Brazilians consider the celebrations in Salvador to be better. ■



Oh, What a Beach! Blame it on Rio...

Don't believe the hype. Though Copacabana Beach may not hold the same lusty appeal it did back in the day, it's still seductive. Yes, it's the most touristy beach in Rio. And the vendors come out in droves. But that's all part of the Copacabana experience. C'mon, now where else can you stroll the beach and be offered a beach chair, a cold Antarctica beer, a hammock, and a towel with naked Brazilians on it, all within 15 minutes? The arcing beach, lined with the old-school resorts of yesteryear, is simply stunning, with breathtaking views of Sugarloaf and countless other islands off in the distance. One could easily while away an entire day here watching carioca life go by. The waves that crash into the shore are huge. The cariocas are, of course, undaunted by the Atlantic's power, swimming far out from shore and nonchalantly diving into the base of the big waves to avoid their powerful blows when they broke. You are surprised how strong the current is just anchor your feet in the sand and you'll be all right as long as you're just standing there, not swimming.

You have a blast coming down here every day for a swim. If you were to be there in the fall, it wouldn't be packed, but everyone knows it's hopping during the summer, not to mention the Carnival time. Just like at Ipanema, pickup fútbol and volleyball games popped up everywhere, as well as frescobol, played with two wooden paddles and what looked like a small, hard racquetball. You basically just hit the ball back and forth.

There are also fishermen down here on the cloudier days, as well as locals combing the sands with a long pole with a cage attached to the end of it, probably hoping to catch lobsters.

Just remember to keep your head on straight, especially at night. But don't sweat it the beach and walkway are all lit up, and it stays pretty populated through most of the night. Nevertheless, there are petty thieves lurking, so just stay alert. Don't leave anything unattended. They like to try and distract you. ■



TOURISM

INDO-LAC BUSINESS



Playing Soccer to

Brazil is a soccer country, where soccer is a way of life, a faith and religion. No wonder, soccer exerts immense influence in the social context of Brazil. The history of soccer has a direct correlation with the history of the Brazilian people. Which perhaps explains the Brazilian style of soccer playing. In theory, various people from different continents of the world helped build a unique Brazilian culture. When the Portuguese entered Brazil, the small percentage of Indian population was scattered throughout the country. When slaves were brought from the region of West Africa, they gradually became farm workers and miners. However, they had metal working skills that the native Indians lacked. They brought with them music, dance, cookery, and martial arts. All these things played a pivotal part in shaping the lifestyle that all Brazilians now share. Most of the recent European settlers were impressed by the coffee-growing areas and to the growing industrial towns of the southeast.

Brazilian soccer shows a unique style and quality because of the great physical ability or "foot ability" in physical activities with rhythm and coordination that the blacks have. This unique quality was a characteristic of slaves that developed the capoeira, Brazilian martial

arts, and samba, which are characterized by footsteps to dance or to play under the rhythm of African drums.

The Brazil soccer style clearly signifies culture of its people who dance samba and use creativity and swing to promote various rhythms and choreographies. Soccer then takes the form of art and its players play the role of soccer artists. This agility is valued by the Brazilian popular culture through the dance, capoeira, and soccer.

There were also numerous other factors that were influential in creating such a coveted place for soccer in Brazil. First and foremost, it is easy to play; the rules are simple; and it does not require special equipment or a special location. In other words, it can be played on synthetic grass fields, on abandoned land, at more than 2,000 beaches, or even inside the houses with the soccer ball being made of socks, oranges, or soda lids. In addition, people with various physical attributes can practice soccer. This enables many people to play soccer, and with more people playing, it is easier to have quality players. The same thing can be seen in the United States as far as basketball is concerned.

Theoretically speaking, the Brazil soccer team is the first team to win the World Cup five times in 1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, and 2002. In addition, Brazil has more professional soccer teams than any other country in the world. That's why; Brazil is powerhouse of soccer today.

Great players of soccer such as Pelé, Garrincha, Zico, Romário, Ronaldo, and host of others from lower social classes started playing soccer on dirt fields in poor conditions. They played intensively, and their game skill boosted soccer in Brazil and made Brazil famous throughout the world. This influence has a long-term impact on the country. That's why, boys from the poorer classes dream of becoming future soccer players, and through this dream, they promote the national soccer culture even more. This dream motivates millions of children who want a better life by escaping poverty because this can be the only way for them to seek a better quality of life. Through soccer, they mix the joy of playing with the suffering of poverty. One may say that this soccer culture has a bigger influence on peoples' lives than subjects related to politics or economics.

In 2002, Brazilian soccer once again answered the critics as well as players and coaches worldwide with their victory at the World Cup in Korea/Japan. The Brazilian style of play is so refreshing to eye with its originality and flair that those traditional soccer fans everywhere took notice. Rather than the long, predictable passes and running, the Brazilians virtually danced down the field, moving the ball quickly with short passes and constant movement. Their game had a

rhythm and grace that seemed natural.

2004 was another scintillating year in the illustrious history of Brazilian Soccer. Fact that Brazil finished in First Place in the World FIFA Rankings with 843 points, beating out big wigs like France, Argentina, Spain, Holland, England, Italy, Portugal and Germany is not a mean achievement. Moreover, Brazil also emerged victorious in the COPA AMERICA against rival Argentina in the last four minutes of the game with a roster that included many of their second-tier players. To round off a great year, Brazilian star Ronaldinho (Barcelona) was elected the 2004 FIFA Player of the Year.

According to football experts all around the world, Brazilian soccer can be termed as a combination of unmatched technical skill with the ball, highly agile and coordinated athletic movement, and a goal scoring philosophy utilizing short passes and a patient yet creative and unpredictable attack.

Leaving aside dominating nature of Brazil senior side, their youth side is also not too far behind. As a matter of fact, Brazil recently won their third FIFA U-17 World Championship Title in the last 4 editions of the tournament, with a mixture of the same ingredients that have seen them re-emerge as the dominant soccer nation at the professional level: strong defense, physical endurance, technical proficiency, excellent goalkeeping, and extraordinary skill. In fact, in the history of the U-17 tournament, only two teams from Europe have ever won the Title (Russia in 1987 and France in 2001). ■

the Beat of Samba



A South American adventure

Swinging across rivulets to see otters poach trout:

Most animals in the parks of South America, such as Serra dos Orgaos, NP, are nocturnal and seeing them is very rare. The continent has the world's biggest profusion of wildlife, with more species being discovered all the time. The park is 11,000 hectares of jungle and mountains. It makes a worthy excursion from the 'Cidade Marvelosa' and was an overnight stop between colonial Paraty and the buzzing chic resort of Buzios.

The Serra dos Orgaos NP is the closest national park to Rio de Janeiro. It lies in the north of the state and borders the beautiful Imperial city of Petropolis. It gets its name from the strange vertical peaks in the park that resemble the towering pipes of a church organ. The most famous is 'Dedo de Deus' (God's finger) which rises to 2,000m. The highest peak in the park is Pedro di Sino (Bells Rock) which has a 14km path to its peak. Its sheer west face is one of the hardest climbing pitches in Brazil.

It is exceptionally remote and the journey is not for the faint-hearted. One has to travel the dirt switchback roads and cross the rivers on rickety bridges. To reach it without a tour takes some doing. Frequent buses from Rio stop at Petropolis, from where you can hire a car. Direct buses head there from the closer Teresopolis but these are infrequent--generally one every two days. There are good accommodations inside the park and the whole facility is very well done. At the lower end is hostel (20 reais a night); there are also beds in cabanas with en-suite bathrooms

(about 40 reais). The main building is beautiful, with superb food and a well-decorated lounge area. The staff is helpful and will arrange 4-hour rafting expeditions (about 80 reais).

But it is the jungle that you come to the Serra dos Orgaos to see. Your trip includes an early morning walk in the forest led by guides and translators who speak little English. They take you into the park at 6am, and you have to surmount obstacles like a boulder-strewn rivulet. A rope is thrown across the rivulet and, you have to swing across it. Then find your way through an enormous grove of bamboo and parallel to a stream where otters poached trout. All around us were birdcalls and the whoops of howler monkeys. The plant-life includes natural pineapples and flowers that you buy at the nearby garden center back in Essex. The 2-hour walk finishes at a photogenic boulder-strewn river where huge spiders hung cobwebs across the trees. If you overturn a log, in all probability, you may see a huge red-kneed tarantula. The park also includes armadillo, agouti, and peccary, which are preyed on by ocelot. There are no jaguars in the park. You may not see any piranha, but if you are lucky you might spot a 10-foot anaconda. ■

Término: Comercio Trilateral
Meta: Trillones de Dólares
Socios: India, Brasil, y Sudáfrica



IBSA Cumbre Mueve la Cooperación Sur-Sur A Otro Nivel

Por Dev Varam

Muevete comercio bilateral. Ya pasaste de moda. La palabra del día es trilateralcomercio, industria, negocios, cultura, et al. Toma IBSA como el mejor ejemplo. Expandelo, te emocionarás, como un niño que prende un cuete por primera vez. Porque la respuesta esperdón, no hay premios por adivinarla India, Brasil y Sudáfrica, tres entidades de las mas emprendedoras, estan listas para entrar al club elite de naciones economicamente desarrolladas. Muy pronto; muy rapido.

La India, Brasil y Sudáfrica, las tres naciones en vías de desarrollo mas

importantes del mundo de tres diferentes continentes, cuyas economías son inclusivas y en una trayectoria de desarrollo correcta, han prometido a aumentar el comercio trilateral para forjar la cooperación Sur-Sur.

Está fue la esencia del compromiso mutuo en la Cumbre India-Brasil-Sudáfrica (IBSA) convenida en São Paulo el 13 de septiembre. Fue la primera Cumbre IBSA en la cual participaron el primer ministro Hindú Manmohan Singh, el presidente brasileño Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva y el presidente Mbeki de Sudáfrica, apoyados por sus delegaciones principales respectivas. La Cumbre de Negocios IBSA, que precedió el encuentro de los líderes principales, dio los temas correctos para la discusión y agregó una nueva dimensión a la interacción entre ellos.

Como el primer ministro Singh ha señalado, el IBSA ya ha capturado la imaginación de los observadores en otras regiones, y también el método práctico y pragmático discutido en la cumbre por la cooperación Sur-Sur entre las tres economías locomotoras de los tres continentes.

Él dijo: "Lo importante es que trajimos junto un equipo poderoso de líderes de negocios de los tres países y también promovimos algo sorprendente por el entusiasmo de los líderes de negocios en la India. Posibilidades de empresas conjuntas, inversión en farmacéuticos, agricultura, procesamiento de alimentos y en energía. Algunos pasos concretos ya han sido tomados. Nuestro ONGC Videsh ha ya comenzado, ha adquirido un interés en Petrobras del mismo modo el homólogo Brasileño está explorando la posibilidad de inversión en la India. Entonces, los contactos entre gente a gente, negocio a negocio son más importantes de alguna forma que los contactos del gobierno."

La declaración mutua de la Cumbre identificó sectores claves para la cooperación trilateral. Los sectores incluyen, energía con un enfoque en combustibles naturales, agricultura, tecnología de la información, transportación, aviación civil, ciencia y tecnología, y asistencia médica. La Cumbre ha establecido grupos de trabajo sectoriales y ha construido un plan de acción de seguimiento para la implementación de las recomendaciones del anterior en los varios niveles.

La Declaración Mutua IBSA y el Plan de Acción

IBSA fue establecida hace tres años con el programa específico que incluía temas de preocupación global de como seguridad de energía, terrorismo internacional y el reto de desarrollo sostenible y equitativo entre las naciones en vías de desarrollo, con referencia particular a los tres países patrocinadores, la India, Brasil y Sudáfrica.

En una "Declaración Mutua" al terminar la primera Cumbre, los tres líderes describieron la IBSA como un "Foro de Diálogo." Creado en el 2003, el Foro de Diálogo cada vez más tiene una función más importante en la política exterior de la India, Brasil, y Sudáfrica. El Foro ha sido instrumental para promover una coordinación cercana en temas globales entre las tres grandes democracias, multiculturales y multiraciales de Asia, Sudamérica y África y ha contribuido a aumentar la cooperación trilateral India-Brasil-Sudáfrica en áreas sectoriales.

La importancia del Foro de Diálogo IBSA sobrepasa el impacto positivo de las relaciones India-Brasil-Sudáfrica. El Foro presenta una estructura que dará un impulso adicional para avanzar los contactos entre los

países en vías de desarrollo en Asia, Sudamérica y África, y de ese modo contribuir al fortalecimiento de la cooperación Sur-Sur.

Grupos de Trabajo en Sectores Economicos Claves

Los jefes de estado y gobierno ya se habían reunido en el formato de IBSA en varias previas oportunidades, como por ejemplo en las juntas en el 2003 y el 2005 en Nueva York. Juntas ministeriales de la Comisión Trilateral fueron celebradas en Nueva Delhi en el 2004, en Cape Town en el 2005 y en Rio de Janeiro en marzo del 2006. Grupos de trabajo trilaterales fueron creados en áreas de agricultura, cultura, defensa, educación, energía, salud, sociedad información, comercio e inversión, temas sociales, ciencia y tecnología, turismo y transportación.

Los tres líderes subrayaron su visión compartida de una participación de sus sociedades en esta iniciativa diplomática que debe realizar un papel clave en el futuro del IBSA. Así, los líderes tomaron en cuenta con una satisfacción profunda los Seminarios de Negocios y Académicos celebrados en Brasilia el 12 de septiembre 2006. El primer ministro Singh, el presidente Lula y el presidente Mbeki suplicaron a las sociedades civiles en la India, Brasil y Sudáfrica a aumentar el contacto mutuo y la cooperación. Ellos ordenaron a los Gobiernos a apoyar iniciativas con este propósito. Con respeto a esto, también apoyaron el lanzamiento de la página web de IBSA, como una herramienta adicional y útil para promover más el Foro de Diálogo IBSA con los interesados en la India, Brasil y Sudáfrica.

Energía Nuclear

Los jefes de estado y gobierno afirmaron de nuevo los derechos inalienables de los Estados para la aplicación



pacífica de energía nuclear, consistente con sus obligaciones legales internacionales. Ellos pidieron una resolución diplomática al problema nuclear de Iran en el contexto de IAEA.

Ellos tomaron cuenta con satisfacción la cooperación positiva continua entre sus países en el IAEA y otros foros, con la perspectiva de asegurar el desarrollo sin obstáculos y el desarrollo de usos pacíficos de energía atómica, a través del suministro de tecnología, equipos y materia, bajo la protección apropiada y han afirmado de nuevo su voluntad a intensificar tal cooperación.

IBSA Cooperación Trilateral

Los tres líderes examinaron iniciativas de cooperación sectorial trilateral. Cooperación de Sur-Sur es el elemento clave para promover desarrollo económico y social. En este contexto, el Foro de Dialogo IBSA presenta una estructura invaluable para avanzar la cooperación trilateral entre los tres mas importantes países en vías de desarrollo en el mundo. Ellos expresaron una satisfacción profunda con los nuevos resultados concretos logrados durante la Primera Cumbre IBSA en las áreas de Energía, Agricultura, Transportación, Comercio, Ciencia y Tecnología y la Sociedad de Información. Ellos decidieron explorar mas las oportunidades adicionales para la cooperación trilateral. Con respeto a esto, tomaron en cuenta y apoyaron el lanzamiento del Grupo de Trabajo en Administración Pública.

Comercio Trilateral

Los líderes expresaron su satisfacción profunda cuando firmaron, durante la Primera Cumbre IBSA, el Plan de Acción IBSA de la Facilitación de Comercio para las Normas, Regulaciones Técnicas y Verificación de Conformidad. Ellos tomaron en cuenta que el Plan de Acción, que es un elemento para la ampliación de metas sobre la facilitación de negocios, es un elemento importante que crea una base concreta para aumentar el flujo de comercio entre los países IBSA. También reiteraron su compromiso a aumentar el comercio trilateral a través de la conclusión prevista de los acuerdos bilaterales de cooperación de aduana.

Los jefes de estado y gobierno expresaron su apoyo total y su compromiso al establecimiento expediente del Grupo de Trabajo para enfocar en las modalidades del previsto India-Mercosur-SACU Acuerdo de Libre Comercio (ALC). Ellos expresaron la perspectiva que el ALC tendrá un impacto significativo con respecto a la consolidación del Foro del Dialogo IBSA como un mecanismo efectivo para promover relaciones cercanas entre la India, Brasil y Sudáfrica, y también entre las regiones respectivas. Ellos también declararon que una cooperación creciente entre la India, Mercosur y SACU en la esfera del comercio puede contribuir mucho a un nuevo escenario de comercio internacional,

conveniente a sus metas de desarrollo respectivas.

Ellos afirmaron de nuevo, en paralelo, la importancia de las negociaciones en curso de India-Mercosur y Mercosur-SACU, con la perspectiva de amplificar y profundizar los existentes Acuerdos de Preferencia de Tarifas. Ellos también notaron, los próximos acuerdos de preferencias de tarifas India-SACU, y han subrayado que todo estos esfuerzos son un paso importante hacia el previsto India-Mercosur-SACU Acuerdo de Libre Comercio.

Delegaciones y Asociaciones de Negocio

Los tres países expresaron su satisfacción con el hecho que las delegaciones importantes de negocios de la India, Sudáfrica y Brasil, tomaron parte de la primera Cumbre IBSA. Eminente



hombres de negocio de los tres países asistieron la "Cumbre de Negocios de India, Brasil y Sudáfrica," organizado por la Confederación Brasileña de Industria Nacional (CIN) con el apoyo de ASSOCHAM, CII y FICCI de la India, y BUSA de Sudáfrica. Además, los jefes de estado y gobierno se reunieron con las delegaciones de negocios de los tres países y tuvieron un intercambio provechoso de opiniones sobre las perspectivas y retos por la expansión de comercio

entre los países IBSA.

Energía y Foro de Combustibles Naturales

Los tres líderes trataron el tema del reto dual y unido de tener que satisfacer las necesidades de energía mientras lograr un desarrollo económico sostenido y un desarrollo sostenible. Ellos expresaron su satisfacción con el progreso del dialogo trilateral sobre la cooperación de energía durante la Cumbre y expresaron su reconocimiento con firmar, Memorandos de Entendimiento sobre Combustibles Naturales, con la decisión de crear un Destacamiento Especial Trilateral sobre Combustibles Naturales para trabajar en áreas concretas de interés común.

Los líderes alabaron la iniciativa lanzada por BrasilEl Foro de Combustibles Naturalespara articular y consolidar los objetivos comunes, incluyendo la transformación de etanol biologico a una comodidad de energía. Ellos acordaron la necesidad de trabajar juntos para aumentar y promover el uso de etanol y biodiésel como combustible de vehículo, para aumentar la seguridad de energía, mientras trayendo beneficios ambientales, sociales y economicos.

Agricultura

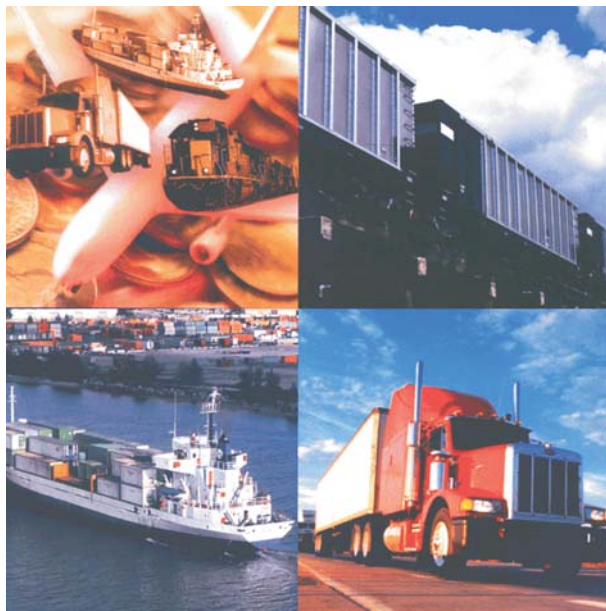
Los tres líderes reiteraron la relevancia de agricultura en los tres países y apreciaron la junta de los Ministros de



Agricultura IBSA en las margenes de la Conferencia FAO en noviembre 2005 en Roma, y también la junta de Oficiales Superiores en enero 2006 en Nueva Delhi. Ellos acordaron que el Memorando de Entendimiento sobre Cooperación Trilateral Agrícola y Áreas Afiliadas, firmada durante la Cumbre IBSA, será un instrumento importante para promover el desarrollo socio-economico y cooperación Sur- Sur.

Transportación

Los jefes del estado y gobierno celebraron la conclusión



del Acuerdo IBSA de Transportación Marítima, que marca una fase nueva y tangible en la cooperación entre las autoridades relevantes y las empresas. Adicionalmente, ellos notaron con satisfacción que este acuerdo creará un método para mejorar las logísticas, aumentar la base de técnicas marítima y fomentar flujo de comercio trilateral. Ellos expresaron la necesidad de las autoridades relevantes en los países respectivos a identificar otros asuntos relacionados con marítima que puedan apoyar importantes iniciativas de comercio.

Aviación Civil

Ellos también recalcaron la importancia de la implementación del Memorando de Entendimiento sobre Aviación Civil lo mas pronto posible, atravez del establecimiento de servicios regulares aereos uniendo la India, Brasil y Sudáfrica. Ellos promovieron las aerolíneas de los tres países a continuar a trabajar hacia esa meta. Además, ellos compartieron el mismo pensamiento que mas discusiones con respecto a acuerdos de cooperación en otras areas relacionadas a aviación, serían de grande beneficio a sus países.

Con respecto a esto, ellos también recalcaron la



necesidad de las autoridades responsables del sector de transporte, a desarrollar un "Plan de Acción", con claras acciones y plazos, como una forma para acelerar la implementación de los compromisos protegidos en los Acuerdos firmados.

Ciencia y Tecnología

Los líderes recordaron el papel de Ciencia y Tecnología en la formación del futuro de las sociedades en los tres

entre los tres países para la investigación y desarrollo de herramientas diagnósticas, medicinas y vacunas para CIDA, malaria y tuberculosis. Esto combinaría la capacidades significantes que existen en los países IBSA.

Asistencia Médica

Los líderes celebraron la reunion del Grupo de Trabajo de Salud en Brasil del 6 al 10 de febrero 2006. En esta reunion, el Grupo de Trabajo desarrolló un IBSA Plan de Implementación sobre Salud, con un enfoque de laboratorios de salud pública, vigilancia de salud, medicina tradicional y regulación de control sanitario. También identificó las modalidades para intercambiar experiencias y explorar soluciones para cumplir las necesidades de salud. Con respeto a esto, fue acordado que los Ministros de Salud se encontraran pronto para adoptar un plan y trabajar juntos en temas globales para lograr un desarrollo sostenible socio-economico que terminará con la pobreza, hambre, y subdesarrollo.



países, particularmente en dando herramientas para reducir la pobreza, promover inclusión social y contribuir a lograr las Metas de Desarrollo para el Milenio de la ONU. Ellos notaron con satisfacción las oportunidades para cooperación científica y tecnologica entre las instituciones de investigaciones y desarrollo en los tres países, en las áreas de salud, tecnologia biotica, nanciencias, y oceanografia. Ellos también notaron con una satisfacción profunda el progreso que se había hecho con la implementación del Programa de Trabajo del 2005-2007, aprobado con la Declaración en Rio sobre Ciencia y Tecnología en junio del 2005. Ellos afirmaron de nuevo su fuerte apoyo y compromiso a continuar la cooperación en estos y en otras áreas de interes común.

Aflicción de VIH, CIDA

Los líderes también se comprometieron a aumentar mas la cooperación trilateral en la área de VIH/CIDA, malaria y tuberculosis, y examinar las posibilidades para concluir un instrumento trilateral de colaboración

Sociedad de la Información

Los líderes subrayaron la importancia en trabajar juntos hacia una Sociedad de la Información que se concentra en gente, es inclusiva, y orientada hacia el desarrollo y también ellos renovaron su apoyo por los resultados de la Cumbre Mundial de la Sociedad de la Información (CMSI) en Ginebra y Tunis, en el 2003 y 2005, respectivamente. Ellos acordaron a continuar a cordinar las posiciones para los mecanismos que responden al CMSI, así como para otros foros y organizaciones relacionados a la Sociedad de la Información y la Tecnología de Información y Comunicación (TIC).

Los líderes recalcaron la necesidad de promover y aumentar la cercana cooperación trilateral y la desarrollo del potencial entre los tres países el las áreas de inclusión digital, TIC para desarrollar, y también e-gobierno y control como medio para reducir la división digital en sus sociedades. Ellos notaron con satisfacción el progreso hecho, a lograr este objetivo, particularmente con firmar la Estructura de Cooperación IBSA en la Sociedad de la Información, que provee la base de trabajo futuro trilateral con el propósito de reducir la división digital en sus sociedades.



Desarrollo Social

Los líderes celebraron la creación del grupo de trabajo sobre el Desarrollo Social. En su primera junta en Rio de Janeiro, del 12 al 14 de junio 2006, el grupo de trabajo se enfoco en los retos principales de la India, Brasil y Sudáfrica, y tendran que superarlos en esta área. También identificó nuevas maneras para intercambiar experiencias y explorar soluciones para lograr las necesidades del desarrollo social. El Fondo de Facilidad IBSA para la Aliviación de Pobreza y Hambre trabajará junto con el grupo de trabajo sobre Desarrollo Social



para identificar nuevas oportunidades para la cooperación del Sur al Sur.

IBSA Fondo de Facilidad

Los tres líderes acentuaron el hecho que el IBSA Fondo de Facilidad es una iniciativa inovativa y unica en la cooperación Sur-Sur. Ellos tomaron en cuenta los logros con respecto al Fondo y celebraron los compromisos renovados de sus Consejos de Directores para lograr sus metas. Ellos también apoyaron el papel de la Unidad de Cooperación Sur-Sur de UNDP. Ellos affirmaron que el Fondo está designado para hacer disponible las mejores practicas desarrolladas en países IBSA para combatir la pobreza y hambre, particularmente para proveer una contribución IBSA a las modalidades de cooperación de Sur-Sur.

Ejemplo Brasileño

El resultado de la cumbre bilateral ha sido resumido en la declaración que nosotros dimos y el cual todos Ustedes ya estan familiarizados. Lo unico que puedo

decir es que Brasil es la economia locomotora de América latina, y en conjunto con otras economias potentes en la regionhay un imenso potencial de desarrollola India también esta en movimiento así que hay áreas de compatibilidadcooperación de comercio en las áreas de agricultura, en particular investigación agriculatural, cooperación en la área de ciencia y tecnología, cooperación en la área de combustibles naturales y biogás, dandonos mas opciones para manejar nuestra seguridad de energia. Nuestro comercio ha aumentado enormemente en los últimos tres años y todos concordamos que existe un potencial enorme. Pero hay problems de connexión, en el transporte aéreo y marítima.

El primer ministro Singh, completamente satisfecho con el resultado de la cumbre dijo: "Las tres democracias en los tres continentes, Brasil, Sudáfrica estan tratando de lograr su salvación economica y social con una estructura que consiste de una economia abierta y una sociedad abierta, comprometida a los valores democraticos. Y también fue muy aparente que tenemos mucho que aprender del uno al otro."

"Y las tres economias tienen un potencial imenso y nosotros hemos identificado las áreas importantes para cooperación trilateral entre los tres países. Nosotros ayudaremos a

amplificar nuestras opciones de desarrollo Seguridad de energia es un elemento clave que se presentó en nuestras dos discusiones bilaterales y trilaterales."

El primer ministro Singh dijo que también tuvo discusiones en las juntas trilaterales sobre el avance de cooperación el la área de cooperación nuclear civil y fue acordado que bajo la protección apropiada de la estructura de la agencia internacional de energia atomica, nosotros cooperaremos en la área de energia nuclear civil.

Él dijo que el comercio entre los tres países habia crecido muy bien. "Todos acordamos que debemos amplificar nuestras opcionesIndia-MERCOSUR, India-Sudáfrica Union de Aduana (ASUA). Exploraremos las posibilidades de como ASUA y MERCOSUR, que incluye otras economias de América latina, y la India, puedan producir un acuerdo de comercio para expandir oportunidades de comercio e inversión entre los dos países."

El Arte de Vivir

Nos identificamos como alguien pertenezco a esta religión, a esta cultura, a esta tradición, pero nos olvidamos que la identidad básica es que somos seres humanos. Cuando colocamos esto en primer término, todas las demás identidades se encolumnan detrás. Es ahí cuando pienso que podemos lograr aquello que realmente estamos buscando.

“ Sri Sri Ravi Shankar



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, fundador de El Arte de Vivir y de la Asociación Internacional para los Valores Humanos (IAHV), ha inspirado un fenómeno global de compromiso y servicio que se ha difundido en más de 150 países de todo el mundo. El Arte de Vivir celebró su 25 aniversario en febrero del 2006. Más de 2,5 millones de personas de 145 países se reunieron en Bangalore, India, por lo que puede denominarse como la primera “Olimpiada espiritual”.

Los programas y actividades de servicio de la fundación El Arte de Vivir ya beneficiaron a más de 20 millones de personas de diferentes orígenes, religiones, culturas, tradiciones y estilos de vida.. La vida y obra de Sri Sri Ravi Shankar está dedicada a la recuperación de los valores humanos y a lograr la paz y el desarrollo del individuo.

La fundación también ofrece programas especiales para reducir la violencia en las escuelas, rehabilitación de personas privadas de la libertad, enfermos terminales, adictos y comunidades en zonas de riesgo.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, nacido en 1956 en Papanasam, India, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar estudió con muchos reconocidos maestros espirituales convirtiéndose en erudito de la Literatura Védica. En 1982, Sri Sri Ravi

Shankar creó la Fundación El Arte de Vivir y en 1997, la Asociación Internacional para los Valores Humanos (IAHV). A la fecha tiene entre otros proyectos el desarrollo en 25.300 aldeas de India, para permitir el autoabastecimiento de más de 2.3 millones de personas. Estos programas también tienen lugar en África y América del Sur.

La IAHV elabora soluciones a conflictos y crisis en todos los niveles de la sociedad, facilitando el diálogo que evite la violencia, la discriminación, la guerra, la falta de justicia, la pobreza interna y externa, la injusticia, el racismo y la intolerancia religiosa. Algunos de los programas llevados a cabo: Bam Earthquake Iran, Terremoto en Gujarat India, Kosovo, New York Sep 11th 2001 (911), Inundaciones, Jakarta Indonesia, Tsunami.

Los cursos de El Arte de Vivir son la mejor combinación de técnicas y conocimientos de la antigüedad adaptados a las necesidades de la vida moderna. Estos cursos mejoran la salud en todos los niveles; el mental, el físico, el emocional y el espiritual, y proporcionan herramientas prácticas para reducir los efectos del estrés. Los cursos se ofrecen al público en general, desde niños a adultos, desde grandes corporaciones a zonas rurales.

"El ofrecimiento de los servicios es la expresión natural de amor y cariño" Sri Ravi Shankar.

La Fundación Arte de Vivir y sus voluntarios apoyan muchos proyectos en todo el mundo.

La Fundación Internacional Arte de Vivir también ha comenzado operaciones de ayuda en las zonas afectadas por la guerra en el Líbano. Estas operaciones están siendo llevadas a cabo por la organización asociada (IAHV) Asociación Internacional para los Valores Humanos, que comenzó a operar después del bombardeo. Los voluntarios locales de Arte de Vivir en el Líbano incluían varios doctores que atendieron a miles de víctimas civiles.

"La primera cosecha" es un proyecto comenzado por los voluntarios de AOL que consiste en la venta del exceso de productos en los mercados y cuyos beneficios van dirigidos a la ayuda para las víctimas del desastre de Nueva Orleans.

Durante varias semanas los voluntarios trabajaron sin descanso 18-19 horas al día en Texas para ofrecer ayuda a los supervivientes del huracán Katrina.

En enero del 2006 fue organizada una "Carrera para Jóvenes" en Columbus.

Para hacer llegar el mensaje de no-violencia con más fuerza que el de la violencia, 16 ciudades de USA, Canadá y México unieron esfuerzos para organizar esta Carrera llamada "5K Carrera para Jóvenes", que fue organizada enteramente por jóvenes voluntarios de la Fundación Arte de Vivir. La Carrera fue instituida para aumentar el conocimiento sobre los cada vez mayores conflictos relacionados con la violencia y el estrés, particularmente entre los jóvenes, así como la necesidad urgente de unirse como Una Familia Mundial que provee educación, fomenta los valores humanos como la no-violencia, la compasión y el sentido de pertenencia.

Curso de Yoga por los enfermos de HIV en San Francisco.

La Fundación Arte de Vivir ofreció un curso de ochenta días en el mes de agosto sobre Yoga para los enfermos de HIV. El curso fue gratuito y tuvo lugar en el Centro para las Artes y Curación Quan Yin, San Francisco.

La Fundación Arte de Vivir en Argentina ha experimentado un gran crecimiento en los últimos 5 años y tuvo su mayor alza en la primera mitad del 2006. Cerca de 5000 personas de todos los ámbitos de la vida siguieron el curso AOL incluidos ejecutivos, políticos, artistas, jóvenes prisioneros y niños de la calle. Diez profesores están en Buenos Aires y ahora han abierto en Rosario, Córdoba, Bahía Blanca y otras pequeñas ciudades en el país.

Las actividades en el centro son innumerables: cientos de personas vienen cada semana a seguir los cursos de ayurveda, los masajes ayurvédicos, meditaciones guiadas para grupos y sesiones sobre Conocimiento entre otras actividades..

Los profesores también llevan a cabo cursos en prisiones, hacen "seva", enseñan manualidades, artesanía y tienen un día a la semana de "satsang" en distintas prisiones. El programa de prisiones AOL ha sido impartido en Argentina en las prisiones principales en los últimos 5 años. El proyecto Taller para prisiones "Smart Carpet Seva" ha sido ofrecido por los voluntarios junto con Medio Camino.

En Julio de 2006 Sri Sri visitó Argentina por cuarta vez y el país celebró su presencia. Sri Sri se dirigió a los miembros del Senado Nacional. El M.P. Sr. Jorge Canevara de la ciudad de La Plata ofreció el honor de "Visita Ilustre" a Sri Sri.

Parte de este programa consistió en enseñar el primer curso avanzado en Latino América. Alrededor de 700 personas participaron en el Curso Avanzado y la gente vino desde Venezuela, Chile, Brasil, Uruguay, Panamá, México y Costa Rica. El "satsang" estuvo desbordado con más de 1500 personas. En esta ocasión, el Ministro de Justicia y Derechos Humanos Alberto Iribarne recibió a Sri Sri y firmó un acuerdo para impartir las enseñanzas en prisiones federales.

Su santidad Sri Sri Ravi Shankar se dirigió al Parlamento Europeo en Bruselas en el mes de mayo de 2006. Sri Sri enfatizó en la necesidad de fomentar los valores humanos y el rol espiritual en el combate contra la violencia.

En agosto de 2006 el líder espiritual Sri Sri Ravi Shankar recibió la Orden de la Estrella Polar, un honor civil y militar de Mongolia, que fue entregado en reconocimiento por la contribución de la Fundación Arte de Vivir al beneficio de la nación.

La emisora Arte de Vivir, un espacio radiofónico con canal exclusivo intenta dar a conocer las enseñanzas del líder espiritual, su santidad Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. El periodico AOL Prensa Prana también sale a la luz cada mes.

Su santidad Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, nominado para el Premio Nobel de 2005 viaja a más de 40 países cada año para reforzar el mensaje de que todas las religiones y las grandes tradiciones espirituales tienen en común objetivos y valores.

Para acceder a los centros de la Fundación Arte de Vivir en Sudamérica, Norteamérica, Europa, África, Asia, Oriente Medio, Australasia, puede ir a la página web: <http://artofliving.org/centers/main.htm>

LatAm meet on public debt, investment & savings



The First International Symposium on "public debt, citizen auditing and investment and savings alternatives for Latin American peoples", will take place from September 22-24 in Caracas, Venezuela. During the event, different thematic cores will be analyzed, among them: public debt audits, the Southern Bank and the Southern Monetary Fund.

In recent times, Latin America has been registering significant levels of economic recovery. However, progress in the region remains constrained by the mechanisms for ongoing indebtedness of international capital markets, the imposition of regressive policies on governments by multilateral institutions and the squandering of public resources through cycles of financial speculation, capital outflows and the recurrent debt cover up of privileged capitalist groups.

Neo-liberal policies aimed at opening up, privatization and deregulation have been increasingly questioned in recent years. Yet, the severe consequences of inequality, marginalization and lack of productive investment both in infrastructure and social areas which are characteristic of regressive strategies of economic and financial concentration are nevertheless maintained and in many cases strengthened.

The immediate cancellation of perverse illegitimate debts, the carrying out of open and participatory audits of public indebtedness, the end to the imposition of external conditionalities by multilateral institutions, and, in particular, the breaking up of persistent dependence, call for new financial institutions and instances at regional level which should be independent for the purposes of channelling savings and investment. All of the above are pressing challenges for Latin America.

Within the framework of the 6th World Social Forum

held in January 2006 with broad participation of social movements, decisions were made to ratify and strengthen the existing international mobilization campaigns against the debt, as well as to create spaces where to exchange views on the debt problem of less developed countries and finally propose alternative routes.

The "International Symposium on public debt, citizen auditing and investment and savings alternatives for Latin American peoples" will be an open and democratic framework for representatives of debt groups, social and political leaders and academics, in search of paths for Southern countries, aimed at breaking the hegemony in the capital markets of Northern powerful nations and the multilateral institutions under their control.

This event is jointly organized by the Centro International Miranda of Venezuela, the International Debt Observatory, Jubilee South and the Committee for the Cancellation of Third World Debt (CADTM).

Thematic Cores:

- Report of the International Debt Observatory (IDO)
- Public Debt Audits
- Southern Bank
- Southern Monetary Fund
- Block and coordination of policies and actions of indebted countries
- Conditions and significance of increased domestic public indebtedness
- The initiative of G-8 countries with regards to less developed countries.

Signatures:

Luis Bonilla (CIM - Centro Internacional Miranda); Jorge Marchini (IDO - Internacional Debt Observatory); Beverly Keene (Jubilee South / Americas); Éric Toussaint (CADTM Committee for the Abolition of Third World Debt) ■