



***ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE CUBAN
ECONOMY (ASCE)***

Newsletter, Summer 2003

July 14, 2003

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Dear ASCE members and other colleagues,

As many of you already know, our Thirteenth Annual Conference will take place in just two weeks. We hope you can join us August 7 through 9 at The Colonnade Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida. Given recent events in Cuba, this conference promises to generate interesting discussions regarding Cuba's economy and political landscape in both the short and long terms. Much has happened in the almost one year since I took office. We have new concerns about the current status of several of our Cuban colleagues who have been unfairly judged and imprisoned as well as our continued concerns about Cuba's economy and its negative impact on the general population and its place (or lack of it) in global markets.

ASCE continues to serve the international community as a viable and vibrant vehicle to study and discuss Cuba's transition to a democratic market economy. We must symbolically represent the ideas and voices of many of our colleagues, who are currently political prisoners in Cuba, unable to speak their minds and publish their works. We hope that we will be able to hear their voices during future ASCE meetings, as we have in the past. This year's ASCE conference will miss the participation of these Cuban economists, who have taken many risks attempting to exercise their profession. But, recent events and concerns should present new opportunities and challenges to all participants.

I have enjoyed working this year with a very committed Board and membership. I have been fortunate to have Dr. Rolando Castañeda as Secretary and Dr. Antonio Gayoso as Treasurer. In addition to the excellent work of the elected Board, individual members have volunteered for many tasks, executed with precision and timeliness. I would like to recognize and give special thanks to these key contributors, including Dr. Jorge Pérez-López, who is responsible for bringing together the conference program, and Dr. Enrique Pumar for coordinating the awards for best student papers, among others. The University of Miami's Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, under the leadership of Dr. Jaime Shucklicki, continues to provide guidance and support to ASCE's annual conference.

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In addition, Ernesto Betancourt has prepared timely and relevant briefings that many of you have enjoyed receiving. His analysis and perspectives provide us all with much food for thought. From Casals & Associates' staff, Miguel García-Gosálvez contributed significantly to expanding and updating the website, Bronwyn Price to conference arrangements, and Cara Zalberg and Mariela Lanzas to Board needs. All of these combined efforts have contributed to advancing ASCE's agenda and maintaining its prestige as a premier professional organization.

If you are not a member already, please consider joining ASCE before the conference so you can take advantage of all the benefits of membership. I hope to see you again or meet you in Coral Gables this coming August 7-9.

Warm Regards,

Beatriz C. Casals
 President

1. Hotel Reservations

ASCE has been able to extend the deadline for room reservations at the Omni Colonnade Hotel from July 7th to July 17th. Those who have not yet made their reservations are encouraged to do so before July 17th in order to avoid a penalty and/or end up without accommodations.

2. Annual Meeting Preliminary Program

Structure of the Meeting, Main Activities and Panels

Thursday, August 7		
Registration		
1. Opening Plenary: Current Economic and Political Situation		
2. Plenary: Hemispheric Economic Integration		
Lunch Break		
3. Economics Issues I	4. Environment	5. Student Papers
6. Economic Issues II	7. Labor Issues	8. Roundtable: Reflections on the Constitutional Future of Cuba
Reception		

Friday, August 8		
Registration		
9. External Sector Issues	10. Cubans Abroad and Migration	11. Human Rights
12. Agriculture and Sugar	13. Ethics and the Cuban Transition	14. Roundtable: Truth and Reconciliation
ASCE Luncheon with Keynote Speaker		
15. Investment Issues	16. Transition Issues I	17. Special Topics
18. U.S.-Cuba Economic Relations	19. Remittances	20. Transition Issues II
ASCE Business Meeting		
Saturday, August 9		
Propuestas desde Cuba sobre la Transición y la Democracia		

Preliminary Program as July 14, 2003-Subject to Changes

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION

9:00 A.M. - 9:15 A.M OPENING PLENARY

Welcoming Remarks: Beatriz Casals, ASCE President

9:15 A.M. - 10:00 A.M. KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Introduction: Beatriz Casals, ASCE President

Speaker: Dennis E. Flannery, Executive Vice President, Inter-American Development Bank

10:00 A.M. – 11:15 A.M.

1. Current Economic and Political Situation

Chair: Beatriz Casals, ASCE President

Panelists:

Jorge Pérez-López

Jaime Suchlicki, University of Miami

Antonio Gayoso

Juan del Aguila, Emory University

11:15 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. COFFEE BREAK

11:30 A.M. – 12:45 P.M.

2. Hemispheric Economic Integration

Chair: Carlos Quijano

“Hemispheric Economic Integration: Status and Prospects,” Jaime Granados, Inter-American Development Bank

“Hemispheric and Regional Economic Integration: A Perspective from Central America,” Isaac Cohen, International Consultant and INVERWAY, LLC

“Implications for Florida and Cuba of Western Hemisphere Economic Integration,” Jorge Arrizurieta, Florida FTAA

12:45 P.M. – 2:15 P.M. LUNCH BREAK

2:15 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

3. Economic Issues I

Chair: Oscar Echevarría

“The Evolution of Output and Productivity in Cuba in the 1990s,” Ernesto Hernández-Catá, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University

“El desempleo actual en Cuba,” Manuel García Díaz, Universidad de Granada

“What If U.S.- Cuban Trade Were Based on Fundamentals Instead of Political Policy? Estimating Potential Trade With Cuba,” Matthew McPherson and William Trumbull, West Virginia University

Discussants: Gary Maybarduk, United States Army War College; Luis R. Luis; Jorge Sanguinety, DevTech

4. Environment

Chair: Walter Arensberg

“An Action Plan for Biodiversity Preservation in Cuba,” Argelio Maldonado

“Environmental Concerns for a Cuba in Transition,” Eudel Cepero

“Recruitment of Scientists and Development of International Funding Resources in Post Castro Cuba,” Larry Daley, Oregon State University

Discussants: René Costales; Frederick S. Royce, University of Florida

5. Student Papers

Chair: Nicolás Sánchez, College of the Holy Cross

"The Impact of the Dual Economy on Cuba's Social Structure," Benjamin Fernandez, College of the Holy Cross

"Dissident Democracy: A Quest for Freedom in Castro's Cuba," Nicky Faeth, University of California, Santa Barbara

"The Cuban Sugar Industry: Unrecognized Truths Behind Its Demise," John Tocco, College of the Holy Cross

"Strengths and Weaknesses of the Cuban Tourism Industry," Mark Spiers, College of the Holy Cross

Discussants: Javier Corrales, Amherst College; Maria Dolores Espino, St. Thomas University

4:00 P.M. – 4:15 P.M. COFFEE BREAK

4:15 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

6. Economic Issues II

Chair: Joaquin Pujol, IMF (retired)

"Tourism in the Caribbean After Castro," Art Padilla, North Carolina State University

"Taxation Levels in Cuba--and Other Topics of Rhetorical Interest," Nicolás Sánchez, College of the Holy Cross

"Cuba—Communism and Capitalism: Infrastructure, Development and Financing," John K. Dunn, University of Rhode Island, and Michael A. DeAngelis, consultant

Discussants: Nicolás Crespo, Phoenix Hospitality and Consulting Corporation; Lorenzo Pérez, IMF; Gustavo Arnavat, Esq.

7. Labor Issues

Chair: Joaquín Otero, Otero Global Resources

"Cuba's Labor Market: Current Conditions and Future Prospects," Luis Locay, University of Miami

"The Growth of the Independent Union Movement in Cuba: Challenges and Opportunities," Christopher Sabatini, National Endowment for Democracy

“The International Labor Movement's Views on Cuban Trade Unions,” Stanley Gacek, AFL-CIO.

Discussants: Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland; Efrén Córdoba, FIU (retired); Anthony Freeman; Anders Stig Møller, LO-FTF Council for International Development and Co-operation, Denmark

8. Roundtable: Reflections on the Constitutional Future of Cuba

Organizer: Jorge Sanguinety, DevTech Systems

Participants TBA

6:15 P.M. RECEPTION

Introduction: Beatriz Casals, ASCE President

Guest Speaker: His Excellency Philip Dimitrov, first Bulgarian Prime Minister after the fall of Communism, former Bulgarian Ambassador to the United Nations and the United States.

Friday, August 8

8:00 A.M. - 8:30 A.M. REGISTRATION

8:30 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.

9. External Sector Issues

Chair: René Monserrat

“The Cuban External Sector in 1990-2003: Achievements, Failures and Challenges,”
Rolando H. Castañeda

“Las relaciones económicas Cuba-EU: ¿Abre Cotonú una opción con futuro?,”
Francisco León

“Bridging the Gap: IMF and World Bank Accession for Socialist Countries,” Daniel P. Erikson, Inter-American Dialogue

Discussants: Armando Linde, IMF; Joaquín Pujol, IMF (retired)

10. Cubans Abroad and Migration

Chair: Juan Carlos Espinosa

“The Changing Face of the Cuban Community in the United States: Rapprochement with Castro?,” Benigno Aguirre, University of Delaware

“Economic and Social Situation of Cubans in the United States: A First Look from the 2000 U.S. Population Census,” Daniel Perez-Lopez, Virginia Tech

“Cuba: The Next Retirement Haven?,” Matías F. Travieso-Díaz, Shaw Pitman, and Armando A. Musa, Harvard Law School

Discussants: Lisandro Pérez, Florida International University; Laura Patallo Sanchez, University of Miami.

11. Human Rights

Chair: Stephen Kimmerling

“The Scope of Human Rights and of Cuba's Human Rights Obligations,” María Domínguez, Human Rights Institute, St. Thomas University School of Law

“La Ley Mordaza: The Logic of Oppression,” Aldo Leiva, Abadin Jaramillo Cook Heffernan and Martinez

“Human Rights and Reconciliation: Rebuilding a Rights-Based Society,” Marifeli Perez-Stable, Florida International University

10:15 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. COFFEE BREAK

10:30 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

12. Agriculture and Sugar

Chair: William Messina, University of Florida

“Natural Disasters and Cuba's Agricultural Performance: Is There a Correlation?,” José Alvarez, University of Florida

“Family Farms: The Cornerstone of the Agricultural Sector in the Cuba of the Future,” José Ricardo

“Rebuilding the Cuban Sugar Industry,” Juan Tomás Sánchez

Discussants: René Costales, Felipe Manteiga, and Berta Mexidor

13. Ethics and the Cuban Transition

Chair: Michael Geertson, Cssals and Associates

“The Ethics of Redistribution,” Marc Wachtenheim

“Respecting the Dignity of the Human Person: The Key to Overcoming Totalitarianism,”
Alex Chafuen, Atlas Foundation

“Reflections on Ethical Issues in the Cuban Transition,” Armando Ribas

Discussants: Lorenzo Pérez, IMF; Alberto Luzárraga; Alberto Martínez-Piedra, Catholic
University of America (invited)

14. Truth and Reconciliation

Chair: Stephen Kimmerling

“Dealing with the Past: The Role of Truth and National Reconciliation,” Armando Lago and
María C. Werlau

“Nunca Más: Propuesta para el Establecimiento de una Comisión Cubana de la Verdad y la
Reconciliación Nacional,” George Plinio Montalván and Rolando Castañeda

"National Reconciliation in Cuba," Maifeli Pérez-Stable

12:30 P.M. – 12:15 P.M. ASCE Luncheon

Introduction: Beatriz Casals, ASCE President

Keynote Speaker: Otto J. Reich, National Security Council (invited)

2:30 P.M. – 4:15 P.M.

15. Investment Issues

Chair: Dennis Hays, Cuban-American National Foundation

“Foreign Investment in Cuba: Then and Now,” Eric Baklanoff, University of Alabama

“A ‘Smart Sanctions’ Approach toward Cuba,” Brian Alexander, Giraldilla.com

Discussants: Pamela Falk, CUNY Law School; others TBA

16. Transition Issues I

Chair: Gonzalo de la Pezuela

“The Legacies of Socialism: Implications for the Cuban Transition,” Jorge Pérez-López

“Transition in Cuba: Lessons from Iraq,” Alberto Luzárraga

“Looking to the Future from the Past: Generational Roles,” Sergio Díaz-Briquets, Casals and Associates

Discussants: Rolando Castañeda; Alberto Luzárraga; Mary Speck, Stanford University

17. Special Topics

Chair: Andy Gomez, University of Miami

“Discriminación racial en el campo cubano,” Dominga González Suárez, Universidad de Granada

“Santiago vs. Havana: Cuba's Underground Economy in Comparative Perspective,” Ted Henken, Baruch College, CCNY

“A Tale of Two Tyrants: Francisco Franco and Fidel Castro,” Alfred G. Cuzán, University of West Florida

“Procesos electorales y élites políticas en la Cuba del tercer milenio,” Domingo Amuchástegui

Discussants: Ramón Colás; Ricardo Puerta; Juan del Aguila

4:15 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. COFFEE BREAK

4:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.

18. U.S.-Cuba Economic Relations

Chair: José Alvarez, University of Florida

“Cuba's Dollar Food Market and U.S. Exports,” James E. Ross, University of Florida

“U.S.-Based Travel to Cuba,” María C. Werlau, Orbis International

“The Role of the United States in the Cuban Economy,” Paolo Spadoni, University of Florida

Discussants: Pedro Pellet, Nova Southeastern University; Brian Alexander, giraldilla.com; Philip Peters, Lexington Institute

19. Remittances

Chair: Virgilio Blanco, World Trade Association of New Jersey

"El remitente cubano, algunas características particulares," Joaquín Pérez Rodríguez,
Bendixen and Associates

"Challenges and opportunities of marketing remittances to Cuba," Manuel Orozco, Inter-
American Dialogue

¿Cómo convertir remesas familiares en una política pública de desarrollo?, Ricardo Puerta

Discussants: Damián Fernández, FIU; Pere Gomis-Porqueras, University of Miami; Sergio
Díaz-Briquets, Casals & Associates

20. Transition Issues II

Chair: Ernesto Hernández-Catá, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University

"Macroeconomic Policy Implementation in Early Transition: Lessons for Cuba from Poland
and Romania," Jennifer Gauck, Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative, American Bar
Association

"Plan de tránsito económico para Cuba," Alfie Ulloa, Universidad de Chile

"Reform of the Armed Forces in a Post-Castro Cuba," Armando F. Mastrapa, Cuban Armed
Forces Review

Discussants: Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland; Antonio Gayoso; Jaime Suchlicki,
University of Miami

6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. BUSINESS MEETING

7:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. BOOKS AND BOOKS RECEPTION

Introduction: Beatriz Casals, ASCE President

Special Guest: Roberto E. González-Echevarría, Sterling Professor of Hispanic and
Comparative Literatures, Yale University. Author of many works of Spanish and Latin
American literary criticism and of *The Pride of Havana: A History of Cuban Baseball* (1999).

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

**PROPUESTAS PARA LA DEMOCRACIA DESDE CUBA:
PROYECTO VARELA, LA PATRIA ES DE TODOS, Y TODOS UNIDOS
COMENTARIOS DESDE LA DIASPORA**

Moderador: Carlos Quijano

Introducción: Gerardo Martínez-Solanas.

Ponentes:

Carlos Alberto Montaner
Ernesto Betancourt
José Ignacio Rasco
Rolando Castañeda
Byron Miguel
Salvador Subirá.

Comentarista: Silvia Pedraza

Clausura: Carlos Quijano

Note: The Final Program will be distributed by e-mail on August 1 and will be incorporated to our website. (<http://www.ascecuba.org>)