



**ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF
THE CUBAN ECONOMY (ASCE)**
Special Newsletter, Spring 2005

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June 8, 2005

Dear ASCE members and other colleagues,

As many of you already know, our Fifteenth Annual Conference will take place in less than two months. We are particularly pleased to inform you that **Mr. Egor Gaydar, former Prime Minister of the Russian Federation under President Yeltsin and author of some key reforms that helped free Russia from Bolshevik domination will be the keynote speaker at our annual meeting in August.** Also we are **planning a special event on Cuban Venezuelan economic relations.** We really hope you can join us on August 4 through 6 at the Chapman Conference Center, Wolfson Campus at Miami-Dade College, in Miami, Florida. **A preliminary program is attached.**

Given recent events and reports on Cuba and Venezuela connections, 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 year since the current Board took office.

ASCE continues to serve the international community as a viable and energetic vehicle to study and discuss Cuba's transition to a democratic market economy. Also, we must emblematically present the ideas and voices of many of our colleagues, who are currently political prisoners in Cuba, unable to freely 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 had in past years. Deplorably, this year's ASCE conference once again will miss the participation of these well-known 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.

**E-MAIL: ASCE@ASCECUBA.ORG
P.O. BOX 28267 WASHINGTON, DC • 20038-8267**

This Board has enjoyed working with a very committed members and membership. In addition to the work of the President and the Board, individual members have volunteered for many responsibilities, executed with precision and timeliness. We would like to recognize once more 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. To Miami-Dade College, under the leadership of our colleague Prof. Juan Carlos Espinosa for providing the facilities for this annual meeting and to The University of Miami's Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, under the leadership of Prof. Jaime Shucklicki, for providing ASCE the secretariat for the meeting.

Additionally, Mr. Ernesto Betancourt has continued to prepare opportune and relevant e-clippings briefings that many of you have enjoyed receiving. His information provides us all with much food for thought. We also thank Ms. Nora Ron Pedrique for her very efficient and timely distribution of the press clippings and our newsletters. All of these combined efforts have contributed to advancing ASCE's agenda and to maintain its prestige as a major independent 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. We hope to see you again or meet you in Miami this coming August 4-6.

Warm regards,

Rolando H. Castañeda,
Secretary

P.D. For facilitating your registration in the annual meeting and renewing your membership, we are providing the necessary forms in this newsletter. Also a registration form is included for new members. We urge you to distribute it among any interested party.

1. Changes at the Board

In the last meeting of the Board on May 10, 2005, the Board accepted Mr. Juan Belt resignation as Secretary due to his new work commitments. He will remain as Director in the Board.

The Board approved unanimously the motions that Mr. Armando Linde will serve as the new Vice-President to replace Mrs. Beatriz Casals, who resigned in April, and that Mr. Rolando Castañeda will served as the new Secretary to replace Mr. Juan Belt.

2. **Pre-Registration Form**

**XV Annual Conference - August 4-6, 2005
Miami-Dade College Wolfson Campus,
Chapman Conference Center, 245 NE 4th Street+. Miami, Florida**

Pre-Registration Form

Name: _____
Affiliation: _____
Address: _____
e-mail _____
Tel/Fax _____

	<u>ASCE Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
<i>Pre-registration</i> (*)	\$60.00 /__/	\$ 125.00 /__/
<i>Luncheon</i>	\$35.00 /__/	\$ 35.00 /__/

(Limited capacity. Reserve early)

*Membership renewal (Indicate one) (**)*

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|------|
| A) Regular | \$60 in USA - \$70 outside USA | /__/ |
| B) Sponsor | \$100 to \$250 | /__/ |
| C) Institutional | \$100 – or more | /__/ |
| D) Benefactor | \$251- or more | /__/ |
| E) Student | \$20 in USA-\$30 outside USA | /__/ |

Total enclosed.....\$_____

Please Make check to “ASCE” and send registration to:

ASCE, P.O. Box 28267 Washington, DC 20038-8267

 (*) Pre-registration fee must be postmarked not later than **July 26th, 2005**; otherwise late registration fees will apply to both the Conference (\$85 for Members and \$150 for Non-Members, and the Official Lunch (\$40). **Parking** for the Conference at Miami Dade College- 500 NE 5th Street (between 1st and 2nd Ave) **will be Free for those that pre-register.**

(**) ASCE's membership runs July 1-June 30. To obtain ASCE member rate, dues for 2005-2006 must be paid before meeting.

For questions about registration contact: Armando Linde, ASCE Treasurer (asce@ascecuba.org) or Joaquin Pujol (jppujol342@aol.com)

3. Application for Membership

Application for Membership

Name: _____
Affiliation: _____
Address: _____

e-mail (*) _____
Tel/Fax _____

Membership Type (Indicate one) (**)

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| A) Regular | \$60 in USA - \$70 outside USA | /__/_ |
| B) Sponsor (***) | \$100 to \$250 | /__/_ |
| C) Institutional (***) | \$100 or above | /__/_ |
| D) Benefactor (***) | Over \$250 | /__/_ |
| E) Student | \$20 in USA-\$30 outside USA | /__/_ |

Total enclosed.....\$_____

Please Make check to "ASCE"

Send registration to: ASCE, P.O. Box 28267 Washington, DC 20038-8267

(*) News Clippings and Newsletters are only sent to the e-mail address submitted. Please make sure it is clearly written. Members receive the Proceedings Publication corresponding to the year of Membership.

(**) ASCE's membership runs July 1-June 30. To obtain ASCE member rate in our XV Annual Conference, dues for 2005-2006 must be paid before annual meeting.

(***) Names are listed in the Volume of Proceedings of the corresponding Annual meeting.

ASCE is a non-profit corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) organization and thus donations and gifts are deductible for tax purposes.

ASCE does not share membership information with anybody.

For questions about registration contact: Armando Linde, ASCE Treasurer
(asce@ascecuba.org)

4. Hotel Facilities and Reservations for the Conference

THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL (www.ichmiami.com), located on Biscayne Blvd. facing Miami Bay, is offering a room group discount of \$109 per night (plus 13% tax) from August 3 thru 6 for those attending the ASCE Conference (extensive to 3 days before and 3 days after on the basis of availability). They also offer a reduced 24 hour parking rate of \$18.

RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL NO LATER THAN JULY 15, 2005 AT

1(800)327-3005 OR FAX 1(305)372-4440.

Metromover: Bayside Station – Free (5 minutes from Hotel to MDC)

5. Preliminary Program--As of June 6, 2005

(Please send any observations or suggestions that you have about the preliminary program to Dr. Jorge Pérez-López, jperezlopez@cox.net)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. **REGISTRATION**—Chapman Conference Center

9:00 A.M. – 10:45 A.M. **OPENING PLENARY**—Chapman Conference Center

Welcoming Remarks

Dr. Rolando Montoya, President, Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus

Opening of Conference

Ernesto Hernández-Catá, ASCE President

1. Economic and Social Situation

Chair: Ernesto Hernández-Catá, ASCE President

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, University of Pittsburgh

Jorge Sanguinety, DevTech Systems

Juan del Aguila, Emory University

Frank Mora, National War College

10:45 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. **COFFEE BREAK**

11:00 A.M. – 12:45 P.M. **PLENARY SESSION**—Chapman Conference Center

2. Institutions and Policies in the Transition

Chair: Joaquín Pujol

Ernesto Hernández-Catá, John Hopkins University
Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland
Ricardo Lago

2:15 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**3. Structural Issues, Social Capital, and International Economic Relations—
Room 3209**

Chair: Carlos Quijano

Manuel García Díaz, Universidad de Granada, “Malformaciones Estructurales de la Economía Cubana”

Jorge Sanguinety, “The Invisible Ruins of a Society: The Case of Social Capital in Cuba”

Eric N. Baklanoff and LaShondra Jones, University of Alabama, “Reconstructing ‘Constructive Engagement’: Canada’s Economic Relations with Cuba, 1993-2003”

Discussants: Armando Linde (García); Luis Locay, University of Miami (Sanguinety); Julia Sagebien, Dalhousie University (Baklanoff/Jones)

4. El poder político y el futuro económico de Cuba—Room 3208

Moderador: Juan F. Benemelis

Antonio Arencibia, “Institucionalización y localismos: Implicaciones económicas”

Alvaro Alba, “La nomenclatura reciclada: Control político, control financiero”

Eugenio Yáñez, “Los grupos de poder: Pugnas y pactos”

Joel Brito, “Los sindicatos y la transición económica”

Juan F. Benemelis, “El Ejército, el Partido, y la Asamblea: ¿Y a cómo da el pastel?”

4:00 P.M. – 4:15 P.M. COFFEE BREAK

4:15 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

5. Social and Economic Issues—Room 3209

Chair: Susan Kaufman Purcell, Center for Hemispheric Policy, University of Miami

Carmelo Mesa-Lago and Jorge Pérez-López, “An Assessment of ECLAC’s *Política Social y Reformas Estructurales en Cuba a Principios del Siglo XXI*”

Manuel García Díaz, Universidad de Granada, “La Economía Cubana en Cifras: ¿Una Economía Real o Virtual?”

Javier Corrales, Amherst College, “What’s Wrong with Cuba’s Equity-Without-Growth Model?”

Discussants: María Dolores Espino (Mesa-Lago and Pérez-López); Antonio Gayoso (García Díaz); Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland (Corrales)

6. **Energy Issues**—Room 3208

Chair: Juan Belt (invited)

Jorge Piñón Cervera, “Cuba’s Energy Challenge”

A. F. Alhajji and Terry L. Maris, Center for Cuban Business Studies, Ohio Northern University, “Energy Trends in Transition Economies and Their Implications for Cuba”

Juan T. Sánchez, “La industria cañera (sucro-alcoholera) de Brasil y su interés para inversión en Cuba”

Discussants: Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado, University of Nebraska at Omaha (Piñón); Dan Erikson, Inter-American Dialogue (Alhajji/Maris)

6:30 – 9:30 P.M. WELCOMING RECEPTION—Chapman Conference Center

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

8:00 A.M. – 8:30 A.M. REGISTRATION—Chapman Conference Center

8:30 A.M. – 10:15 A.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

7. **Real Estate I: Legal & Regulatory Issues**—Room 3208

Chair: George Harper, Harper, Meyer, Perez, Ferrer & Hagen

Tania Mastrapa, Mastrapa Consultants, “Real Property Restitution: Risks for Claimants and Investors”

Jose Palli, World Wide Title, “Land Registration in Cuba: Past, Present and Future”

Timothy Ashby, Duane Morris LLP, “Tax Implications for U.S. Investors and Restitution Claimants”

Discussant: Nicolás J. Gutiérrez, Jr., Borgognoni, Gutiérrez & Arza, LLP

8. **Special Topics**—Room TBA

Chair: Alfred Cuzán, University of West Florida

Jorge L. Romeu, “El Caribe Hispano y su Influencia para una Transición en Cuba”

Dominga González Suárez, Universidad de Granada, “Españoles y cubanos: conflictos y estereotipos”

Larry Daley, “Parks and Protected Areas/Forests, Ecology and Ethnicity: Cuba’s Riverine Gallery Forests”

Discussants: Alfred Cuzán, University of West Florida (Romeu); Virgilio Blanco (González); Eudel Cepero (Daley)

9. **Agricultural Trade: Legal and Economic Issues**—Room TBA

Chair: Gary Maybarduk

Terry L. Maris, Center for Cuban Business Studies, Ohio Northern University, “The Agricultural Export Facilitation Act of 2005: Its Rationale and Relevance for U.S.–Cuba Trade”

William Messina, University of Florida, “Cuba: The 25th Largest Food and Agricultural Export Market for the United States”

“Economic Impact of U.S. Agricultural Exports to Cuba Using an Applied General Equilibrium Model,” Mike O’Connell, University of Florida

Discussants: Stephen Kimmerling (Maris); Brian Alexander (invited)

10:15 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. COFFEE BREAK—Chapman Conference Center

10:30 A.M. – 12:15 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10. Real Estate II: Development Issues and Scenarios—Room TBA

Chair: TBA

Antonio Zamora, Hughes & Hubbard, “Real Estate Investment: Law & Finance Issues”

Andres Duany, Duany Plater-Zyberg & Co., “Zoning and Land Use Issues”

Mario Gonzalez Corzo, Lehman College, “Condominiums vs. Cooperatives: Possible Roles in the Future Transformation of Havana's Economy”

Discussant: Joseph Scarpaci, Virginia Tech

11. Informal Sector—Room TBA

Chair: Katherine Hirschfeld, Oklahoma University

Archibald Ritter, Carleton University, “Survival Strategies and Economic ‘Illegalities’ in Cuba”

Ted Henken, Baruch College, “Informal Sector or Second Economy?: Comparative Theoretical Approaches to Cuba’s Underground Economy”

María Werlau, Orbis International, “Fidel Castro’s Net Worth: Conjectures and Approximations”

Discussants: Ernesto Hernández-Catá (Ritter, Werlau); Katherine Hirschfeld (Henken)

12. Student Papers—Room TBA

Chair: Enrique S. Pumar, William Patterson University

Participants TBA.

12:45 P.M. – 2:15 P.M. ASCE LUNCHEON—Chapman Conference Center

Announcement of Student Awards

**Keynote Address: Edor Gaydar, former Minister of Finance
and Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation**

2:30 P.M. – 4:15 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

13. Economic and Social Evaluation of U.S. Foreign Policy Towards Cuba: Impacts and Alternatives I—Room TBA

Chair: Gastón Fernández, Indiana State University

Soren Triff, “The Valuable and Elusive Cultural Component in the Engagement with Cuba”

Eudel Cepero, “Ir o no ir, esa no es la cuestión”

Alberto Luzárraga, “U.S. Policy Toward Cuba: Will We Get it Right Finally?”

Rolando Castañeda, “Implicaciones de la política de Estados Unidos para una transición de Cuba hacia una economía más dinámica”

Discussant: Jorge Sanguinety

14. Agriculture—Room TBA

Chair: William Messina, University of Florida

James Ross, J.E. Ross & Associates, and María Antonia Fernández Mayo, “Cuba: Food Processing with an Emphasis on Oilseeds and Soy Food”

G.B. Hagelberg and José Alvarez, “Historical Overview of Cuba’s Costs of Sugar Production”

Vanessa Harper, University of Florida, “Exploring the Influence of Agricultural Markets on Plant Species Diversity in Urban Homegardens in Cuba: Initial Observations from Field Research”

15. Transition Issues—Room TBA

Chair: Oscar Echevarría

Ryszard Zukowski, Universidad de las Américas, Mexico, “Route out of Socialism as Path-Dependent Process: Central-Eastern Europe’s Experiences and Lessons for Cuba”

Rolando Castañeda, “Main Lessons Learned from the Transition to a Market Economy in Latin America, Europe and Asia over the Last 15 Years”

Matías Travieso-Díaz and Armando Musa, “Hanging the Shingle: The Oversight of Service Professionals in a Post-Transition Cuba”

Discussants: Jennifer Gauck, Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative, American Bar Association (Zukowski); Alfie Ulloa, Harvard University (invited) (Castañeda); Gustavo Arnavat, Hunton & Williams (Travieso-Díaz and Musa)

4:15 A.M. – 4:30 A.M. COFFEE BREAK—Chapman Conference Center

4:30 A.M. – 6:15 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

16. Economic and Social Evaluation of U.S. Foreign Policy Towards Cuba: Impacts and Alternatives II—Room TBA

Chair: Benigno Aguirre, University of Delaware

Felipe Sixto, “USAID’s Cuba Program: NGOs and Their Role in Cuba’s Transition to Democracy”
Ed Canler, “Which Transition? A Contrarian View on Post-Castro Cuba”
René Monserrat, “La actual política exterior de EUA respecto a Cuba: Evaluación y perspectivas”
Juan Tomás Sánchez, “The Report of the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba: Big Book, Bad Advice”
Discussant: Ricardo Puerta

17. External Sector Issues—Room TBA

Chair: Juan Carlos Espinosa, Miami Dade College
Sergio Díaz-Briquets and Jorge Pérez-López, “Remittances to Cuba: A Survey of Methods and Estimates”
Mauricio de Miranda, “Los problemas del desarrollo y la inserción internacional de Cuba en las condiciones actuales”
Daniel Erikson, Inter-American Dialogue, “Cuba, China, and Venezuela: New Developments in 2005”
Discussants: Ernesto Betancourt (Díaz-Briquets and Pérez-López); Lorenzo Pérez (de Miranda); Andy Gomez, University of Miami (Erikson)

6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. BUSINESS MEETING AND ASCE RECOGNITIONS

—Room 3209

President’s Report, Ernesto Hernández-Catá
Secretary’s Report, Rolando Castañeda
Treasurer’s Report, Armando Linde

7:45 – 9:30 P.M. CULTURAL EVENT AND COCKTAIL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

8:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION—Chapman Conference Center

9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Plenaria Especial: Balance del Intercambio Económico, Político y Social entre Cuba y Venezuela

Moderador, Ponentes, y Rapporteur a ser anunciados.