



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

Newsletter, Spring 2006

CURRENT OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

Ernesto Hernández-Catá

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Armando Linde

SECRETARY:

Antonio Gayoso

TREASURER:

Armando Linde

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Ramon Barquín

Juan Belt

Rolando H. Castañeda

Oscar Echevarría

Juan Carlos Espinosa

Ted Henken

Joaquín Pujol

Matías Travieso-Díaz

Carlos Siegle

FORMER PRESIDENTS:

Felipe Pazos

Roger Betancourt

Jorge F. Pérez-Lopez

Armando M. Lago

Antonio Gayoso

Lorenzo Pérez

Sergio Díaz-Briquets

Carlos N. Quijano

Beatriz C. Casals

April 19, 2006

Dear ASCE members and other colleagues,

Our Board is engaged in the arrangements and details for the following activities:

- 1. Our Sixteenth Annual Meeting to be held at the Chapman Conference Center, Wolfson Campus at Miami-Dade College, in Miami, Florida from Thursday August 3 to Saturday August 5, 2006. A very preliminary program is enclosed.**
- 2. A conference by Carmelo Mesa Lago on "The Cuban Economy and Social Welfare After 15 Years of the Special Period." at Georgetown University on May 1, 2006.**
- 3. The elections for a new president and board of directors to carry out the Association's work during the biennium 2006-2008. A list of candidates is included. Ballots and instructions for the voting procedure are going to be distributed promptly.**

Information is enclosed on all these three activities and on two activities ASCE carried out in Puerto Rico during the month of March.

Please feel free to contact the Board about any other issue of relevance to ASCE. Your active and continuous participation is the best way to ensure the vitality of our organization.

If you are not a member already, please consider joining ASCE before our annual conference so you can take advantage of all the benefits of membership. We are inclosing the application for membership form as well as the pre-registration form for the annual meeting.

Best regards,

**Rolando H. Castañeda
Director**

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

1. **Preliminary Program for the Sixteenth Annual Meeting to be held at the Chapman Conference Center, Wolfson Campus at Miami-Dade College, in Miami, Florida from August 3 to August 5, 2006**

ASCE will be holding its Sixteenth Annual meeting in Miami, Florida, on August 3 to 5, 2006. ASCE invites papers on subjects related to the Cuban economy and society, including: macroeconomics; banking and finance; agriculture and the sugar industry; tourism; social and political aspects of economic development and transition; education; health; environmental policy; law and legal institutions; privatization; civil society; gender issues; governance; infrastructure; foreign investment, and civil-military relations. Papers dealing with these subjects will be particularly welcome.

Proposals for panels, roundtables or individual papers should be sent to **Jorge Pérez-López**, Chair, Program Committee, 5881 6th Street, Falls Church, VA 22041, jperezlopez@cox.net, or asce@ascecuba.org, as soon as possible, the **more detailed abstracts are already long overdue**. Persons interested in serving as session chairs, discussants or participants in roundtable discussions should also communicate with the Chair of the Program Committee.

Papers for the Annual Meeting should be distributed to the discussants and session chairs by July 7, 2006.

Preliminary Program—2006 ASCE Conference as April 18, 2006

Proposed Panels

1. Current Economic and Political Situation
2. Macro and Micro Experiences of Transition
3. Monetary and Fiscal Issues
4. The Energy Sector in Cuba: An Agenda for Reform during a Transition to Democracy
5. Cuban Immigration, Family Visits, and Academic Exchange: Recent Trends, State Policies, and Future Prospects
6. Real Estate-related Issues
7. Medical Services Exports
8. Economic Issues in the U.S. Administration's Second Report on Cuba
9. Agriculture/Agricultural Trade Topics
10. Transition Issues
11. The Meaning of Political Exile
13. Military
14. Student Panel
15. Tourism

16. Simulation: Meeting to define Economic Policy Actions for Submission to the Council of Ministers of Cuba

Partial List of Paper Proposals

Mario A. Gonzalez Corzo, “The De-dollarization of the Cuban Economy: Principal Policy Measures, Causes, and Impact”

Roberto Orro,, “Monetary Reform in Cuba: The End of Dollarization?”

Lorenzo Pérez, “Institutional Reforms in the Areas of Fiscal Management and Central Banking in Economies in Transition”

Jorge Piñón, “The Energy Sector in Cuba: An Agenda for Reform During a Transition to Democracy--Hydrocarbons”

Juan Belt and Carlos Yermoli, “The Energy Sector in Cuba: An Agenda for Reform During a Transition to Democracy—Power”

Alfredo Cuzán, "In Retrospect: How Did Political Scientists View the Castro Regime in Its Infancy?"

Larry Daley, “A Pernicious Model for Control of the World Wide Web: The Cuba Case”

G.B. Hagelberg and José Alvarez, “Command and Countermand: Cuba’s Sugar Industry under Fidel Castro”

Gary Maybarduk, “Agricultural Privatization: Issues and Lessons”

Rolando Castañeda, “Principales Determinantes del Crecimiento Económico en la Transición Económica de los Antiguos Países Socialistas de Europa y la Unión Soviética en 1989-2005”

Armando Mastrapa, “Military Gerontocracy: A Generational Divide in Cuba's Armed Forces?”

Domingo Amuchástegui, “FAR: New Generations in Power”

Jorge Pérez-López, “The Cuban Economy in 2005 and Prospects for 2006”

María Dolores Espino, “International Tourism in Socialist Cuba: A Vehicle for Transition?”

Rolando Castañeda, “Cuba: Medidas Fundamentales para Desatar la Transición hacia una Economía de Mercado con Crecimiento Alto y Sostenido”

Antonio A. Fernández, MD and Pedro F. Pellet, Ph.D., “Politics and Metaphysics in Cuba: A Socioeconomic Approach”

Terri Dabney, New School, “Cuba and China: The Labor Links”

Mario A. Gonzalez Corzo, Lehman College, The City University of New York, and Scott Larson, The Graduate Center, The City University of New York, “Cuba’s Unique Remittance Landscape: A Comparative Perspective”

Daniel Perez-Lopez, “Cubans in the Island and in the U.S. Diaspora: Selected Demographic and Social Comparisons”

2. Hotel Facilities for the Conference

As it was done last year, the Board is working with **THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL** (www.ichmiami.com), located on Biscayne Blvd. facing Miami Bay, to offer a room group discount from August 2 thru 5 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. There is also the *Metromover: Bayside Station – Free (5 minutes from Hotel to MDC)*.

3. Nomination Committee Report

Prof. Roger Betancourt, Chair of the Nominations Committee, which also included Steven Escobar and Carlos Montoulieu, reports that the nominations process is complete:

Mr. Armando Linde, the current Vice-President and Treasurer, has agreed to run for President of the Association.

The following two members of the current Board of Directors that are eligible to run for a second term have agreed to do so:

Ted Henken Carlos Seiglie

Four members who have served in the Board in the past but not in the immediately preceding biennial period have also agreed to run:

**Stuart Lippe Lorenzo Pérez
Carlos Quijano Jorge Sanguinetty**

Four members who have never served on the Board also agreed to run:

**Dan Ericsson Mario González-Corzo
Ricardo Lago Silvia Pedraza**

Mr. Antonio Gayoso, the Secretary will send you soon a short biographical sketch of each of the candidates, probably together with the ballots. These sketches will also be put up on the website.

The Nominations Committee, on behalf of the Association, thanks all the candidates for agreeing to participate in this election process.

4. The Center for Latin American Studies of Georgetown University and ASCE sponsor a Lecture by Carmelo Mesa-Lago on May 1, 2006 in Washington, DC



Topic: "The Cuban Economy and Social Welfare after 15 Years of the Special Period."

Lecturer Carmelo Mesa-Lago, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Economics and Latin American Studies at The University of Pittsburgh

Date: May 1, 2006, 6PM to 8 PM

**Place: Mortara Center, Georgetown University
36 and N Street, NW,
Washington, DC**

There will be a book party at the end of the conference to introduce the book Cuba's Aborted Reforms that Professor Mesa Lago has co-authored with Dr. Jorge Pérez López (both authors will be available to sign copies of the book). The book was published in November 2005 by the University Press of Florida.

To confirm assistance RSVP to Center for Latin American Studies: phone (202) 687-0140 or clas@georgetown.edu

You can find the location of the Mortara Center as #72 in the map of the University that appears in

<http://explore.georgetown.edu/maps/index.cfm?Action=View&MapID=4>

5. ASCE activities in Puerto Rico

During the month of March, ASCE carried out two activities in Puerto Rico.

The first was a one day conference on "Cuba: Current Situation and Perspectives for the Future," that took place at the Hotel "El Convento." Some fifteen speakers spoke on various topics to an audience of about 70 people.

The first session included a summary on the current situation in the island prepared by Oscar Espinosa Chepe and presented by Joaquin P. Pujol. Mr. Espinosa Chepe was not allowed to attend the conference because the Cuban government would not authorize him to leave the island. This was followed by a presentation by Roberto Orro on developments with respect to the dollarization in Cuba and the implications of the multiplicity of currencies circulating in the

island. Next was a presentation by María Werlau on the secret accounts and investments of Fidel Castro and other government officials abroad. Antonio Gayoso commented on these papers.

A second session covered policies for an economic transition. Ernesto Hernández Catá presented an analysis of the roles of the private and public sector in the economic performance of the former soviet republics in the post communist period and the implications for Cuba; Armando Linde explored the policy of Central Banks to use pre-established rules of inflation targeting as a guide to monetary policy and its implications for a transition in Cuba to a free market economy; and Jorge Sanguinety explored the kinds of decisions that a government may have to face in the early days of a transition to a market economy.

During the luncheon we had two presentations. The first, by Adolfo Franco, Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean of USAID, covered US policy plans to assist Cuba in a transition to democracy and a free market economy. The second was a very interesting presentation by Rafael Rojas about the history of Cuba since the start of the republic and the role that “caudillismo,” regionalism, and racism has played in it.

The first afternoon session covered the impact of various sectors and special groups on the Cuban economy. Gerardo González covered tourism, with insightful comments from María Dolores Espino. Luis Locay, the impact of labor market distortions in Eastern Europe on the speed of transition and its implications for Cuba. Antonio Gayoso, the importance of financial services and how they could help in the development of small and medium sized enterprises in a process of transition. Carlos Seiglie discussed income inequality between the races in Cuba and made an interesting analysis of the US Census data that showed that Cuban exiled Negroes achieved a higher average income than US Negroes, and even than average US Whites, after a number of years of their arrival to the US.

The final afternoon session covered the Diaspora and its impact and relationship with the Cuban society. Jorge Duany reviewed recent tendencies on Cuban emigration and the possible implications for the immediate future, and Silvia Pedraza presented her findings on the reasons for Cubans to emigrate obtained from her interviews of recent arrivals. María Werlau made some incisive comments on the issues raised by the Cuban exodus, including about the legal and human rights implications of the current situation.

The second activity was a panel on Policies for a Transition in Cuba that took place in the context of the Conference organized by the Latin American Studies Association in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In this panel participated Ernesto Hernández Catá, Jorge Sanguinety, Antonio Gayoso, Luis Locay, Armando Linde, and Joaquin P. Pujol. In addition, other members of ASCE made presentations on matters related to Cuba at other sessions of the LASA Conference.

Pre-Registration Form

**XVI Annual Conference - August 3-5, 2006
Miami-Dade College Wolfson Campus, Miami, Florida**

Pre-Registration Form

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

	<u>ASCE Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
Pre-registration (*)	\$60.00 /_/	\$ 125.00 /_/
Luncheon	\$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, 2006**; 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 2006-2007 must be paid before meeting.

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

Application for Membership

Name: _____
Affiliation: _____
Address: _____

e-mail (*) _____
Tel/Fax _____

*Membership Type (Indicate one) (**)*

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A) Regular | \$60 in USA - \$70 outside USA | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B) Sponsor (***) | \$100 to \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C) Institutional (***) | \$100 or above | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| D) Benefactor (***) | Over \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| E) Student | \$20 in USA-\$30 outside USA | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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 XVI Annual Conference, dues for 2006-2007 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)