



From the ASCE president

Dear Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Since the last newsletter, the Board has been busy with several events and outreach efforts.

XXI Annual Conference

First, as the date of our annual conference approaches, the Board is increasingly focused on finalizing the preparations for our annual meeting. We would request that you please sign up as early as you can to facilitate our planning and to take advantage of the lower conference and hotel rates. Please take a moment now to fill out the single form for conference registration and membership renewal now (which is attached). The 21st Annual Meeting will be held in Miami on August 4–6, 2011, at the Hilton Miami Downtown Hotel on Biscayne Boulevard (where the last few meetings have been held). The theme of the conference is "Cuba's Evolving Socio-Economic and Political Landscape," and we look forward to your contributions on the institutional changes underway in Cuba, as well as in other areas of analysis on Cuba. The Board will complement this request with a traditional postal mailing to encourage early participation by our membership and to facilitate planning.

Earned Media

Second, given ASCE's work in promoting and delivering an evidence-based policy dialogue on the Cuban economy, it is not unusual to find our membership in the news, and of course, it is rewarding to see that the work of our membership does not go unnoticed. For example, as previously announced, we are proud to have as our Keynote Speaker this year Carmelo Mesa-Lago (Distinguished Professor Emeritus of the University of Pittsburgh), whom will discuss his widely [sought after](#) views on Cuba's recent reform proposals. ASCE is also proud that Carmelo, along with long-time members Jorge Pérez-López, Rolando Castañeda, and Arch Ritter, were [listed as examples of ASCE's analysis](#) by the former Cuban Minister of Economy and Planning José Luis Rodríguez García in a recent issue of *Temas* (No. 65 Jan-Mar 2011). In the article, the minister respectfully references ASCE at length, including its founding, the work of these four authors, and our annual conferences held in Miami since 1990.

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Antonio Gayoso

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Ernesto Hernández-Catá

Armando S. Linde

Jorge A. Sanguinetty



The Eighth Carlos Díaz-Alejandro Lecture

Thirdly, Carmen Reinhart (Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics) delivered our eighth Carlos Díaz-Alejandro Lecture, on April 28 at the C. Fred Bergsten Conference Center at the Peterson Institute for International Economics here in Washington. In her lecture entitled "Why Reading Diaz Alejandro is Essential for Understanding Financial Crises," she mapped the lessons expounded in three of Diaz-Alejandro's landmark publications into the ongoing financial crisis. Carmen tightly weaved the writings of Díaz-Alejandro, in which he describes the lessons of the Latin American 1980s debt crisis and its aftermath, into the crises in advanced economies today. The event went very well, and the Board thanks Carmen for her formidable presentation, as well as the Peterson Institute for their generous hospitality.

The Jorge Pérez-López Student Award

Fourthly, Enrique Pumar continues to spearhead the work in delivering ASCE's student research competition for our annual conference. Alongside his direct communication with academic colleagues around the world, this year ASCE advertised the student prize widely on the social network Facebook, using both the organizational "fan" page and ASCE's virtual presence ("ASCE Web Presence"). The two pronged outreach approach helped deliver a significant and widespread response from undergraduate and graduate students all over the world. The student prize committee, led by Enrique, will now turn to its work of evaluating the entries with a view to announcing the winners by end June.

As ASCE's outreach efforts continue, we are developing our presence on LinkedIn (search ASCE Web Presence) and on twitter (@ASCECuba). We encourage you to join the ASCE fan page, which already has dozens of members, become a Facebook friend of ASCE, link on LinkedIn (search the name "Asce Web Presence"), and follow us on Twitter (@ASCECuba).

Results of the ASCE Member Satisfaction Survey

Finally, the member survey had an exceptional response rate. The Board is grateful for your participation. The good news from the survey is:

- Broad Satisfaction – (highest average rating) ASCE rated highly in broad satisfaction.
- Newsletter – the second highest rated, helps keep our existing membership informed.
- Newsclippings – third highest average rating, with suggestions on streamlining.

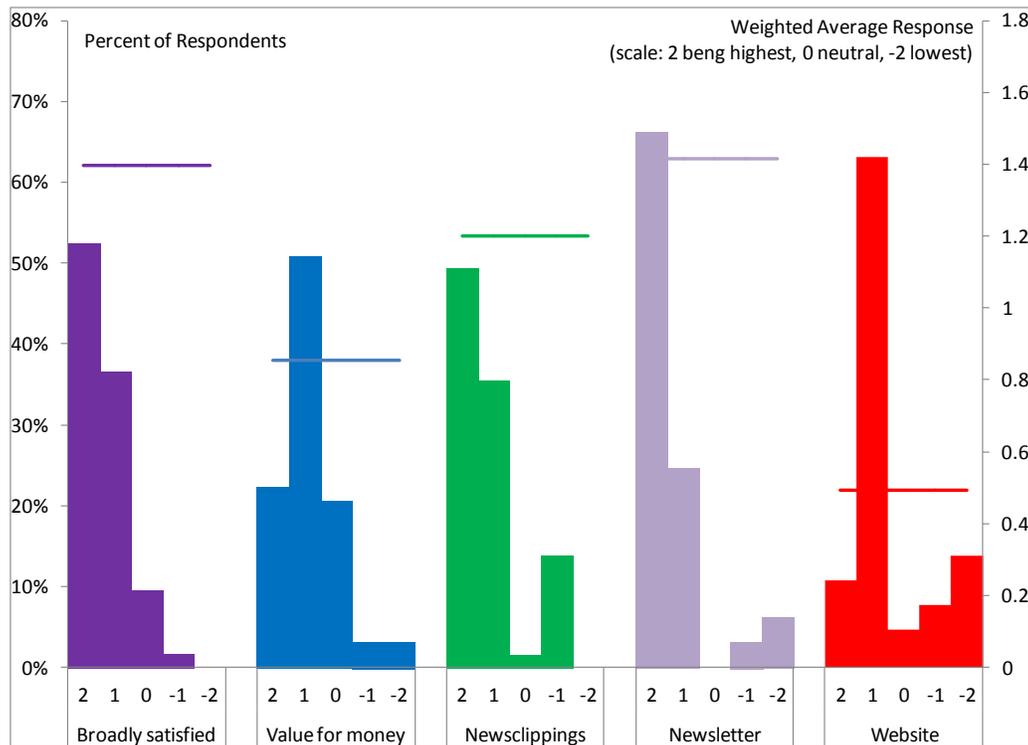
Nonetheless, the membership clearly suggested the Website as one area to improve, and we are working to turn it around soon. On value for money the organization received a mixed rating, which could be in part due to the recession, but nevertheless, the Board continues to work to improve the benefits of membership. On the dates and conference venue, there were no serious objections to changing the dates, given they don't coincide with the Bar and Sociological annual meetings. On the venue, the overwhelming number of votes was indifferent to changing the venue. There were five questions that essentially had a numerical scaling behind the answers (i.e. great=2, good=1, neutral=0, bad=-1, really bad=-2). Below I show a bar graph with the percentage of survey respondents voting in each question by score (left axis) as well as the weighted average (right axis).



The Board and our membership continue working hard to maintain and build on ASCE's two decades of success. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank you for your continuing support of our organization, and I look forward to seeing you all in Miami in August.

Best Regards
Rafael Romeu

Figure 1. ASCE Member Satisfaction Survey Results



From the ASCE treasurer

During the Apr–May period of 2011 we incurred no expenses. The revenue side, however, performed below expectations: only \$1.3K was collected so far in membership and conference registration fees, whereas this time last year we had already collected \$10K. See Table 1 for details.

Table 1: ASCE Cash Flows for the Period May 2010–May 2011

Last 13 Months	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-11
Total Beginning Monthly Balance	\$ 28,718	\$ 34,440	\$ 35,273	\$ 32,176	\$ 30,032	\$ 29,767	\$ 29,689	\$ 27,099	\$ 26,878	\$ 29,252	\$ 27,200	\$ 24,695	\$ 25,107
Total Credits	\$ 5,770	\$ 2,401	\$ 12,433	\$ 31,105	\$ 1,652	\$ 2	\$ 2	\$ 306	\$ 2,586	\$ 930	\$ 665	\$ 450	\$ 1,308
Total (Debits)	\$ (48)	\$ (1,569)	\$ (15,529)	\$ (33,249)	\$ (1,917)	\$ (80)	\$ (2,592)	\$ (527)	\$ (212)	\$ (2,982)	\$ (3,170)	\$ (37)	\$ -
Total Ending Monthly Balance	\$ 34,440	\$ 35,273	\$ 32,176	\$ 30,032	\$ 29,767	\$ 29,689	\$ 27,099	\$ 26,878	\$ 29,252	\$ 27,200	\$ 24,695	\$ 25,107	\$ 26,415

We are paying very close attention to this red flag, a proof of which is the recently completed ASCE



Member Satisfaction Survey. Is the observed behavior an indication that the willingness to pay for participating in ASCE has declined? Please contact us with any kind of idea or contribution you may have to keep ASCE healthy.

Sincerely,
Geni Gomez

Rising Food Import Prices Press Cuba

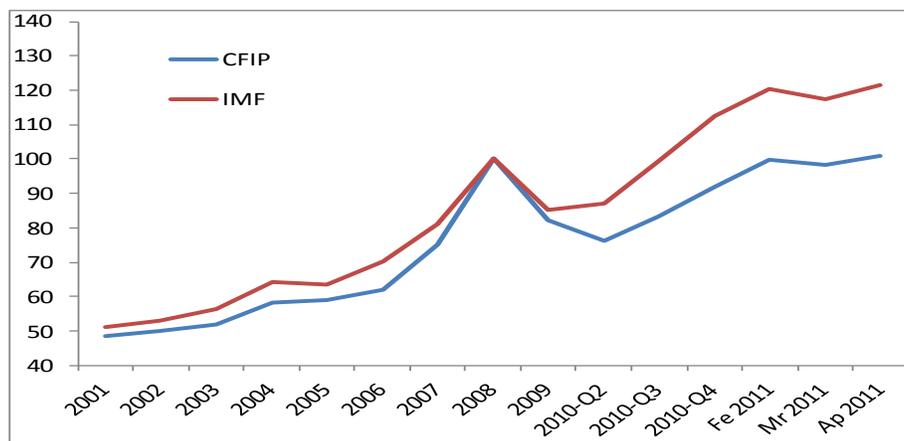
By Luis R. Luis

ASCE Index of Cuban Food Import Prices

As a means to present timely, relevant and objective information regarding key aspects of the Cuban economy and society, ASCE will be presenting indicators constructed by some of its members. In this note we present a chart and data of the new ASCE Index of Cuban Food Import Prices. The index is constructed using the market prices of six commodities that account for two-thirds of Cuban food imports, weighted by average Cuban imports for 2005-2008. Rice has the largest weight in the index (28 percent), followed by dairy products (21 percent) and wheat (18 percent). The other three commodities are chicken meat, corn and coffee. Vegetables, oil seeds and various meats comprise the bulk of the one-third of imports not covered by the index.

The index (2008=100) reached 100.9 in April 2010 compared to an average of 82.3 for 2009 and 83.2 for 2010. In the year to April Cuba's food imports rose by 8% in dollar terms. Though this is some 2% below the rise of the IMF index of worldwide food prices, it represents substantial and accelerating outlays for the economy and the population with adverse impact on consumption. Rising wheat and corn prices are the biggest problem even as rice, the most important commodity, is down 7% so far in 2011.

Figure 2. Cuba Food Import Price Index (CFIP)



Sources: Constructed by members of ASCE from IMF and BLS data. IMF index is the index of food commodity market prices of the IMF.



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE CUBAN ECONOMY

21st Annual Conference—August 4–6, 2011

Hilton Miami Downtown

1601 Biscayne Blvd, Miami, FL 33132

PO Box 28267
Washington, DC
20038-8267

HILTON MIAMI DOWNTOWN HOTEL INFORMATION

Room Group Rate: The Hilton Miami Downtown is offering a room group discount of \$95.00 per night (plus 13% tax) from August 3 thru August 7 for those attending the ASCE Conference.

Reservations: Individuals Calls for reservation will be made to 800-HILTONS.

Reservation Due Date: To secure your room at the discounted group rate, reservations should be made directly with the hotel no later than July 28, 2011.

Location: 1601 Biscayne Blvd, Miami, FL 33132.

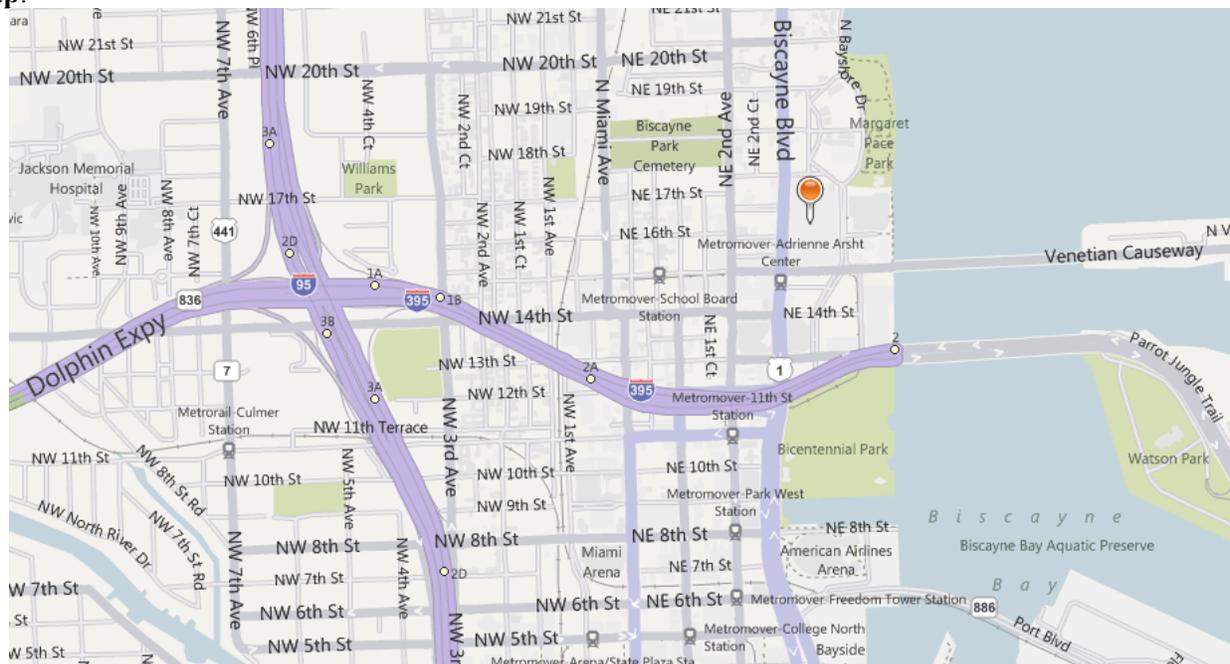
Parking: A discounted parking is offered too for attendees not staying at the hotel (self-\$12, valet-\$15).

Neighborhood: Walking-distance amenities nearby the Hilton Miami Downtown include the new Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts (Formerly Carnival Center); Miami-Dade Cultural Center; Gusman Center for the Performing Arts; and Bayside Market Place.

Metromover: The Omni loop of the free Metromover has its Adrienne Arsht Center Station just one block from the hotel.

Connecting Metrobus Service: 3, 16, 32, 36, 48, 62, 95x, 120, A (101), C (103), M (113), S (119), Flagler MAX (51), Biscayne MAX (93)

Map:





**SINGLE FORM FOR
CONFERENCE (PRE) REGISTRATION AND
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL**

asce@ascecuba.org
www.ascecuba.org

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21st Annual Conference—August 4–6, 2011

Hilton Miami Downtown

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Washington, DC
20038-8267

Name: _____
Affiliation: _____
Address: _____
E-Mail: _____
Phone: _____

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION ¹

- A) Regular member \$90
B) Contributing member \$91–\$200
C) Sponsor \$201–\$350
D) Benefactor over \$350
E) Student \$25
F) Lifetime \$2,500

Questions?

Contact us:
asce@ascecuba.org

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Pre-registration (No later than July 15) ²	ASCE Member ³	Non-Member
Conference fee	\$75 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$175 <input type="checkbox"/>
Official Lunch (Limited capacity—reserve early)	\$45 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$45 <input type="checkbox"/>
Cuba in Transition, Vol. 21 Printed (Pre-order) ⁴	\$25 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$60 <input type="checkbox"/>

Registration (Past July 15)	ASCE Member ³	Non-Member
Conference fee	\$100 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$200 <input type="checkbox"/>
Official Lunch (Limited capacity—reserve early)	\$50 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$50 <input type="checkbox"/>
Cuba in Transition, Vol. 21 Printed (Pre-order) ⁴	\$25 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$60 <input type="checkbox"/>

Total enclosed: _____

**Please make check to “ASCE” and send registration form to:
ASCE, PO Box 28267 Washington, DC 20038-8267**

¹ Membership in ASCE is renewed on an annual basis and runs from July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012.

² To enjoy pre-registration benefits, payment must be postmarked no later than July 15, 2011.

³ To obtain ASCE members registration rates, dues for 2011–2012 must be paid before the meeting.

⁴ Hardcopies of “Cuba in Transition” volumes are available for \$80 in ASCE’s website www.ascecuba.org. Starting with the 21st volume, members are entitled to a free CD/DVD version of the Annual Proceedings.