



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

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**July 1, 2005**

**Dear friends and colleagues:**

It has been my privilege to chair a very active Executive Board this year, and I want to thank all of its members for their cooperation and hard work. Over the past year, ASCE has intensified its efforts to expand the discussion and the analysis of Cuban issues worldwide. Starting with the well-attended session on Cuba at the American Economic Association meetings in Philadelphia, to the highly successful Carlos Díaz-Alejandro lecture by U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Ocampo at the Inter-American Development Bank, and to several lectures and seminar on Cuba at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. Publication of scholarly pieces on Cuba by members of the Association rarely has been as impressive and voluminous as during the past year: they have ranged from Jorge Sanguinetti's book *Cuba—Realidad y Destino* to many of the books published by the Institute for Cuban and Cuban American Studies of the University of Miami in the context of its *Cuba Transition Project*. ASCE is now planning to participate in other meetings, including in Spain and in Puerto-Rico, where its members will continue to present their views on Cuba and to tell the truth as they see it on the difficult problems facing the Island.

A major effort of the Board also has gone into the preparation of this year's Annual Meeting, with Jorge Perez-López acting, as always, as the master conductor. I believe we have an exciting program, with the participation of Egor Gaydar, former Prime Minister of Russia during the early phase of Boris Yeltsin's presidency, and leader of the reforms that sent the cradle of bolshevism on the road to democracy and to a free market economy. We are proud that Mr. Gaydar has accepted our invitation and will be our keynote speaker. We are also happy to present a session on a topic that we consider of primary importance: the relations between Venezuela and Cuba.

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

This year we have continued the efforts of past Executive Boards to enhance the interest of young people in Cuban topics and their participation in the work of the Association. I am proud to announce that we have increased the size of the awards that ASCE offers to the authors of the best essays on Cuba by an undergraduate student and by a graduate student. As in previous years, Enrique Pumar has presided over the group of ASCE members in charge of reading the many student papers we have received, and to designate the winners among them. I believe it is symbolic of ASCE's emphasis on youth that, this year we are holding our meeting at Miami-Dade College in response to the generous invitation of the College authorities.

Finally, we have stressed, and will continue to stress the importance of bringing to Cuba in a variety of ways the views of ASCE's Board and members. I thank our colleagues in Cuba for the deep interest they have shown in our work and assure them of our continue admiration and support.

Ernesto Hernández-Catá  
ASCE President

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### **1. Hotel Facilities and Reservations for the Conference**

THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL ([www.ichmiami.com](http://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)***

2. **ASCE Thanks**

**The Board of Directors of the  
Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy**

Wishes to express its profound gratitude to ASCE's donors:

**The Lunsford-Padilla Fund of the Triangle Foundation**  
for its generous contribution to the financing of student prices and selected seminars on Cuba

**Carlos Padiál**  
for providing the funds to finance the prize for the best essay on privatization

**The Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus**  
for providing the venue for this year's annual conference

**The Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies of the University of  
Miami**  
for providing support for ASCE's Annual Conference

**Bacardi**  
for providing its support to ASCE's Annual Meeting receptions

**DevTech Systems, Inc.**  
for providing its financial support to ASCE's activities and budget

**and**

**Barquín International**  
For its continuous support to the work of the Executive Board

**as well as to ASCE's benefactors:**

Victor Batista Falla, Roger R. Betancourt, Beatriz Casals, Eduardo Crews, Carolina García-Aguilera, Ernesto Hernández-Catá, Jorge Piñón-Cervera, Carlos N. Quijano, José M. Ricardo, and Carlos Saladrigas.

**3. Pre-Registration Form**

XV Annual Conference - August 4-6, 2005  
 Miami-Dade College Wolfson Campus,  
 Chapman Conference Center, 245 NE 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

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 (\*) 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](mailto:asce@ascecuba.org)) or Joaquin Pujol ([jppujol342@aol.com](mailto:jppujol342@aol.com))

4. Application for Membership/Renewal

**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

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(\* ) 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](mailto:asce@ascecuba.org))

## 5. Preliminary Program

*(final program will be available at the registration)*

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

**8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION—Chapman Conference Center  
(Miami Dade Wolfson Campus, 245 NE 4th Street, Miami)**

**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 by Ernesto Hernández-Catá, President of ASCE

#### 1. Economic and Social Situation

Chair: Ernesto Hernández-Catá, President of ASCE  
Carmelo Mesa-Lago, University of Pittsburgh  
Jorge Sanguinety, DevTech Systems  
Juan del Águila, 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 (former official International Monetary Fund)  
Ernesto Hernández-Catá, John Hopkins University  
Egor Gaydar, Former Prime Minister, Russian Federation  
Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland  
Ricardo Lago, Visiting Profesor, Florida International University

**12:45 P.M. – 2:15 P.M. LUNCH BREAK (Participants on their own)**

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

#### 3. Structural Issues, Social Capital, and International Economic Relations

Chair: Carlos Quijano (former official World Bank)  
Manuel García Díaz, Universidad de Granada, “Malformaciones Estructurales de la Economía Cubana”  
Jorge Sanguinety, Devtech Systems, “The Invisible Ruins of a Society: The Case of Social Capital in Cuba”  
Eric N. Baklanoff and LaShondra Jones, University of Alabama, “Deconstructing ‘Constructive Engagement’: Canada’s Economic Relations with Cuba, 1993-2003”

Discussants: Armando Linde, IMF; Luis Locay, University of Miami; Julia Sagebien, Dalhousie University.

#### **4. El poder político y el futuro económico de Cuba**

Moderador: Juan F. Benemelis

Antonio Arencibia, “Institucionalización y localismos: Implicaciones económicas”

Álvaro 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**

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; Antonio Gayoso; Roger Betancourt, University of Maryland.

#### **6. Energy Issues**

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; Daniel Erikson, Inter-American Dialogue; Lillian Vizcaíno.

**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**

Chair: George Harper, Harper, Meyer, Pérez, 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”

Discussants: Nicolás J. Gutierrez, Jr., Borgognoni, Gutiérrez & Arza, LLP.

**8. Special Topics**

Chair: Alfred Cuzán, University of West Florida

Jorge L. Romeu, Syracuse University, “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; Virgilio Blanco, Middlesex County College; Eudel Cepero, South Florida Environmental Center, Florida International University.

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

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

**9. Real Estate II: Development Issues and Scenarios**

Chair: Carlos Seiglie, Rutgers University

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”

Discussants: Joseph Scarpaci, Virginia Tech.

**10. Agricultural Trade: Legal and Economic Issues**

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”

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

Discussants: Stephen Kimmerling Esq.; Brian Alexander.

**12:30 P.M. – 2:15 P.M. ASCE LUNCHEON—Chapman Conference Center**  
**Announcement of Student Awards**  
**Keynote Address: Egor Gaydar, former Prime Minister of the Russian Federation**

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

**11. Economic and Social Evaluation of U.S. Foreign Policy Towards Cuba: Impacts and Alternatives I**

Chair: Gastón Fernández, Indiana State University

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

Eudel Cepero, South Florida Environmental Center, Florida Internacional University,  
“Ir o no ir, esa no es la cuestión”

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

René Monserrat, “La actual política exterior de EUA respecto a Cuba: Evaluación y perspectivas”

Discussant: Jorge Sanguinety, DevTech.

**12. Transition Issues**

Chair: Oscar Echevarría, Global Expand

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, “Courts of Special Jurisdiction in a Post-Transition Cuba.”

Discussants: Jennifer Gauck, Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative, American Bar Association; Alfie Ulloa, Harvard University (invited); Gustavo Arnavat, Hunton & Williams.

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

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

**13. Economic and Social Evaluation of U.S. Foreign Policy Towards Cuba: Impacts and Alternatives II**

Chair: Benigno Aguirre, University of Delaware

Felipe Sixto, “USAID’s Cuba Program: NGOs and Their Role in Cuba’s Transition to Democracy”

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

Ed Canler, “Which Transition? A Contrarian Perspective on Post-Castro Cuba”

Juan Tomás Sánchez, “The Report of the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba: Big Book, Bad Advice”

Discussant: Ricardo Puerta

#### **14. Informal Sector**

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, John Hopkins University; Katherine Hirschfeld.

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

President’s Report: Ernesto Hernández Catá

Secretary’s Report: Rolando Castañeda

Treasurer’s Report: Armando Linde

#### **7:45 P.M. – 9:00 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. – 10:45 A.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

#### **15. External Sector Issues**

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; Lorenzo Pérez, IMF; Andy Gómez, University of Miami.

**16. Student Papers**

Chair: Enrique Pumar, William Patterson University  
Participants: TBA.

**10:45 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. COFFEE BREAK**  
**11:00 A.M. – 12:45 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**17. Agriculture**

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”

**18. Relaciones Económicas y Sociales entre Cuba y Venezuela**

(Moderador, Ponentes y Rapporteur a ser anunciados)

**6. Web page and E-mail**

Thanks to the efforts of our Vice-President and Treasurer Armando Linde, ASCE’s website (<http://www.ascecuba.org>) hosted by the University of Texas Latin American Information Service, is operational again and has been updated. Also our e-mail [asce@ascecuba.org](mailto:asce@ascecuba.org) is also fully functional.

We really appreciate your suggestions to improve and expand our website and make it more useful and informative to everybody interested in Cuban economic affairs.  
*Please send your suggestions to our e-mail [asce@ascecuba.org](mailto:asce@ascecuba.org)*