



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

***Newsletter, Spring 2003***

**June 19, 2003**

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**Dear ASCE members:**

**You will now have the opportunity of reviewing the preliminary program organized for the XIII Annual Meeting under the commitment and leadership of Jorge Pérez-López. You will probably share the Board of Directors satisfaction with the quality of speakers and the balance and nature of the sessions that have been organized. The Board is looking forward to seeing you at the Colonnade Hotel and, as always, will welcome your enthusiastic participation.**

**In addition, following on the last two year's initiative of having our last session on a topic of general interest, we are planning a special session to address the proposals made from Cuba to establish a democratic society and a market economy. We hope that this exchange of views will help future policymakers to improve the economic and political well being of the Cuban people.**

**Membership renewals are now due for ASCE's next fiscal year, which begins on July 1, 2003, as well as for next annual meeting.**

**Please feel free to contact the Board regarding any issue of relevance to our organization. Your continuous and active involvement will be the best way to insure ASCE's vitality.**

**Best regards,**

**Rolando H. Castañeda  
Secretary of ASCE**

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## 1. ASCE Annual Meeting

Scholars, economists, and other professional analysts studying Cuba's economic and situation, will share their research, knowledge, and assessments at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the ASCE at the Colonnade Hotel in Coral Gables, Fla., Aug. 7-9.

The theme for the three-day conference is "The External Sector of the Cuban Economy," but a wide range of economic and political subjects will also be discussed. Among the attendees will be experts from the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, the InterAmerican Development Bank, the Centre for Economic Reform in Moscow, and universities from the United States, Europe and Latin America.

ASCE will host a pressroom for the media to use for interviews, phone calls, faxes, reading, or research. The room will contain copies of media releases and other documents pertaining to the annual meeting along with telephones, modem lines, a fax, and computers with internet service. ASCE staff also will assist the media in setting up interviews with scholars attending the meeting.

### Structure of the Meeting, Main Activities and Panels

<b>Thursday, August 7</b>		
1. Opening Plenary: Current Economic and Political Situation		
2. Plenary: Hemispheric Economic Integration		
<b>Lunch Break</b>		
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
<b>Reception</b>		
<b>Friday, August 8</b>		
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
<b>ASCE Luncheon with Keynote Speaker</b>		
15. Investment Issues	16. Transition Issues I	17. Special Topics
18. U.S.-Cuba Economic Relations	19. Remittances	20. Transition Issues II
<b>ASCE Business Meeting</b>		
<b>Saturday, August 9</b>		
Propuestas desde Cuba sobre la Transición y la Democracia		

**Detailed Preliminary Program as June 13, 2003—Subject to Change**

***THURSDAY, AUGUST 7***

**8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.      REGISTRATION**

**9:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.      OPENING PLENARY**  
Welcoming Remarks: Beatriz Casals, ASCE President

**9:30 A.M. – 10:45 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

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

**11:00 A.M. – 12:45 P.M.    2. HEMISPHERIC ECONOMIC INTEGRATION**

Chair: Carlos Quijano, ASCE Vice President

“Hemispheric Economic Integration: Status and Prospects,” Robert Devlin, Inter-American Development Bank (invited)

“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; Jorge Sanguinety, DevTech

**2:15 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.      4. ENVIRONMENT**

Chair: Walter Arensberg, IDB

"An Action Plan for Biodiversity Preservation in Cuba," Argelio Maldonado, World Wildlife Fund

"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; Manuel Cereijo (invited)

**2:15 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.      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

"Transitions in Cuba: Implications on Child Development," Cristina Mendoza, Tufts University

"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 (invited) and 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: Rafael Romeu, IMF (invited); Lorenzo Pérez, IMF

**4:15 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.      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, and Efrén Córdoba, FIU (retired); Anders Stig Møller, LO-FTF Council for International Development and Co-operation, Denmark

**4:15 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.      8. ROUNDTABLE: REFLECTIONS ON THE  
CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE OF CUBA**

Organizer: Jorge Sanguinety, DevTech Systems

Participants TBA

**6:15 P.M.                      RECEPTION,**

Introduction: María Werlau, Orbis International

Guest Speaker: Philippe Dimitrov, former Bulgarian Ambassador to 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: Alfredo Gutiérrez (invited)

“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)

**8:30 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.      10. CUBANS ABROAD AND MIGRATION**

Chair: TBA

“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

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

Discussants: Laura Patallo Sanchez, University of Miami (invited); Gastón  
Fernández, Indiana State University (invited)

**8:30 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.      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 (invited)

**10:30 A.M. – 12:15 P.M. 13. ETHICS AND THE CUBAN TRANSITION**

Chair: March Wachtenheim, Pan American Development Foundation

Alex Chafuen, Atlas Foundation  
Hernando de Soto (invited)  
Armando Ribas (invited)

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

**10:30 A.M. – 12:15 P.M. 14. ROUNDTABLE: TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION**

Chair: Stephen Kimmerling

Panelists:  
George Plinio Montalván, IDB/Rolando Castañeda  
Marifeli Pérez-Stable, FIU  
María Werlau, Free Society Project

**12:30 P.M. – 12:15 P.M. ASCE Luncheon**

Introduction: Beatriz Casals, ASCE President  
Keynote Speaker: Dennis E. Flannery, Executive Vice President, Inter-American  
Development Bank (invited) Debt Renegotiation

**2:30 P.M. – 4:15 P.M. 15. INVESTMENT ISSUES**

Chair: Dennis Hays, Cuban-American National Foundation

"Cuban Central Banking and Foreign Investment After Decree-Law 172 of 1997,"  
José Gabilondo, Albany Law School

"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; Fredo Arias-King, Demokratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization;

**2:30 P.M. – 4:15 P.M.      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

"The Internet and Cuba," Roger Panetta

Discussants: Rolando Castañeda; Mary Speck, Stanford University

**2:30 P.M. – 4:15 P.M.      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: Ricardo Puerta; Félix Martin, Florida International University (invited)

**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: Armando Linde, IMF; Ricardo Martínez (invited)

**4:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.      19. REMITTANCES**

Chair: TBA

"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: Pere Gomis-Porqueras, University of Miami; Sergio Díaz-Briquets, Casals & Associates

**4:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.      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; Brian Latell, Georgetown University and CSIS

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

**7:30 P.M.– 9:30 P.M      BOOKS & BOOKS RECEPTION.**

Introduction: Carlos Quijano, ASCE Vice President

Roberto E. González Echevarría (invited). Sterling Professors at Yale University and Chairman of the Spanish and Romance Languages Literary Department. Prof. González Echevarría is considered one of the foremost Cuban American critics in the academic arena.

***SATURDAY, AUGUST 10***

**9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**PROPUESTAS DESDE CUBA SOBRE LA TRANSICIÓN Y LA DEMOCRACIA:  
PROYECTO VARELA, LA PATRIA ES DE TODOS, Y TODOS UNIDOS**

Chair: Beatriz Casals  
Moderadora: Silvia Pedraza

Ponentes/Comentaristas

Ernesto Betancourt  
Alberto Muller  
Carlos Alberto Montaner  
José Ignacio Rasco  
Rolando Castañeda  
Gerardo Martínez-Solanas

**2. Board of Directors of ASCE unanimously condemns recent imprisonment and mistreatment of a number of our colleagues by the Government of Cuba**

The Board of Directors of ASCE unanimously agreed to the following statement in its meeting of June 10, 2003:

The Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE) is a private, independent, nonpolitical academic organization dedicated to the production and dissemination of information, knowledge, and understanding about all aspects of the Cuban economy. This mission is accomplished by the free and independent contribution of researchers and other professionals interested in the welfare of the Cuban people. ASCE is an institutional member of the American Economic Association and the US Allied Social Sciences Association.

Despite its nonpolitical nature, the Board of Directors of ASCE cannot remain indifferent to or silent in the face of the recent imprisonment and mistreatment of a number of its colleagues by the Government of Cuba. Marta Beatriz Roque Cabello, Oscar Espinosa Chepe, and Arnaldo Ramos Lauzarique, as well as many other independent professionals have been condemned to long prison terms in facilities far away from their homes solely for trying to exercise their profession as economists and news analysts with independence from the government. These individuals did not have a proper defense and are currently enduring inhumane prison conditions.

Ms. Roque Cabello and Mr. Espinosa Chepe are also reported to be suffering from life-threatening health conditions without access to proper medical treatment.

Accepting such actions by the Government of Cuba against the freedom of individual expression is inconsistent with the charter of this organization, the principles that inspired its foundation. Therefore, we condemn such actions by the Government of Cuba while making an appeal to the international community to pressure the Cuban authorities to reverse their decisions and allow these individuals to return to their families.

### **3. Annual Student Price Competition**

ASCE closed the deadline for the submissions of papers for the student competition this year. ASCE received 14 papers, twice the amount of last year. The papers are evenly split between graduate and undergraduates. On June 10, 2003 the Board agreed that every student who submitted a paper would receive some recognition as an incentive to foster our student membership numbers. The Board also agreed to offer more than one prize this year.

Enrique Pumar, the Chair of the Student Price Competition Committee, proposed to the Board that it was not fair to evaluate the graduate and undergraduate papers together so the Board approved Enrique's proposition of awarding two prizes, one to the first place graduate student paper and a one to the first place undergraduate student paper. The awards will be announced by the end of July.

### **4. Web page and E-mail**

Thanks to the efforts of Miguel García-Gonzalves from Casals & Associates and Rolando H. Castañeda, ASCE's website (<http://www.ascecuba.org>) hosted by the University of Texas Latin American Information Service, continues to be updated and expanded. Our e-mail [asce@ascecuba.org](mailto:asce@ascecuba.org) is also fully functional. The website now includes: (1) the Papers Published in "Cuba in Transition" Volume XII, (2) the Preliminary Program for the XIII Annual Meeting, (3) the Membership and the Registration forms, (4) recent press releases and (5) recent ASCE news clippings.

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).