



**FORUM FOR EAST ASIA – LATIN AMERICA COOPERATION
XVI SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING (SOM)
San José, Costa Rica**

SUMMARY BY CO-CHAIRS

**PLENARY SESSION
20 August 2015 9:00- 17:00
Rooms: Real I and II**

I SESSION

1. Welcoming remarks pronounced by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship and SOM Leader of Costa Rica, Mr. Alejandro Solano Ortiz. (Costa Rica)

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship and SOM Leader of Costa Rica, Mr. Alejandro Solano Ortiz welcomed all delegates to the XVI Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) of the FORUM FOR EAST ASIA-LATIN AMERICA COOPERATION (FEALAC). In his statement, he highlighted the importance of FEALAC, which in its 16 years of existence, has shown it is possible to achieve cooperation beyond borders; that both regions can be partners for progress, bound by a single vision; and can grow together and build together. He mentioned that joint activities with shared goals can and must be implemented, for posterity, by walking a single path towards our future, building a bridge towards progress beyond borders.

He expressed his gratitude to Thailand for its shared Presidency and also to the different working group coordinators.

2. Remarks pronounced by Mr. Songsak Saicheua, Director-General, Department of American and South Pacific Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand. (Thailand)

After expressing his appreciation to FEALAC member countries for their kind condolences and solidarity conveyed to the people and the Government of Thailand after the incident on 17th August, 2015, the Director-General Mr. Songsak Saicheua, during his statement underscored the following matters: to develop a more structured partnership and cooperation between FEALAC and regional financial institutions; the efforts being achieved to elevate the FEALAC process to its next level; the implementation of the key elements in the Guideline for FEALAC Working Process; the regional projects and national projects undertaken in the Bangkok SOM. Finally, as Co-chair of FEALAC, concluded on sharing Costa Rica's vision on "Two Regions, One Vision" and encouraged all FEALAC member countries to further translate this vision into actions to increase more trade, investment, economic activities and cooperation in all areas of common interest for the prosperity, security and sustainable development of the two regions.



3. Approval of the Agenda (Costa Rica)

It is submitted to consideration of the delegates the official Agenda of the plenary session of the XVI Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)

I SESSION

1. Welcoming remarks pronounced by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship and SOM Leader of Costa Rica, Mr. Alejandro Solano Ortiz.
2. Remarks pronounced by H.E. Norachit Sinhaseni, Permanent Secretary, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Preparation for the VII FMM: Review of the Agenda of the VII FMM
5. Consideration of the Working Groups Reports:
 - Social-Political Cooperation and Sustainable Development, coordinated by **China** and **Ecuador**
 - Cultural, Youth, Gender and Sports, coordinated by **Ecuador** and **Vietnam**
 - Commerce, Investment, Tourism and MSMEs, coordinated by **Argentina** and **Korea**
 - Science, Technology, Innovation and Education, coordinated by **Japan** and **Brazil**
6. Election of the new Co-Chairs of Working Groups
7. "Guideline for the FEALAC Working Process".
8. FEALAC Cyber Secretariat's Activities and Future Plans.
9. Discussion on FEALAC Regional Projects/Proposals Pending and New Proposals: "FEALAC PROJECT REVIEW SURVEY".
10. Preliminary consideration of the Latin America and East Asia Organization and Institutions Financial

II SESSION

11. Declaration of San José, Costa Rica
Adoption of Guideline for FEALAC Working Process
12. Adoption of the FEALAC XVI SOM Report.



4. Preparation for the VII FMM: Review of the Agenda of the VII FMM (Costa Rica)

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica reviewed the agenda and answered some of the delegate's inquiries about the VII FMM.

All delegations approved the agenda.

5. Consideration of the Working Groups Reports:

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica invited all working group coordinators to present a brief summary of the working group sessions of the previous day.

- Socio-Political Cooperation and Sustainable Development, coordinated by **China** and **Ecuador**.

Ecuador presented the resulting remarks from this group and summarized the main aspects of the projects that were analyzed (**Document Annex**).

- Cultural, Youth, Gender and Sports, coordinated by **Ecuador** and **Vietnam**.

Vietnam briefed the plenary on the ongoing projects of this working group (**Document Annex**).

- Commerce, Investment, Tourism and MSMEs, coordinated by **Argentina** and **Korea**

Argentina presented the conclusions of this working group (**Document Annex**).

- Science, Technology, Innovation and Education, coordinated by **Japan** and **Brazil**

Japan presented the conclusions of the working group which were widely commented by FEALAC members (**Document Annex**).

Given that many FEALAC members made comments on the presentations of each working group, the Deputy Minister of Costa Rica asked all FEALAC members to deliver the written comments to each of the working group co-chairs in order to include them in the final report.



6. Election of the new Co-Chairs of Working Groups

The Co-Presidents announced the new Co-chairs of the Working Groups as follows:

From Latin American Side Countries new Co-chairs are:

- Socio-Political Cooperation and Sustainable Development: **Costa Rica.**
- Cultural, Youth, Gender and Sports: **Ecuador**
- Commerce, Investment, Tourism and MSMEs: **Honduras**
- Science, Technology, Innovation and Education: **Colombia**

From the Asian Side Countries new Co-chairs are:

- Socio-Political Cooperation and Sustainable Development: **China**
- Cultural, Youth, Gender and Sports: **Vietnam**
- Commerce, Investment, Tourism and MSMEs: **Indonesia**
- Science, Technology, Innovation and Education: **Japan**

7. "Guideline for the FEALAC Working Process".

Thailand presented the "Guideline for the FEALAC Working Process". When Thailand assumed the co-Presidency, the country wanted to strengthen FEALAC cooperation and dialogue. Thailand invited all delegates to encourage the adoption of the "Guideline for the FEALAC Working Process" at the FMM.

Many FEALAC members congratulated Thailand's initiative for improving working methods of FEALAC and expressed their willingness of their countries to adopt it.

Peru asked that this mechanism be open to all FEALAC members that are not necessarily part of the Coordination Meeting but that might have an interest in the agenda. Since there were no further comments by other countries, the co-Chair proceeded to accept the proposal.

Cambodia made reference to page 2 which suggests the roles of the coordinator and deputy coordinator should be clearer, but the roles may overlap. Cambodia proposed that there should be a clear, defined role of the regional coordinator. Also on point 7, page 3 on Roles of Regional and International Organizations, Cambodia suggested that the word "all" be eliminated from the phrase "at all level of FEALAC process"; that way there will be a better control as to who attends and does not attend the meetings.

Thailand thanked the delegates for their valuable inputs that will be taken into account, and mentioned that this is the first draft to be adopted and can be continue to be edited. The Guideline was adopted.



8. FEALAC Cyber Secretariat's Activities and Future Plans.

Seul-ki Myoung, Researcher from FEALAC's Cyber Secretariat, made a presentation on the Cyber Secretariat, which included:

a. Activities

- Hosting FEALAC Cyber Secretariat Workshop every March since 2011
- Managing the official website of FEALAC (www.fealac.org)
 - o Created Biz info and National Project tabs
 - o Investment Opportunities Database
 - o Focal Points Zone
 - o Expansion of the website's function upon request of the members
- Informing member countries' activities by online publication
- Publishing FEALAC promotional materials
- Sending e-mail notifications to focal points
- Enhancing FEALAC's visibility through SNS (Facebook, Twitter, Facebook)

b. Future Plans

Guideline on the Use of FEALAC Logo (to be approved at the XVI SOM)

- FEALAC Project Review Survey (to come into effect after VII FMM)

9. Discussion on FEALAC Regional Projects/Proposals Pending and New Proposals: "FEALAC PROJECT REVIEW SURVEY".

The Thailand co-chair opened the floor for questions and comments about this project. Many delegates intervened and expressed their appreciation for the work and services of the cyber secretariat and the support for the adoption of the Project Review Survey.

10. Preliminary consideration of the Latin America and East Asia Organization and Institutions

Financial

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica explained that the idea of Costa Rica was to follow a mandate of the Declaration of Buenos Aires of 2011 that sought to approach some financial institutions of the region in order to establish medium and long term strategies. Following that mandate, the co-Presidency approached financial institutions in both regions.

The Viceminister of Finance of Costa Rica, Fernando Rodríguez, briefed the FEALAC members on the "First meeting on Latin American and Asian Financial Organizations and Institutions" held earlier in the morning. He stated that the proximity between the two regions



has led to a large increase in flows, and there is significant potential to increase exports and other global trade in goods, services and persons.

He also indicated it is necessary to strengthen financial institutions in Latin America; therefore, efforts are being made to attract extra-regional partners at various levels.

Furthermore, the representatives of the Central America Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), National Council for Financial System Supervision, the International Finance Corporation, World Bank and Latin American Development Bank (CAF), and the Thai Bankers Association, expressed appreciation for the invitation and emphasized their desire to continue participating in the FEALAC.

Observations were made by the representative of Ecuador who indicated that the challenges of both regions is to let them know what FOCALAE is. He highlighted the need to strengthen biregional trade and to make sure the work that is done in this forum impacts the countries populations.

The representative of Honduras indicated that there should be a focal point for bioregional projects and proposed that FOCALAE establish a fifth working group on finance.

Further comments were made by the delegations of China, Indonesia, Japan, Dominican Republic, supporting the initiative in incorporating financial institutions of both regions to the process.

The Deputy Minister of Costa Rica thanked the financial institutions for participating in the meeting and expressed the need to create awareness on FEALAC's work. He informed that the financial institutions will attend the FMM.

11. Declaration of San José, Costa Rica.

After several points of view and proposals submitted by delegations the Declaration of San José was agree at the SOM level.

12. Guideline for the use of the FEALAC Logo.

Member countries shall submit applications for using the logo to the Regional Coordinator of the respective region. This will lead us in the future to adapt to the different member countries' circumstances.

13. Adoption of the FEALAC XVI SOM Report.



Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation

ANNEX:

- List of Participants
- List of Projects
- Working group reports
- Declaration of San José



Attendance List 16th Senior Officials' Meeting
20 August, 2015

NO.	COUNTRY	FULL NAME
1	Argentina	Carolina Pérez Colman
2	Australia	Ken Gordon
3	Bolivia	Clarems Endara Vera
4	Brazil	María Dolores Almeida Cunha
5	Brunei Darussalam	Noralizan Momin
6	Cambodia	Soeung Rathchavy
7	Chile	José Antonio Cousiño
8	China	Wang Baodong
9	Colombia	Sandra Salamanca
10	Costa Rica	Alejandro Solano
11	Cuba	Miguel Ángel ramírez
12	Dominican Republic	César Dragam
13	Ecuador	Leonardo Arízaga
14	El Salvador	Jorge Alberto Aranda
15	Guatemala	Rodrigo Vielman
16	Honduras	Alden Rivera Montes
17	Indonesia	Dewi Gustina Tobing
18	Japan	Tomochika Uyama
19	Laos	Virasak Somphong
20	Malaysia	Zainal Abdoul Bakar
21	Mexico	Alejandro Madrigal
22	Mongolia	Battulang Gankhuurai
23	Myanmar	K Zeya
24	New Zealand	Jeremy Lambert
25	Nicaragua	Orlando Solorzano
26	Panamá	Carlos Ramírez Paz
27	Paraguay	José Antonio Dos Santos
28	Peru	Armando Raul Patiño
29	The Phillipines	Arlene t. Magno
30	Republic of Korea	Bhak Shang Hoon
31	Singapore	Catherine Wong
32	Suriname	Not Attending
33	Thailand	Songsak Saiechua
34	Uruguay	Alfredo Bogliaccini
35	Venezuela	Xoan Noya
36	Vietnam	Le Thang Tung