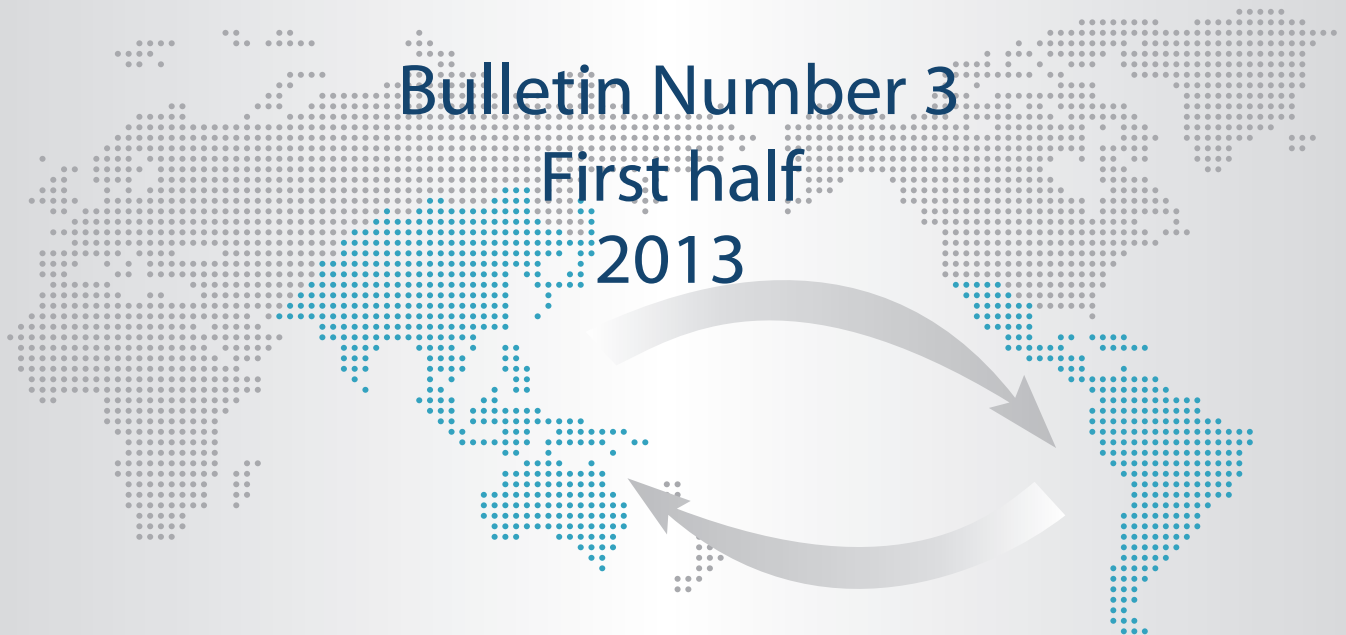




**OBSERVATORY**  
LATIN AMERICA  
ASIA PACIFIC

**Statistical Bulletin**  
**LATIN AMERICA - ASIA-PACIFIC**

Bulletin Number 3  
First half  
2013



## Statistical Bulletin LATIN AMERICA - ASIA-PACIFIC OBSERVATORY

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BULLETIN NUMBER 3

FIRST SEMESTER OF 2013

### Foreign Trade

- For the period January-June 2013, the value of goods exported from Latin America and the Caribbean to Asia-Pacific<sup>1</sup> amounted to 102,000 million dollars, with an increase of 5.1% as compared to the same period in the year 2012. Such increase was significantly less than the increase of the first semesters of 2011 and 2012 (11%). Nevertheless, exports to Asia-Pacific have continued to show greater dynamism than exports to the rest of the world, which actually decreased in the first half of 2013. (Refer to Chart 1).
- For the same period, regional imports of goods originating in Asia-Pacific reached 142,000 million dollars, where the increase was also lower as compared to the first semester of 2012. The region still has a commercial deficit with Asia-Pacific, amounting to 40,000 million dollars in the first half of 2013.
- Among the main destinations in the Asia-Pacific region, the best relative performance of exports was for goods sent to the rest of Asia (particularly India, the Korean Republic and the ASEAN economies). As far as imports are concerned, the greater dynamism corresponds to purchases made from the Korean Republic, China and the ASEAN, while shipments from Japan have decreased. (Refer to Chart 1).
- In the past few years Asia-Pacific has become an important commercial business partner for Latin America and the Caribbean, with China as the main individual partner in the referred region. In the first half of 2013, Asia-Pacific was the destination of 19% of the regional exports and the origin of 27% of imports. China's share was respectively 9% and 13% (Refer to Graph 1).
- The greater dynamism of Latin American exports to the rest of Asia in recent years is reflected in an increase of the relative significance of this group of countries, going from 37% of the total exports sent to Asia-Pacific in 2011 to 40% in the first semester of 2013.

**Chart 1. Latin America and the Caribbean: Progress of foreign trade with Asia-Pacific and the world, January-June 2011 to January-June 2013<sup>a</sup>**

(In millions of current dollars and growth rates)

	Exports					Imports				
	Jan-Jun 2011	Jan-Jun 2012	Jan-Jun 2013	Yearly increase		Jan-Jun 2011	Jan-Jun 2012	Jan-Jun 2013	Yearly increase	
				2012	2013				2012	2013
<b>Asia-Pacific</b>	87 585	97 156	102 094	10.9	5.1	126 552	136 044	142 381	7.5	4.7
China	43 873	49 668	49 593	13.2	-0.2	63 908	71 482	71 878	11.9	0.6
Japan	11 999	11 477	11 649	-4.4	1.5	14 595	16 260	15 804	11.4	-2.8
Rest of Asia	31 713	36 011	40 852	13.6	13.4	48 049	48 301	54 700	0.5	13.2
<b>Rest of the world</b>	432 943	452 576	438 779	4.5	-3.0	365 514	389 143	400 816	6.5	3.0
<b>World</b>	<b>520 528</b>	<b>549 732</b>	<b>540 873</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>492 066</b>	<b>525 187</b>	<b>543 197</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>

Source: CEPAL, based on data from CEPAL Statistical Bulletin N° 12. <sup>a</sup> Figures of trade with Asia-Pacific do not include the Caribbean.

- Guatemala and Honduras showed the most important falls in values exported to Asia-Pacific in the first half of 2013, though with slight incidence on the overall value of exports for that region. Among the main regional exporters to Asia-Pacific, Peru and Chile showed respective falls of 12% and 4.9%. All other countries in the region showed increases in the value of their exports, with outstanding cases like Uruguay (+70%), Paraguay (+56%) and Colombia (+46%).

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this Bulletin, the Asia-Pacific concept includes trade flow with all of Asia and Oceania.

- Exports from the region to Asia-Pacific continue to show a high degree of concentration per origin. In the first half of 2013, 93% of such exports referred to only six countries (Brazil, Chile, Venezuela, Mexico, Argentina and Peru). Brazil on its own stands for 37% of regional exports to Asia-Pacific and 46% of exports to China (Refer to Chart 2).
- Only three countries in the region showed commercial surpluses with Asia-Pacific in the first half of 2013, namely: Brazil, Chile, and Venezuela. It should be noted that Mexico's commercial deficit with the same region (48,000 million dollars) is greater than the aggregate deficits of the rest of countries with deficit figures (Refer to Chart 2).

**Chart 2. Progress of trade of goods between Latin America and Asia-Pacific, per country**  
(Millions of current dollars and percentages)

**a) Asia-Pacific**

	Exports			Imports		
	Jan-Jun 2012	Jan-Jun 2013	Variation	Jan-Jun 2012	Jan-Jun 2013	Variation
Argentina	6 920	7 947	14,8	6 765	8 140	20,3
Bolivia, Plurinational State	570	629	10,3	760	909	19,6
Brazil	36 216	38 134	5,3	34 879	36 086	3,5
Chile	18 412	17 509	-4,9	9 949	10 957	10,1
Colombia	2 181	3 194	46,4	5 892	6 093	3,4
Costa Rica	753.8	790.7	4,9	1221.5	1283.3	5,1
Ecuador	756	1 071	41,8	2 837	3 305	16,5
El Salvador	70	107	53,8	668	804	20,4
Guatemala	215	157	-26,9	1 398	724	-48,2
Honduras	172	144	-16,0	439	414	-5,6
Mexico	8 808	10 105	14,7	55 442	58 109	4,8
Nicaragua	67	60	-9,8	507	521	2,8
Paraguay	151	240	59,2	1 614	1 929	19,5
Peru	6 522	5 721	-12,3	6 565	7 131	8,6
Uruguay	500	852	70,4	1 128	1 312	16,3
Venezuela, Bol. Rep.	14 926	15 433	3,4	6 091	4 748	-22,0
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>97 239</b>	<b>102 094</b>	<b>5,0</b>	<b>136 156</b>	<b>142 466</b>	<b>4,6</b>

**b) China**

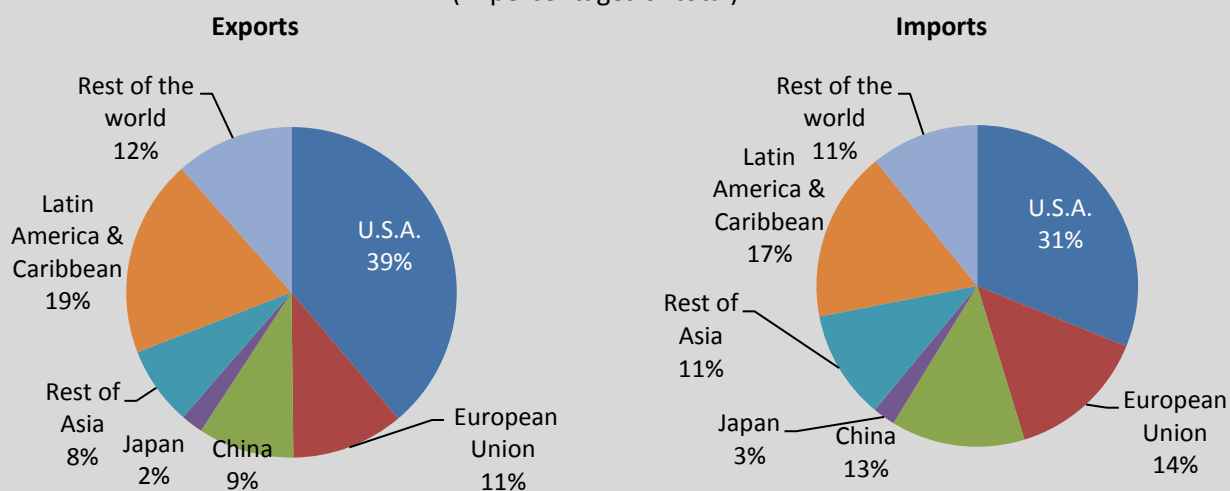
	Exports			Imports		
	Jan-Jun 2012	Jan-Jun 2013	Variation	Jan-Jun 2013	Jan-Jun 2012	Variation
Argentina	2 361	2 281	-3,4	4 149	3 436	-17,2
Bolivia, Plurinational State	163	158	-2,9	459	490	6,7
Brazil	21 158	22 957	8,5	16 059	17 584	9,5
Chile	8 402	8 848	5,3	6 229	6 872	10,3
Colombia	2 000	2 359	18,0	4 369	4 728	8,2
Costa Rica	163	197	20,5	656	688	4,8
Ecuador	214	261	21,6	1 331	1 579	18,6
El Salvador	2	3	26,7	257	319	24,2
Guatemala	27	27	1,6	836	598	-28,4
Honduras	46	20	-57,3	189	204	7,6
Mexico	2 598	3 257	25,4	26 496	28 673	8,2
Nicaragua						
Paraguay	19	30	52,6	1 348	1 592	18,1
Peru	3 557	3 023	-15,0	3 519	3 950	12,2
Uruguay	327	698	113,7	728	891	22,4
Venezuela, Bol. Rep.	8 640	6 364	-26,3	4 872	3 642	-25,3
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>49 676</b>	<b>49 593</b>	<b>-0,2</b>	<b>71 499</b>	<b>71 878</b>	<b>0,5</b>

Source: CEPAL based on statistics institutes, central Banks, exports promotion entities, USA International Trade Commission, the European Union's EUROSTAT, and the Direction of Trade Statistics (DOTS) of the International Monetary Fund.

Notes: Data for the case of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela correspond to quarters, subjected to the DOTS monthly trend. No data is included regarding Cuba, Panama and the Dominican Republic due to lack of official statistical information for the referred period.

In perspective, and despite the deceleration of the past two years, exports from Latin America to Asia-Pacific are still dynamic, following a multiplication by a 3.5 factor since 2006. In fact, in the first half of 2013, the monthly average of exports to Asia-Pacific from the region was 17,000 million dollars as compared to the 4,900 million dollars of 2006. Something similar is the case with imports, which were multiplied by 2.5 (Refer to Graph 3).

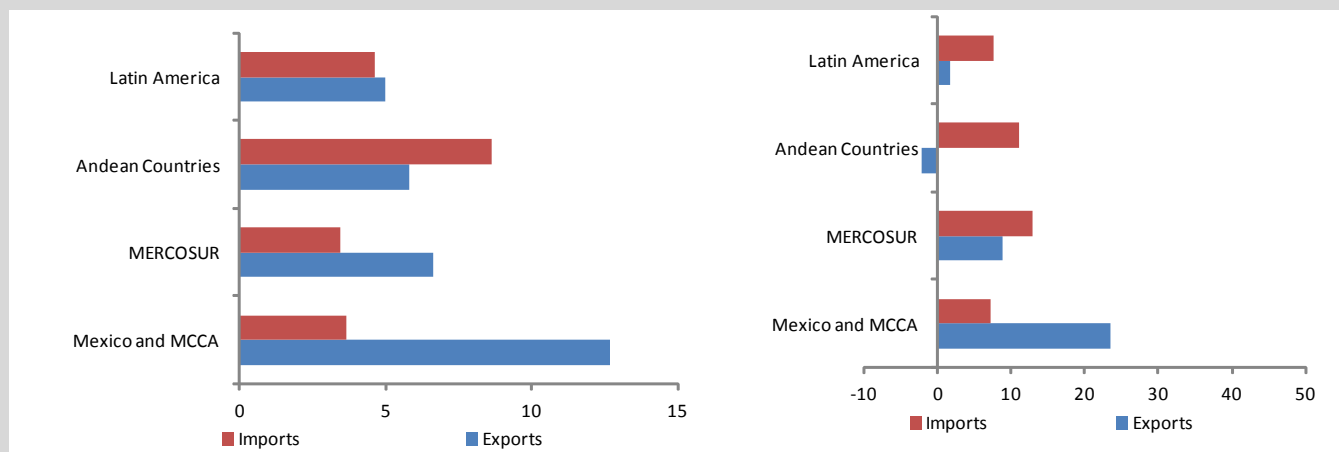
**Graph 1. Latin America and the Caribbean:**  
**Distribution of goods traded, per main partners, January-June de 2013**  
 (In percentages of total)



Source: CEPAL based on data from CEPAL's Statistical Bulletin N° 10.

Mexico and the countries of Central America showed the highest dynamism in exports to China in the first half of 2013, while the countries members of the Andean Community experienced a decrease of 2.2%. In the case of exports to the whole of Asia-Pacific, the highest increases again correspond to Mexico and the Central American countries (Refer to Graph 2).

**Graph 2. Subregions in Latin America: Trade with China and Asia-Pacific, variation January-June 2013 as compared to same period of 2012**  
 (In percentages)

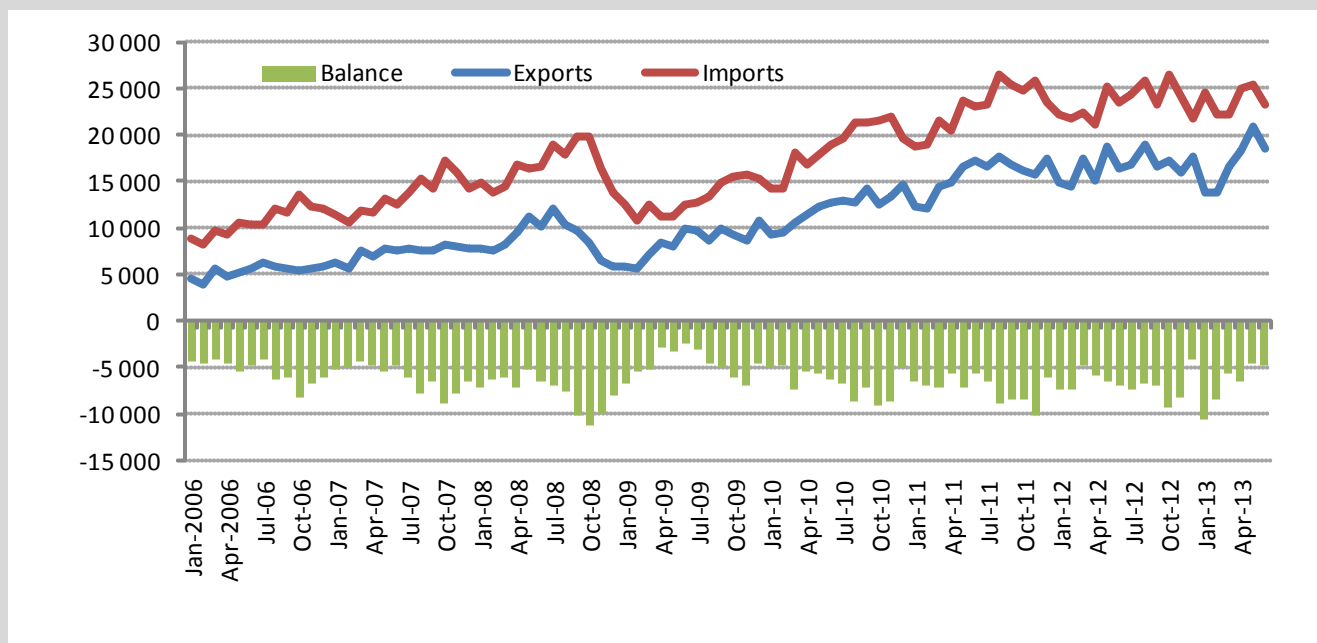


Source: CEPAL based on statistics institutes, central Banks, exports promotion entities, USA International Trade Commission, the European Union's EUROSTAT, and the Direction of Trade Statistics (DOTS) of the International Monetary Fund.

Notes: Data for the case of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela correspond to quarters, subjected to the DOTS monthly trend.

The deceleration in growth of regional exports to Asia-Pacific during the first semester of 2013 is basically the result of the behavior of basic products. Changes in prices were a central factor in this process, for they fell 1.5% throughout the period, with decreases in copper and by-products (-5%) and oil (5%), all of which are among the main exports to Asia-Pacific. Among the main products that comprise the basket of regional exports to Asia, only soybean (0.7%) and iron (0.5%) showed slight increases in prices. Also, the volume of iron exported had a fall of around 22%, and copper went down by -5%. In the case of soybean, there was an increase in the volume of exports (22%).

**Graph 3. Latin America and the Caribbean: Advance of trade with Asia-Pacific, January 2006 to June 2013**  
(Millions of current dollars)



Source: CEPAL based on statistics institutes, central Banks, exports promotion entities, USA International Trade Commission, the European Union's EUROSTAT, and the Direction of Trade Statistics (DOTS) of the International Monetary Fund.

Notes: Data for the case of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela correspond to quarters, subjected to the DOTS monthly trend.

CEPAL foresees, for the second half of 2013, a new deceleration in the value of regional exports to Asia-Pacific. This is a consequence of the significantly low prices of some basic products. Nevertheless, the constant Asian demand for such products will soften the decrease in prices, which is expected to be compensated, in part, by the greater expansion of the volume of exports of some traditional products like iron, oil, copper and soybean, among others.

### **Brief analysis, by product, of trade with Japan**

This third edition of the bulletin offers a survey of the trade relation between the region and Japan in what concerns the main products exported and the main partners in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Following the significant increase of 23% in 2011, Latin American exports to Japan dropped drastically in 2012, with a 5.5% decrease. The deceleration referred to the main products, except for copper and corn. In the first half of 2013, shipments to Japan started to improve, with a slight increase of 1.5%.

The region's main products imported by Japan are copper and iron ore, representing 40% of all exports from the region to the referred country. Chile and Brazil are the main regional suppliers of said products, with shares of 74% and 95% respectively (Refer to Chart 3). Exports from the region to Japan are highly concentrated per origin. In fact, in 2012, only three countries (Chile, Brazil and Peru) represented 86% of regional exports (Refer to Graph 4). Also, the ten main products exported from the region to Japan represented 70% of the total value of exports for that year. This double concentration in both products and supplier countries represents a challenge for the other countries in the region. In this sense, the statements made in the Statistical Bulletin N° 2 of the Latin America – Asia-Pacific are now confirmed in regards to the fact that regional exports to the ASEAN countries are more diversified than shipments to China and Japan.

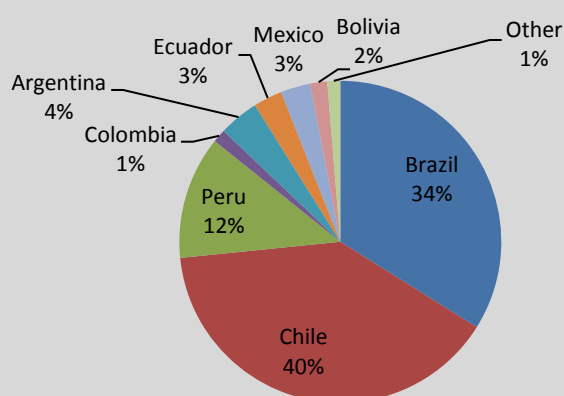
**Chart 3. Latin America and the Caribbean: main products exported to Japan, 2012**  
(Percentages of total exports and growth rates)

CUCI Rev.3	Main products	Share of total , 2012	Var. 2010-2011	Var. 2011-2012	% exported to Japan/World	Main supplier and share (%)
283	Copper and concentrates	27.9	4.9	5.2	23.3	Chile (73.5%), Peru (21.2%)
281	Iron and concentrates	12.7	34.6	-33.0	9.4	Brazil (94.8%), Chile (5.2%)
012	Other meats and trimming	6.1	39.4	-17.7	13.6	Brazil (64.7%), Mexico (22.2%)
034	Refrigerated fresh fish	4.8	38.3	-11.9	22.7	Chile (93.1%), Mexico (2.7%)
071	Coffee	4.5	36.5	-23.1	7.5	Brazil (56.2%), Colombia (20.7%)
044	Corn	4.0	35.2	178.6	8.7	Brazil (82.5%), Argentina (17.3%)
287	Metals	3.8	4.0	-7.4	11.0	Chile (34.1%), Bolivia, E.P. (30.4%)
684	Aluminum	2.3	9.1	-12.9	21.4	Brazil (76.6%), Argentina (23.0%)
333	Petroleum Oil	2.0	-40.0	134.7	0.4	Ecuador (100.0%)
343	Natural Gas	2.0	117.5	0.0	6.5	Peru (93.7%), Brazil (6.3%)
	<b>Main 10 products</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	<b>7.4</b>	
	<b>Other Products</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>-5.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	
	<b>Total (Millions of dollars)</b>	<b>24.666</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	

Source: CEPAL based on COMTRADE's data.

Note: The following countries were considered to define the chart: Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Paraguay and Venezuela, in addition to the member countries of the Caribbean Community CARICOM. Cuba, Haiti and Panama were not included due to lack of data in the COMTRADE database.

**Graph 4. Latin America and the Caribbean: main exporters to Japan, 2012**  
(In percentages of total exports)



Source: CEPAL based on COMTRADE data.

### **Main commercial initiatives between Latin America and Asia-Pacific throughout 2013**

- In February 2013, Colombia and the Korean Republic subscribed a free trade agreement.
- July of 2013 was the month of application of the free trade agreement between Costa Rica and Singapore, subscribed in the year 2010.
- Also in July of 2013, Colombia and Singapore subscribed a bilateral investment agreement.
- In October 2013, Chile and Thailand subscribed a free trade agreement.
- Throughout all of 2013 negotiations between the 12 countries that are part of the TPP (*Trans Pacific Partnership*) continued. However, upon a ministries meeting held in Singapore from December 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> 2013, the participating countries concluded that it would not be possible to round up negotiations before year end. Also, in November 2013, the Korean Republic officially announced that it would start talks with participating countries of the TPP with the purpose of joining the partnership.
- Additionally in 2013 there were further negotiations at the RCEP (*Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership*). This initiative is meant to establish a great free trade area with the participation of sixteen economies from Asia-Pacific (the ten members of ASEAN, in addition to China, Japan, the Korean Republic, India, Australia and New Zealand). The participating

members have set an objective to conclude negotiations towards the end of 2015. Several countries participate in both the TPP and the RCEP processes.

- As part of his visit to Latin America in June 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto subscribed several agreements meant for increasing Mexican exports to China and for attracting greater investment flows from China to Mexico.
- On June 13th and 14th 2013, the Sixth Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers of the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FOCALAE) took place in Bali (Indonesia). This Forum, created in 1999, includes eighteen Latin American countries and sixteen countries from the Asia-Pacific region. Its main objective is to promote bi-regional relations, not only in regards to economic aspects but also in political and cooperation issues.
- On November 26th and 27th 2013, the 7<sup>th</sup> China – LAC Business Summit took place in San José (Costa Rica).

### ***Recent documents and events of LAIA, CAF, ECLAC and the Latin America – Asia Pacific Observatory, relative to bi-regional relations***

#### Publications

- [ASEAN: Interrelaciones and potencialidades con América Latina y el Caribe](#)
- [Promoción del comercio and la inversión con China. Desafíos and oportunidades en la experiencia de las cámaras empresariales latinoamericanas.](#)
- [Chinese foreign direct investment in Latin America and the Caribbean.](#)
- [Strengthening biregional cooperation between Latin America and Asia-Pacific. The role of FEALAC](#)
- [La República Popular China y América Latina y el Caribe: Diálogo y cooperación ante los nuevos desafíos de la economía global](#)
- [La Economía Coreana. Seis décadas de crecimiento y desarrollo](#)
- [China y América Latina y el Caribe. Hacia una relación económica y comercial estratégica](#)
- [Economic Cooperation Between Korea and Latin America and the Caribbean](#)
- [La India y América Latina y el Caribe. Oportunidades y desafíos en sus relaciones comerciales y de inversión](#)
- [La República Popular China y América Latina y el Caribe. Hacia una nueva fase en el vínculo económico y comercial](#)
- [Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation \(FEALAC\). New biregional trade and investment relations in a changing world economic environment](#)
- [El Arco del Pacífico Latinoamericano: construyendo caminos de complementación e integración con Asia.](#)
- [El Arco del Pacífico Latinoamericano y su proyección a Asia Pacífico.](#)
- [Economic and trade relations between Latin America and Asia Pacific. The link with China](#)
- [Economic and trade relations between Latin America and Asia Pacific. The link with APEC](#)

#### Events

- [Seminario internacional “Cadenas de valor globales y regionales: Experiencias de Asia y América Latina” Latin-Asia Business Forum 2013 \(International Seminar “Global and regional Value Chains: the experience of Asia and Latin America”\)](#)
- [Latin America Korea Investors Forum \(LA-KIF\)](#)
- [XVII Conferencia CAF \(17th CAF Conference\)](#)
- [Seminar “Haciendo negocios con China: Experiencias de América Latina” \(“Doing business with China: Latin American Experiences”\)](#)
- [Academic Seminar “Las relaciones comerciales entre América Latina y Asia Pacífico: Desafíos y oportunidades” \(“Trade relations between Latin America and Asia-Pacific: Challenges and opportunities”\)](#)
- [Latin America Australia Investors Forum \(LA-AIF\)](#)
- [Lanzamiento del portal web del Observatorio América Latina – Asia Pacífico \(Launching of web portal of the Latin-America - Asia-Pacific Observatory\)](#)
- [III Conferencia CAF-ILAS “Desarrollo y transformación: una agenda común para China y América Latina”\(3rd CAF-ILAS Conference “Development and Transformation: a shared agenda for China and Latin America”\)](#)
- [Seminario sobre las relaciones de la ASEAN y Japón con América Latina \(Seminar on relations between ASEAN and Japan with Latin America\)](#)
- [Participación del Observatorio América Latina y Asia Pacífico en el Encuentro Empresarial FOCALAE \(Participation of the Latin America – Asia-Pacific Observatory at the FOCALAE Entrepreneurial Meeting\)](#)
- [Participation of the Observatory at the Second Meeting of the FOCALAE “Vision Group”](#)
- [Seminar with presentation of book: Tejiendo Redes. Estrategias de las empresas transnacionales asiáticas en América Latina](#)
- [The New India and the New Latin America - Synergies and Complementarities](#)

**ANNEX 1: TRADE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA and ASIA-PACIFIC AS OF 1st December 2013**

Countries	Australia	Brunei	Cambodia	China	Republic of Korea	Philippines	Hong Kong, Special Admin. Region of China	India	Indonesia	Japan	Laos	Malaysia	Myanmar	New Zealand	Singapore	Thailand	Chinese Province of Taiwan	Vietnam
Argentina								PSA										
Bolivia (P.S.)																		
Brazil								PSA										
Chile	FTA	FTA		FTA	FTA		SN	PSA		PA		FTA		FTA	FTA	FTA <sup>a</sup>		FTA <sup>a</sup>
Colombia				UC	FTA <sup>a</sup>					SN								
Costa Rica				FTA	UC										FTA			
Cuba																		
Ecuador																		
El Salvador					UC												FTA	
Guatemala					UC												FTA	
Honduras					UC												FTA	
Mexico	SN	SN								PA		SN		SN	SN			SN
Nicaragua																	FTA	
Panama					UC										FTA		FTA	
Paraguay								PSA										
Peru	SN	SN		FTA	FTA					PA		SN		SN	FTA	FTA		SN
Dominican Rep.																		
Uruguay								PSA										
Venezuela (B.R.)																		

Source: ALADI, CAF and CEPAL, based on data from the OAS, Foreign Trade Information System (SICE), and data from the Ministries of Commerce and Foreign Affairs of Latin American Countries.

<sup>a</sup> Agreement subscribed not yet in force.

FTA = Free Trade Agreements, PA = Partnership Agreements, PSA = Partial Scope Agreements, SN = Subject to Negotiation, UC = Under Consideration.