

Hemisphere Insider

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*Program News***Americas Program
Discussion: Social
Inclusion in the Americas**

April 25, CSIS hosted “Towards a More Inclusive Hemisphere: A Post-Summit Review,” featuring U.S. ambassador-at-large for global women’s issues Melanne Verwee and U.S. summit coordinator John Feeley to discuss accomplishments at the Sixth Summit of the Americas. Former Colombian ambassador Carolina Barco moderated the discussion. Amb. Verwee revealed where member states had advanced on gender and social inclusion issues. Feeley argued that disagreements over Cuba and Falklands/Malvinas did not detract from the summit’s success. All speakers pointed to the creation of non-conventional bodies, such as the CEO and Social Actors Forums that will *(more →)*

In Depth*Peru’s Booming Energy Sector*

Three large Brazilian companies—Braskem, Odebrecht, and Petrobras—announced investments of approximately US\$8.5 billion in megaprojects to construct a petrochemical plant in Peru and develop an estimated 50 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Braskem will start construction of the petrochemical facility in 2016, slated to begin producing by 2018. Odebrecht will begin building the first of three sections of gas pipelines this June. By mid-2020, the company plans to finish pipelines extending some 670 miles from Cusco in the mountains to Tacna near the border with Chile. Petrobras will invest an additional \$130–150 million in gas exploration, with approximately \$500 million in total investments by the end of the year. President Ollanta Humala cited the projects as pioneering efforts in boosting Peru’s petrochemical capacity and developing the nation’s longest transport infrastructure for natural gas. Peru’s Ministry of Energy and Mines recently revealed a 60 percent increase in investments in underground resources in the first two months of 2012 compared with 2011.

The Humala administration expects the investment projects to generate 40,000 jobs and tax revenue of \$3 billion. Projecting an increase in foreign direct investment in energy and a reduced dependence on petroleum imports, President Humala has encouraged the consumption of natural gas, particularly in rural areas. In addition, the government anticipates that economic activities triggered by such investments will help reduce poverty in long-neglected southern Peru.

—**Siremorn Asvapromtada**

In the News*North America: Mexico*

For the second straight year, the Mexican Senate has rejected the National Energy Strategy, a document drafted by the Energy Secretariat to guide development in that sector until 2026. Senators gave multiple reasons for rejecting the strategy, claiming it lacked direction and an adequate vision for shale gas extraction. —*El Economista (Mexico)*

Mexico’s attorney general launched an investigation of the Walmart bribery case, with the aim of exposing government officials who may have been complicit in alleged crimes. Walmart has agreed to cooperate by allowing access to any permits, licenses, or other government-issued documents that are requested. Meanwhile the secretary of economy promised to continue efforts to strengthen regulatory oversight. —*Excelsior (Mexico)*

encourage innovative multi-sector cooperation. To listen to the full audio from the event, please click [here](#).

Americas Program Hosts Fulbright NEXUS Scholars

April 24, the Americas Program hosted Fulbright NEXUS scholars, who presented the results of applied research conducted throughout the Americas. Research ranged from the environmental impact of urban design to economic incentives to encourage production of sustainable energy. Full audio and video from the event can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Upcoming Events

May 9: “Mexico: Elections and Prospects for Structural Reform,” CSIS, B1-A/B Conference Room, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

May 11: “A Conversation with Claudia Masías, Head of Peru’s Anti-Drug Commission,” CSIS, B1-C Conference Room, 9 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

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Caribbean: The Bahamas

The Bahamian government signed a US\$4.6 million contract with a consortium of firms led by Lowes’ Security Limited to install 243 closed circuit television cameras throughout the Bahamas. The CCTV system will be located mainly in high-crime areas and includes license plate recognition software. The project is scheduled for completion by the end of September.

—[Nassau Guardian \(Bahamas\)](#)

Central America: Guatemala/Belize

Meeting at the Organization of American States headquarters, Belize and Guatemala agreed to hold simultaneous referenda on October 6, 2013, regarding whether to send long-standing border claims to The Hague. Both governments will also meet in June to discuss confidence-building measures and cooperation between inhabitants living in border areas. —[Univisión](#)

Honduras

Honduras and Brazil agreed to revive agricultural cooperation between both countries. Beginning in May, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency will invest US\$2.5 million in at least four projects that will boost production of crops such as mangos, avocados, and soybeans. —[El Heraldo \(Honduras\)](#)

Panama

Opposition leader Mitchell Doens argued that a mining law passed on April 3 violates the constitution because it allows foreign nations such as South Korea and Singapore to exploit Panama’s mineral resources. Article 3 of the national charter states that Panamanian territory cannot be ceded in any way to another country. —[La Estrella \(Panama\)](#)

South America: Peru

Peru’s Congress approved the purchase of 24 KT-1C training aircraft manufactured by Korean Aerospace Industries (KAI) for US\$194 million. The agreement between Peru’s Ministry of Defense and KAI includes an initial payment of 30 percent of the total cost. KAI has already delivered two KT-1Cs and Peru’s Air Force will assemble the other 22 KT-1Cs.

—[Defensa.com \(Spain\)](#)

Venezuela

Following China’s lead, Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam all signed energy agreements with Venezuela in the past week. South Korea will help with US\$11 billion’s worth of infrastructure projects, Japan’s Bank for International Cooperation will lend Venezuela US\$1 billion to increase oil production capacity, and Vietnam will import 2 million barrels of crude oil per quarter.

—[Financial Times \(UK\)](#)

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