

*Hemisphere Insider***Program News****Americas Program Hosts Haiti Report Launch**

On May 22, the CSIS Americas Program hosted a roundtable discussion featuring a recent study by Tulane University and the University of Haiti, [Haiti Humanitarian Assistance Evaluation, From a Resilience Perspective](#). Ky Luu, executive director for the Resilience Leadership Academy at Tulane University; Jean Poincy, vice rector for the State University of Haiti; Nelson Sylvestre, dean of graduate studies at the State University of Haiti; and Valerie Bemo, senior program officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation spoke at the event. The study examined humanitarian assistance in Haiti since the January 2010 earthquake. Mr. Luu noted that such efforts have had little success in building back strong communities as many households are now at risk of becoming more (*more*→)

**In Depth**

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*Mexico and Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America: Leading the Pack or Falling Behind?*

Earlier this month, Mexico City played host to the Business Future of the Americas conference, where many prominent business leaders, development experts, and President Calderón spoke on the potential for investment and future business interaction in Latin America. During the conference, Mustafa Mohatarem, General Motors' chief economist, said that Mexico has a relatively competitive market and is well-poised to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). As corporations seek to increasingly invest in Latin America, Mexico has emerged as a viable option for businesses looking to avoid the higher costs of transportation and rising wages now associated with investing in China. In addition, Mexico has managed to maintain a relatively stable economy since the 1994 peso crisis and quickly returned to growth following the global recession of 2008–2009. Currently, Mexico's manufacturing and financial sectors are the hottest investment targets, specifically the automotive industry. Audi and Ford have already announced plans to build manufacturing plants or expand existing sites in Mexico over the next 5 years, and Honda and Mazda have both made plans to spend more than \$500 million dollars in the creation of new car factories in central Mexico. Despite the challenging security situation in some big cities and the competing positive economic news coming out of South American neighbors such as Brazil and Colombia, Mexico remains a regional leader in attracting FDI. Taking office in December, the next Mexican administration would be wise to keep it there. —**Janae Edwards**

**In the News***Regional*

Because of its own economic woes and because rising incomes in Latin America mean less dependence on foreign assistance, Spain plans to cut most of its development aid to Latin America this year. However, Spanish foreign minister García Margallo said that the decision was not connected to Argentina's expropriation of Spanish oil company Repsol's stake in the Argentine oil company YPF. —[MercoPress \(Uruguay\)](#)

*Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda*

Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts–Nevis launched the Caribbean's first joint defense training program aimed at strengthening regional security. The two countries hope to build security cooperation with others in the Caribbean, such as Barbados and Montserrat through joint training programs and pooling of

poor. This is particularly true of tent communities, whose inhabitants have largely failed to recover from the earthquake. Concluding the event, the speakers agreed that humanitarian assistance must go beyond life-sustaining activities and focus on building networking and self-help opportunities into the survivor community experience. For full audio from the event, click [here](#).

## Blog Posts

[Cuba Visa Imbroglio: Gaffe or No Gaffe?](#)

[Quebec Students Revolting](#)

[Can Honduras Have an Anti-drug Shield?](#)

## Upcoming Events

**June 18:** “Citizen Security in Central America: A Conversation with Aminta Granera, Nicaragua’s Director General for National Police,” CSIS, B1-A/B Conference Center, 4:00–5:30 p.m.

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regional security funds. —[Antigua Observer \(Antigua and Barbuda\)](#)

### Central America: Honduras

On May 25, the Honduran Congress unanimously passed a decree calling for a 180-day state of emergency as part of an effort to radically reform the ailing national police. Plans are being drawn up to investigate chronic issues of competence and corruption. Certain provisions of the police organic law will be suspended, specifically to make it easier to dismiss members for misconduct and substance abuse. —[El Heraldo \(Honduras\)](#)

### North America: Mexico

Thanks to the strong bilateral relationship between Mexico and Spain, Mexico’s state-owned oil company Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex) signed a contract with Spain’s Xunta de Galicia to build 14 tugs, floating platforms, and an operational base in northwest Spain with an investment of about US\$310 million. The local Galician government expects that the investment will generate 2,500 direct and indirect jobs. —[El Financiero \(Mexico\)](#)

### South America: Uruguay

Three former Uruguayan presidents, Julio Maria Sanguinetti, Luis Alberto Lacalle, and Jorge Batlle, complained that el Mercado Común del Sur (Mercosur) has failed, and Uruguay has seen few economic benefits ever since joining the bloc. The three former presidents highlighted that Mercosur has hindered Uruguay’s competitiveness, with Lacalle urging the current administration of President José Mujica not to support plans to raise the current external tariff. —[MercoPress \(Uruguay\)](#)

### Ecuador

Ecuador’s foreign minister Ricardo Patiño said Western impressions of Iran were false and criticized sanctions imposed by the United States and other members of the international community, which he said complicated specific agreements between the two governments. While visiting Tehran, Patiño supported Iran’s right to peaceful nuclear development and promoted commercial relations. Iran approved US\$400 million in credits to advance trade between the two countries. —[El Comercio \(Ecuador\)](#)

### Brazil

Already a major supplier to Grupo EBX, General Electric Co. (GE) will invest US\$300 million for a 0.8 percent stake in the Brazilian company. The conglomerate—comprising oil, mining, and shipbuilding companies as well as logistics and other energy companies—is expected to use the investment to fund new projects as well as strengthen its financial structure.

—[Latin American Herald Tribune](#)

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