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**Symposium: Economic and Political Leadership: The BRICS**

**Table of Contents**

**Symposium Introduction** ........................................... 437

*Introduction*
  Kathleen B. Cooper ........................................... 439

**Symposium Articles**

*The Rise of the Emerging Markets*
  Anne O. Krueger ........................................... 445

*The Brazilian Miracle and Its Limits*
  Peter Kingstone ........................................... 455

*Development Progress in Russia*
  Richard E. Ericson ........................................... 471

*The Politics of Human Development in India and China: It Pays to Invest in Women and Children*
  Devin K. Joshi ........................................... 487

*World Trade and Investment: Where do the BRICs Stand?*
  Thomas Osang ........................................... 515

*Observations on Innovation and Technology Use in the BRICS*
  Keith E. Maskus ........................................... 537

*Explaining the Energy Consumption Portfolio in a Cross-section of Countries: Are the BRICs Different?*
  David M. Arseneau ........................................... 553

*The Energy of Brazil: Tudo acaba em samba*
  Carlos Rufín ........................................... 585
UPDATES

FCPA Risks for U.S. Companies in Latin America, Renewable Energy Thrives in Brazil, and Mexico and the New PRI: Enrique Peña Nieto
Fernando Avelar .............................................................. 605

Canada Update: A Review of Canada’s Recent Holding Regarding the Proposed Securities Act, Canada’s Anti-Spam Law that May Soon Take Effect, and the Disciplinary Hearing of Joe Groia
David Paulson ................................................................. 615

NAFTA Updates and American Trade News Highlights for Summer 2012
Sarah Bridges ................................................................. 627

DOCUMENT

Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Ecuador .............................................. 637
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This journal is a quarterly, professional peer-reviewed publication produced by the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law’s International Law Review Association (and its Law Institute of the Americas), as well as the Section of International Law and Practice of the American Bar Association. The journal relies on the ongoing cooperation of the SMU School of Business, the SMU Departments of Economics and Political Science, and the London Forum of International Economic and Financial Law at the Centre for Commercial Law Studies at Queen Mary College, University of London.

Aims and Publication Policy:

This journal addresses the legal, business, economic, political and social dimensions of Western Hemispheric integration efforts (e.g., NAFTA, FTAA, MERCOSUR, etc), their implementation, their future evolution and expansion, and their overall impact on doing business in the Americas. The journal will combine practical and policy implications of these integration processes. As such, it will cover not only matters of immediate concern and interest, but also matters respecting reform of legal, business, economic, political and social structures (including human rights, gender, labor, and environmental issues) within the various countries in the Western Hemisphere. Subject matter concerning other regional integration efforts in the world and various other comparative topics in the international trade and investment areas will also be addressed, from time to time.

However, topics of particular concern to the journal will include: (1) free trade, direct investment, licensing, finance, taxation, labor, environmental, litigation and dispute resolution, and organizational aspects of NAFTA and other specific integration efforts and their specific implementation. For practical reasons, English is used as the language of communication; (2) subject matter involving economic, legal, political and social integration, and reform effects in Latin and Central America and in the Caribbean Basin; and (3) FTAA implications.

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Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law’s Law Institute of the Americas

(formerly SMU Centre for NAFTA and Latin American Legal Studies)*

Established in 1952, the Law Institute of the Americas at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law was originally designed to promote good will and to improve relations among the people of the Americas through the study of comparative laws, institutions and governments respecting the American Republics, and to train lawyers in handling legal matters pertaining to the nations of the Western Hemisphere. Today, in reviving the institution, the Law Institute of the Americas comprises meaningful academic research, teaching and programs pertaining to the “NAFTA/FTAA processes” and other Western Hemispheric integration efforts; to Latin and Central American law and judicial reform, particularly focusing on Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela; and to a more limited extent, to Canadian legal issues, particularly as they interrelate to the NAFTA/FTAA. The Law Institute of the Americas also is concerned with increasing (regional and hemispheric) legal and economic interconnections between the “NAFTA/FTAA processes” and European and Asia-Pacific integration activities.

The officers of the Institute are as follows: the Honorable Roberto MacLean, President; Professor Joseph J. Norton, Executive Director; and Professor George Martinez, Associate Executive Director. The Institute is also supported by distinguished group of Professorial Fellows, Senior Research Scholars, Professional Fellows, and Student Research Fellows.

As the Institute focuses primarily on issues pertaining to the North American Free Trade Agreement and the pending Free Trade Area of the Americas, and the broader economic, political, legal, and social integration processes underway in the Western Hemisphere, Law and Business Review of the Americas is one of the International Law Review Association of SMU. Other parties of the journal are the Cox School of Business, the SMU Departments of Economics and Political Science, the London Forum, and the American Bar Association Section of International Law and Practice.

* From 1952 through the early 1970s, the name was the Law Institute of the Americas; in 1993, it was reactivated as the Centre for NAFTA and Latin American Legal Studies; and in 1998, it returned to its original name. For further detailed historical information on the Law Institute of the Americas, please refer to the Law Institute of the Americas’ website at http://www.law.smu.edu/lia.
Introduction