



INSTITUTE OF THE AMERICAS
*Promoting public policies for development, trade and
investment, good governance, and regional integration*

CRITICAL ISSUES IN LATIN AMERICA

Friday, November 20, 2009,

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Annual Conference

Hojel Hall of the Americas Auditorium, Copley International Conference Center
UCSD Campus, La Jolla, California

Agenda

8:00 – 8:30 AM Registration

8:30 AM Introduction

Ambassador Jeffrey Davidow – President, Institute of the Americas

Davos-Style Discussions

9:00 – 10:00 AM – **China and Latin America**

President Hu Jintao's 2008 trip to Latin America signaled a new resolve by the Chinese government to increase its economic influence in the Western Hemisphere. Since President Hu's meeting with Latin American leaders at the APEC summit, his populous nation has strengthened trade, investment, technology, security and cultural ties with countries in the region.

Moderator

Ms. S. Lynne Walker, Vice-President, Institute of the Americas

Discussant

Dr. Enrique García, President, Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF)

Ambassador Sergio Ley-López, President, Asian Pacific Institute, Tecnológico de Monterrey

Dr. Richard Feinberg, Professor, Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, University of California, San Diego

10:00 – 11:00 AM – **The Assault on Democracy**

Basic Themes: The meaning of neo-populism, the role of Chavez, the responsible left, the erosion of freedoms, institutional weakness, the role of the press and civil society, and the coup in Honduras.

Moderator

Ambassador Jeffrey Davidow – President, Institute of the Americas

Discussants

Mr. Teodoro Petkoff, Editor, *Tal Cual* newspaper, prominent anti-Chavez politician and former presidential candidate of Venezuela

Mr. Manuel Camacho Solís, Former Mayor of Mexico City

Dr. Richard Feinberg, Professor, Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, University of California, San Diego

Coffee Break

11:00 – 11:15 AM

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM – **Drugs and Violence**

Basic Themes: Has the war on drugs failed? Are there alternative policies available? What is the impact of gang violence on societies' with weak institutions? What does the future hold for Plan Colombia and the Merida Initiative?

Discussants

Judge Robert Bonner, Former Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and former Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration

Dr. Ethan Nadelmann, Founder and Executive Director of the Drug Policy Alliance

Mr. Peter Hakim, President of the Inter-American Dialogue

Dr. David R. Mares, Professor, Political Science, University of California, San Diego