

FACT SHEET

August 4, 2011

FIRST COLOMBIA-BRASIL INVESTMENT FORUM

- The forum, set for Bogotá on August 4, aims to increase bilateral trade and investment between Brazil and Colombia, the two most populous countries of South America.
- The event is organized by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in collaboration with the Office of the President of the Republic of Colombia and the Colombian trade promotion agency Proexport..
- The forum will be inaugurated by Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, former Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and IDB President Luis Alberto Moreno.
- More than 500 business leaders from both countries are expected to attend.
- The event's speakers and moderators include Brazil's Minister of Planning, Brazil Miriam Belchior, that country's Communications Minister, Paulo Bernardo, and the governors of the states of São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Pernambuco.
- Business leaders making presentations include Jorge Gerdau, founder of Movimiento Brasil Competitivo; Luis Carlos Sarmiento, of the Organización Sarmiento; André Esteves, of BTG Pactual; Marcelo Odebrecht, of Grupo Odebrecht; Germán Efromovich, of Avianca; José Sergio Gabrielli de Azevedo, of Petrobras; and Carlos Raul Yepes, of Grupo Bancolombia, among other prominent figures.
- The topics of the panels are the following:
 - Trade and investment opportunities between Brazil and Colombia
 - Transport and telecommunications infrastructure
 - Agribusiness
 - Mining and energy
 - Financial services

Colombia-Brazil trade

- Trade between the two countries totals some US\$3 billion annually.
- While exports from Colombia and Brazil to Asia consist mainly of raw materials, bilateral trade between Colombia and Brazil is largely composed of manufactured and value-added products.
- Manufactured goods represent 60 percent of exports from Colombia to Brazil, and 80 percent of exports from Brazil to Colombia.
- Key categories include mining, food, chemicals, plastics, metal goods, textiles, and machinery.
- Brazilian direct investment in Colombia for 2005–2010: \$775 million.
- Colombian direct investment in Brazil for the same period: \$605 million
- Bilateral trade has quadrupled since 2004, but remains less than 1 percent of total trade between the two countries.
- The average tariff for Brazilian exports to Colombia is 5.8 percent, and for Colombian exports to Brazil, 2.4 percent.
- Tariffs are much high in the agricultural and industrial sectors.
- A Colombian exporter to Brazil pays freight costs equivalent to sending goods to Canada. Freight costs from Brazil to Colombia are also very high.