

THE FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS MINISTERIAL AND THE SIXTH AMERICAS BUSINESS FORUM

The sixth Free Trade Area of the Americas Trade Ministerial will be held April 6, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The FTAA is the centrepiece of efforts to advance prosperity in the Hemisphere through economic growth and development. The FTAA negotiations, which are an ambitious under-taking among the 34 democratic countries of the Americas, are scheduled to complete a comprehensive free trade deal by 2005. These negotiations hold the promise of creating the world's largest free-trade area with 800 million people and a combined GDP of nearly US\$11 trillion. An FTAA offers Canadian investors and exporters the prospect of greater market access for goods and services, stronger disciplines, protection for foreign investment and improved dispute-settlement procedures.

Canada is committed to the FTAA process and remains actively involved in the negotiations. The Canadian business community has had the opportunity to provide input into the FTAA process through various mechanisms that have been established for this purpose. They will again have a further

opportunity to do so along with business representatives of the other 33 countries at the Americas Business Forum (ABF) in Buenos Aires, April 5 and 6, 2001. Input from the ABF's private-sector delegates will become an integral part of the FTAA process as recommendations are made to trade ministers.

Additional information on the FTAA and the ABF, can be found on the Web sites listed below.

General information: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/ftaa>

Canada's negotiating positions and priorities:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/FTAAreport-full-e.asp>

Official FTAA homepage: <http://www.alca-ftaa.org>

The Sixth Americas Business Forum, Buenos Aires:
<http://www.vi-fema-abf.org>

and <http://www.americascanada.org/businesstrade/menu>

The Fifth Americas Business Forum, Toronto:
<http://www.abfcanada.com/english>

USEFUL WEB SITES

MERCOSUR

Official information on Mercosur: <http://www.mercosur.org>
Red Mercosur, Investigaciones Economicas del Mercosur: <http://www.redmercador.org.uy>

CANADA

Canadian Education Centre in Buenos Aires: <http://www.cebuenosaires.net.ar>
Canadian missions in Brasilia, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/brazil>
Canadian trade information: <http://www.exportsource.gc.ca>
CCA (Toronto) [Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce]: <http://www.cacanada.com/bccc>
CIDA-INC assistance to exporters: <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/inc>
EDC assistance to exporters: <http://www.edc.ca>
Industry Canada's business information site: <http://www.strategis.ic.gc.ca>
International Financial Institutions: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/ifinet>

ARGENTINA

Argentina business: <http://www.invertir.com>
Argentine media (English language): <http://www.buenosairesherald.com>
Canadian Argentina Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.argancham.com.ar>

BRAZIL

Brazilian Central Bank: <http://www.bancocentralbrasil.gov.br>
Brazilian Ministry of Finance: <http://www.fazenda.gov.br>
Camara de Comercio Brasil-Canada, São Paulo: <http://www.ccbc.org.br>
InfoBrazil: <http://www.infobrazil.com>

PARAGUAY

Governments on the WWW: Paraguay: <http://www.gksoft.com/govt/en/py.html>
Paraguay News <http://www.paraguaynews.com>
Worldguide: http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/south_america/paraguay/index.htm

URUGUAY

Governments on the WWW: Uruguay <http://www.gksoft.com/govt/en/uy.html>
Ministry of Foreign Affairs <http://www.mrree.gub.uy/dpc>
Uruguay Investment Agency: <http://www.uruguayxxi.gub.uy>
Worldguide: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/dest/sam/uru.htm>

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