

**Alejandro Pisanty Baruch, *Internet Governance and the Multi-stakeholder Principles of the World Summit on the Information Society***

Among other basic aspects of Internet governance, Pisanty gives a detailed explanation of how Domain Name System resources are managed, the origin of multi-stakeholders and how their participation is structured as a result of the World Summit on the Information Society. The author underlines the complex relationship between emerging information and communication technologies, particularly the Internet, and their impact on the evolution of communications in today's international society. He then gives an in-depth description of the complex mechanisms that intervene in Internet governance—understood as the set of regulations, joint programs and decisions that facilitate the management and organization of cyberspace—and which, as Pisanty so rightly points out, have far-reaching political, economic and social consequences. A run-down on the background of the major national and international organizations involved in Internet governance, such as the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), is provided and prospects for the development and control of the Internet in the short and medium terms are discussed. The author devotes a section of his paper to Mexico's participation in the World Summit on the Information Society, particularly our contribution to the preparatory phase, before introducing us to the new Internet nomenclature and its meaning, which centers on Domain Name Systems, a term that governments, the international

business community and civil society will have to learn to identify and become familiar with. Pisanty concludes that, if we are to build a democratic information society, the issue of Internet governance will have to take priority in the drawing up of public communications policies.

### **Julián Ventura Valero, *Mexico's Foreign Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region in 2000-2006***

Ventura begins his essay with an overview of the course Mexico's foreign policy has taken in the Asia-Pacific region over the last 40 years, followed by an assessment of the progress achieved at governmental level in the 2000-2006 period, specifically, the tangible, broad-based achievements made during these six years with each of major countries in this dynamic region. Based in this particular period, he then analyzes the political, economic and cooperation initiatives taken by the Mexican government, which, in his opinion, represent long-term investments whose immediate fruits are difficult to quantify. After making a concerted effort to expand its diplomatic and consular network, by the year 2000, Mexico boasted 12 embassies, four consulates and a consular liaison office in the Asia-Pacific region, but while the author acknowledges that stagnating relationships with the majority of Southeast Asian countries, India, Australia and New Zealand have been successfully rekindled, he stresses that measures must be taken to strengthen and consolidate the progress made over the last 10 years. He concludes by outlining a series of proposals that could potentially bolster Mexico's international positioning and facilitate its insertion in the world's fastest-growing region, an objective that will require full coordination between federal

and state governments and greater participation by non-governmental actors, especially members of the Mexican business community and academics.

**Francisco Olguín Uribe, *Political Parties in Latin America: The Evolution of Their Legal Framework***

This paper addresses the vast subject area of regulations governing the activities of political parties in Latin America. Based on a comparative analysis, Olguín Uribe offers the reader an overview of the development of legal provisions applicable to political parties in Latin America and the extent to which the law has kept pace with their evolution. Emphasis is placed on reforms passed with a view to transforming political parties into more responsible, more dynamic legal entities, given that these organizations are the basis for the consolidation of democracy, political stability and economic development in the region. The author introduces us to the “legal regulation of political parties” theory and discusses the four stages of evolution in laws governing political parties since their emergence in Europe in the eighteenth century. He then analyses the development of the legal framework governing political parties in Latin America by making a comparative study of all 20 countries in the region, how these recognize and control political parties, from their founding, legal nature and extinction to their internal structuring, membership and affiliations, to other relevant issues, such as access to the mass media, coalitions and alliances. Although the legal framework regulating the activities of political parties in Latin America has evolved gradually over time, Olguín Uribe believes that rapid progress has been made in the last two decades toward promoting the

effective and transparent participation of citizens who respect well-founded democratic values.

**Guillermo Gutiérrez Nieto, *The Andean Community: A Waybill to New Opportunities***

According to Guillermo Gutiérrez Nieto, the Andean Community is currently at a crossroads that raises doubts as to its validity as a mechanism for economic integration and its prospects as a key actor in north-south cooperation. He believes that this regional trade bloc has been tangled up in a web of agreements, commitments and decisions that have determined its internal workings since the signing of the Cartagena Agreement in Colombia in 1969 through to the withdrawal of Venezuela in April of 2006. After summing up the progress the Andean Community has made and the obstacles it has encountered, the author notes that it now has an opportunity to reclaim its place as the leader of the continent's integration movements: the time has come to identify and reflect on the missing pieces required to consummate the cherished goal of an expanded economic trade bloc. In Nieto's opinion, Mexico—currently an observer on the Andean Presidential Council—plays a decisive role within the Andean Community and should take better advantage of its alliance with member countries to identify programs of collective action that work to its benefit. One example of this is the upcoming APEC meeting in Peru in 2008, which affords an excellent opportunity to analyze a possible tripartite alliance between the Andean Community, Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region, a platform on which our country indubitably enjoys a privileged position and that would enable us to present a united front capable of taking on the Asian market.

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**Juan Manuel Portilla Gómez, *The Mexican State and Diplomatic Law***

In his essay, Portilla Gómez analyzes the standpoint of the Mexican State, in its capacity as a member of international society, vis-à-vis diplomatic law, which is defined as the set of activities conducted by states during the course of their official relations with one another, in accordance with the tenets of international law and protocol. The author discusses the evolution of this branch of international law, from the first general agreements on multilateral diplomatic relations adopted on March 1815 in Vienna. The code of regulations resulting from these agreements allowed for the establishment of diplomatic categories, rules of origin and key protocol issues that were not redefined and updated until 1961 with the signing of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, which remains in force today. In the second part of his essay, Portilla Gómez describes how Mexico enforces diplomatic law, selecting several examples that illustrate the degree of consistency between legislation and practice in our country and the provisions of the Vienna Convention, based on our twofold condition as a state that both exercises and is subject to diplomatic law. He concludes by stating that, in order for Mexico to improve its performance in this area, we first need to bring our legislative and administrative instruments into line and define immunity criteria by passing a law that specifically addresses this issue.

**Rosario Asela Molinero Molinero, *Tourism and Foreign Policy***

The author of this article approaches the promotion of tourism as a key foreign policy tool. In Mexico, the task of promoting the

industry falls to the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but since the tourism sector involves a wide variety of actors, a comprehensive, coordinated policy is required to turn tourism into an effective development instrument. Rosario Molinero underlines the socio-economic importance the tourism industry has taken on worldwide, due to the relationships it forges between countries. In addition to an analysis of the main trends and indicators in the industry worldwide and in Mexico, she describes the determining factors that improve, limit, facilitate and hinder the performance of the sector and its promotion. Among the main issues she touches on is the growing importance of tourism promotion as a foreign policy tool. In this context, she outlines certain measures the government can take to promote tourism on a multilateral, regional and bilateral level. Molinero concludes that multidisciplinary criteria are required for the promotion of tourism if we are to exploit to the full Mexico's historic, cultural and natural attractions, with a view to achieving the goal set by the current administration: "More of Mexico in the world and more of the world in Mexico." According to the author, it behooves all Mexicans to promote tourism and our success will depend on better coordination between all those involved in the industry, which has come to be one of the main pillars on which our country's development rests, over and beyond the well-deserved international recognition it has always enjoyed.

### **Gian Carlo Delgado Ramos, *Military Nanotechnology and its Implications***

Gian Carlo Delgado's essay addresses the issue of nanotechnology, whose applications —arising from the manipulation and (re)design of matter on a nanometric scale— are arousing

great expectations, particularly in military spheres. The author broadly explains the historic context that favored a continual war economy in the aftermath of World War II and discusses the military potential nanotechnology has afforded the United States, a country that has effectively mapped out the course of the majority of nanotechnology innovations with military applications in the name of national security. He then gives a detailed account of the many and varied applications of nanotechnology, which represents a highly promising technological niche within the competitive dynamics of the world's major "industrial complexes". According to Delgado, the development, deployment and use of "nanoweapons" could completely revolutionize the very nature of war and its planning, raising ethical questions and concerns for individual rights, not to mention creating uncertainty and paving the way for new and potentially radical forms of human rights violations, violence, subjugation and control off the battlefield. In the author's view, the use of nanotechnology for military purposes will have a profound impact on international law, relations and security, which is why we need to draw up proposals for a framework to regulate its military applications. The crux of the problem, he concludes, is to avoid unnecessary risks and make the benefits of this ground-breaking technology available to society at large.