



“Kiwis, Jaguars and Dragons”

New Zealand, Latin America and the Rise of China

6 December 2013

Hunter Council Chamber, Victoria University of Wellington

The Victoria Institute for Links with Latin America announces a one-day international seminar reflecting on the remarkable growth of China’s global impact and how this is affecting policy directions and economic trends in Latin America and New Zealand.

Context and Objectives of the Seminar

The Victoria Institute for Links with Latin America (VILLA) organises a high-level seminar annually that brings together academics, politicians and diplomats to discuss a theme of relevance. The seminar on 6 December will be entitled ‘Kiwis, Jaguars and Dragons’ and will explore the comparative implications for both New Zealand and Latin American countries of the rise of China. This will involve discussion of how our countries might learn from each other in order to face the challenges of the evolving world order in the light of the ongoing shift in economic gravity away from the North Atlantic region towards the Asia Pacific.

Both Latin America and New Zealand stand to gain a great deal from the opportunities that the growing markets of China offer. Given the importance of primary product exports for both, the rising demand for raw materials as well as agricultural products is particularly promising. However, there are also challenges and, indeed, risks involved with increased interaction. A number of questions addressing this tension form the core focus of this seminar:

- How have the economies of Latin America and New Zealand been interacting with China and how has this changed over time?
- What is the structure of trade relations and what are the future prospects?
- What institutional agreements and political interactions have governed this increased interaction?
- What are the geopolitical implications of increased engagement?
- What have been the impacts of increased trade volumes in key sectors?
- What can Latin America and New Zealand learn from each in terms of optimising the opportunities of increased trade and how can cooperation assist in this regard?
- What is the likely pattern of interaction and partnership over coming decades and what strategic areas should Latin America and New Zealand focus upon?

Programme

This seminar will bring together experts from Victoria University, other universities in New Zealand and Australia, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, together with experts from both government and academic circles in Latin America. Each will offer their perspectives on a theme in which they are global leaders and there will be a series of panel discussions to draw together and reflect on these. The proceedings of the conference will be published and disseminated appropriately. Victoria University is a national leader in both Latin American and Chinese studies respectively, and has established institutes dedicated to both. New Zealand's government is engaged actively in China and Latin America and in May 2013 both areas received Prime Ministerial visits.

1. *Welcome & Opening Addresses – (9.00-10.00)*

Welcome by:

- **Prof Warwick Murray** (Director Victoria Institute for Links with Latin America, New Zealand) **and**
- **Prof Roberto Rabel** (Pro Vice Chancellor International of Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)

Including addresses by high level representatives of the New Zealand and Chinese Governments:

- **Her Excellency Andrea Smith** (Deputy Secretary Americas and Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand)
- **His Excellency Wang Lutong** (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to New Zealand, the Cook Islands and Niue, China) TBC

10.00 Morning Tea

2. *The rise of China – (10.30-12.15)*

Documenting the economic growth of China and its links into the global economy. Identification of trends and opportunities for third party countries.

Speakers during this section will include:

- **Dr Johanes Rehner** (Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile)
- **Dr Jiang Shixue** (Vice President of the Chinese Association of Latin American Studies and Deputy Director, Centre for Latin American Studies, Peking University, China)

12.00 Lunch

3. *The response to the rise of China in Latin America – (13.00-15.00)*

Case studies from Chile, Argentina, Mexico and Brazil. Participants are invited guests from universities and governments in Latin America.

Speakers during this section will include:

- **Dr Luiz Roberto Calado** (Vice-President & Director IBEF & Director of BRAiN Brasil, Brazil)
- **Prof Andres Rodriguez** (University of Sydney)
- **His Excellency Fernando Escalona** (Ambassador to New Zealand for the Republic of Argentina)
- **Her Excellency Leonora Rueda Gutierrez** (Ambassador of Mexico to New Zealand) delivering an address by **Ambassador Sergio Ley** (President of the Entrepreneurial Section for the Asia and Oceania Region of the COMCE and Advisor to the Chamber of Commerce Mexico-China)

15.00 Afternoon Tea

4. *The response to the rise of China in New Zealand – (15.30-16.30)*

Evolving trade patterns and challenges for the future. Political frameworks and agreements. The New Zealand Government's China Strategy. Main participants include experts on New Zealand economic policy from the academic community of New Zealand and MFAT.

Speakers during this section will include:

- **Mr Charles Finny** (Chair, Education New Zealand) TBC
- **Dr Xiaoming Huang** (Director Victoria China Research Centre, New Zealand)

5. *Comparative perspectives –(16.30-18.00)*

Panel discussions and wrap-up chaired by:

- **Prof Roberto Rabel** (PVC International, Victoria University of Wellington) and **Prof Warwick Murray** (Director VILLA)

6. *Reception (18.00)*

Victoria University Victoria Institute for Links with Latin America (VILLA) is an Australasian leader for research in, with and on Latin America. VILLA organises an international seminar or conference every year, aside from its usual activities of research, supervision and teaching. The most recent conference was the X Biennial Conference of the Association of Iberian and Latin American Studies of Australasia (AILASA) entitled 'Centring the Margins'. It received visitors from across the world who shared their expert views on Latin America. A special collection of the papers, which will spread into two volumes, is currently being edited at the University. VILLA has other publications and has organised 7 international conferences and has a long experience of facilitating interaction to the highest levels of government and academia. The Director of VILLA is Professor Warwick Murray and its Chair Professor Roberto Rabel (PVC International). All details are viewable at www.victoria.ac.nz/villa

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