

DRAFT REPORT ON:

Security And Prosperity Through Environmental-Business Cooperation—A Forum

FUNDED THROUGH THE CANADIAN CONSULATE, LOS ANGELES AND THE NEWKIRK CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

This is a brief report on a Forum held at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) on Saturday, February 17, 2007, on the North American Security and Prosperity Partnership initiative (Initiative) and a summary of possible next steps for involvement of the UCI assembled group.

[Background: The Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP) is a framework for international cooperation between and among the three NAFTA countries aimed at improving security from external threats to North America, strengthening internal security, and promoting regional economic growth. While the initiative can evolve in many different ways, it is likely that some governmental activities will involve trade promotion and exchange of ideas on business and technology to improve quality of life in the region. Perhaps not originally considered as central when U.S. President George Bush, former Mexican President Vicente Fox, and former Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin announced the SPP in March 2005, it seems clear that environmental threats of many kinds can be considered a security concern. They certainly are in other international relations fora. Likewise environmental challenges can give rise to business opportunities promoting increased prosperity.]

After introductions of participants, Professor DiMento began the Forum with a brief overview of the Initiative and of resources that are available to assist in understanding it. He called attention to the US State Department characterization of the effort and to academic work identifying a means of understanding the Initiative and its potential. A general discussion followed with participants outlining their professional interests that relate to the Initiative. Among the guiding questions:

*What aspects of an institutional base are there in or for the Initiative?
How are states and provinces involved? How can they be involved?
How does the Partnership relate to other tri-lateral and bi-lateral North American cooperation initiatives?*

There followed a Round Table Discussion focusing on two questions:

*How can we know more about the Initiative?
How do environmental problems affect security and prosperity in the NAFTA countries?*

A major focus was on climate change case because of its North American significance and because of its implications for the business community. Throughout the discussion Mr. John Grefford's comprehensive power point presentation on climate change, energy needs and sources, and technological responses served as a vehicle for promoting general discussion which we then focused on the role we might play in enhancing the value of the Initiative. Our

overarching concern is to address how the UCI group can add to the analysis and avoid redundancy of effort.

In the afternoon session we organized our discussions around treatment of more specific areas of potential interest and relevance to the Initiative:

--technology transfer
--regulatory obstacles to the free transfer of goods and services
--opportunities for regional economic development that derive from strategic identification of business possibilities

We then moved our attention to more specific concerns including the analysis of the possible value of a conceptual product that might be of interest to the North American business community (as well as to our academic audiences). Herein we would lay out our understandings of the regulatory and non-regulatory environments which North American businesses face in their efforts to work across national boundaries. We would highlight not only constraints and obstacles but also promoters of business, commerce and cooperation including informal networks, existing and possible. We could add value through this exercise because of our comprehensive knowledge of formal cooperative attempts (NAFTA, other tri-lateral, bi lateral, domestic environmental and trade law, etc.) and our understanding of processes that facilitate cooperation. [While we were considering this contribution we heard by conference call from Nigel Fitzpatrick regarding the hybrid bus shuttle business and used this information as a kind of case study to address the value of a conceptual map.]

We then discussed how and to whom we should communicate our results.

We identified possible next steps:

1. Creation of a Listserve of interested parties for a virtual expert group on the Initiative.
2. A follow up Forum in Mexico, perhaps co sponsored by the University of California Office of the President or a Mexican university.
3. A research proposal to a Canadian funding source, which would address a theoretical understanding of cooperative efforts such as the Initiative. We would build on Professor Craik's observations:

Transnational regulatory networks exist across most areas of regulatory law, including the economy, the environment, communications and transportation infrastructure, and food and drug safety, to name but a few. What distinguishes these governance structures from traditional forms of international cooperation is that network arrangements are not negotiated through central agencies, such as foreign affairs departments, nor do they revolve around a formally binding treaty.

.... In light of the unique approach to regional integration that the SPP presents and the challenges the SPP gives rise to on both principled and practical bases, there is a need to develop a theoretical understanding of the SPP as an approach to regional cooperation. This requires consideration of such questions as what range of actors are actually engaged in negotiating the SPP outcomes, the extent to which the SPP constrains or enables these

negotiations, the relationship between issue areas covered by the SPP, the relationship of the SPP process to other domestic, regional and international institutions, the form of the cooperative arrangements themselves and the process by which outcomes are arrived at, i.e. how inclusive is it; what information is released; and the extent of political oversight.

4. A Breakfast meeting co sponsored with the Orange County Business Council. A proposed agenda follows:
 - a. Introduction and Welcome
 - b. Presentation by Consul General D. Alain Dudoit
 - c. Summary of the Forum with a focus on explaining the Security and Prosperity initiative
 - d. Description of the conceptual mapping activity
 - e. Open discussion including on challenges faced by businesspeople in negotiating the North American regulatory environment.
 - f. Identification of business and government leaders to be invited to future meeting.

Note: Immediate next steps: Confirm interest in March 28 breakfast meeting: Orange County Business Council, Canadian Council Los Angeles, and Newkirk Center for Science and Society supporters.

Participants, Invitees, Attendees—in process

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Canadian business representatives identified by Canadian Consulate, Los Angeles and Mr. Zulfi Sadeque, Los Angeles. These may include recent appointees to the North American Competitiveness Council.

Faculty and graduate students in the UCI URBAN WATER RESEARCH CENTER, THE UCI CENTER ON UNCONVENTIONAL SECURITY, the Merage School of Business, Department of Earth System Science, and School of Social Ecology; University of California system representative of The Canada California Strategic Innovation Partnership.

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