**Analytical Summary**

Mikel GÓMEZ URANGA, María del Socorro LÓPEZ GÓMEZ and Andrés ARAUJO DE LA MATA
“The Trips-Plus in Bilateral Agreements Boosted by United States: Consequences for Developing Countries”
*Revista de Economía Mundial* 20, 2008, pp. 23-48

The Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) is often described as one of the three pillars of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This paper examines the apparent lack of agreement between the two major international instruments; namely TRIPs and the Convention on Biological diversity (CBD). The Trips agreement defines minimum standards of protection for intellectual property rights (IPRs). This paper argues that current forms of bilateralism on IP has negative consequences for developing countries because the “TRIPS Plus” in bilateral agreements, undermine implementation of Doha declaration on TRIPS and Public Health, traditional knowledge, and biodiversity in poor countries.

Federico STEINBERG WECHSLER
“The Case Against Labour Standards in the World Trade Organization”
*Revista de Economía Mundial* 20, 2008, pp. 49-71

This paper critically explores the cases for and against the inclusion of core labour standards in the World Trade Organization (WTO). First, it focuses on why the issue of social dumping has recently entered the public debate in advanced countries. It then analyzes the economic impact that the inclusion of such standards would have in both developed and developing countries, focusing specifically on its implications for child labor. The paper argues that the WTO is not the best institution to deal with labor standards. Moreover, it explains why regulating this issue will directly damage developing countries’ growth and development prospects. Finally, it explores alternative solutions to deal with this global problem, both inside and outside the WTO.
Pablo BUSTELO GÓMEZ
“¿Chindia o China plus India? Economic Complementary and Competition Between Two Asian Giants”
*Revista de Economía Mundial* 20, 2008, pp. 75-97

The paper explores if China’s and India’s economies are and will be mainly complementary (the “Chindia” scenario) or instead essentially competitive (the “China + India” scenario) between them. In the first case, the consequences might be a more rapid shift towards Asia in the gravity center of the world economy and perhaps the surging of a new type of globalization, alternative to the one based on Western hegemony. In the second case, those effects might be reduced, while the impact on developed countries would be greatly increased. The paper deals, first, with the degrees of complementarity and competition of China and India in the international trade of goods and services, both in domestic and third markets. Second, the degrees of complementarity and competition are briefly reviewed in other fields, such as foreign direct investment and other capital flows, as well as energy and other primary products.

Gonzalo CABALLERO and Andrés GALLO
*Revista de Economía Mundial* 20, 2008, pp. 99-137

This article develops an historical and comparative institutional analysis of the economic experiences of Spain and Argentina in the second half of the XX Century. Why did the Spanish economy obtain the jump towards the economic prosperity in that period while the Argentine economy did not find the path of success? Which institutional variables do allow us to explain the dynamic evolution of the two economies through divergent paths? Can we extract some lessons from the analysis of both experiences? This work tries to answer to these questions from the perspective of the New Institutional Economics. The key variable is institutional change.

Erika LÓPEZ PONTÓN
“An Institutional Glance of the European Transport Policy”
*Revista de Economía Mundial* 20, 2008, pp. 139-163

The European Union aims to reach its environmental and free market goals through the development of intermodal transport. However and in spite of the European Directives adopted since 1991 and of the financing of ambitious projects, rail freight volume is six times lower than road volume. Interoperability between transport modes has been identified by experts as the key obstacle (ECMT,2004). This article proposes a complementary explanation based on
the analysis of intermodal freight supply and demand coordination. In fact, the current organizational form of commercial transactions does not reduce the technical problems of this sector and, as a consequence, it limits intermodal’s demand.

Enrique PALAZUELOS MANSO and Clara GARCÍA FERNÁNDEZ-MURO
“China’s Energy Transition: Features and Domestic Drivers”
*Revista de Economía Mundial* 20, 2008, pp. 165-196

Since the beginning of the 1990s, China has been undergoing what could be termed as an energy transition. The increasing provisioning of hydrocarbon in international markets is perhaps the most striking feature of this transformation. Therefore, analysis of the Chinese energy system frequently leads to geostrategic studies. In this article we analyze, on the one hand, the features that define the energy transition in China—not exclusively its dependence on foreign oil markets—highlighting (four) continuities and (seven) ruptures with the traditional scheme. On the other hand, we study the relation between those energy transformations and three elements of China’s current development phase: i) strong growth and changes in industrial specialization, ii) transportation expansion, and iii) new social patterns deriving from urbanization and consumption habits. Therefore, if these three elements of development actually are drivers for China’s energy transition and if they persist, the current features of the energy transition, including the growing dependence on external markets, will prevail in the near future.

Juan Ignacio PULIDO FERNÁNDEZ, David FLORES RUIZ and María José VARGAS-MACHUCA SALIDO
“Active Management of External Debt and Tourist Development. Swaps Debt-Sustainable Tourism”
*Revista de Economía Mundial* 20, 2008, pp. 197-227

Most actors on the international scene show a deeper concern on foreign debt nowadays. So, reaching a definite solution in the struggle against poverty is to be a priority. In the framework of an active debt management policy, new initiatives to link debt reduction to sustainable development may be carried out. This paper focuses on explaining how tourism can promote economic development and describing possibilities offered by the financial conversion instruments called swaps. In this sense, it assesses possibilities of debt conversion into sustainable projects as a tool to prompt social economic development and environmental preservation in developing countries. Consequently, this paper tries to state a strategic plan to manage foreign debt funds to favour sustainable tourism development in highly indebted countries with great tourism development capabilities as well.
Koldo UNCETA SATRÚSTEGUI and Eduardo BIDAURRATZAGA AURRE
“The Economic Relations Between China and Africa and its Influence over the African Development Pattern”
Revista de Economía Mundial 20, 2008, pp. 231-257

In recent years, economic and political cooperation between China and Africa has increased remarkably, clearly noticeable in different fields: trade, investments, loans, aid, etc. The importance of these relations is expressed not only in their scale, but also in the relevance given to them by the Chinese authorities at the political level. The strengthening of that relationship has aroused increasing interest among academics, which is reflected in the proliferation of studies and research on this question. This article aims to link the analyses carried out on the economic flows between China and Africa with the debate about the possible impact of those flows on the development pattern of the African continent. To this end, some other factors that directly affect the development process of these countries are also taken into consideration, such as the issue of human rights, or the bilateralism that characterises those relations, which could threaten the weak integration schemes under way among African economies today.

Julio Gaspar SEQUEIROS TIZÓN
“Paul Krugman: Nobel Prize in Economics 2008”
Revista de Economía Mundial 20, 2008, pp. 259-269

This paper revises the recent evolution of the International Trade theories to conmemorate that Paul Krugman has been awarded with the Nobel Prize in Economics 2008. The paper analyzes how Neoclassical Paradigm has evolutioned in order to offer answer to the different problems that appeared within the empirical contrast of its theories. Krugman’s contributions are considered to be a key element of the new neoclassical point of view or new internacional economics. This new approach radically changed the economist’s view of international trade and integration, placing as well geography as another branch of current Economics.