

## INTRODUCTION

The Trilateral Free Trade Agreement constitutes the most important landmark in Mexico's development in recent history.

Beyond the quite evident economic asymmetric conditions, the efforts in the national socio-legal universe, will require a scientific effort of great magnitude. We are endeavoring to mix common disciplines to ease the exchange of services and goods. Common Law and Civil Law will be the ingredients which we shall have to mix with a background of different economics systems. Herein lies the colossal task presented by the FTA to Mexican jurists.

The present volume contains the essays which distinguished legal experts from the three countries presented at the First Seminar on Legal Aspects of the FTA.

From February to this date, negotiations have progressed rapidly. To the complex "Fast Track" authorization, given by the US, Congress to President Bush, we must add the Toronto Agenda, in which the three countries agreed to the six basic points of the negotiations. Access to markets, trade rules, investment, services, intellectual property and dispute settlement mechanisms.

Said points, imply contrasting and diverging legal

regulations which will have to be harmonized in order to handle the FTA within a regional rule of law.

Some of these issues, in a sort of foretold premonition, are dealt with in this book. All the subjects revolve around the Toronto Agenda, and published by the Legal Research Institute of the UNAM, constitutes an undeniable contribution which will serve as a guide for interested university academicians, from Canada, the US, and Mexico.

We are sure that this volume will be followed by other contributions, which from the legal perspective will broaden the horizon and fill existing lagoons which the reader finds in this pioneering and specific legal field.

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