MBA International Society’s First Seminar Examines Current Business Issues in Latin America and the Caribbean

The International Business Society is an MBA student-led organization within the Graduate School of Business at Indiana University in Bloomington. The key goals of the International Business Society are: 1) to integrate international business issues into the curriculum through IBS-sponsored seminars and open collaboration with faculty; 2) to foster an international environment within the MBA community by hosting social and professional functions that promote cross-cultural understanding; and 3) to increase international employment opportunities for MBA students, both foreign nationals and U.S. citizens.

IBS has initiated many new programs to raise awareness of the club among MBA students, faculty, and administrators. The club acts to better coordinate efforts to expand international activities within the Graduate School of Business. This has been achieved by actively cooperating with the International Affairs Chair, William Sartoris, the MBA Office, the International Programs Office, the Indiana Center for Global Business, the Management Department, and other MBA clubs.

The future of the International Business Society is focused on greater outreach to the language and area studies centers, as well as other international campus organizations. IBS has also been aggressively working with the Business School administration to better promote IU’s international opportunities to potential MBA students, as well as to U.S. and foreign business communities.

On January 27, the International Business Society sponsored its first international business seminar, Business Issues in Latin America and the Caribbean, in cooperation with IU’s Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and the MBA Hispanic Club. Organized by José Bolivar, IBS Vice President for Professional Relations, the seminar featured presentations representing a wide range of perspectives on current issues affecting business concerns in the region. IU School of Business Dean John Rau gave a welcoming address to participants. The keynote address by Puerto Rico’s Assistant Secretary of State for Caribbean Basin Affairs Francisco Cimadevilla examined current developments in the Caribbean Basin economy and Puerto Rico’s role as the U.S. representative in the region. Seminar presentations began with a discussion of Amoco’s Latin American investment policies by the company’s Director of New Ventures, Don Felio. Chris Felts of Indiana’s International Trade Division of the Department of Commerce examined the state’s business concerns in Mexico and Latin America, noting that Indiana ranks fourth in the nation in exports to Mexico. The seminar concluded with a presentation by Larry Truax of Groton Industries in Madison, Indiana, discussing his firm’s business experiences in Mexico.

Other plans for the coming year include: more professional seminars addressing regional business topics; cross-cultural communications training; expansion of international employment prospects; social events celebrating the cultures of our student body; continuation of foreign language tutoring programs (Spanish, French, Japanese); and expanded support for exchange and international MBA students.

Inquiries concerning the MBA International Business Society should be sent to: The International Business Society, BU 254, IU Bloomington, 47405; tel. (812) 855-4006; email IBS@indiana.edu.

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