

# Brazil's Energy Outlook

By Claire F. Selsky\*

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On Tuesday, March 21, 2006, the Institute for Brazilian Business and Management Issues (IBI) welcomed Dr. Jerson Kelman in leading a public discussion titled “Brazil’s Energy Outlook.” Kelman, the Director General of the National Electric Energy Agency of Brazil (ANEEL), focused his presentation on the electric sector. The diverse audience that attended the program

**IBI Director Jim Ferrer welcomes Jerson Kelman** included the Ambassador of Brazil, HE Roberto Abdenur; Brazilian energy professionals from private and multilateral organizations; and of course, GW students and faculty.

Dr. Kelman noted the predominance of hydroelectric power in Brazil. He explained that Brazil is only operating 24% of its potential hydroelectric power (compared to 100% in France and 60% to the United States). In other words, Brazil has ample resources to continue to expand its hydroelectric power. Kelman stated that there are roughly 12 million people living in Brazil without access to electricity. Accordingly, universal access to electricity is one of ANEEL’s goals. Other goals include providing special tariffs to low-income consumers and ensuring a reliable supply for all consumers.

ANEEL acts as a regulator of the electric sector, balancing consumer, energy supplier, and government goals. ANEEL has created a pool system in which generators bid to meet the demands of distributors. It has multiple functions such as setting rules, settling disputes, and providing authorizations. ANEEL, linked to the Ministry of Mines and

Energy (MME), hopes to achieve administrative autonomy as it works to maintain a technologically capable staff.



**Dr. Kelman discusses the Brazilian electric sector with Minerva Program scholars**

Following the public program, Dr. Kelman met with the Spring 2005 participants in the Institute's Minerva Program for a more intimate discussion of Brazilian electric energy issues. (The Minerva Program is IBI's flagship training program for Brazilian public servants. [Click here for more information about the Minerva Program](#)).

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## **JERSON KELMAN**

Jerson Kelman, a native of Rio de Janeiro, earned his PhD in Water Resources at Colorado State University and an engineering degree from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. From 1976 to 1991, he was a researcher at the Center for Electric Energy Research (CEPEL) and, from 1991 to 1996, he was Director of Studies and Projects at SERLA-RJ (the State Superintendence Foundation for Rivers and Lakes). As a university professor, he carried out much scientific research and developed many mathematical models in hydrology and water planning. From 1996 to 1999, he was a World Bank consultant on various projects in the semi-arid region of Brazil.

Beginning in 1999, Dr. Kelman led the process of designing the legal and institutional framework for an integrated water resources management system. Then, in 2000, the

President of Brazil tasked him with conceiving the National Water Agency, becoming the new regulatory body's first president in January 2001.

Dr. Kelman has authored more than 100 technical articles and many chapters for specialized books. He was a university advisor and participated in dozens of master's and doctoral dissertation defenses. In 2003, he received the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize, presented during the Third World Water Forum in Kyoto.

Dr. Kelman left the presidency of the National Water Agency in January 2005 to become the Director General of the National Electric Energy Agency (ANEEL).