THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ISSUES
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ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT

THE ENERGY SITUATION IN BRAZIL

A DIALOGUE WITH:

DR. NELSON JOSÉ HUBNER MOREIRA

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The Center for Latin American Issues
The George Washington University
School of Business
Duquès Hall, Suite 450
2201 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20052
Phone: (202) 994-5205
Fax: (202) 994-5225
Email: clai@gwu.edu
Web: www.gwu.edu/~clai
Nelson Hubner was born in the Zona da Mata, where he began his studies. He completed high school in Manhuaçu, in the state of Minas Gerais. He earned a degree in Electrical Engineering from the Universidade Federal Fluminense in 1978, with postgraduate studies in mathematics. He began his professional life and developed his career at Companhia Energetica de Brasilia - CEB, becoming Director for Distribution in 1995.

In 2000 he was transferred to the National Electricity Agency, ANEEL, where he coordinated special projects in the area of electricity services monitoring. In 2002, while posted to the Ministry of Mines and Energy, MME, he worked as part of the transition team for President Lula. Subsequently he was named Chief of Staff for MME Minister Dilma Roussef (who is now President of Brazil). At MME he participated in the restructuring both of the Ministry and of the sector's institutional model, and helped create and coordinate the program “Light for All”.

In April 2005 Mr. Hubner became Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Mines and Energy, and from May 2007 to January 2008 served as interim Minister. On March 17, 2009, he assumed the post of Director-General of ANEEL for a four-year term.

Brazil has been making major investments in the energy sector. Construction of new, late-model hydroelectric plants is aimed, for the first time in many years, at providing the country with enough energy to support the country's economic expansion. At the same time, Brazil's newly-discovered pre-salt oil deposits are attracting billions in investments. Although the country has begun to produce oil from some of those deposits, most operations are still in the exploratory phase. Nevertheless, it is already generally conceded that Brazil will become an important oil exporter in the coming decade. In this scenario, ANEEL's mission is to provide favorable conditions so that the energy market develops in a balanced way among the various economic agents, while benefiting society as a whole.