

# The U.S.–Mexico Futures Forum

Torre Mayor and Diana, Paseo de la Reforma, Mexico City.  
Photo by Omar Hernández.







The United States and Mexico share a complex history, increasingly integrated economies, cultures that spill over boundaries and a 2,000-mile border. While we are inextricably bound together, the title of Alan Riding's 1985 book about Mexico still seems apt: *Distant Neighbors*.

The U.S.–Mexico Futures Forum, now in its seventh year, seeks to shrink that distance. The Forum — jointly organized by the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) at the University of California, Berkeley and the International Studies Department at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) and funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation — brings together scholars and political leaders, public intellectuals and journalists, leaders from social movements and business executives. The participants include those with long experience analyzing the U.S.–Mexico relationship and those who bring a fresh perspective to the table.

The goal of the Forum is to establish an ongoing dialogue and to develop creative approaches to the issues facing the U.S. and Mexico. These goals are realized through a year-round public program on the UC Berkeley campus, working groups and research projects, publications, a website and meetings that alternate between the two countries.

The fifth meeting of the Futures Forum took place in Mexico City at the end of March 2008. A special section of this Review reports on these discussions.