



CHINA'S ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA

March 2021

The following is a summary of open-source media reporting on China's presence and activities in Latin America and the Caribbean in March 2021. This is not a complete list of media reports on China's activities in Latin America but are some of the most relevant articles and reports selected by SFS researchers and fellows. The monitor does source a limited amount of media reports from state-owned or -controlled media outlets, which are carefully selected and solely intended to report on news that is not reported on by other media and is relevant for understanding VRIC influence in the region. This report is produced as part of our VRIC Monitor published monthly by the Center for a Secure Free Society (SFS), a non-profit, national security think tank based in Washington D.C.



- Peruvian civil organizations are warning of the serious impact on human health and the environment that could result from the construction of the Chancay Multipurpose Port Terminal, a project led by Chinese company COSCO and by a Peruvian extractive company, Volcan Compañía Minera. - [Global Voices on 05-MAR](#)
- The Chinese train derailed on Venezuela's plains: Scarcely a third of the planned 468-kilometre stretch of railway from Tinaco to Anaco that drew on US\$2.74 billion from the Venezuelan-Chinese Joint Fund has been built. Labour and environmental conflicts lie in its wake. - [Diálogo Chino on 03-MAR](#)

- While Mongabay's investigation broke down the Mexico-China seahorse connection, the problem is widespread in Latin America. InSight Crime found cases of thousands of seahorses being trafficked from Brazil, Panama, Peru and Ecuador, among other countries. - [InSight Crime on 27-FEB](#)
- State media reports on the evening of February 25, 2021, President Xi Jinping had a phone conversation with Colombian President Ivan Duque. Xi Jinping stressed that as China actively fosters a new development paradigm, it will provide new cooperation opportunities for Colombia. The two sides should continue to support each other, and better synergize the Belt and Road Initiative and the Colombia-China Initiative. - [People's Republic of China Foreign ministry Press Release on 25-FEB](#)
- The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), QU Dongyu, today addressed the 2nd China-CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Forum on Agriculture, where he stressed the importance of strong partnerships to overcome the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and announced a project to boost the use of digital technologies in the region. - [Relief Web on 25-FEB](#)
- Chinese investments bring no benefits and Chinese companies violate local laws. Chinese workers get paid more than US\$ 2,000 dollars while Venezuelans get US\$ 350. This same situation is found in other parts of Latin America and complaints are being made against Chinese mining and oil companies. - [Asia News on 25-FEB](#)
- Chinese M&A activity in Latin America accelerated in 2020 against a backdrop of COVID-19 turbulence, Boston University's Global Development Policy Center said in a bulletin. Mergers and acquisitions reached US\$7bn, up from US\$4.3bn recorded in 2019. Electric power infrastructure accounted for US\$6.8bn of last year's total. - [Business News Americas on 23-FEB](#)
- Chile's economic prosecutor's office (FNE) has announced that it has launched an antitrust investigation into the purchase of local electricity distribution firm CGE by Chinese state-owned electricity company, State Grid Corporation of China (SGCC). - [LatinNews Daily on 19-FEB](#)
- China is broadening its presence in Latin America's energy and strategic minerals sectors, posing challenges to the regional countries themselves as well as to the United States, according to a new white paper published by the Institute of the Americas (IOA), an independent, nonpartisan organization based in La Jolla, California, that focuses on inter-American affairs. - [PR Newswire on 10-FEB](#)
- The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), QU Dongyu, addressed the 2nd China-CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Forum on Agriculture, where he stressed the importance of strong partnerships to overcome the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and announced a project to boost the use of digital technologies in the region. The second China-CELAC

Forum was held under the joint chairmanship of the Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development of Mexico, Victor Villalobos, and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China, TANG Renjian. Twenty-six Latin American and Caribbean countries were represented by their ministers or vice ministers. - [Relief Web on 05-FEB](#)