

## PRESENTATION

From 18 to 22 June 2012 was held the International Congress of Administrative Sciences in Mérida. This event organized annually by the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IICA), is one of the largest reflective exercises for students of administrative disciplines and public servants in the world.

It is a time where the essence of IICA takes place: promoting the study of contemporary public administration locally and globally, is a forum in which comparative studies and exchange of knowledge, experiences and practices are fundamental topics present in the development of Congress.

The Instituto Nacional de Administración Pública (INAP) has been part of the IICA since 1955 in the form of Mexican National Branch and, since then has disseminated the progress state of the art of public administration's science from the Mexican perspective.

In this sense, INAP and IICA convened the International Congress of Administrative Sciences for 2012 with the fundamental theme: "Socioeconomic Priorities and Public Administration", which three areas of study were observed: International (Congress IICA); regional (Second Plenary Meeting of the Latin American Group for Public Administration) and national (INAP System Meeting).

During the five days of work, the Merida's proposals were analyzed from various acts of academic reflection: Braibant Conference was one of them.

In order to contextualize the Conference Braibant I will remark its background: since 2002 is one of the most prestigious events of IICA, is the jewel in the crown of the International Congresses. Its name is in honor of Guy Braibant, who was a prominent

French academic and public servant. He was a member of the State Council, and one of the main authors of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. He was also an active contributor to the International Institute, from 1971 to 1981 he served as Director, and from 1992 to 1995 he was President.

These lectures are delivered by colleagues who have contributed to the development of administrative sciences. On the occasion of the Congress of Mérida 2012, the invitation was extended to one of the world wide Latin American experts on issues as the overcoming of poverty: Bernardo Kliksberg.

Conference entitled “The new role of the State in our time” is a profound and serious reflection on the State, as the fundamental protagonist in the development of modern history. It is a basic discussion in a context defined by a “perplexity phenomenal” as says Dr. Kliksberg. In front of a scenario of impending inequalities in which crisis, uncertainty and complexity seem to be the guiding principles. What is the role of State and what mechanisms can be used to correct the state of the world? What are the challenges of today’s society?

The responsibility of the State and of the civil servants is part of their reason for being, so we should not cast aside the social and ethical challenges facing the world, which is crucial for the proper use of public policies as instruments to achieve the objectives that provide solutions to the problems of our times.

In this way, we hope that this issue of Praxis Series constitutes a representative to study the administrative disciplines, as well as to the public servants and interested in the topic, contributing to the analysis and debate on the challenges facing the public Administration in front of a changing society.

**José R. Castelazo**  
**President**