

## Brazil Reaches the Pacific: From Sea to Shining Sea

Contributed by Carolina Pimentel  
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A bridge was inaugurated the past weekend linking the town of Assis Brasil, in the state of Acre, to Iñapan in Peru. And Brazil got another commercial route to the Pacific Ocean, said President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, on his weekly radio broadcast.

The bridge between Brazil and Peru was inaugurated by Lula and Alejandro Toledo, president of Peru, on Saturday, January 21. It cost almost US\$ 11 million and stretches 240 meters over the Acre River.

"This is integration. That is what makes it important. It will permit an exchange of goods and people between Brazil and Peru. And, of course, it means that goods from the Brazilian states of Amazonas, Acre, Rondonia and Mato Grosso will have an outlet to the Pacific Ocean," said Lula.

The bridge to Peru is actually the second such South American integration outlet. The first was a bridge to Bolivia inaugurated in 2004.

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