

Vice-President Debates CAFTA

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Voters can tune into the last in a series of debates on the Central American Free-Trade Agreement with the United States (CAFTA) tonight at 8 p.m.

The debate, organized by the Supreme Elections Tribunal (TSE) and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), will cover “CAFTA and visions of development” and will be broadcast on public TV Channel 13.

The pro-CAFTA debaters are First Vice-President Laura Chinchilla and Alberto Trejos, who negotiated CAFTA during his term as Trade Minister from 2002 to 2004. The anti-CAFTA debaters are Henry Mora, an economics professor at National University in Heredia, north of San José, and Eva Carazo, who works for the Costa Rican Organic Agriculture Movement.

This is the seventh and final debate in a series run by the Tribunal and FLACSO. The other debates addressed how CAFTA would affect employment, foreign investment, agriculture, telecommunications, insurance, intellectual property, health and the environment. The free-trade pact will be held to a national vote Sunday.