



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FITCH UPGRADES BLADEx'S ISSUER DEFAULT RATINGS
TO 'BBB+', WITH 'STABLE' OUTLOOK**

Panama City, Republic of Panama, August 1, 2012 - Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior, S.A. (Bladex) (NYSE: BLX), announced today that Fitch Ratings upgraded Bladex's issuer Default Ratings ("IDR") to 'BBB+' from 'BBB' with a 'Stable' Outlook.

Fitch Ratings in a press release commented that Bladex "strengthened its balance sheet by improving its funding structure and closing maturity gaps, while maintaining ample liquidity, sufficient capital and outstanding asset quality. In Fitch's view, Bladex has proven that it can face severe crises and has successfully refocused its strategy achieving moderate growth while ensuring a more consistent financial performance."

Mr. Rubens V. Amaral Jr., Bladex's Chief Executive Officer, stated, "Fitch's rating upgrade reflects the financial strength of Bladex, its diversified and recently improved funding structure, and its successful business strategy in Latin America."

Bladex is a supranational bank originally established by the Central Banks of Latin America and Caribbean countries to promote trade finance in the Region. Based in Panama, its shareholders include central and state-owned entities in 23 countries of the Region, as well as Latin American and international commercial banks, and institutional and retail investors.

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