

support from the government, including the elderly, disabled people, scholarship holders and Mexicans employed by the state-run tree-planting program, "Sembrando Vida" and the "Youth Building the Future" apprenticeship scheme, the president added, Mexico News Daily reported.

## BUSINESS NEWS

### Tokio Marine, Caixa Partnering to Offer Insurance in Brazil

Japan-based Tokio Marine Holdings is planning to form a joint venture with Brazil's Caixa Seguridade, the insurance unit of Caixa Econômica Federal, to offer homeowners' insurance, Insurance Business Asia reported today. Tokio Marine is investing 39.5 billion yen (\$370 million) in the partnership, which will offer fire insurance policies that will be paired with insurance to pay off the policyholder's mortgage in the event of their death. The companies say they want to become the market leader in this segment of the insurance market. Tokio Marine will hold 50.01 percent of the venture, and the deal includes a 20-year agreement for bancassurance, according to the report. The Tokyo-based insurer has sought to tap Brazil's insurance market amid rising disaster payouts in Japan. Caixa currently holds approximately 70 percent of Brazil's mortgage market. It previously offered home loan insurance through a venture with France's CNP Assurances.

### Apache, Total Find 'Significant' Oil Deposits in Suriname

Houston-based Apache and France's Total have discovered "significant" deposits of oil off the coast of Suriname, the companies announced Tuesday, spurring investor excitement that it could be the region's second large find in recent years following ExxonMobil's discovery of oil deposits offshore Guyana, The Wall

## THE DIALOGUE CONTINUES

### Who Is Winning the Battle For Control of Brazil's Amazon?

**Q** France and a group of Brazilian states are planning a partnership to help protect the Amazon rain forest, said Waldez Góes, the governor of Brazil's Amapá state and the leader of a consortium of nine states in Brazil's Amazon region. The deal, which would establish a mechanism to allow foreign countries to directly contribute to state-level projects to preserve the Amazon, bypasses Brazil's federal government. President Jair Bolsonaro's environmental policies have come under criticism this year following a jump in Amazon wildfires in August. **Are the Brazilian states taking the right approach in working directly with France and other countries, and to what extent will the partnership succeed? What are the risks of establishing an arrangement that circumvents Brazil's federal government? What types of projects will the money go to, and what else can be done at the state level to preserve the Amazon rain forest?**

**A** Adriana Ramos, coordinator of the policy and law program at the Socioenvironmental Institute in Brazil: "It is legitimate for Brazilian states to seek international cooperation to support their policies against deforestation, especially considering federal policies that include blocking the Amazon Fund,

which is an important source of support for states' policies. Although the responsibility for deforestation control lies at the state level, the federal government should coordinate policies against deforestation and the actions on federal lands, such as indigenous territories and conservation units. There is still little information on what is being considered under the states' proposal. It is important to note that most of the successful strategies to reduce deforestation and promote the sustainable use of the forests were based on initiatives developed by local communities and civil society organizations. The enforcement of environmental legislation should be a precondition for any state to receive resources with the aim of promoting forest conservation and sustainable use. Strengthening state environmental agencies is also a key approach to be considered. The states can also play an important role in supporting local communities in managing their territories and even in guaranteeing territorial rights for communities such as the quilombolas."

---

**EDITOR'S NOTE: The comment above is a continuation of the Q&A published in the Dec. 20 issue of the Advisor.**

---

Street Journal reported. Apache said in a statement with few details that it had found oil in two of the areas it had been testing. "Data indicates the potential for prolific oil wells," Apache CEO John Christmann said in the statement. Analysts said the discovery could result in an increase of more than \$1 billion in the valuation of the project, according to the report. Apache's shares shot up 25 percent on Tuesday on the news, putting them on track for their largest gain since 1973. The company's share price had declined in December when

it released a progress report that included no details on whether or not it had found oil in Suriname. Total shares fell slightly on Tuesday. The two companies each own a 50 percent stake in the block where the well was drilled, after Total bought it last month, the Financial Times reported. "We are optimistic about the large remaining potential of the area still to be discovered and will test several other prospects on the same block," said Kevin McLachlan, senior vice president for exploration at Total, the Financial Times reported.