

Globe + Mail

Brazil's energy needs

The comments on Brazilian hydroelectric projects by Patricia Adams are remarkable by their inconsistency and thoughtlessness (Debt Crisis Riding To The Rescue Of Third World Environment — July 4).

To state that a substantial part of the Brazilian foreign debt was caused by "a building binge of unneeded electricity projects" is to

ignore economic reality. It is a fact that despite all the investments in this field, Brazilian energy production still falls short of the country's requirements. Itaipu, Tucuruí and other major hydroelectric dams — recognized all over the world as major achievements — are not an "extravagance they (the Brazilians) didn't need."

Ms Adams would have been very constructive indeed if she had put forward her ideas on how to provide the energy Brazil urgently needs without building hydroelectric plants. She is, of course, aware that Brazil is a country roughly the size of Canada and with a population of more than 140 million.

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