

**V. OTHER AUTONOMOUS AND DECENTRALIZED
ORGANS, AGENCIES, ENTITIES AND DEPENDENCIES**

INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

The Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) was created by the General Assembly through resolution AG/RES. 1682 (XXIX-O/99), to deal with problems related to natural disasters and serve as the principal forum of the Organization of American States (OAS) for study of this topic, in coordination with the competent national organizations.

In resolution AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05), “Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management,” the General Assembly called for the formation of a joint consultative body of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) and the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI) whose principal tasks would be:

- a. To work on the immediate implementation of the Permanent Council recommendations contained in the document “Recommendations of the Committee on Hemispheric Security on Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management” (CP/CSH-718/05);
- b. To review the Statutes of FONDEM and of the IACNDR and propose the amendments necessary to create a single permanent inter-American committee to address natural and other disasters;
- c. To convene a meeting of the disaster preparedness agencies, with the participation of governmental experts, subregional sector institutions, and international experts, to share experiences and methods of assessing vulnerability, risk, and the costs and benefits of investing in natural hazards mitigation; and
- d. To develop a funding approach geared specifically toward natural disaster prevention, reconstruction, and recovery.

The joint advisory body met for the first time on September 12, 2005, and twice again in 2006. The agendas of its meetings demonstrate the progress achieved in carrying out the task entrusted to it. The meetings provided a forum in which the Department of Sustainable Development and bodies of the inter-American system could give presentations on topics such as “The inter-American response—experiences and challenges,” “Recommendations on systematic risk management,” and “Funding approach geared specifically toward natural disaster prevention, reconstruction, and recovery.”

The progress made by the joint advisory body in establishing the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) as a single permanent inter-American committee to address natural and other disasters deserves separate treatment. This not only created an entity to encompass all the Organization’s efforts in connection with natural disasters and a mechanism for follow-up on implementation of the other mandates of resolution AG/RES. 2114 but also provided a single forum for establishing ties and coordinating activities with other bodies interested in natural disaster mitigation. In this connection, the incorporation of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) as a member of the IACNDR also deserves mention.

Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund

The Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM) was created by the General Assembly through resolution AG/RES. 1327 (XXV-O/95), to provide available social, humanitarian, material, technical, and financial aid to any member state of the Organization that is threatened by, has suffered from, or is in an emergency situation caused by natural disasters.

In the period covered by this report, and in response to various natural disasters in the region, the OAS General Secretariat made the following contributions in United States dollars:

2005

El Salvador (hurricane and volcanic activity)	\$15,000
Mexico (hurricane and volcanic activity)	\$15,000
Guatemala	\$15,000
Grenada (hurricane)	\$10,000

2006

Bolivia (floods)	\$15,000
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JUSTICE STUDIES CENTER OF THE AMERICAS

In fulfillment of the mandates set forth in the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas and the recommendations adopted at the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas, the Justice Studies Center of the Americas was established by the General Assembly [AG/RES. 1 (XXVI-E/99)] as an intergovernmental entity with technical and operational autonomy. The Center is governed by its Statutes and Rules of Procedure, and its objectives are to help strengthen human resources, facilitate the exchange of information and other forms of technical cooperation, and support reform and modernization of justice systems in the region.

Support for Criminal Justice Reforms

In the period covered by this report, and in support of criminal justice reforms, the JSCA has implemented the pilot project “Strengthening the Adversarial System in the Province of Buenos Aires” in order to implement an oral hearing system that quickly resolves cases in which the defendant was caught in *flagrante delicto*, in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

The following studies have also been prepared:

- “Follow-up Study on Criminal Procedure Reform” (Cordoba, Argentina): The CPR follow-up studies seek to obtain information on the functioning of criminal justice systems in order to identify major problems in the implementation of public, adversarial systems.
- “Gender and Criminal Procedure Reforms (2nd Stage)” (Bolivia, Argentina): To provide information on how criminal justice systems, and particularly those that have undergone extensive reforms in recent years, deal with crimes that mainly affect women such as violent assault and sexual assault.
- “Empirical Evaluation of Chile's Criminal Procedure Reform” (Chile): The JSCA and Fundación Paz Ciudadana were awarded the commission for this study, which identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the Chilean CPR.
- “Indigenous Communities and Criminal Procedure Reform” (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala and Peru): To provide a preliminary overview of the impact of and issues related to the application of new adversarial criminal justice systems in an indigenous context.
- “Public Defense Manual for Latin America and the Caribbean”: To provide tools, based on practical experience, for the effective and efficient design and administration of a public defense system.
- “Challenges of the Public Prosecutor's Office in Latin America”: To identify the main problems faced in the area of criminal prosecution in countries with reformed justice systems, and to provide creative and innovative solutions to these problems.

Furthermore, several training programs have been carried out, *inter alia*:

- Inter-American Program for Training Trainers for Criminal Procedure Reform (Version 2), which looks to improve the outcomes of the criminal justice reform processes in the region by training a critical mass of leaders who will implement replicas of the program in their respective countries. Students came from

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

- JSCA, INECIP and Diario Judicial de Argentina Training Program: Geared towards attorneys, advanced law students and criminal justice system operators, this specialized course provides information on the criminal procedure reforms that have led to the implementation of an oral adversarial system in countries throughout the region in recent decades.
- Strengthening and Modernization of Justice Administration in Mexico: Consists of the organization of fora on key issues related to judicial reform in Mexico in order to compare experiences and generate debate within the country's justice sector.

In the period covered by this report the JSCA organized three inter-American seminars: i) III Inter-American Seminar on Judicial Management held in Managua, Nicaragua, to analyze experiences and lessons learned in the design, implementation and operation of substantive aspects of judicial office models and their sustainability in terms of organizational, functional, economic and cultural aspects; ii) Inter-American Seminar on Civil Justice, held in Santiago, Chile, in order to provide a general overview of key aspects of civil justice reform in Latin American countries; and, iii) Inter-American Seminar on Criminal Prosecution in Latin America in order to continue the debate on the current state and challenges of criminal prosecution in public prosecutor's office in the context of the criminal procedure reform.

Developing Information Systems and Judicial Management

Several projects are underway to strengthen judicial information systems, including: "Criminal Court Statistics for Guatemala" to collect statistical information in order to contribute to improving the country's judicial information systems; "Index of Online Access to Judicial Information" to compare the performance of countries across the region in this area, identifying how much judicial information is accessible online; and a "Report on Judicial Systems in the Americas (2004-2005)" to provide a comprehensive overview of the region's judicial systems, describing the structure and characteristics, operation, productivity and reform initiatives underway in each institution.

Furthermore, as regards support for judicial management, production is in process of a "Judicial Management Manual" whose objective is to provide instruments for, and relate useful experiences with, designing or redesigning judicial offices.

Other Activities

In order to conduct in-depth studies of justice systems and develop innovative approaches to discussions of judicial reform, the preparation is underway of a study on "Justice Spending", which seeks to provide quantitative information on the budgetary resources of justice sector institutions in the Americas.

To promote regional cooperation and the exchange of experiences among key justice sector actors, the "JSCA Internships" program constitutes an effective mechanism to enrich the JSCA's work by facilitating the participation of professionals and/or students from various countries in the Americas and, in some cases, other continents.

The JSCA has generated and disseminated the following instruments to improve the quality of information on justice in the Americas:

- JSCA Virtual Information Center (VIC): VIC is the virtual platform through which the JSCA makes the information that it generates and gathers on judicial system is available to the regional

community the JSCA uses its web site, www.cejamericas.org, to present itself to the world and the countries of the Americas. The site contains all of the documents, research, activities and information that the Center generates.

- JSCA Virtual Library: to offer information on justice-related issues in general and justice reform in the OAS member countries in particular.
- Nexus Newsletter: This newsletter is designed to help us reach our external audiences by offering a summary of news related to justice reform and modernization processes in the Americas, presenting information on related events and serving as a resource for the individuals and institutions who are involved or interested in these topics.
- Judicial Systems Journal: this journal is a joint publication of the JSCA and INECIP. Its purpose is to promote the discussion and exchange of information and experiences regarding justice in the Americas.
- JSCA Publications: JSCA uses print versions of its publications to reach an audience that does not have consistent access to an efficient Internet system in order to download the documents that we offer online. JSCA presents a limited number of print copies of some of its studies. The material is distributed free of charge throughout the region (recipients cover shipping charges).

ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

The Administrative Tribunal (TRIBAD) was established on April 22, 1971, by resolution AG/RES. 35 (I-O/71), adopted by the General Assembly at the ninth plenary session of its first regular session. Its function is to settle any disputes that may arise with staff members by reason of administrative decisions, including those relating to the Retirement and Pension Plan of the General Secretariat. It is composed of six members and is supported by the Secretariat of the Administrative Tribunal.

At the thirty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly, the Tribunal was represented by its Secretary, Mr. Reinaldo Rodríguez Gallad. On that occasion, Mr. Andre M. Surena was elected to serve as a judge on the Tribunal until 2011.

In October 2005, the Tribunal, having convened all of its members, held its 53rd regular session, attended by judges Morton Sklar (President), Agustín Gordillo (Vice President), Alma Montenegro de Fletcher, and José Antonio Arze Aguirre. Once the Tribunal was in session, judge José Antonio Arze Aguirre assumed his office. The Tribunal considered the following items: independence of the Tribunal; complaint No. 283, Relinda Louisy v. Secretary General; amendments to the Rules of Procedure; celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Tribunal; and appointment of the Secretary of the Tribunal. The Secretary reported on the quantifiable results of the Tribunal's 2005 budget and note was taken of the budget for 2006, provided in resolution AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05). The following resolutions were also adopted:

- Resolution 350 (LIII-O/05), "Independence of the Administrative Tribunal"
- Resolution 351 (LIII-O/05), "Request for Correction of Errors in Judgment 151"
- Resolution 352 (LIII-O/05), "Celebration of the Tribunal's 35th Anniversary"
- Resolution 353 (LIII-O/05), "Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Tribunal"
- Resolution 354 (LIII-O/05), "Appointment of the Consultant/Secretary of the Administrative Tribunal of the OAS"

The majority of the members of the Tribunal being present, they met with the Secretary General and presented to him resolution 350 (LIII-O/05), "Independence of the Administrative Tribunal."

On October 3, 2005, a working luncheon was held with the Tribunal members present at the 53rd session of the Tribunal and distinguished representatives of the OAS and of administrative tribunals of the ADB, UN, IMF, and IDB. The topics discussed focused on current problems being considered by these bodies. A commitment was also secured to participate in the publication of the book and the holding of the seminar to commemorate the Tribunal's anniversary, tasks on which the Secretariat has been working.

The Secretariat has prepared new draft amendments to its Statute, which will be circulated to the members for subsequent consideration by the Permanent Council and then by the General Assembly.

The Secretariat has arranged with the OITS/OAS to change the Tribunal's Web page by updating the document search system, using the Triblex system adopted by the Administrative Tribunal of the ILO.

At the request of the members, the Secretariat prepared the following reports: Article XII of the Statute of the Tribunal; Independence of the Tribunal; Jurisprudence of International Administrative Tribunals on Contracts for External Consultants; GS/OAS Salary Policy.

In addition to performing the tasks assigned it under the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Tribunal, the Secretariat also collaborated with the working committees of the Permanent Council, CICTE, the CIM, and the JSCA.

PAN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Established in 1962, the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) is a private, nonprofit, nongovernmental institution that operates under a cooperation agreement concluded with the OAS to support development programs and assistance to victims of natural disasters and humanitarian crises. The OAS was the first multilateral organization to establish a nongovernmental organization, the PADF, as one of its partners.

The Secretary General chairs the Foundation's Board of Directors, which includes 25 leaders from the private sector, from all corners of the Hemisphere. The President of the Foundation is Ruth Espey-Romero and the executive director is John Sanbrailo. All the members of the Board of Directors work on a volunteer basis, serve as a support group to the OAS, and make monetary contributions and contributions in kind to the Foundation's programs. The headquarters of the PADF is located within the facilities of the OAS, where the foundation leases its offices and covers all of its costs and services.

The PADF's mission is to encourage integral development for the most needy in Latin America and the Caribbean, so as to "create a Hemisphere of opportunity for all." This mission is accomplished through innovative alliances with private, public, and nonprofit organizations, alliances that seek to further the OAS' priorities. One of the Foundation's most important objectives is to strengthen civil society in the region and raise donations from businesses, corporations, civic groups, international agencies, and organizations like USAID, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank, to name just a few. It also handles contributions from governmental institutions in the region.

The period from March 2005 to February 2006 stood out because of the many activities carried out under the leadership of Acting Secretary General Einaudi, Secretary General José Miguel Insulza, and Assistant Secretary-General Albert Ramdin. To respond to the major humanitarian crisis in the Hemisphere, the PADF continued to provide employment, technical training, and other services to thousands of persons displaced by the violence in Colombia and to coca farmers who opted to abandon that illegal crop in that country. In the last five years, PADF programs have benefited over 400,000 Colombians, especially Afro-Colombians, as well as displaced women and children. This year, the PADF obtained new funds from USAID to continue in the 2006-2010 period the assistance program for displaced persons in Colombia, as well as to provide support for alternative development in coca-growing areas of the country, in support of the policies of the Colombian government and the OAS, with a view to consolidating its democracy through the peace process.

The PADF also extended its financing in Haiti for programs in agricultural and rural development, generation of employment, to help victims of natural disasters and rebuild infrastructure, to strengthen community organizations, and to combat illicit trafficking in persons. A waste management and street cleaning program was launched to create employment in different neighborhoods in conflict in Port-au-Prince in support of the electoral process. This activity was carried out with advisory services from the OAS, using resources provided by USAID, and working with the Yélé Haiti Foundation created by the famous Haitian singer Wyclef Jean. A new donation was secured to support a Haitian model of community-driven development financed by the World Bank. Other PADF initiatives include encouragement of cooperative ties between nongovernmental organizations along the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, as a way to reduce conflict, protect human rights, and foster dialogue and peace.

The Foundation also broadened its activities in the city of El Alto, Bolivia, in social assistance projects and to repair community infrastructure, in order to support the democratic process. With funding from the

Fondo Productivo Social (FPS) and the World Bank, the PADF set up a program to provide advisory services to Bolivian municipalities on how to prepare and carry out rural projects.

In the 2005-2006 period, the PADF provided over \$2.0 million in donations of medical and dental equipment and tools for vocational training centers in Colombia, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Venezuela, and elsewhere. These helped community-based organizations expand their services so as to be able to serve low-income beneficiaries who do not have access to basic services. The Foundation continues to make arrangements for even more donations of medical and dental equipment, tools for development, school buses, fire trucks, machinery, and equipment for various municipalities in the region.

Under the leadership of the Secretary General, and to help the Caribbean islands and other countries hit by the hurricanes and flooding, the PADF raised over \$1 million for humanitarian relief and reconstruction in Grenada, Jamaica, Haiti, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Bolivia, with the support of the OAS, the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction, the American Chambers of Commerce, and private donors like Chevron, Citigroup, Altria, Kraft Foods, Caterpillar, Stanford Financial, and others. The PADF uses OAS contributions to arrange for matching donations from the private sector. For every dollar contributed by the OAS, the PADF raised over 10 more dollars to help victims of natural disasters. A donation was also secured from USAID's Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to enable greater private sector participation in disaster mitigation and preparedness programs in countries such as Costa Rica, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, and others.

In support of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Foundation also broadened its efforts to strengthen civil society institutions throughout the region, creating ties with private and governmental donors in order to strengthen democratic values and practices in the Americas. It is worth noting here that the PADF raised private donations for NGOs in Argentina, Brazil, Honduras, Peru, and elsewhere.

It also increased cooperation with Hispanic and Caribbean groups living in the United States, to help them channel their community remittances into development projects, especially in the areas of agriculture and education. To that end, the PADF worked with 30 Latin and Caribbean groups in the United States, in particular Salvadorans and Haitians. In partnership with them, some \$2 million dollars in contributions were raised from those groups and from other donors for projects in their countries. Based on the successful projects, ALCANCE and Manos Unidas, an alliance was established with the Banco Agrícola of El Salvador to broaden development projects in that country.

The PADF continues to look for new mechanisms and sources of funding to implement projects with NGOs, community-based groups, municipalities, and private businesses, in support of the OAS and the initiatives of the Summits of the Americas.

BOARD OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 123 (III-O/73), adopted on April 14, 1973, and Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 124 (164/75), of June 10, 1975, the Board of External Auditors is responsible for the external auditing of the General Secretariat's accounts.

The Board held its annual meeting March 27 through 31, 2006, to prepare its report on the external audit of the accounts and financial statements of the OAS for the years ending December 31, 2005 and 2004, in keeping with Article 129 of the General Standards.

On May 10, 2006, the Board will present its observations in the document *Report to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States: Audit of Accounts and Financial Statements, December 31, 2005 and 2004* (OEA/Ser.S JAE/doc.36/06). The report will have five sections: a) Comments and recommendations to improve the operating procedures and internal accounting controls; b) financial statements of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States; c) Financial Statements of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development and the Trust for the Americas; d) Financial Statements of Other Agencies and Entities Associated with the Organization of American States; e) Financial Statements of the Retirement and Pension Fund (audited by the Firm of Ernst and Young, LLP).

SB & Company, LLC, a firm of independent auditors, found that the financial statements of the audited entities were consistent with the books, documents, and vouchers of the General Secretariat.

The Board met with the Secretary General and advised him of the findings of the audit and its recommendations, so that those recommendations might be made known to the General Assembly and the Permanent Council.

The most important recommendations are:

To the Permanent Council:

- Assign high priority to collecting quotas and identify more effective ways to encourage prompt payment of quotas in arrears, helping to reduce the arrearage, and to consider possible changes to the requirements that member states must meet to encourage them to make their payments early in the fiscal year.
- Reaffirm the recommendation to start a planning process aimed at pinpointing the OAS' priorities and objectives, so that it is able to assign budgetary resources to meet the most relevant priorities.
- As a budgetary initiative, establish a visible and systematic mechanism that helps generate savings.
- Consider the use of other sources of income, including the decision to maximize the potential of the property of the Inter-American Defense Board at 16th and Euclid Streets in Washington, D.C.

To the General Secretariat:

- Do a cost analysis that identifies all administrative elements of cost of supervision used to support the specific funds. The resulting mechanism should be able to compute the cost that attends every proposed grant or donation to the specific funds.

- Provide suitable financing to ensure that staff away from headquarters are properly trained. Prepare an appropriate method to monitor and improve the internal controls at the National Offices.
- Ensure that the internal control policies and procedures associated with the use of scholarships are the most appropriate. The OAS should also develop and introduce a process that ensures that all internal policies associated with the fellowship selection and approval process are strictly observed and duly documented.

Following the summary of the financial situation of the Regular Fund, the Specific Funds and the special contributions to the OAS, the Board considered what the Administration of the General Secretariat had done to put into practice the recommendations the Board had made in the previous year's report and other matters of interest to it.

The Board emphasized the fact that the firm of independent auditors had issued unqualified ("clean") reports—the best possible outcome of an audit—on the following financial statements for 2005:

- Regular Fund of the OAS and Specific Funds
- Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development
- Trust for the Americas
- Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund
- Rowe Commemorative Fund
- Unit for the Promotion of Democracy
- Inter-American Defense Board Fund
- Medical Benefits Trust Fund
- Retirement and Pension Fund

INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD

The Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) was established in 1942 to study and recommend measures for the defense of the Hemisphere. It is the oldest multilateral military organization in the world. It promotes peace and security in the Hemisphere, fosters confidence-building through military cooperation ties, and strengthens relations between civilians and the military. The Inter-American Defense Board promotes cooperative security interests in the Western Hemisphere. It supervises a senior-level academic program in security and defense studies at the Inter-American Defense College.

In its work on humanitarian demining issues, the IADB continues to coordinate and oversee the Assistance Missions for Mine-Clearing in Central America (MARMINCA) and South America (MARMINAS), in support of the Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA) program of the OAS. Over the year, 29 international supervisors and monitors took part in these two missions, deployed by the Armed Forces of Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. In December 2005, MARMINCA concluded its mine-clearing work in Guatemala and it is now continuing its work in five sectors in the northern region of Nicaragua. On December 15, Guatemala completed its humanitarian demining tasks and the country was declared free of anti-personnel landmines. As for MARMINAS, in 2005 humanitarian demining courses were provided for Peruvian and Ecuadorian military, police, and government officials. Demining monitoring work was also conducted on the Ecuadorian side. It is worth noting that, by end-February 2006, 55,367 mines and explosive devices had been destroyed in the course of the two demining missions, clearing an area of almost 2,800,000 square meters.

Currently, the IADB is organizing a Group of Inter-American Monitors to implement OAS commitments in support of the National Demining Plan in Colombia. This Group of Monitors receives voluntary support from the armed forces of Brazil, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The Dominican Republic and Ecuador have also expressed their readiness to provide military technical personnel.

With respect to confidence and security building measures (CSBMs), pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2113 (XXXV-O/05), the IADB has updated the inventory of the CSBMs applied in the Hemisphere in 2004 based on the reports presented by member states and has also updated its inventory of CSBMs in other regions. Both these reports were submitted as document C-3183-S to the OAS General Secretariat for presentation in due course to the Committee on Hemispheric Security. Currently the reports on the Hemisphere and other parts of the world are being updated on the basis of measures applied in 2005. On April 25 and 26, 2005, the IADB took part in the First CSBMs Forum organized by the Committee on Hemispheric Security in the Hall of the Americas at OAS headquarters. There were presentations on CSBMs in the Hemisphere and in other regions.

In the educational sphere, the Inter-American Defense College (IADC) conducted its senior-level academic program for civilian officials and military and police officers, providing them with a wide range of professional and inter-disciplinary knowledge about governmental systems, the international environment, the structure and workings of the inter-American system, analysis of threats, concerns, and challenges to hemispheric security, peace-keeping operations, natural disasters, conflict resolution, and crisis management. So far 2,128 people have successfully completed this course and over 500 of them have gone on to hold top military positions in their respective countries. Some have become ministers of defense. Two much-admired graduates even became president of their respective countries.

It is worth noting that, in the quest for greater academic excellence, the IADC now offers two Master's Degrees: one in International Services with particular emphasis on Security and Defense, in coordination

with American University, and the other on Defense and Security, in coordination with the El Salvador University of the Argentine Republic. The IADC also conducts a Study Trip to Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil.

A significant new feature of the 2005-2006 academic program was the inclusion of a module on Civilian-Military Relations in Democracy. This course was highly informative and provided important perspectives and analysis of the dynamics of currently changing relations between civilians and the military in the countries of the Hemisphere.

The Study Program was also enriched by the addition of a “Course on Terrorism and Other Forms of Organized Violence,” made possible thanks to the Friendship Program developed under an agreement with the National Defense University (NDU). The Friendship Program enabled students at the IADC, the NDU, and participants from the IADB and the OAS to analyze the threat posed by these scourges to democratic governance and the economy in the context of the changed economic and political order following the break-up of the old bipolar international system, and to realize the need for effective regional and international cooperation in dealing effectively with that threat.

The IADC welcomed a number of distinguished visitors in the period under review. They included, in particular, the OAS Secretary General; the ambassadors and permanent representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, United States, and Venezuela; the Minister of Defense of Guatemala; and the Vice Minister of Defense of Argentina. The College was also visited by representatives of a number of institutions: Ecuador’s National Institute of War; the War Colleges of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, and Mexico; the Officers and Chiefs of Staff Colleges of Guatemala and Honduras; and Guatemala’s National Defense Studies Center.

Finally, with regard to the IADC’s academic activities, mention should be made of the 35 research monographs/theses produced by members of Class XLIV. Most of them are posted on the IADC website (<http://library.jid.org/en/mono44.htm>) and all of them can be consulted at the IADC library.

INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) is an autonomous judicial body of the OAS whose purpose is to apply and interpret the American Convention on Human Rights. The Court has both contentious and advisory jurisdiction. It is made up of seven judges, elected in a personal capacity by the States parties to the American Convention during sessions of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States.

During this reporting period, the Court was composed of the following judges, listed in order of precedence: Sergio García Ramírez (Mexico), President; Alirio Abreu Burelli (Venezuela), Vice President; Oliver Jackman (Barbados); Antonio A. Cançado Trindade (Brazil); Cecilia Medina Quiroga (Chile); Manuel E. Ventura Robles (Costa Rica); and Diego García Sayán (Peru). The Secretary of the Court is Pablo Saavedra Alessandri (Chile) and the Deputy Secretary is Emilia Segares Rodríguez (Costa Rica).

Cases, provisional measures and advisory opinions

In 2005, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights filed 10 contentious cases with the Court, namely: *Nogueira de Carvalho v. Brazil*, *Servellón García et al. v. Honduras*; *Sawhoyamaxa Indigenous Community v. Paraguay*; *Dismissed Congressional Employees v. Peru*; *Baldeón García v. Perú*, *Montero Aranguren v. Venezuela*; *Vargas Areco v. Paraguay*; *Goiburú et al. v. Paraguay*; *Claude Reyes et al. v. Chile*, and *Luis Almonacid Arellano v. Chile*.

Eight requests for provisional measures were submitted to the Court in 2005, in the following cases: the “*Mapiripán Massacre*” Case (Colombia); the *Gutiérrez Soler Case* (Colombia); the *Ivcher Bronstein Case* (Peru); the *López Álvarez Case* (Honduras); the *Ramírez Hinestroza et al. Case* (Peru); the *Case of the Children and Adolescents Incarcerated in FEBEM’s “Complejo do Tataupé”* (Brazil); the *Castañeda Gutman Case* (Mexico), and the *Cesti Hurtado Case* (Peru).

Sessions

In the period covered by this report, the Court held four regular sessions and one special session, where it considered the matters described below.

At the Court’s LXVI regular session, held February 28 through March 15, 2005, the Court delivered four judgments: *the Case of the Serrano Cruz Sisters v. El Salvador* (merits, reparations and costs); *the Case of Hilca Tecse v. Peru* (merits, reparations and costs); *the Case of Caesar v. Trinidad and Tobago* (merits, reparations and costs), and the “*Mapiripán Massacre*” Case v. Colombia (preliminary objections and acknowledgment of responsibility). Seven orders were issued on provisional measures in the following cases: *James et al.* (Trinidad and Tobago); *Liliana Ortega et al.* (Venezuela); *Bámaca Velásquez* (Guatemala); *Fermín Ramírez* (Guatemala); *the Communities of the Juguamiandó and Curbaradó* (Colombia); *the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó* (Colombia), and the *Gutiérrez Soler Case* (Colombia). The Court also held seven public hearings in the following cases: *the Yakye Axa Indigenous Community v. Paraguay*; *the “Mapiripán Massacre” Case v. Colombia*; *YATAMA v. Nicaragua*; *Gutiérrez Soler v. Colombia*; *the Communities of the Juguamiandó and of the Curbaradó* (Colombia) (provisional measures); *the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó* (Colombia) (provisional measures); and *the Case of the Yean and Bosico girls v. the Dominican Republic*. Two orders for compliance with judgment were issued in the following cases: *Loayza Tamayo* (Peru), and *Bámaca Velásquez* (Guatemala).

At its XXVI special session, held May 9 through 13, 2005, in Asunción, Paraguay, the Court issued a decision with regard to the Costa Rican State's request for an advisory opinion. The Court also held four public hearings in the following cases: *Palamara Iribarne v. Chile*, *García Asto and Ramírez Rojas v. Peru*, *Mendoza Prisons v. Argentina* (provisional measures), and the *Sarayaku Indigenous Community v. Ecuador* (provisional measures).

During its LXVII Regular Session, June 13 through 30, 2005, the Court issued 6 judgments, namely: *Moiwana v. Suriname* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations and costs); the *Yakye Axa Indigenous Community v. Paraguay* (merits, reparations and costs); the *Fermín Ramírez Case v. Guatemala* (merits, reparations and costs); *YATAMA v. Nicaragua* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations and costs); *Lori Berenson v. Peru* (interpretation of the judgment on the merits, reparations and costs); and *Acosta Calderón v. Ecuador* (merits, reparations and costs). Ten orders were issued on provisional measures in the following cases: *López Álvarez (Honduras)*; *Plan de Sánchez Massacre (Salvador Jerónimo et al.) (Guatemala)*; *Blake (Guatemala)*; *Liliana Ortega et al. (Venezuela)*; *Boyce and Joseph (Barbados)*; *Sarayaku Indigenous Community (Ecuador)*; *Mendoza Prisons (Argentina)*; "*Mapiripán Massacre*" (Colombia); *Pilar Noriega García et al. (Mexico)*, and *Eloisa Barrios et al. (Venezuela)*. The Court held three public hearings on the following cases: *Blanco Romero et al. v. Venezuela*; *López Alvarez v. Honduras* and *Eloisa Barrios et al. v. Venezuela* (provisional measures). Finally, the Court issued a decision on the request from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights seeking an advisory opinion, and an order for compliance in the *Street Children Case (Villagrán Morales et al.) (Guatemala)*. It also issued a general order on compliance with judgments and a decision on translations.

At its LXVIII Regular Session, held September 7 through 24, 2005, the Court issued five judgments, namely the following: the *Case of the Yean and Bosico Girls v. the Dominican Republic* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations and costs); the *Case of the Serrano Cruz Sisters v. El Salvador* (request for interpretation of the judgment on the merits, reparations and costs); the *Gutiérrez Soler Case v. Colombia* (merits, reparations and costs); the "*Mapiripán Massacre*" *Case v. Colombia* (merits, reparations and costs), and the *Raxcacó Reyes Case v. Guatemala* (merits, reparations and costs). Six orders were issued on provisional measures in the following cases: *Fermín Ramírez (Guatemala)*; *Luisiana Ríos et al. (Radio Caracas Televisión – RCTV) (Venezuela)*; *López Álvarez et al. (Honduras)*; *Urso Branco Prison (Brazil)*; *Ramírez Hinostroza et al. (Peru)*; and *Eloisa Barrios et al. (Venezuela)*. The Court also held three public hearings in the case of the "*Pueblo Bellow Massacre*" *v. Colombia*; *Acevedo Jaramillo et al. (SITRAMUN) v. Peru*, and the *Case of Ituango v. Colombia*. Finally, during this same session the Court issued eight orders for compliance with judgments in the following case: *Juan Humberto Sánchez (Honduras)*, *Trujillo Oroza (Bolivia)*, *Myrna Mack Chang (Guatemala)*, *Herrera Ulloa (Costa Rica)*, *Barrios Altos (Peru)*, *Maritza Urrutia (Guatemala)*, *Ivcher Bronstein (Peru)*, and the "*Five Pensioners*" *Case (Peru)*.

During the course of its LXIX Regular Session, held November 17 through December 2, 2005, the Court delivered five judgments: the *Case of Palamara Iribarne v. Chile* (merits, reparations and costs); the *Case of Gómez Palomino v. Peru* (merits, reparations and costs); the *Case of García Asto and Ramírez Rojas v. Peru* (preliminary objection, merits, reparations and costs); the *Case of Blanco Romero et al. v. Venezuela* (merits, reparations and costs), and the *Case of Ximenes Lopes v. Brazil* (preliminary objection). The Court also issued Advisory Opinion OC-19 (*Control of Legality in the Exercise of the Authorities of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (Arts. 41 and 44 to 51 of the American Convention on Human Rights)*), requested by Venezuela. Three orders were issued on provisional measures in the following cases: *Pilar Noriega García et al. (Mexico)*; *Castañeda Gutman (Mexico)*; *Children and Adolescents Incarcerated in FEBEM's "Complexo do Tataupé"* "(Brazil) (provisional measures), and *Ximenes Lopes (Brazil)*. Finally, during this period, the Court issued three orders on execution of judgment in the following cases: *Baena Ricardo et al. (Panama)*, *Cantos (Argentina)*, and *The Gómez Paquiyaauri Brothers (Peru)*.

In this reporting period, the Court adopted decisions or opinions that continue to help create and consolidate inter-American case law on human rights. Among the most salient points of this Court's case law in 2005 is the protection of rights in relations between and among individuals, the right to a decent life, the right to life and freedom of association, the death penalty, extrajudicial executions, torture and the investigation of torture, corporal punishment, prison conditions, detention, forced disappearance and *habeas corpus*, the principle of legality and retroactivity, factors precluding criminal responsibility, freedom of thought and expression, rights to nationality, juridical personality and a name, the right to property and intellectual property rights, indigenous communities' right to their ancestral lands, forced displacement of persons, the rights of the child, political rights, military criminal jurisdiction, notification of the accused of the charges against him, consular assistance, the correlation between the charge and the sentence, preventive imprisonment, jurisdictional control of the electoral process, control of legality within the inter-American system for the protection of human rights, and the situation of prisons.

In the five sessions held in 2005, the Court also examined a number of matters it had pending and studied the reports submitted by the Commission, the victims or their representatives and the member States involved in cases in which provisional measures had been adopted or in which judgments were in the compliance stage. Finally, on May 11, 2005, members of the Court and the Commission held a joint meeting in Asunción, Paraguay, where they examined current and future challenges that the inter-American system faces.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) functions under the provisions of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat (GS) (Chapter IX, “Advisory Services, Auditing, and Fiscal Control”), the Budgetary and Financial Rules, and Executive Order No. 05-13 rev. 1.

Audits

During the period from March 1, 2005, to February 28, 2006, the OIG conducted eight audits and three investigations to check operations and ensure compliance with OAS directives and procedures, and for purposes of a systematic review of internal accounting and management controls. The Office focused on the higher-risk operations and on those with the most potential for improved efficiency, economy, and effectiveness. The OIG operated independently and freely, with unrestricted access to all functions, activities, operations, records, properties, and staff of the General Secretariat, both at headquarters and at GS offices in the member states.

Operational audits were conducted at headquarters to evaluate internal and administrative controls and ensure compliance with OAS directives and procedures. The OIG reviewed the performance contract (CPR) mechanisms, Oracle applications, Specific Fund contributions for administrative support and technical supervision, and the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN). The OIG also reviewed the activities of the offices of the General Secretariat in The Bahamas, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Saint Kitts and Nevis to determine whether their activities were carried out in accordance with OAS rules and procedures. The OIG also conducted three investigations, both at and away from headquarters. These were of: (1) building maintenance and expenses in 2004; (2) financial transactions and purchasing procedures at OAS/GS Honduras; and (3) cell phones at OAS/GS headquarters.

The Office also evaluated 19 projects executed in various member states to make certain agreements were being honored and to determine whether objectives had been met. The projects audited were: (1) Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA) in Peru; (2) Strategic Action Program – Binational Basin of the Bermejo River; (3) Design and Implementation of a System for Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Bolivia; (4) Democratic Transition 2004; (5) Generalized Land-Use Evaluation and Management Tool (GLEAM); (6) Tourism Training and Certification Program; (7) Improvement of Legal Metrology; (8) Strengthening of Client Service Management/ Staff Development; (9) Community Development Training Techniques; (10) Geothermic Development of the Eastern Caribbean; (11) AICMA-Ecuador (demining program); (12) Strengthening of Business Management at community SME Jambi Kiwa; (13) Vocational Training for Persons with Physical Disabilities; (14) Learning and Innate Capabilities in Children between Ages 2 ½ and 5 in the Quito Rural Area; (15) Central American Program to Strengthen Democratic Dialogue; (16) Honduras: Let's Save the First Grade; (17) Assisting in Nutraceutical Industry Development in Jamaica; (18) Pedagogical Assistance for the Integration of Minors in Mexico; (19) Initiative to Develop Pedagogical Technique Capabilities in Nicaragua.

Other activities

The OIG continued to evaluate replies and to follow up on corrective actions to ensure that its recommendations were being implemented effectively. The Office continued to provide advice and assistance through analyses, evaluations, research, and recommendations, and participated as an observer on a number of committees of the General Secretariat, and in the presentation of reports to the various established bodies.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMITTEE

The Human Development Fund Committee (Spanish acronym: CFDH) was established by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1. It has a department-level Secretariat and three sections: Scholarships and Professional Training, the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund, and the Educational Portal of the Americas

Scholarships and Professional Training

The OAS Scholarships and Training Program continues to cooperate with member states' efforts to achieve their integral development objectives by training their human resources in the priority areas established by the Summits of the Americas, the Strategic Plan for Cooperation for Development of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and the General Assembly of the Organization. To that end, in 2005, the OAS Scholarships and Training Program awarded more than 900 scholarships for academic studies and professional development to qualified persons in the OAS member states.

The Program has been radically transformed in recent years from passive administrator of its resources to a source of new and innovative ways of expanding educational opportunities in the region.

Thus, it has continued to support capacity-building in the countries of the region by implementing a series of strategies for expanding scholarship services in member states for postgraduate studies and research, graduate studies, and vocational training.

This streamlining process has resulted in a marked increase in the efficiency of the Program, manifested in a nearly 45 percent increase in the number of postgraduate scholarships awarded between 2001 and 2005.

Three strategies in particular were responsible for these achievements: 1) Implementation of innovative mechanisms for improving the Program's cost/benefit ratio and maximizing the number of scholarships granted with the resources available. This was a two-pronged strategy: on the one hand, implementing the OAS-placed scholarships mechanism, and, on the other, the establishment of the OAS Consortium of Universities. There are now almost sixty centers of excellence forming part of that Consortium in 12 countries of the region. ii) The identification and implementation of strategies designed to increase access to higher education and professional and technical training, by stepping up efforts to expand the distance learning option.

In 2005, the Scholarships Program reached an agreement with the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education on cofinancing distance education for master's degrees; iii) The development of alliances with already existing scholarships programs in member states and permanent observer states by identifying and establishing agreements with national institutions. In addition to the Scholarship Program's joint OAS-Fulbright Ecology Initiative, the OAS General Secretariat, Chile's Ministry of Planning and Cooperation (MIDEPLAN), and the Chilean Government's International Cooperation Agency (AGCI) signed a cooperation agreement on cofinancing scholarships in the President of the Republic Scholarships Program in institutions belonging to the OAS Consortium of Universities. Talks are under way with similar agencies in Argentina, Brazil, and Colombia.

Despite the gains of the past three years, the outlook for continued expansion of educational opportunities includes a series of challenges posed by rising matriculation costs, increases in the cost of living, and dwindling resources. These and other factors are currently being reviewed in the Scholarship Program's current phase of analysis and transition.

In 2005, the Program continued to grant approximately 450 scholarships for long-term academic studies and research at universities throughout the region. The studies are in fields previously established as priorities,

The number of individuals benefiting from scholarships for postgraduate (master's and doctoral-level) studies at the institutes of higher learning in the region totaled 450 (there were 168 new scholarships and 237 extensions of existing grants) (see Appendix F, Table 1).

For undergraduate studies for students eligible to take the last two years of courses leading to a first university degree, scholarships are available for the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean. Resolution AG/RES. 1387 (XXVI-O/96) extended the benefits of this Program to Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Paraguay, provided that external funds can be raised. In 2005, 23 scholarships were awarded for face-to-face (non-virtual) undergraduate studies, of which 14 were new grants and 9 extensions (see Appendix F, Table 2).

Professional development scholarships are also geared to providing refresher courses in specialized areas considered to be OAS and CIDI priorities. These scholarships are provided by the governments of OAS member and observer states, regional or international organizations, public and private agencies, and institutes of higher learning, through the OAS, which also cofinances them. Professional development scholarships are also awarded for specific study program proposed by the OAS inter-American commissions and committees, or by technical units in the General Secretariat in support of their respective activities. These types of scholarship have focused in particular on telecommunications, international law, human rights, and journalism. 571 professional development scholarships were awarded in 2005 (see Appendix F, Table 3).

Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund

This Fund grants education loans to competent individuals from Latin American and Caribbean countries to finance higher education in the United States, on the understanding that, once their studies are over, the students must return to their respective countries with a view to contributing to their country's development and well-being. The Fund also grants student loans for personnel of the OAS General Secretariat, either for their own studies or those of their dependents, or for emergencies. The latter, unlike the loans to students, are charged interest.

The last few years have seen a gradual improvement in the geographical distribution of the loan portfolio, as well as greater gender equity in the distribution of the Fund's resources. In 2005, 79 loans were granted in the amount of US\$373,232, distributed as follows: There were 54 loans to students, totaling US\$275,570 and 25 loans to staff members, in the amount of US\$97,462. Also in 2005, a number of policies were adopted aimed at striking a better balance between the need to strengthen the Rowe Fund's long-term financial position and the philanthropic objectives that inspired its establishment in 1948. Those policies entailed improvements in some administrative procedures and adjustments to the terms and mechanisms for recovering student loans.

Educational Portal of the Americas

In the period covered by this report, the Portal carried out the following activities, among others: i) Maintenance of the on-line (Virtual Classroom) technical education platform, which provides access to professional training opportunities for individuals who cannot leave their home or work; ii) Development and implementation of 35 distance education courses via the Virtual Classroom, including: "Quality of Basic Education" (English, Spanish, and Portuguese versions), "Introduction to the Formulation of

Electronic Government Strategies (English, Spanish, and Portuguese versions), “Educación Alimentaria” (Spanish, on food education), and “¿Cómo Enseñar Ética, Capital Social y Desarrollo en la Universidad?” (Spanish, on how to teach ethics, social capital, and development at university) iii) Promotion of distance education through strategic alliances with universities, excellence centers, and higher education and university consortia in the Hemisphere; iv) Distribution of almost 100 cost-free journals and monographs through the Virtual Library, including La Educ@ción, the INTERAMER collection, Revista Interamericana de Bibliografía (RIB), and the “Tendencias para un Futuro Común” series.; v) Preparation and publication of the digital version of the La Educ@ción journal; vi) Dissemination of information on 4,500 different programs and courses run by approximately 1,500 accredited universities throughout the region, using a database with a search function; vii) Dissemination on a monthly basis of news and events regarding distance education in the region; viii) Execution of a FEMCIDI teacher-training and capacity-building regional project; ix) Maintenance and dissemination of information regarding the OAS Scholarship and Training Program; x) Development and maintenance of the infrastructure needed to promote virtual meetings, chat rooms, forums, and the installations and tools required for websites; and xi) Preparation and dissemination of editorials and monthly bulletins.

In the framework of the mandates assigned by the political organs a minimal fee is charged for human resource training services via the Portal in order to cover some of its costs and make a partial contribution to its sustainability. Thus, Portal activities have generated over US\$800,000 in revenue from registration fees, voluntary fund contributions, and private sector grants.

As regards its performance, the Portal has contributed to the education, continuing education, and training of almost 14,000 professionals in the region (see Appendix F, Table 4). At the same time, since it was launched in September 2001, the Portal has received 340 million hits from 210 countries and territories in the world (see Appendix F, Table 5). In 2005, the Portal averaged 8.2 million hits per month and each month an average of 1,200 new users register with it. Currently, almost 14,000 different websites post links to the Educational Portal.

The Educational Portal of the Americas is part of the Institute of Advanced Studies for the Americas (INEAM). It was established in 2001 by the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI). INEAM is a virtual MetaCampus to strengthen human resource training and skills-building by using Information and communication technologies (ICTs) with an interdisciplinary and multisectoral approach. Participating in the Institute are universities and centers for higher education in the Hemisphere that, in addition to the services they provide within their own countries, also offer certain education programs through INEAM, using either their own platforms or the Educational Portal’s infrastructure. Activities conducted in 2005 include, in particular: strengthening of the Portal’s activities, programs, and services with other institutions, such as the Inter-American University Organization (OUI), the Union of Latin American Universities (UDUAL), the Ibero-American Science and Technology Education Consortium (ISTEC), the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI), and others; the constitution of INEAM governing bodies and advisers on an *ad honorem* and voluntary basis; joint efforts with OUI to establish two subregional academic centers to receive the Portal’s Internet signal (Brazil and Mexico) and backup database services; developing a pilot project for wireless access to the Portal’s Internet signal through the Electricity Supply Providers (in Central America, the Caribbean, and the Andean Region); negotiating the establishment of a regional center with ISTEC, at the University of New Mexico, in order to lend complementary and cost-free additional technical support; participating in the establishment of the Institute for Quality Education (Ecuador); the third round of the Education Innovation Prize; and the start of special services for some countries and institutions.

INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Established by the General Assembly in 1994, the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission has technical autonomy in the performance of its functions, within the limits set by the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the CITELE statutes and the mandates of the General Assembly. Its mission is to facilitate and promote the sustained development of telecommunications in the hemisphere.

To follow up on and circulate the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and the Quito Plan of Action, in 2005 stock was taken of the connectivity initiatives and the status of their implementation in the region, particularly as regards the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs). Based on that study, concrete measures requiring regional support will be identified that will help pinpoint the priorities and strategies for the Second Phase of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and Quito Plan of Action.

To meet the growing need for personnel trained in telecommunications, in 2005 CITELE has offered 15 courses (10 distance and 5 on-campus courses) on telecommunications policy, regulation, management and technology. More than 249 fellowships were awarded throughout the region. CITELE has 16 Regional Training Centers and coordinates its work with the International Telecommunications Union's Centre of Excellence for the Americas.

The Blue Book on Telecommunications Policies for the Americas was published in 2005. This publication was a collaborative undertaking of CITELE and the ITU, and will serve as a reference to provide objective descriptions and information on telecommunications policies and issues related to regulation, including the difficulties and opportunities that the development of the ICTs presents. CITELE also completed the technical study on Universal Service in the Americas, containing information that will help the countries participate in the world information economy and society.

Studies have also be undertaken on the following strategic topics for the region: *Costs Structure of the Telecommunications Services: a methodological study on the influence that the cost of capital has on the telecommunications services' costs structure; Study on the economic aspects of equipping the handicapped with remote access; why operators should introduce systems that make public access possible; and cyber security.*

Important technical research is also being done on such questions as how to improve access to telecommunications. Prominent here is the work being done to determine the current status of the use of radio electronic frequencies in order to come up with recommendations for harmonizing the use of the spectrum for terrestrial fixed and mobile radiocommunications services. Recommendations were approved on frequency bands for the IMT-2000, on the use of the 400 MHz bands for fixed and mobile services, particularly in low population density areas, and on wireless access devices that operate in the 5GHz range.

As for coordinating technical standards, the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) was approved. It is the foundation of an Internet-based multimedia communications architecture.

A CD has been prepared on technical and regulatory aspects of the effects of electromagnetic non-ionizing emissions to help the public understand the implications of this important issue. This CD will be released shortly.

The satellite is one of the best means of reaching regions that do not have land-based access and thus allows geographic integration. To facilitate the deployment of satellite services, procedures were

approved for block or generic licensing of earth stations and procedures that the CITEL administrations could use to authorize the use of earth stations on board vessels (ESV) on bands 5925-6 425 MHz and 14.0-14.5 GHz. The regulatory situation of the satellite systems in the region is kept current.

Digital terrestrial television broadcasting offers new ways to have access to information and to share it. Preparation of a “Guide to digital terrestrial television broadcasting in the Americas” was completed. This publication will support the multiplier effect of an orderly conversion from an analogic television system to a digital television system.

To improve the conditions under which products are introduced in the market, both in terms of cost and time required, CITEL continued to work on standardizing procedures for conformity evaluation in the region. In October 2005, an international workshop was held to examine the scope of these procedures. The Yellow Book on this subject is well advanced.

Reports are being prepared on the following priorities for the countries: a White Paper on “Number Portability”; a White Paper on “Broadband Technologies”; Policies on Assigning IPV Addresses; Study on SPAM; Preparation of common hemispheric positions for international meetings.

One of CITEL’s priorities is to assist the process of arriving at common positions in the region. At the present time, preparations are well underway for the World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC) (Qatar, March 2006) and the Plenipotentiary Conference (Turkey, November 2006). These international conferences are especially important because their purpose is to adopt the ITU’s development programs, strategies and future direction on a global scale.

In 2003, preparations got underway for the ITU’s World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC) in 2007, which will examine some 30 topics, among them: progress with the new modulation techniques, studies to establish standards for technical sharing, and coordination and notification procedures for satellite networks.

The International Telecommunications Regulations are being studied with a view to the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT), slated for 2007.

As for sharing information and best practices so as to be able to keep pace with changes in telecommunications, 8 workshops were held in 2005 to share specialized know-how on advanced technologies. CITEL’s monthly e-bulletin, “info@CITEL,” continues to be published. As of February 2006, 146 articles and 124 member State news reports had been published. Also, CITEL has a total of 16 cooperation agreements on issues of common concern, with a view to avoiding duplication of effort and reducing the amount of time needed to solve problems.

INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON PORTS

The Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) was established by the General Assembly and repositioned structurally by Executive Order No. 05-13 Rev. 1. The purpose of the Inter-American Committee on Ports is to serve as the permanent inter-American forum of the member states of the Organization for strengthening cooperation in the development of the port sector, with the active participation and collaboration of the private sector.

To attain the objectives and rise to the challenges posed by the port sector and to carry out the CIP's 2004-2007 Action Plan, the Secretariat conducted and supported activities geared toward achieving the following:

Strengthening of the inter-American dialogue on ports

The CIP is the only forum where the highest-ranking government port authorities from the countries of the Americas are able to confer. This kind of dialogue is essential to fulfilling the mandates from the General Assembly, the meetings of the Western Hemisphere Transportation Initiative (WHTI), the Summits of the Americas, and other hemispheric meetings in the port sector. To this end, the Secretariat organized and facilitated the holding of the Fourth Meeting of the CIP (Maracaibo, September 2005) and, on the same occasion, the meetings of its three Technical Advisory Groups: Port Security, Port Operations, and Navigation Safety and Environmental Protection. It did the same for the Seventh Meeting of the Executive Board and the meetings of the subcommittees: Policy and Coordination; Port Planning and Management; Statistics, Costs, and Fees; Port Development for Cruise Tourism; River and Lake Port Development; Training; and Regional Port Development (Houston, December 2005). Lastly, it organized and facilitated the holding of an additional meeting of the Subcommittee on Port Planning and Management (Washington, D.C., April 2005).

Cooperation for inter-American port development

The following activities were carried out to help bring about port modernization and development in the Hemisphere:

- **Training.** Training is the Committee's priority cooperation activity. The Secretariat planned, programmed, and implemented activities and arranged for the additional outside funding needed to carry them out: the Seminar on Strategic Port Planning (Manzanillo, Mexico, April 2005); the Regional Seminar on Port Reforms and Modernization (Guayaquil, June 2005); the Seminar on Port Terminal Concessions (Santo Domingo, July 2005); the Seminar on Port Reforms and Fees (Santo Domingo, September 2005); the Seminar on Women's Participation in Port Affairs of the Hemisphere (Maracaibo, September 2005); the Tenth Iberoamerican Course on Port Management (Madrid, September/October 2005); the Sixth Iberoamerican Course on Port Technology, Operations, and Environmental Management (Santander, Spain, September/October 2005), the Seminar on Port Planning and Development (Santa Fe, Argentina, November 2005), the Seminar on Strategic Reforms for Port Modernization (Houston, December 2005), and the Course on Port Management (Santo Domingo, February 2006).
- **Specialized technical assistance.** Specialized technical assistance was provided to the Dominican Port Authority (APORDOM) in the preparation of port cooperation projects for raising external funds, and to the National Port Authority of Peru, in the management of port cooperation projects. Assistance was also provided to the Port Authority of El Salvador in the preparation of terms of reference for a national port project.

- Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance among Inter-American Port Authorities. The Secretariat has continued to disseminate and promote the Agreement, which establishes the legal framework for this cooperation and was approved by the CIP in 2001. In 2005, Panama and Trinidad and Tobago signed the agreement, bringing the total number of signatories to 19. Likewise, Mexico and Ecuador ratified it, joining Argentina and Peru which had done so earlier, which means that the Agreement is in force for those member countries. It entered into force on March 5, 2004.
- Cooperation with other international agencies. The Secretariat also took measures to increase mutual cooperation with other international agencies involved in port activities. To that end, it kept active the memoranda of understanding signed between the General Secretariat and the government agency *Puertos del Estado de España* and between the Secretariat and the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), which made it possible to carry out various regional activities of mutual interest. In addition, memoranda of understanding were signed with the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) (October 2005) and with the United States Section of the International Navigation Association (PIANC) (December 2005), in order to join forces in training, technical assistance, participation in events, and the exchange of best practices. Lastly, ties of cooperation were established with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), by means of a CIP resolution (December 2005), and efforts are underway for the signing of memoranda of understanding with RETE (Association for the Collaboration between Ports and Cities) and the AIPPYC (International Association of Ports and Coasts Professionals).
- Support for maritime port institutions. The Secretariat has also supported the efforts of other national, regional, and global entities working on port issues and, in that connection, participated in their events by making technical presentations, preparing discussion documents, and helping to promote their meetings and conferences. Noteworthy in this regard are activities carried out with the World Bank, the Central American Commission for Maritime Transportation (COCATRAM), the Andean Community (CAN), the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM), the Caribbean Shipping Association (CSA), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the Meeting of Port Entrepreneurs of the Central American Isthmus (REPICA), among others.

Dissemination and promotion of the ports of the Americas and the CIP

The Secretariat has also disseminated and promoted information on the principal ports of the member countries and the activities of the CIP by the following means: (i) The CIP portal (www.oas.org/cip), which contains a compilation of data on the member states, their port authorities, their ports, and their sectoral development projects, as well as on the CIP projects and activities as a whole; (ii) the *CIP Magazine*, a dual-language publication (English and Spanish) distributed worldwide, with three issues per year, which disseminates and promotes the activities of the Committee and contains essays by port officials and experts on specialized topics and projects of interest to the sector; (iii) the Information Bulletin, an electronic document distributed worldwide five times per year, with information on the main activities of the ports and the CIP, as well as information on the activities of other regional entities with which the Committee has established cooperative ties; (iv) consultation, by responding electronically to requests for information on the ports of the Hemisphere and the activities of the Committee; and (v) documents, studies, and other specialized technical material; preparation of such materials on the ports of the Hemisphere and relevant port sector issues.