

III. SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS

SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS

Chapter XVIII of the Charter defines the specialized organizations as intergovernmental organizations established by multilateral agreements and having specific functions with respect to technical matters of common interest to the American states. They enjoy the fullest technical autonomy, but are to take into account the recommendations of the General Assembly and the Councils.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO);
The Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN);
The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM);
The Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH);
The Inter-American Indian Institute (III); and
The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

Pan American Health Organization

Established in 1902 by the Second International Conference of American States, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is the inter-American system's specialized organization in health matters and the World Health Organization's Regional Office for the Americas (AMRO/WHO). Its mission is to "lead strategic collaborative efforts among member states and other partners to promote equity in health, to combat disease, and to improve the quality of and lengthen the lives of the peoples of the Americas."

Reducing health inequities

The search for equity in health is one of the main objectives that guide PAHO's actions. To help narrow the health gap, the following initiatives were conducted:

The Caribbean Commission on Health and Development presented a report on the health situation in the Caribbean and possible solutions to be pursued.

The Survey of Risk Factors for Chronic Non-communicable Diseases, which was conducted in Argentina in 2005, was designed to analyze inequalities by population groups. Results will make it possible to quantify health differences in vulnerable groups and target activities in the health sector.

In the area of epidemiological surveillance, PAHO continues to monitor weekly the progress that the countries of the region have made toward eradicating polio and eliminating measles and rubella.

In Chile, coordination between PAHO, the government and civil society has made it possible to focus the social agenda on health determinants. Also, efforts continued to be made to place public health prominently on the regional political agenda, while providing support to the subregional meetings of the ministries of health.

The adoption of the International Health Regulation in 2005 was an important milestone. This powerful global instrument presents opportunities for PAHO and its member states. The state of alert regarding the avian flu and the influenza pandemic continues to be addressed, while networks of laboratories, epidemiological surveillance, and response to outbreaks have become part of the Regulation's work.

The public health campaign to prevent obesity in the region "*A comer sano y a moverse América!*", ("America: Eat Healthy and Move!") was launched in partnership with UNIVISION, the Spanish language network, as part of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity, and Health in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Virtual Health Library (VHL), adopted by all PAHO member countries, has put the information generated in the countries on health issues within reach of all interested parties.

Reaching disadvantaged groups

PAHO has been very active in areas such as extending social protection to the maternal-neonatal population; strengthening primary care and broadening access to health and nutrition; child and adolescent health protection; preventing juvenile violence; strengthening gender equality; health care for senior citizens and protection of the disabled.

To help fight HIV/AIDS, PAHO set a number of initiatives in motion. The "3x5" goal in the Region of the Americas was to have 600,000 persons in treatment by the end of 2005. That initial goal was far exceeded: by the end of that year, 680,000 persons were receiving antiretroviral treatment. Proposals for additional funding also were submitted to donors, in particular to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The Regional HIV Plan for the Health Sector 2006-2015 was launched.

During the Second Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS), held in June 2006, member states adopted a new political declaration on HIV. During the session, the Organization's delegation stated that the existing political will and joint work of all the countries should focus on the equity, gender, and equality approach as a way to reduce the troubling stigma and discrimination that remain.

As for Health Care for Indigenous Peoples, the First National Health Forum for Indigenous Peoples was held in Costa Rica, with some 250 delegates from indigenous communities from various countries of the region participating.

PAHO's work in communities living in high-risk areas included activities by the Governments of Ecuador and Colombia, which agreed to structure a Binational Border Integration Development Plan, which includes projects to monitor and prevent public health events, as well as strengthen quality assessment of the water in the systems within the border corridor. Along the U.S.-Mexico border, work is under way to advance the program "Healthy Border 2010", which seeks to improve immunization coverage in children under age 4.

Prominent among the activities associated with communities at high risk of infectious diseases are the Regional Malaria Program, which developed a strategic malaria control plan for 2006-2010, and the "Regional Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis Control 2006-2015" whose goal is achieving a tuberculosis-free region.

Institutional development

Progress has been made on the objectives of the Strategic Plan 2003-2007. Various teams examined the Organization from various perspectives.

The Working Group on PAHO in the 21st Century looked at the Organization in light of strategic public health challenges in the Americas; the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit examined the application of results-based management. The shared goal has focused on strengthening PAHO's work as an instrument for national health development, improving country support to the countries. The Executive Committee formed a Working Group on the Rationalization of

Governance Mechanisms. It also reviewed the selection process for the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and improvements to internal rules and procedures of the governing bodies.

Alliances and associations

Many activities were carried out to strengthen coordination of PAHO activities with those of other agencies in the United Nations system and the inter-American system. Prominent among these is the forging of a strategic alliance involving health, education, labor, and environment, in which the following are partnered: a) social protection and healthy environments; b) the mandates of the Summit of the Americas and the Millennium objectives; and c) the coordination activities associated with the influenza pandemic and avian flu.

PAHO works closely with the OAS to link health priorities in the region with its political agenda. PAHO is a member of the Joint Summit Working Group and of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG). It has also participated in inter-American meetings of ministers of various sectors, such as the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor in Mexico and the Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education, in Trinidad and Tobago.

PAHO has also joined with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to promote and protect the right to achieve higher standards of physical and mental health; with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), and with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on activities to prevent bird flu. It also teamed up with the Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence (IACPV), and with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on preparation of reports on the countries' preparations for bird flu and its possible impact on health and the economy in the region.

On the Inter-American Committee for National Disaster Reduction, PAHO worked with the OAS Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development on crafting agendas, sharing regional perspectives on preparations for and responses to disasters and distributing critical technical materials.

The countries of the Americas are putting together the Health Agenda for the Americas. This Working Group is composed of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Panama, and the United States, which is its Chair. The following eight areas have been singled out: Strengthening the national health authority; tackling health determinants; harnessing knowledge, science and technology; strengthening solidarity and health security; diminishing health inequities among and within countries; reducing the risk and burden of disease; increasing social protection and access to quality health services; strengthening the management and development of people working for health. The health agenda will be launched in mid 2007, at a hemispheric meeting.

Inter-American Children's Institute

The Inter-American Children's Institute is a specialized organization that helps create public policy on children in the Americas, promote the partnership between the State and civil society, and cultivate a critical awareness of the problems affecting children and adolescents in the Hemisphere.

Until late August 2006, the Secretariat of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) was headed by Dr. Piero Solari Zerpa, who left in late August 2006. The OAS Secretary General designated Ambassador John Biehl del Río, Representative of the OAS Office in Uruguay, as Interim Director General of the IIN.

The IIN's main activities during this reporting period centered on the promotion of democracy and governance within the framework of its Strategic Plan 2005-2008. It therefore enhanced its outreach and joint work, both within the OAS and elsewhere, especially in those instances where it is partnering, on children's behalf, with civil society organizations, governments of the member states and various regional and international organizations.

The policy of institutional outreach and joint work resulted in the following partnerships and concrete activities:

- General Cooperation Agreement between the Inter-American Children's Institute and The Hague Conference on Private International Law settling on specific activities to launch the Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Children by One of Their Parents (AG/RES. 2028/XXXIV-O/04). Thanks to this Agreement, an Inter-American Expert Meeting on International Child Abduction was held at The Hague, November 10. The experts recommended that a model law be crafted and encouraged amicable settlement of disputes, the establishment of a database and the necessary training, and creation of liaison mechanisms for coordination between central authorities and judges between countries of the region, on issues of international child abduction.
- Cooperation Agreement between Save the Children Sweden and the Inter-American Children's Institute for the projects on "Integral Study on Legislation and Public Policies against Children's Commercial Sexual Exploitation in the Americas" and "Strategic Communication Plan." In December 2006, the preliminary findings of the Integral Study were presented at the VI Meeting of High-ranking Human Rights Authorities and Foreign Ministries of MERCOSUR - Niñ@sur Working Group.
- Agreement between the *Consejo Nacional de Atención y Protección Integral a la Niñez y la Adolescencia (CONAPINA)* of Nicaragua, and the Inter-American Children's Institute. Thanks to a grant from the Government of Korea, the Institute delivered computers, including the instructive kit developed by the IIN to promote the rights of children and adolescents.

- Cooperation Agreements with the *Centro Interamericano contra la Desaparición, Explotación, Trata y Tráfico* (CIDETT) and with *Defensa de las Niñas y Niños Internacional* (DNI) for joint activities to promote and defend children's rights.

At the Eighty-First Regular Meeting of the Directing Council, held in Montevideo on November 7 and 8, Soc. Sara Oviedo, of Ecuador, was elected, by acclamation, President of the Directing Council for 2006-2008. It was also the occasion of the election of Ms. Sra. Kirsys Fernández de Valenzuela, of the Dominican Republic, as Vice President of the IIN's Directing Council. Also approved by acclamation and presented to the OAS Secretary General was a slate of candidates for the Office of Director General of the IIN. The candidates on the slate were Dr. Sonia Eljach Polo (Colombia); Dr. Justo Vinicio Solórzano León (Guatemala) and Dr. María de los Dolores Aguilar Marmolejo (Mexico).

At this meeting, Mr. Enrique Iglesias, Secretary-General of the Ibero-American Secretariat, expressed his special interest in channeling the Ibero-American Secretariat's institutional efforts on behalf of children through the Inter-American Children's Institute, thereby avoiding duplication of resources and realizing the coordination between and among international organizations that is needed if the Millennium Goals are to be achieved. Therefore, the IIN's Directing Council approved a resolution requesting the OAS Secretary General to negotiate an inter-institutional alliance whereby the IIN would be the institutional conduit through which the SEGIB's projects on behalf of children and adolescents are carried out.

At that same meeting, the Government of the Dominican Republic announced its readiness to establish, in Santo Domingo, a regional IIN office serving Central America and the Caribbean. That led to approval of resolution CD/RES. 12 (81-R/06) in which the IIN's Directing Council asks the Secretary General of the OAS to examine the proposal and determine its feasibility.

In compliance with the mandates received, the IIN continued to provide the member states with services and products in the form of technical assistance, training, research, organization of meetings, dissemination of information, project formulation, preparation of reports and other activities, among them the following:

- Preparation of the following documents: a) *Seventh Report to the OAS Secretary General on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Americas*; b) "Migration: Childhood and Rights," presented at the 3rd Childwatch International Latin American and the Caribbean Conference; c) "Promotion and Strengthening of the Family as the Core of Integral Development: Plans, Programs and Policies" and "Inter-American Project to Strengthen the Family," presented at the VI Meeting of First Ladies of Central America, Belize, Panama, and the Dominican Republic; d) "Migrations: from solidarity to insensitivity: a debate deferred but still current," presented at the VIII Ibero-American Conference of Ministers and High-ranking Authorities responsible for child and adolescent affairs; "Migration and Its Effects on the Rights of Children and Adolescents," circulated at the Eighty-first Regular Meeting.

- Production of two new videos advocating the rights of children and adolescents, who talk about caring for the environment, “*Queremos el agua*” [We Want Water] and a video for small children “*Cerca/lejos*” [Near/Far].
- Establishment of two new Children’s Rights Information Centers in the Inter-American Child Information Network (RIIN) in Mexico.
- Technical assistance to the National System for the Integral Development of the Family (DIF) in Mexico, with installation of the new National System for Monitoring and Supervision of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Presentation and negotiation of the project “Strengthening Governance in the Inter-American System for the Protection and Promotion of the Human Rights of Children and Adolescents” with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The negotiations resulted in an agreement to reformulate the project, for a sum of USD 1,500,000, to be carried out in three years in four countries of the region.
- Completion of Phase I of the development of the IIN Integrated Planning System, an essential tool enabling resources to be used to maximum advantage and to set the Strategic Plan 2005-2008 in motion.
- Inter-agency meeting with Save the Children Sweden and End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking of Children with Sexual Purpose (ECPAT), laying the groundwork for and starting the feasibility studies to establish an Observatory on Child Sexual Exploitation (ESCNA).
- Participation, in an advisory capacity, on the Child Labor Eradication Committee and the National Committee for the Eradication of Commercial and Non-Commercial Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. These two committees are drawing up Uruguay’s National Plans on the subject.

Inter-American Commission of Women

Created by the Sixth International Conference of American States (Havana, 1928), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) is the OAS' advisory body on issues related to women in the Hemisphere and the principal forum generating hemispheric policy to promote the rights of women and gender equality and equity. Its objective is to work to have the gender perspective mainstreamed into the Organization's projects, programs and policies and to lobby governments to craft public policies and programs with a gender perspective so that men and women may enjoy equal opportunity in every realm of society.

During this reporting period, CIM's activities were geared toward fulfilling the mandates received from the Thirty-third Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, especially the Biennial Work Plan for 2004-2006; the mandates received from the OAS General Assembly at its thirty-sixth regular session, and those from the Summits of the Americas. As CIM is the specialized organization for women in the area of human rights, its programs, activities, and guidelines are specifically geared to achieve gender equality and equity and unqualified respect for women's human rights.

Women's Human Rights – Elimination of Violence against Women

- Follow up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará' (MESECVI).

As Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, CIM's Permanent Secretariat continued to support the Follow-up Mechanism to the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI). During this reporting period, replies were received from the countries to the questionnaire to assess the Convention's implementation. Those replies were sent to the experts so that they might prepare their preliminary reports. The Committee of Experts (CEVI) met at CIM headquarters on July 24 and 25, 2006. During the course of its meeting, it decided to request additional information from the countries.

- Gender Aspects of HIV-AIDS

The 2004-2006 Executive Committee made this a priority topic for the 2006-2008 biennium. To begin dealing with this issue, two research studies were prepared on women and HIV-AIDS in the region. Meetings were held with the Pan American Health Organization to explore possible joint activities. In the Dialogue of Heads of Delegation at the thirty-third Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, the research studies were distributed to provide the basis for the dialogue, which addressed the prevalence of HIV among women, and its link to gender-based violence and aspects of multi-dimensional security. This set the stage for the Delegates to share information on the subject, take the discussion to a deeper level, and hear about the best practices presented by the countries. Those best practices can be viewed at CIM's Website.

- Combating the Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, Adolescents, and Children

In March 2006, the OAS held a Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons. The venue of the meeting was Isla Margarita, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The purpose of the meeting was to begin the process of crafting a hemispheric plan to combat this scourge. The CIM provided technical support for this meeting. By a decision of the General Secretariat, this topic will be coordinated by the Ministers of Justice (REMJA) as a security issue. The CIM is committed to continuing to work with the Anti-Trafficking Unit, so as to keep the gender perspective in the activities related to this issue.

Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (PIA)

- Training Project on Gender, Conflict, and Peace-Building

Following through with the training project launched in 2005 in the Andean Region, the CIM, in partnership with the Department of Crisis Prevention and Special Missions and the Hunt Alternative Fund’s Inclusive Security program, conducted the “Second Training Course on Gender, Conflict and Peace-Building: Central American Region.” The course was held in Antigua, Guatemala, and trained 30 women and men representing government, civil society, the academic sector, the justice system and the security forces of Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, to factor the gender perspective into the work of preventing and settling conflicts and building peace. As a result of the project, the participants from the two regions where the course was held have established a virtual network to share information and best practices on the subject. Hunt Alternatives Fund and the People’s Republic of China funded the project.

- Project on Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective within the OAS

The Government of Canada offered the CIM financial support to continue the Project on Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective within the OAS. The second phase of the project was conducted in 2006. It began in March, with a special informative session for directors and unit chiefs. Four training sessions were held in the months that followed, dealing with gender analysis. Each session was specifically tailored to the needs of the various sectors. A gender-mainstreaming manual was developed for the staff. By area, the workshops were as follows: “Mainstreaming gender into performance-based management,” “Applying the gender approach when compiling data,” “Mainstreaming gender in risk management in the area of disaster management,” “Mainstreaming gender into human resource development,” “Mainstreaming gender into electoral reform,” and “Good Governance and Democratic Development.” A total of 125 staff members were trained.

Assembly of Delegates

The thirty-third Assembly of Delegates of the CIM was held in San Salvador, El Salvador, November 13 through 15, 2006. In attendance were delegates from 31 member states, agencies and entities of the inter-American system and the United Nations system, and nongovernmental organizations. The Assembly elected the Executive Committee for the 2006-2008 period and adopted resolutions on preventing and eradicating violence against women; implementation of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Convention of Belém do Pará; strategies for follow-up of the IV Summit of the Americas; parity and women's participation in decision making, and implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality. The Assembly also approved the CIM Work Program for the 2006-2008 Biennium: Program Guidelines. As previously noted, the topic of the Dialogue of Heads of Delegation was the prevalence of HIV among women and its link to gender-based violence and aspects of multidimensional security.

Other Activities

CIM and the OAS General Secretariat's Department of Public Information produced a 30-minute video "*Women and Political Leadership: A Century of Struggle.*" The video, done in both English and Spanish, will be distributed throughout the region.

Pan American Institute of Geography and History

Established by the Sixth International Conference of American States (Havana, 1928), the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) offers technical cooperation, provides training at research centers, issues publications, and organizes technical meetings in the fields of cartography, geography, history, and geophysics.

With the first phase of the re-engineering of the PAIGH (2004-2005) complete, in 2006 the Institute focused on measures to consolidate itself as the inter-American system's entity for helping the member states interpret their territory through geographic analysis, historical study, and an authentic hemispheric perspective.

Understanding the Hemisphere through its geography and history, assisting the member states and their institutions as they steer themselves through the changes they are undergoing, responding rapidly to the growing demands from the international scientific community, and developing effective vehicles enabling the specialists to communicate with one another: these are some of the factors shaping the PAIGH's current agenda.

With that in mind, in 2006 the PAIGH stepped up efforts at modernization and to make the Institute's National Sections more relevant. Paralleling this endeavor has been an effort to improve the quality of the PAIGH's scientific activities, projects, and publications.

Fundamental principles of innovation and technical and scientific relevance have been introduced, as dictated by the need to contribute to a better understanding of the peoples of the Americas and to further their development. These include:

- Increasing regional participation from a multidisciplinary perspective;
- Supporting the activities that organizations producing basic geographic data in the member states are making to modernize;
- Establishing decentralization as the PAIGH's operational and functional model;
- Establishing more effective ties between the Institute and similar international organizations;
- Consolidating the Pan American Professional Network (RPP) to attract professionals in the relevant areas, particularly the new generations of scientists in the member states.

Technical Cooperation and Assistance Program 2006

The XVIII Assembly of the PAIGH approved a Technical Assistance Program composed of 27 projects, totaling US\$163,580. The program, which came under the 2006 Regular Fund budget, was very successful, having achieved a level of execution of 98%.

The progress made by the *Cartography* Commission included headway on the following projects: "Global Map of the Americas," "Support to assist development of Haiti's geodesic network," "Tactile Cartography, with emphasis on the hearing and visually challenged in Latin America," and "Expansion of the Geocentric Reference System of the Americas –SIRGAS– to include Central America."

The *Geography* Commission moved forward on territorial planning, based on a study done of current trends in geography, guidelines for environmental and technological land management, and studies associated with knowledge of Latin America's biological corridors, including policy recommendations to establish alternative ways to protect and use the land in those corridors. The Commission also continued to assist the Office of the OAS General Secretariat in the Adjacency Zone between Belize and Guatemala.

In the case of the *Geophysics* Commission, particularly in relation to the issue of natural disasters, the projects on physical modeling and simulation of eruptions of Lascar Volcano (Chile) produced impressive findings in the area of seismology and vulcanology. Studies of the dynamics and deformation of active faults have had significant implications for surface geodynamics and mitigation of seismic risks. Important studies have been done in this field, comparing recent eruption events so as to better understand and monitor dynamic processes by observing the Popocatépetl (Mexico) and Lascar (Chile) volcanoes, and developing a map of volcanic hazards and risk scenarios for the San Salvador Volcano. In the area of environmental geophysics, geophysical and archaeological studies have made important contributions, as in the case of the study of pre-Hispanic habitation sites in Cotzumalguapa, Guatemala.

The *History* Commission, for its part, helped develop new insights into the ancient history of the Americas and the historical studies done of the Andean indigenous culture. The work in historiography has focused on building visions of time and space in the Hemisphere. Studies have also been done on economic and social history, focusing on current features and trends of Latin American migration and where it is going in the twenty-first century.

The academic and training activities increased significantly in 2006, as evidenced by the multiple international activities in cooperation and technical-capacity building, in which more than 207 delegates from the various member states participated. Prominent among these were the following:

- V Course on Digital Processing of Satellite Images AECI-PAIGH (Bolivia)
- XVIII Course on Geographic Place Names (Chile)
- III Course on Spatial Data Infrastructures IGAC- PAIGH (Colombia)
- SIRGAS International Workshop, Working Group 1 (Brazil)
- XXXIV International Course in Applied Geography "Globalization and the Local Impact", CEPEIGE-OAS-PAIGH (Ecuador)

While the PAIGH's financial limitations are affecting the Technical Assistance Program, the resources available are stretched to make every annual call for proposals of ever greater consequence. The topic "natural disasters," for example, can be addressed differently if approached within a framework of multidisciplinary activities; the history project titled *America "Contact and Independence"* can pool and better coordinate the efforts of specialists in the region, within one year's time, and generate a product whose release in 2008 will coincide with the 80th anniversary of the PAIGH and the OAS' 60th anniversary.

The 2007 call for proposals resulted in approval of assistance to a total of 31 projects presented by 9 national sections. Most of the PAIGH's member states benefit from these projects, which

have a total assigned budget of US\$180.760. The goal is to support Pan American initiatives on the following subjects: (i) spatial data infrastructures; (2) territorial planning; (3) a new global history as applied to the Americas, and (4) response to emergencies caused by natural disasters.

Occasional and Periodical Publications in 2006

One of the PAIGH's basic functions is dissemination. In 2006, the PAIGH General Secretariat continued its publications program, to very good effect. It reduced the backlog that had built up over previous years using the new technological tools introduced into the process. A total of 12 periodical publications were printed, which were issues of the Institute's own journals: *Cartográfica*, *Geofísica*, *Antropología y Arqueología Americana*, *Historia* and *Geografía*. The exchange work being done through Mexico's *Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia* (ENAH) increased the holdings in the PAIGH's "José Toribio Medina" Library, which the ENAH administers. New issues of periodicals and occasional publications, on specialized topics and from every corner of the world, were added to the collection, which now has over 226,289 titles.

The 2001-2005 "Ricardo Caillet Bois" Prize and the 2003-2004 "Leopoldo Zea" Thought of the Americas Award were awarded and the winning works published on the occasion of the thirty-ninth session of the Directing Council. Their titles were, respectively: *De colonial a nacional: la carrera eclesiástica del clero secular chileno 1650-1810*, written by Lucrecia Raquel Enríquez Agrazar (Chile), and "*Las nuevas referencias del pensamiento crítico en América Latina. Ética y ampliación de la sociedad civil*", written by Yamandú Acosta (Uruguay).

Statutory Meetings

In 2006, the planned statutory meetings were held:

- Sixty-fifth Meeting of Authorities (Mexico, June 29 and 30).
- Sixty-fifth Meeting of Authorities (Viña del Mar, Chile, November 12).
- Thirty-ninth Meeting of the Directing Council (Viña del Mar, Chile, November 13-16).

Subsequent to these meetings and as necessary, the General Secretariat strictly complied with the provisions contained in the 43 resolutions that the XVIII General Assembly of the PAIGH (Venezuela, 2005) approved.

The jury for the "Silvio Zavala" Colonial History prize, 2004-2005, unanimously awarded the prize to the work titled "*Historia Naval del Reino de Chile 1520-1826*" by Isidoro Vázquez de Acuña (Chile).

In 2007, the resolutions of the thirty-ninth Directing Council (Chile, 2006) will be carried out, calling for (i) decentralization as one way to discharge the PAIGH's mission, necessitating modernization of the national sections; and (ii) improving the quality and effectiveness of the projects, training activities, and publications through which the PAIGH's vision materializes.

Inter-American Indian Institute

Created by the 1940 Pátzcuaro International Convention, the basic objectives of the Inter-American Indian Institute are to collaborate in the coordination of the member states' indigenous policies and to promote research by and training of persons dedicated to indigenous communities' development.

Activities carried out

Library. - A total of 51,469 periodicals have been catalogued, as have 51,538 journal articles in the collection, 6,510 book articles, and 8,261 books.

Historic Archives. - The physical organization of those documents in the archives that predate 1980 was completed.

Research. - The Institute completed its research study titled "*Cantos del pueblo Wirráika en su peregrinación a Wirikuta*" [Songs of the Wirráika People on Their Pilgrimage to Wirikuta] funded by a grant from Elizabeth Córdova MacArthur, received in December 2004. It completed a research paper on the "*Historia del proceso de reforma constitucional mexicana de 1993 en material indígena. Testimonio de uno de los negociadores*" [History of the 1992 amendment of Mexico's Constitution as it pertains to indigenous matters. Testimony of one of the negotiators], done in collaboration with the Institute of History of the *Universidad de Michoacán*, Mexico. The Institute continues to collaborate with Dr. Laura Giraudo of the Center for Political and Constitutional Studies, Ministry of the Presidency, Spain, on the history of the Inter-American Indian Institute.

Internet page. - In 2006, space was purchased on an independent server. The number of hits continued to increase.

Social Service. - During this reporting period, a student from the School of History at the *Universidad Metropolitana de México* assisted with the work at the Library and the Historic Archives.

Presence at events. - With financial support from private parties, in November the III's Director attended the organizers' training workshop given by the Industrial Areas Foundation in Chicago, Illinois.

Publications. - By December 31, 2006, two issues from the 2005 series of the journal *América Indígena* and one from its 2006 series had been issued.

The following works were also released on CD format:

América Indígena Vol. XXXII Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 (1972), Oscar Juárez Arellano; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XXXVIII Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1978), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.

América Indígena Vol. XXXIX Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1979), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XL Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1980), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XLII Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1982), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XLIII Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1983), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XLIV Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1984), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XLV Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1985), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XLVI Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1986), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XLVII Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1987), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XLVIII Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1988), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. XLIX Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1989), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. L Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1990), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. LI Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1991), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. LII Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1992), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. LIII Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1993), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. LIV Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1994), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. LV Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1995), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. LVI Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1996), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
América Indígena Vol. LVII Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1997), Sergio Orrala Barajas; Mexico, 2006.
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Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

Founded in 1942, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is the inter-American system's organization specializing in the agricultural sector and rural territories. As such, it stimulates, promotes, and supports the member States' efforts to achieve sustainable development of agriculture and to enable rural communities to prosper.

In 2006, IICA approved a new Medium-Term Plan 2006-2010, adapted its annual programming and its budgets and updated the national and regional cooperation agendas to bring them in line with its mission of providing innovative technical cooperation to the member states for the sake of promoting sustainable development that for the peoples of the Americas.

IICA continued to promote the AGRO Plan 2003-2015, a hemispheric agreement on the objectives and strategic activities for agriculture and rural life for that period. It also focused on the three areas of activity decided at the Ministerial Meeting in Guayaquil (2005): advocating a national policy on agriculture and rural life; developing a data system to monitor and evaluate the AGRO Plan in 2003-2007, and adjusting regional strategies for the Plan's implementation. As Secretariat of the ministerial process and of the Ministerial Meeting, the Secretariat put the accent on the continuity of the process, regional integration within the framework of the hemispheric ministerial process, and articulation of this process with that of the Summits of the Americas.

In 2006, IICA focused on six strategic priorities in hemispheric technical cooperation: i) repositioning agriculture and transforming and modernizing rural life; ii) promoting trade and the competitiveness of agri-businesses; iii) improving agricultural health and food safety systems; iv) promoting sustainable management of natural resources and the environment; v) strengthening rural communities using a territorial approach, and vi) promoting technology and innovation to modernize agriculture and rural life.

Of these priorities, one of the most salient has been the institutional effort to reposition agriculture through studies that examine the real contribution that agriculture makes to the economy and the technical forums and international events that were held, which included "IICA Day at the OAS."

Another prominent effort was the strengthening of the business capacity and competitiveness of the small- and medium-sized producers in Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, Guatemala, Panama, and Barbados, accomplished through seminars, workshops, and studies; the use of the export-platform method; publication of technical documents targeting present and potential exporters, and other measures.

With IICA's support, the member states defended their interests on the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization to better effect, and made this one of the priority issues on their agenda. The Institute was also instrumental in modernizing the agricultural health services employing the "Performance, Vision, and Strategy" (PVS) method. In addition to building up the countries' capacities in sanitary and phytosanitary measures, IICA

put into practice a coordinated emergency-response to the threat of transboundary diseases like bird flu.

IICA's work in the rural areas of the Americas focused on institution-building and on cultivating technical capacities and skills in formulating rural development policy from a territorial perspective, mainly in Mexico, Brazil and Colombia. In Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, and Chile, the territories where the approach will be used were selected, while studies were done in Chile, Paraguay, Argentina, and Uruguay on family farming.

Technology and innovation is such a relevant issue today. With that in mind, IICA was instrumental in launching the global project "International Evaluation of the Role of Science and Technology in Development." Through the Technical Secretariat of the Forum for the Americas on Agricultural Research and Technology Development (FORAGRO), IICA promoted hemispheric dialogue on crafting technology policies. It also supported the creation of FONTAGRO as a means to finance regional research. Through the technological innovation cooperation programs (PROCI), IICA continued to bolster mutual cooperation among countries of the five regions.

The Institute has set in motion two new hemispheric initiatives: one on agro-energy and bio-fuels, and the other on the Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosecurity Program. In the case of the agro-energy and bio-fuels initiative, IICA's Executive Committee approved the Strategy for Building a Horizontal Cooperation Platform on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels. As for the second initiative, significant progress was made toward establishing biotechnology needs, crafting regional initiatives, coordinating networks and systems, and determining what lines of activity could be pursued with specialized organizations.

In the information area, the countries today have much greater access to relevant and up-to-date sources and share their experiences through the INFOAGRO information system (www.infoagro.net), which features a number of modules (trade, agri-business, technology biotechnology, health, rural development, and agro-industry), and the Agricultural Information and Documentation System of the Americas-SIDALC- (www.sidalc.net), in which 21 countries and 141 institutions participate.

In the Andean region, the priority in regional technical cooperation was to strengthen systems and institutions that promote agricultural health and food safety (AHFS) and biotechnology. Accordingly IICA's agenda put emphasis on building human and institutional capacities so as to bolster national AHFS systems and put into operation a virtual tracing network in that region. Initiatives were also carried out to implement measures to prevent, control, and eradicate diseases and plagues that have significant economic and social implications. Regional activities were conducted on such topics as bird flu, food-and-mouth disease, and the fruit fly.

In the Caribbean region, the Institute continued to play a leadership role in the activities of the Secretariat of the Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu (the Alliance), the Caribbean AgriBusiness Association (CABA) and other organizations. It also continued to provide support to the Jagdeo Initiative, geared to promoting measures to overcome the factors limiting agricultural development and diversification in the Caribbean. Also, in

anticipation of the possible appearance of bird flu, the Institute conducted two simulations in the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, with help from the FAO and the USDA/APHIS. It also played an important role in introducing the strategy for combating invasive species.

In the Central Region, under the Plan of Action for Agricultural and Rural Development that the presidents of Central America and Mexico signed, the Third International Forum of Tropical Fruit Agribusinesses was held thanks to a public-private collaborative effort and cooperation from regional and international organizations. In the area of agricultural health and food safety (AHFS), an assessment was done of the Central American countries' preparedness for the possibility of an outbreak of bird flu, in conjunction with the Regional International Organization for Agricultural Health (OIRSA) and the Central American Federation of Poultry Producers (FEDAVICAC). IICA also partnered with these regional organizations to support preparation of the Central American Poultry Sector Safety Program. As for development of agricultural technology, through the Central American Agricultural Technology Integration System (SICTA) IICA helped to strengthen and coordinate national agricultural research institutes and agricultural technology-transfer and research systems.

The focus in IICA's Northern Region was on sharing the experience that Mexico has accrued in negotiating and managing the agricultural component of trade agreements. That information was shared with the countries of Central America, the Caribbean, and other regions. As it did in other regions, in the Northern Region the Institute played a key role in the cooperative efforts to tackle the threat posed by the possible outbreak of bird flu. It was also a constant source of support to the countries in reducing or eliminating the threat of the fruit fly, foot-and-mouth disease, and BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy). A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), opening up an important vehicle for dialogue and cooperation on an issue of enormous global relevance.

In the Southern Region, IICA continued to support the Southern Agricultural Council [*Consejo Agropecuario del Sur*] (CAS), by way of the Technical Secretariat, and through cooperative measures with CAS' advisory bodies like REDPA, GINA-Sur, PROCISUR and the secretariats of the Permanent Animal Health Committee [*Comité Veterinario Permanente*] and the Plant Health Council [*Consejo de Sanidad Vegetal*]. It also promoted the materialization of a regional strategy to prepare for the threat of bird flu. With the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, it provided its collaboration in identifying the training needed to diagnose the disease in the region. The Institute also provided support to Expanded MERCOSUR's Regional Forum of Agronomy Schools. It also continued to provide assistance to adjust curriculums in higher education to match the needs in the agricultural sector. It continued to provide advice on self-evaluation procedures for professionals in agronomy and veterinary medicine, strategic planning, and curriculum design in various countries of the region. Lastly, IICA was instrumental in designing the CAS support projects and presenting them to international financial institutions.

With implementation of the national cooperation agendas, the Institute made significant contributions to the countries in the areas mentioned earlier, especially in capacity building, project formulation, institutional modernization, strengthening of dialogue, and regional and hemispheric integration.

Recognizing the importance of coordinating with other organizations, IICA stepped up the strategy of partnerships with the FAO, the OAS, the IDB, PAHO, COSUDE, the OIE, the Biotechnology Industry Organization, the Public Association of Intellectual Property Rights, the U.S. Grain Council, Florida International University, the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI), American Agri-Women, AIBDA, and others.