

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

Inter-American Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction

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

Resolution AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05), “Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management,” instructed the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to set up 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 recommendations of the Permanent Council established in the “Recommendations of the Committee on Hemispheric Security on Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management” (CP/CSH-718/05);
- b. To review the Statutes of the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (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 analysis of vulnerability and risk and of the cost and benefit of investing in natural hazards mitigation; and
- d. To develop a methodology for funding specially geared towards prevention of and reconstruction and recovery in the event of natural disasters.

Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund

FONDEM was created by the General Assembly in 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 different natural disasters in the region, the OAS General Secretariat made the following contributions in United States dollars from said Fund:

2006

Bolivia	US\$30,000
Suriname	US\$10,000
Ecuador	US\$10,000
	US\$50,000

Justice Studies Center of the Americas

The Justice Studies Center of the Americas was established by the General Assembly as an intergovernmental entity with technical and operational autonomy. 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 the justice systems in the region.

Justice Reform in the Americas

- Promoting judicial reform in the region

Inter-American Seminar on Judicial Government: The objective of this seminar was to begin an organized regional discussion of aspects of the governance and administration of judicial institutions and the most suitable institutional alternatives for these functions. Experiences both within the region and elsewhere were examined.

IV Inter-American Seminar on Judicial Management: The purpose of this Seminar was to examine the theoretical progress and innovative experiences in the countries of the region with formulating the judiciary's budgets as strategic management tools, management of human resources, and the generation of information and its use to support decision-making in judicial systems.

- Studies

Report on Fulfillment of the Mandates of the Summits of the Americas. This study was done in order to examine the mandates from the Summits of the Americas related to legislative reform for the development and modernization of the justice sector and the degree to which they have been fulfilled by the countries of the region.

Comparative Study of Judicial Reforms in Latin America: The purpose of this study was to explore the results of the efforts made in countries that are representative of the region to reform judicial systems, in order to draw useful lessons that can be used to support the political process behind the reforms and the actions of international cooperation agencies.

- Other activities

Technical Assistance for the Judicial System in Haiti: The objective was to develop technical assistance for the Haitian government in order to improve its legal and/or judicial system. In that context, and based on the information that a JSCA representative gathered while on a visit to Haiti in December 2006, the main lines that this technical assistance will follow to carry out the technical support will be set in 2007.

Advisory services to Panama's State Commission on the Justice System: Its purpose was to come up with recommendations on how best to apply the 27 proposals contained in the report on the "State Compact for Justice" which the Commission prepared in 2005.

Specific Support for Reforms in the Criminal Justice System

- Pilot projects to improve implementation of reforms in criminal procedure

The purpose of these pilot projects is to strengthen the adversarial system by introducing oral proceedings in the preliminary phase. They are being conducted in Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires, and Córdoba.

- Empirical Research on Reforms in Criminal Procedure

Updating Project Follow-Up Study: Research, Publication, and Distribution: The objective here was to assess the implementation of reforms to criminal procedure in countries not previously covered in similar studies done in the past (Argentina, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, and Guatemala), and well as subsequent innovations in some countries where reforms that were examined have since undergone relevant changes.

Report on the Implementation of the Adversarial System in the State of Nuevo León: The purpose of this report was to identify the strengths and weaknesses of procedural reform in Nuevo León, to document it and then disseminate it throughout Mexico.

Study on “Management Models in the Public Prosecutor’s Office for First Efforts to Coordinate with the Police in the Context of the Criminal Procedure Reform. Study of Four Experiences in Santiago de Chile”: The purpose of this study was to analyze management models used in the Regional Prosecutor’s Offices of the Metropolitan Region –Santiago, Chile (Central-North, Southern, Eastern and Western), which were implemented with the first instructions from the prosecutor offices to coordinate with the police when the new Criminal Procedure Code entered into force.

Study on Gender-based Violence and Criminal Procedure Reform in Córdoba (Argentina): The goal is to complete an empirical study that evaluates any progress made in prosecuting gender-related crime and the challenges that remain.

Criminal Procedure Reform and Indigenous Communities: The purpose of this study was to determine the extent to which reforms in criminal procedure have been “sensitive” to the problem that cultural diversity poses in the realm of criminal justice.

Roundtable Discussion on Citizen Security and Reforms in Criminal Procedure: This event was an opportunity to analyze and discuss crucial questions about the role that reforms in criminal procedure have played in enhancing citizen security and the extent to which they have helped cut crime. It was also an opportunity to present proposals to sharpen the focus of and further develop such reform in Chile and other countries of the region, drawing on positive experiences globally.

- Training

Inter-American Program for Training Trainers for Criminal Procedure Reform (Third Version): The purpose of the program was to improve the results of criminal justice reform in the region by

training a sizeable group of leaders and duplicating the training activities in those leaders' respective countries.

Managing Chile's New Criminal Justice System: Analysis and Practical Observation: The purpose of this activity was to allow delegations of visitors from abroad to experience the development of the reform to Chile's system of criminal procedure, understand its underlying judicial and administrative logic and its operation and management.

Course: Managing Chile's New Criminal Justice System. Analysis and Practical Observation. Visit by the Delegation from Durango, Mexico: The purpose here was to convey the knowledge and skills essential to those persons who have the potential to play important roles in implementing procedural reforms in the criminal justice system in Latin America.

Course: "The State of Justice in the Americas: Challenges and Opportunities for Granting Access to the Majority": The purpose of the course was to depict the status of justice in the region and draw a connection with the view of the Inter-American Development Bank and its hands-on experience in the design, administration, and execution of justice programs.

Specific Support of Civil Justice Reforms

- Studies

The purpose of these studies is to identify methods and tools to assess the situation in countries where major legislative measures taken in the area of paternity and child support have had unsatisfactory results because of failings in the justice system.

- Activities and Training

Seminar on Oral Proceedings and Civil Justice: The objective of this Seminar is to share theories and practices in civil litigation.

Exchange of EUROsociAL Experiences: The objective of this activity is to share the experiences that Spain, France, and England have had with reforms to civil justice.

Seminar on International Experiences with Civil Justice Reform: The purpose of this seminar is to present, analyze, and debate the lessons to be learned from the Spanish, French, and British experience and that are most relevant to the discussion of reform to the Chilean civil justice system.

Strengthening Information Systems and Justice Administration Management

The JSCA continued to conduct activities to improve the quality of the judicial systems and promote the use of information in decision-making processes in this sector. Proof of the progress made in this area is the Supreme Court of Costa Rica's adaptation of its statistical information system to reflect the parameters set out in JSCA's Coding and Decoding Manuals. The Supreme

Court of Costa Rica is publishing its first full set of judicial indicators using this methodology, which will contain data current through 2005.

- Development of Judicial Information Systems

Index of Online Access to Judicial Information, Second Version: The purpose of this activity was to gauge the quality and quantity of information that the judicial branches and public prosecutors offices in the 34 OAS member states publish at their websites, and then rank them.

Judicial Statistics in Criminal Justice in Guatemala, Part One: The objective of this activity was to establish a baseline to measure the impact that the USAID program to improve criminal justice administration will have in Guatemala using 2004 as the base year.

- Development of management systems

Study Comparing Budgetary Management and Administrative Management of Courts and Tribunals and Statistical Treatment of the Information on the Performance of the Judicial System. The study was done for Brazil's Secretariat for Judicial Reform to bolster the efforts that Brazil's National Justice Council (CNJ) is making to strengthen the institution and define its agenda via a global analysis of how the decisions it is called upon to make affect the performance of the courts. This will involve describing how these decisions are made in Spain, Portugal, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, and Chile.

Exchange of Experiences "Methods and Tools for Improving the Procedures Used to Compile, Process, Analyze and Publish Statistical Data": The purpose here was to study methods and tools for better production and use of statistics in the judicial system, using the experiences of Spain and England as references.

Advisory Services for Designing a Comprehensive Criminal Justice Model for Cuenca, Ecuador: The objective was to design a comprehensive criminal justice model, encompassing the various projects conducted thus far.

Other Activities

- Summary of other courses and workshops delivered by the JSCA

The JSCA organized a number of courses and workshops at the request of justice sector organizations from around the region. It was heavily involved in seminars or conferences –either events organized by the Center or events where experts from the Center participated as lecturers or panelists. In all, the JSCA participated in over 1.4 events per week during the first 11 months of the year.

- Participation in Lectures, Seminars, and Similar Events

Professionals from the JSCA presented papers at a number of other events, both local and regional. With the emphasis on the design of a virtual forum, these events were an opportunity to

publicize the JSCA's activities and discuss the Center's ideas. Members of our staff presented papers at many other local or regional events that served as opportunities to publicize the Center's activities, debate the ideas that it has been generating, and strengthen the network of contacts.

- JSCA Virtual Information Center and Virtual Library

The JSCA's Virtual Information Center (VIC): The VIC is the virtual platform through which the Center makes available to the regional community the information that it generates and/or collects on the judicial systems.

The JSCA's Virtual Library: The Virtual Library provides the interested community in this Hemisphere with information on the reforms and modernization of justice systems both globally and regionally and provides a vehicle for circulating and sharing information.

- Periodicals and special publications

Nexus Newsletter: This periodical summarizes the current reforms and modernization of the justice systems in the countries of America; it reports relevant events and provides information useful to the people and institutions involved or interested in these topics.

Judicial Systems Journal: The Journal's purpose is to further discussion, share information, and exchange experience with the operation of the justice systems in the countries of the Americas. It is also a medium for publicizing the JSCA's activities and the networks and systems with which it works.

- JSCA Publications

The purpose of these publications is to reach people who may not have an Internet system sufficient to download the studies available online. The JSCA makes available limited paper editions of some studies, which are distributed within the region *gratis*, once shipping costs are paid. This year's publications were the following:

"Manual de Defensoría Penal Pública para América Latina y el Caribe"

"Arbitraje y Mediación en las Américas"

"Desafíos del Ministerio Público Fiscal en América Latina"

"Seguridad Ciudadana Y Reforma Procesal Penal"

"JSCA at a Glance"

"Índice de Accesibilidad a Información Judicial en Internet".

Administrative Tribunal

The Administrative Tribunal 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.

The Administrative Tribunal was represented at the thirty-sixth regular session of the OAS General Assembly by its Secretary, Reinaldo Rodríguez Gallad. There, Dr. Héctor Enrique Arce Zaconeta was, by acclamation, elected to the bench of the Administrative Tribunal until 2012.

In March 2006, the President of the Tribunal held a series of meetings with representatives of the Staff Association and the OAS Department of Legal Services on the draft amendments to the Tribunal's Statute and Rules of Procedure. The Secretariat prepared a new document about the possible amendments to the Tribunal's Statute and Rules of Procedure, which it circulated among the Tribunal's members for their analysis, together with a series of additional reports.

In June, Judge Andre Surena presided over the hearings with the witnesses in Complaint No. 284 "Consuelo Fleming v. Secretary General of the OAS." A copy of the transcripts of those hearings was later sent to the members of the Tribunal.

In August, the Tribunal held its fifty-fourth regular session. As all the members had been convened, the members of Tribunal present for the session were Judges Agustín Gordillo (President), Albert Matthew (Vice President), Alma Montenegro de Fletcher and Andre Surena. Once the session was in progress, judges Albert Matthew and Andre Surena took their places on the bench. The oral proceedings in Complaint 284 were held during this session, with the judges present for this session in attendance, along with staff of the Tribunal Secretariat, the complainant and the legal representatives of the interested parties.

The following topics were also taken up at that session: decisions adopted by the GA/OAS at its thirty-sixth regular session; Complaint No. 284 "Consuelo Fleming v. Secretary General of the OAS;" the presence of all Tribunal members for its sessions; celebration of the Tribunal's thirty-fifth anniversary; and amendments to the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Tribunal. The Secretary reported on the figures in the Tribunal's budget for 2006 and note was made of the 2007 budget as reflected in resolution n AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV)-O/05).

The judges also discussed and decided Complaint No. 286 "Consuelo Fleming v. Secretary General of the OAS" concerning the request for correction of a material error in the judgment that decided Complaint No. 284 "Consuelo Fleming v. Secretary General of the OAS."

The following decisions were approved in 2006:

- Judgment 152 adopted on Complaint No. 284 "Consuelo Fleming v. Secretary General of the OAS" (OEA/Ser.R, TRIBAD/SEN.152)

- Resolution 355 (LIV-O/06): Attendance of the Six Judges at the Sessions of the Administrative Tribunal
- Resolution 356 (OAS/Ser.R, TRIBAD/RES.356): Request to Correct a Material Error in Judgment 152.

On the occasion of the Tribunal's thirty-fifth anniversary, a seminar was held titled "Current Issues in the Law and Practice of International Administrative Tribunals." Present for the event were representatives of the Administrative Tribunals of the International Labour Organisation, the European Council, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank. Representatives of the Staff Association and of the GS/OAS Department of Legal Services were also invited to attend. The event was also used as an occasion to introduce Volume I of the book "Current Issues in the Law and Practice of International Administrative Tribunals," which featured contributions by a number of those present for the seminar.

The Secretariat worked with the OAS' Office of Information and Technology Services on the plan for reorganizing and updating the Tribunal's Web page so that it provides a more efficient and effective documents-search system than the one now at the site.

At the request of the Tribunal members, the Secretariat prepared the following reports:

- Mechanisms for exhausting administrative remedies within the GS/OAS;
- Jurisprudence of international administrative tribunals on requests to correct material errors;
- Current situation of the Tribunal with the GS/OAS after Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 2.

In addition to performing his functions under the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Tribunal, the Secretary of the Tribunal also served as a Principal Committee Secretary in the Office of the Assistant Secretary General.

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 Secretary General is President of the PADF's Board of Directors, whose members include 25 leaders from the private sector from throughout the hemisphere. The President of the Foundation is Ambassador Alexander F. Watson, and its 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 PADF's mission is to promote integral development among the most disadvantaged in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to create "a hemisphere of opportunity for all." This mission is accomplished by forming innovative partnerships with private, public, and nonprofit organizations, in furtherance of 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, among others. It also accepts contributions from government agencies in the region.

The period from March to December 2006 stood out because of the many activities carried out under the leadership of Secretary General José Miguel Insulza and Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin. To respond to the great humanitarian crisis in the Hemisphere, the PADF continued to provide jobs, technical training and other services to the thousands displaced by the violence in Colombia and to coca farmers who have opted to stop cultivating that illegal crop in that country. In the last five years, PADF programs have benefited over 500,000 Colombians, especially Afro-Colombians, as well as displaced women and children. This year, the PADF expanded its assistance program to the displaced in Colombia, and also its alternative development program in the coca-growing regions of that country, in support of the policies of the Colombian Government and the OAS and further consolidation of Colombian democracy through its peace process. With those ends in mind, the PADF opened nine regional offices in conflict zones like Chocó, so as to better serve the needs of the Afro-Colombian population and other vulnerable groups.

The PADF extended its financing in Haiti for agricultural and rural development programs, programs to create jobs, to help victims of natural disasters and to rebuild infrastructure, to strengthen community organizations, and to combat trafficking in persons. A waste management and street cleanup program was launched to create jobs in a number of troubled neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince and in support of the electoral process and democratic stabilization counseled by the OAS. New USAID-contributed resources were used for this activity. Work was done with the Yélé Haiti Foundation created by the famous Haitian singer Wyclef Jean. Another donation was secured to support a Haitian model of community-driven development financed by the World Bank.

Other PADF initiatives in Haiti include encouragement of cooperative ties between nongovernmental organizations along the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, as a way to ease tension, protect human rights, and foster dialogue and peace. The PADF's Director in Haiti assisted the Secretary General on development-related issues discussed at the International Donors Meeting in Madrid, Spain. The Assistant Secretary General visited the PADF program on the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, to check on projects.

In Bolivia, with financing from the Bolivian Government's Social Productive Fund [Fondo Productivo Social] (FPS) and the World Bank, the PADF provided funding to over 190 rural townships for institution-building and development projects. Community development activities in troubled areas have been expanded to strengthen the democratic process in the country.

In 2006, the PADF donated more than US\$4.0 million in medical-dental equipment and tools for technical training centers in Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and elsewhere. These donations helped community organizations expand the services they provide to low-income patients, who have no access to basic services. The Foundation continued to negotiate for new donations of medical-dental equipment, tools for development, school buses, fire trucks, machinery and equipment for various municipalities in the region.

The PADF received US\$1,460,000 from the World Bank to implement a disaster emergency management project, mainly to benefit the victims of the floods in Gonaives, Haiti. The PADF also expanded and extended the Disaster Management Alliance funded by OFDA/USAID, with US\$440,000 to be executed before January 2008 in El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic. The Foundation raised some US\$85,711 for humanitarian aid and reconstruction in the wake of the cyclonic and volcanic activity in countries such as Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Suriname, with the support of the OAS, the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation and private donors.

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.

Cooperation with Hispanic and Caribbean groups living in the United States was also expanded, to help them channel their community remittances into development projects, especially in the areas of education and agriculture. 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 US\$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.

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 from March 27 through 31, 2006, to prepare its report on the external audit of the accounts and the 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 presented its observations in the document titled *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 had 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 and Company, LLC, a firm of independent auditors, found that the financial statements of the audited entities tallied 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 following were the most important recommendations:

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 on 16th Street in Washington, D.C.

To the General Secretariat:

- Do a general cost analysis that identifies all administrative and supervision costs incurred in executing 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
- Department for Democracy and Political Affairs
- Inter-American Defense Board
- 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. On March 15, 2006, during its XXXII special session, the OAS General Assembly approved the new Statutes of the Inter-American Defense Board, which provide that the Board is an entity of the OAS. The IADB provides the OAS and its member states with advice and consultancy services on their programs, promotes hemispheric peace and security, builds confidence among the parties through ties of military cooperation and strengthens relations between civilians and military. It also supervises a senior-level academic program in security and defense studies at the Inter-American Defense College.

IADB Council of Delegates

In keeping with the Board's new Statutes, the Council of Delegates approved the regulations for the transition and the new rules of procedure of the IADB's Council. It also held elections for the Chair (Brazil), Vice-Chair (Guatemala), Director General (Trinidad and Tobago), Vice-Director of the Inter-American Defense College (Ecuador) and Director of the Sub-Secretariat of Advisory Services (Chile).

On September 14, the Republic of Haiti reinstated its delegation to the IADB. In August and September, respectively, the Kingdom of Spain and the People's Republic of China formally became permanent observers to the Board.

The Chair represented the IADB at the Seventh Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas, held in Managua, Nicaragua. The event was an occasion for talks with the Ministers of Defense, to inform them of the steps taken to modernize the Board and of its readiness to cooperate with the member states and the OAS, under the terms of the new Statutes. At the Conference, a proposal was approved to study the creation of a permanent body to follow up on the Conference's initiatives and a motion of appreciation to the OAS and to the IADB for the successful humanitarian demining work they are conducting.

At the invitation of the Committee on Hemispheric Security, at the Committee's October 16 meeting, the Chair of the IADB Council of Delegates presented his first report on the Board's modernization (CP/CSH/INF. 50/06), underscoring the successes and progress that the IADB has made (CP/CSH/SA.112/06).

Sub-Secretariat for Advisory Services

On March 1, 2006, a Group of Inter-American Monitors was organized and established in Colombia, to support the AICMA/OAS program. The Group has already certified the clearing of two mine fields, in keeping with General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2180 (XXXVI-O/06).

The Board continues to provide its assistance to the Assistance Mission for Mine Clearance in Central America (MARMINCA). Now that Costa Rica, Honduras, and Guatemala have been declared mine-free countries, the program will continue in Nicaragua in 2007, in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 2180 (XXXVI-O/06).

The IADB is continuing its assistance to Humanitarian Demining in Ecuador and Peru with the Assistance Mission for Mine Clearance in South America (MARMINAS), headquartered in Quito. It is also doing training and monitoring work in the clearing operations in the Cordillera del Cóndor, under resolution AG/RES. 2181 (XXXVI-O/06).

The IADB organized training and monitoring missions to support the OAS Humanitarian Demining have sent in 30 officers and noncommissioned officers who are experts in engineering or explosives. The services of these officers are a voluntary contribution made by the Armed Forces of Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Venezuela.

As provided in resolution AG/RES. 2246 (XXXVI-O/06), document JID/S-2903 was presented to the OAS General Secretariat at the II Forum for Confidence- and Security-Building Measures. That document updated the inventory of confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) applied in 2005 in the Hemisphere and elsewhere in the world. A study was also presented comparing the CSBMs established under the Declarations of Santiago, San Salvador, and the Miami Consensus, with a view to proposing to the OAS that the CSBMs be unified and simplified (JID S-2908).

The IADB was present for the Meeting of the States Party to the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions, held on November 30, 2006, in preparation for the Conference of States Parties, to be held in 2008, in keeping with Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 904 (1550/06).

The Board also participated in the meeting on Limitation of Military Spending and the Promotion of Greater Transparency in the Acquisition of Arms in the Americas, held on December 1, 2006, pursuant to General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2188 (XXXVI-O/06) and Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 905 (1550/06). There it presented the study titled “Limitation of Military Spending and the Promotion of Greater Transparency in Conventional Arms Acquisition – Summary of documents in the possession of the OAS, UN and other organizations. Suggestions,” presented to the OAS General Secretariat (JID S-2911).

The IADB participated in the OAS/UN-LIREC meeting to coordinate the hemispheric program in the area of destruction of firearms, ammunition, and explosives. The delegations from the IADB were asked to state what assistance they would like to receive from the OAS for the destruction work and their willingness to effectively collaborate in the program, with financial support and/or by other means. Work is also being done on the program’s Pilot Plan, the first stage of which will be carried out in Nicaragua, as provided in General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2179 (XXXVI-O/06).

In the area of man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS), in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 2246 (XXXVI-O/06), a presentation was given to the Council of Delegates on the

threat that these systems pose. The Board continued to provide support to the CSH in order to address the topic “Strategies for mitigating the threat from non-state actors/man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS),” at the next meeting scheduled for March 2007.

The Board gave a presentation at the “Seminar on managing weapons stockpiles and destroying arsenals,” organized by the OAS and the Latin American School of Social Sciences, and held in Santiago, Chile. The topic of its lecture was: “Weapons stockpiles storage and arsenals destruction: contribution from the IADB,” pursuant to General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2179 (XXXVI-O/06).

In keeping with General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2179 (XXXVI-O/06), the OAS Mission to Colombia was formed to support the work of the MAPP and to plan the destruction of 18,000 weapons and 2,500,000 munitions, as part of the peace process that the Government is conducting with the self-defense groups that surrendered those weapons.

The Board was rapporteur of the panel on “Preparation, contingency planning and humanitarian assistance,” staged during the meeting of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation, held in Bolivia. At that panel, it was suggested that the Board should be part of the panel, given its ability to coordinate with the armed forces in the countries, thereby fulfilling the provisions of General Assembly resolutions AG/RES. 2184 (XXXVI-O/06) and AG/RES. 2187 (XXXVI-O/06).

Inter-American Defense College

The College conducted its fifteenth course of graduate-level studies in hemispheric security and defense for civilian officials and high-ranking military and security officers. This is a high-level, non-operational political-strategic course that teaches international relations, the inter-American system, international instruments and institutional leadership, civilian-military relations, the media and the armed forces, an assessment of the global and hemispheric situations, peace-keeping operations, complex disasters and emergencies, the art of negotiation, crisis management and conflict resolution, transformation of the defense sector, defense and security policies, techniques of scientific research, strategic information, and threats, and security-related concerns and challenges in the Hemisphere.

As of the end of this reporting period, 2,174 persons from 23 countries have graduated from the program. Over 500 have risen to the highest ranks in the military; some have even become ministers of defense. The civilian graduates of the College have risen to high office in government, including the Presidency in the cases of Ecuador and Chile.

More students participated in the optional Masters programs. To date, 20 graduates have obtained a Masters in International Service from American University, while 59 have received the Masters in Hemispheric Security and Defense from the *Universidad del Salvador*, Argentina.

The diplomatic missions of various OAS member states have welcomed the evolution of the College’s curriculum. An opportunity presented itself to design a special two-day course on the inter-American system for the diplomats of the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the OAS.

This course, which was staged as a pilot project, mirrors the College's desire to respond in a proactive way to educational requests received from the member states and other OAS entities, in keeping with the mission and legal functions of the Inter-American Defense Board.

The College's Curriculum addresses the issue of the threats, concerns, and challenges to security in the Hemisphere, which the OAS General Assembly identified at its session in Mexico in 2003. Working from the general to the particular, the course begins by examining the global situation and then moves on to the hemispheric situation. Information has also been compiled into four seminars tailored for countries that are unable to send students to the annual course. The College has also added seminars on specific topics during study trips.

The number of civilians and security officials participating in the course is also on the rise. The 46th Class is composed of 53 students from 17 countries: 12 are civilians, 4 are high ranking national police officers, and 37 are military.

Certification of the College's curriculum was also renewed by the American Council on Education, an organization that reviews institutions of higher learning in the United States. With that, course graduates receive credit for 12 semester hours of graduate level studies in: international relations, comparative politics, and intercultural communication/negotiation and leadership studies, respectively.

Two new distance-learning projects were introduced, one on inter-agency processes and another on national security strategy. These were additions to the already-established courses on the inter-American system and crisis management/conflict resolution.

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights 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 General Assembly of the Organization of American States.

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

Business of the Court

- Contentious cases and requests for provisional measures submitted to the Court for consideration

In 2006, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights filed 14 contentious cases with the Court and 13 requests seeking provisional measures.

- Sessions

At its seventieth regular session, January 30 through February 9, 2006, the Court issued 6 judgments on the following cases: *Pueblo Bello Massacre v. Colombia* (merits, reparations, and costs); *López Álvarez v. Honduras* (merits, reparations, and costs); *Yakye Axa Indigenous Community v. Paraguay* (interpretation of judgment), *Raxcacó Reyes v. Guatemala* (interpretation of judgment); *Acevedo Jaramillo et al.* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs), and *Moiwana Community* (interpretation of judgment). The Court also issued decisions on requests seeking provisional measures in the following cases: *Paz de San José de Apartadó Community v. Colombia*, *Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian Origin in the Dominican Republic* regarding the Dominican Republic; *García Uribe* regarding Mexico; *Communities of the Jiguamiandó and the Curbaradó* regarding Colombia; *Juan Humberto Sánchez* regarding Honduras; *Ramírez Hinestroza* regarding Peru, and *Monagas Judicial Detention Center (“La Pica”)* regarding Venezuela. The Court also held two public hearings in the following cases: *Nogueira de Carvalho* against Brazil (Preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs) and the *Monagas Judicial Detention Center (“La Pica”)* with respect to Venezuela (provisional measures). It issued three orders for compliance with the following judgments: *Constitutional Court* (Peru), *19 Tradesmen* (Colombia), and *Ricardo Canese* (Paraguay).

At its twenty-seventh special session, held March 28 through 31, 2006, in Brasilia, Brazil, the Court issued a judgment in the case of the *Sawhoyamaxa Indigenous Community v. Paraguay*.

Two orders were issued on provisional measures in the *Mendoza Penitentiaries* case regarding Argentina and the *Yare I and Yare II Capital Region Penitentiary Center (Yare Prison)* regarding Venezuela. The Court also held three public hearings in the following cases: *Almonacid Arellano v. Chile* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs), *Vargas Areco v. Paraguay* (merits, reparations, and costs), and *Mendoza Penitentiary* regarding Argentina (provisional measures).

During its twenty-eighth special session, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, April 3 through 6, 2006, the Court delivered a judgment in the case of *Baldeón García v. Peru*. An order on provisional measures was also issued in the case of the *Serrano Cruz Sisters* regarding El Salvador. The Court also held two public hearings on the following cases: *Claude Reyes et al. v. Chile* (merits, reparations, and costs), and *Montero Aranguren et al. v. Venezuela* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs).

During its twenty-ninth special session, held in San Salvador, El Salvador, June 26 to 28, 2006, the Court held two public hearings on the following cases: *Miguel Castro Castro Prison v. Peru* (merits, reparations, and costs) and *Discharged Congressional Staffers v. Peru* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs).

During its seventy-first regular session, from June 29 to July 6, 2006, the Court issued three judgments: *Ituango Masscres v. Colombia* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs), *Ximenes Lopes v. Brazil* (merits, reparations, and costs), and *Montero Aranguren et al. v. Venezuela*. The Court also issued 10 orders on requests seeking provisional measures in the following cases: *Raxcacó Reyes* regarding Guatemala; *Guerrero Gallucci and Martínez Barrios* regarding Venezuela; *Children and Adolescents confined in the FEBEM “Tataupé Complex”* regarding Brazil; *19 Tradesmen (Sandra Belinda Montero Fuentes and family members, Salomón Flórez and family members, Luis José Pundor Quintero and family members, Ana Diva Quintero Quintero de Pundor and family members)* regarding Colombia; *Ramírez Hinostroza et al.* regarding Peru; *Marta Colomina and Liliana Velásquez* regarding Venezuela; *Caballero Delgado y Santana* regarding Colombia; *Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation* regarding Guatemala; *Mery Naranjo et al.* regarding Colombia; and *María Leontina Millacura Llaipén et al.* regarding Argentina. The Court held a public hearing in the case of *María Leontina Millacura Llaipén et al.* regarding Argentina (provisional measures). Lastly, the Court issued orders to comply with the judgments delivered in the following four cases: *El Amparo* (Venezuela), *Bámaca Velásquez* (Guatemala), “*The Juvenile Reeducation Institute*” (Paraguay), and “*Five Pensioners*” (Peru).

At its seventy-second regular session, September 19 through 30, 2006, the Court issued five judgments: *Claude Reyes v. Chile* (merits, reparations, and costs); *Servellón García v. Honduras* (merits, reparations, and costs); *Goiburú et al. v. Paraguay* (merits, reparations, and costs); *Vargas Areco v. Paraguay* (merits, reparations and costs), and *Almonacid Arellano v. Chile* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs). The Court also issued orders on provisional measures in the following cases: *Mery Naranjo* regarding Colombia; *Gloria Giralte de García Prieto* regarding El Salvador; *Persons Imprisoned in “Dr. Sebastião Martins Silveira” Penitentiary in Araraquara in São Paulo* regarding Brazil; *Urso Branco Prison* regarding Brazil; *Ramírez Hinostroza et al.* regarding Peru, and *Eloisa Barrios et al.* regarding Venezuela. At this

same session, the Court held two public hearings in the Case of *Persons Imprisoned in “Dr. Sebastião Martins Silveira” Penitentiary in Araraquara in São Paulo* regarding Brazil (provisional measures) and *“La Cantuta” v. Peru* (merits, reparations, and costs). Lastly, during this regular session, the Court issued ten orders for compliance with the judgments delivered in the following cases: *Herrera Ulloa* (Costa Rica); *Lori Berenson Mejía* (Peru); *Huilca Tecse* (Peru); *Gómez Paquiyauri Brothers* (Peru); *Ricardo Canese* (Paraguay); *Cesti Hurtado* (Peru); *Loayza Tamayo* (Peru); *Serrano Cruz Sisters* (El Salvador); *Tibi* (Ecuador), and *Fermín Ramírez* (Guatemala). It also issued two orders for compliance with the provisional measures ordered in the following cases: *Gómez Paquiyauri Brothers* (Peru) and *Carlos Nieto Palma et al.* (Venezuela).

At its seventy-third regular session, November 20 through December 1, 2006, the Court delivered seven judgments: *Miguel Castro Castro Prison v. Peru* (merits, reparations, and costs); *Discharged Congressional Staffers v. Peru* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs); *Acevedo Jaramillo et al. v. Peru* (interpretation of judgment); *Pueblo Bello Massacre v. Colombia* (interpretation of judgment); *The Girls Yean and Bosico v. the Dominican Republic* (interpretation of judgment); *Nogueira Carvalho v. Brazil* (preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs), and *La Cantuta v. Peru* (merits, reparations, and costs). Two orders were issued on provisional measures requested in the *Giraldo Cardona* case regarding Colombia and the *Case of Members of the Community Studies and Psychosocial Action Team (“ECAP”) (Case of the Plan de Sánchez Massacre)* regarding Guatemala.

In this reporting period, the Court adopted decisions that continue to help build and establish inter-American jurisprudence on the subject of human rights. Among the rights and abuses that figured most prominently in the Court’s case law in 2006 are the following: the right to life, the right to humane treatment, the right to personal liberty, the right to a decent life, the right to judicial guarantees, the right to judicial protection, freedom of thought and expression, the right to equality before the law, the obligation to make reparations, the duty to adopt domestic legal measures, the right to private property, the right to recognition of legal personality, the rights of the child, freedom of movement and residence, prohibition of slavery and involuntary servitude, protection of honor and dignity, detentions and forced disappearances; extrajudicial executions; prison situations and conditions; detention conditions; indigenous rights; ancestral lands of indigenous communities; prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment; investigation of torture; the State’s responsibility for acts of third parties; forced displacement of persons; hospitalization conditions; the duty to investigate and punish responsible parties; denial of justice; access to public information; impunity; adaptation of domestic law; amnesty laws; and women’s rights.

During these seven sessions, the Court also studied various issues associated with pending matters and examined the various reports presented by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the beneficiaries or their representatives and the States involved in those cases in which provisional measures had been ordered. The Court also studied a number of reports presented by the States involved and the observations submitted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the victims or their representatives in the cases where the Court was overseeing compliance with the judgment. The Court also looked at a number of administrative matters.

Office of the Inspector General

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) operates under the provisions of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat (GS)– Chapter IX on Advisory Services, Auditing and Fiscal Control–the Budgetary and Financial Rules, and Executive Order 95-05. Those provisions establish the internal audit function, which helps the Secretary General and the governing bodies monitor fulfillment of the responsibilities of the various levels of management vis-à-vis the programs and resources of the General Secretariat. The OIG’s purpose is to ensure a systematic review of the operating procedures and financial transactions at headquarters and at the offices of the OAS General Secretariat in the member states. The OIG also checks to ensure that the established policies, regulations, and practices are instituted and followed properly, effectively, and economically.

Audits

During the period between March 1 and December 31, 2006, the Office of the Inspector General conducted five audits of units and programs, 14 project audits, an evaluation and investigation to assess operations, ensure compliance with OAS directives and procedures and to conduct a systematic review of the internal accounts and administrative systems. In carrying out its activities, the OIG focused on the higher-risk operations and on those with the most potential for improving efficiency, efficacy and economy in the General Secretariat. In conducting its activities, the Office operated with ample discretion and autonomy and had full access to all the functions, activities, operations, properties and staff of the General Secretariat, both at headquarters and in the Offices of the OAS General Secretariat in the Member States.

During this reporting period, operational audits were conducted at headquarters to evaluate internal and administrative controls and to check for compliance with OAS directives and procedures. The OIG reviewed the Educational Portal of the Americas, the latter’s strategic risk assessment, and the education allowance for staff dependents. Also reviewed were the activities of the Offices of the General Secretariat in Barbados and Antigua and Barbuda, to determine whether their activities were carried out in accordance with the OAS’ rules and procedures. The OIG also did an evaluation to determine the staffing requirements of the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund. It also looked into the expenses that the Fellowships Program involved in 2005.

The Office of the Inspector General evaluated fourteen projects carried out at headquarters and in member states to ensure that they were in compliance with the respective agreements and to determine whether the objectives were accomplished. The audited projects were the following: (1) CARANA/USAID Trade Project; (2) Foreign Trade Information System (SICE); (3) Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA); (4) Contributions for Management and Supervision of Projects of the Department of Trade, Tourism, and Competitiveness; (5) Project for Conservation of the Coastline on Antigua and Barbuda; (6) Trade Facilitation for Selected Crop and Livestock Commodities; (7) Linkages between Agriculture and Tourism and Agri-tourism; (8) Women’s Participation in Politics; (9) Dyslexia Awareness Program; (10) Strengthening the Tourism Sector by Building Up Linkages with the Agriculture Sector in the Caribbean; (11) Beach and

Coastal Zone Management, Barbados; (12) Saltwater Intrusion in Coastal Aquifers; (13) CDERA- Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Program, and (14) UWI- Masters Degree in International Trade Policies.

Other Activities

The Office of the Inspector General continued to evaluate responses and followed up on the corrective measures taken in order to ensure that the recommendations that the OIG made were in fact implemented. The Office continued to provide advice and technical assistance in the form of its analyses, evaluations, research, and recommendations and served as an observer on various committees of the General Secretariat.

Human Development Fund Committee

The Human Development Fund Committee was established by Executive Order 05-13 rev. 1. It has a Secretariat at the department level and is responsible for administration of the OAS Scholarships Program for Academic Studies and Professional Development, the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund, and the Educational Portal of the Americas

OAS Scholarships Program for Academic Studies and Professional Development

In 2006 the Human Development Fund Committee, through the Department of Human Development, acted on the General Assembly mandate to redesign the OAS Scholarships Program. Much of the year was therefore devoted to examining these procedures in order to suggest new terminology and different guarantees for the Manual of Procedures for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs, an invaluable instrument for achieving the program's objectives. This analysis resulted in other innovations: 1) reorganization of the Department's structure so that it is better able to manage the anticipated changes in the Scholarship and Training Program; (2) an in-depth financial review to determine the status of the accounts and propose guidelines and procedures for centralizing the responsibility for financial control; and 3) development of a computerized financial control system to better monitor accounts and produce reports.

As an initial step in developing a completely automated data system for the OAS Fellowship and Training Program, the Department of Human Development, with assistance from the Office of Information and Technology Services, has developed and implemented the Scholarship Management System, which is used to control the financial condition of the scholarships program, reconcile its accounts and monitor execution of its budget. With the system, costs per scholarship recipient and per program can be tracked and managed. The system also gives the Department the capacity to monitor, update and adjust the estimated costs, compare them with third-party estimates, and reconcile cost estimates with expenditures.

The Scholarships Program continued to administer the active scholarship recipients from previous years, including those students with scholarships awarded in 2005, for a total of US\$3,409,175 executed against budgeted fiscal year 2006 for those in undergraduate and graduate programs.

Professional Development Scholarships Program

The Professional Development Scholarships Program offers scholarship opportunities to citizens of the OAS member states, to expand and/or refresh participants' professional expertise in areas of specialization related to the priority development areas established in CIDI's Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006-2009. In 2006, 771 professional development scholarships were granted. That year, the following countries offered professional development scholarships: Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Spain, Korea, and China. In addition to the aforementioned scholarships, the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), the Department of Trade, Tourism,

and Competitiveness, the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), the International Center for Advanced Studies in Communications for Latin America (CIESPAL), the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and the Inter-American Juridical Committee, in cooperation with the OAS' Department of International Legal Affairs, offered professional development courses in telecommunications, trade, combating terrorism and transnational organized crime, journalism, human rights, and international law, respectively.

Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund

The Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund is a revolving student loan fund, unique among international organizations. Its main purpose is to help students from Latin American and Caribbean member States of the OAS who are interested in pursuing studies in the United States. It also makes loans to staff of the GS/OAS. The Fund is administered by a committee composed of the Secretary General and representatives of four member States. The Department of Human Development serves as Technical Secretariat of the Fund.

As of December 31, 2006, a total of 6,060 loans had been granted since the Fund's establishment in 1948, for a total of US\$13.2 million. These loans have gone to citizens of Latin American and Caribbean countries. In addition, the Fund granted 1,426 loans totaling US\$3.6 million to staff members for their own studies, for their dependents' education or for emergencies. Through prudent investments in a portfolio of mutual funds (which the Committee selected at the recommendation of a firm of investment advisors, which also monitors these funds), the Rowe Fund has grown from an initial contribution of US\$623,605, received in May 1952, to US\$13.9 million in net assets as of the end of December 2006, with a portfolio of US\$1.679. 318.

The Technical Secretariat engaged in the following activities in 2006:

- A massive promotional campaign to increase the number of loan applications received.
- Implementation of a strategic plan for the Rowe Fund under the new Department of Human Development.
- Dissemination of information about the Fund to student-loan institutions, universities and academic institutions in the region; contacts were established with various partners of APICE and NAFSA.

The financial viability of the Rowe Fund program depends mainly on the return from its financial investments and the repayment of the loans awarded. One area continues to improve: the percentage of arrearage and bad loans is on the decline. The Rowe Fund's financial investment has had good years and bad years as the market has fluctuated. On balance, however, the value of the portfolio has increased. As a result the student loan program is expected to be able to grow.

Educational Portal of the Americas

The main purpose of the Educational Portal is to promote the development and training of human resources in the Americas through the use of new information and communications technologies.

Using information technologies to provide training greatly reduces costs and clears away time and space barriers.

In 2006, the Portal conducted activities through the Virtual Classroom, its technical educational platform used as a vehicle for offering opportunities for individualized, interactive, high-quality, low-cost professional development. In the course of a year, this learning environment has helped train over 1600 professionals in the region.

The principal activities during this period were as follows: i) 19 distance courses given through the Virtual Classroom, in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, on topics such as basic education, e-government, science and technology, ethics and strategies for teaching mathematics; ii) preparation and development of new distance courses on topics like solar energy, quality in small- and medium-size enterprise, scarcity of safe water and metrology; iii) partnerships with governmental institutions, universities, centers of excellence, and specialized units of the OAS to offer distance basic training courses; iv) circulation of information on 4,500 programs and courses at some 1,500 accredited universities across the region, using a database that allows an information search; v) distribution of some 100 journals and monographs free of charge by way of the virtual library, which include La Educación, the INTERAMER collection, the Inter-American Review of Bibliography (RIB) and the series “Trends for a Common Future”; vi) development and maintenance of the infrastructure needed to promote virtual meetings, chat rooms, and forums; and vii) preparation and dissemination of editorial sections and monthly bulletins.

Under the mandates established by the governing bodies on human resource training through the Portal, the services provided are at a minimal fee, designed to cover a portion of the expenses. In 2006, the Portal has helped provide introductory, more advanced, and refresher training to 1,662 professionals from the region (see Annex F, table 4). Since it was launched in September 2001, the Portal has received 380 million hits from over 200 countries. In 2006, it averaged 3.3 million hits a month and an average of 1,005 new users registered every month (Annex F, table 5).

Inter-American Telecommunication Commission

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

Many changes have occurred in the realm of information and communications technologies (ICTs), all of which have major repercussions for the members of CITEL. One of the most striking developments has been the convergence of telecommunications, the Internet, and audio-visual content distributors; the explosive increase in the use of the Internet, the rapid development of wireless communications systems, fixed and mobile; and progressive liberalization of the markets, especially in the developing countries, with the attendant policy and regulatory requirements.

The Fourth Assembly of CITEL, held in San José, Costa Rica, in February 2006, was an opportunity to review its structure to make it more responsive to the changing environment in the sector. It also elected the Chairs of the permanent consultative committees and the member states that will serve on the Permanent Executive Committee. By establishing a dynamic and effective strategic plan, CITEL will continue to promote a constant exchange of experience, information, and knowledge between the governments and the private sector, with a view to achieving harmonious growth of telecommunications in the region.

Telecommunications, and especially connectivity, play a strategic and vital role in the political, economic, social, and cultural development of society. Furthermore, up-to-date information on the ICTs, their impact and regulation, is essential. With these considerations in mind, in 2006 CITEL prepared a first Report on the situation of Connectivity in the Americas. This report revealed the enormous strides that have been made in recent years to narrow the digital divide between the developed and developing world in terms of access to basic telecommunications and internet services. However, it also found that another digital divide is opening up in the case of access to the more advanced services like high-speed internet and third-generation and beyond mobile services. Given this finding, priority has been assigned to the work of the second phase of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas, establishing a detailed plan which then gets feedback from the work done in the permanent consultative committees.

Given the rapid technological innovation, CITEL's ever-present challenge is to create personnel trained in telecommunications. Accordingly, in 2006, 22 courses were given (16 distance courses and 6 classroom courses) on telecommunications policy, regulation, management, and technology. A total of 265 fellowships were given for these courses, to participants from 28 countries of the region. CITEL has 17 regional training centers and coordinates its work with the Americas Centre of Excellence of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

In the area of telecommunications technologies, recommendations were approved on: very high speed digital subscriber line transceivers 2 (VDSL2), second-generation transmission systems for

interactive cable television services – IP cable modems, and Internet Protocol Version 6 specification (IPV6). Studies are in progress for the transition to next-generation networks (NGNs), which includes analysis of the standards and network infrastructures required to support delivery of voice, data, and multimedia services to end users over secure and high yield systems, irrespective of time and place; development and implementation of IP-based services; interoperability of traditional and evolving telecommunications systems, and forms of fraud and unauthorized access to services.

As for policy and regulatory considerations, a number of studies have been undertaken, including the following: government policy and experience in country-coded top level domains (ccTLD) and IP address block management; costs and tariffs in the telecommunications sector; common regulatory principles of accounting for (fixed and mobile) telecommunications services; economic aspects of using planar lightwave circuits (PLC) to provide telecommunications services; delivery of telecommunications services to disabled persons; a study on SPAM; portability of numbers; broadband technology; cost models for telecommunications services; security consideration in developing networks and systems, to settle upon common issues and approaches; and a study of the regional models for scaling networks in a convergence environment.

In the area of radiocommunications, CITEC continues to work on identifying the current state of the use of radio frequencies with a view to harmonization. In that area, in 2006 recommendations were approved on the following: use of the 4940-4990 MHz band for public protection and aid in the event of disasters; use of wireless systems and their frequency bands in commercial operation, for universal access in rural, sparsely populated areas; alternative use of the 698-806 MHz band in the Americas for advanced wireless systems and public protection and catastrophe assistance; and a radio frequency identification (RFID) system. Studies are in progress on measuring interference from the AM-IBOC on AM analog signals, radio local-area network (RLAN) on the 5 GHz band aboard aircraft; re-location of the 700 MHz band; broadband wireless access systems (BWA) and very low power devices.

To facilitate the deployment of satellite services, general guidelines were approved for licensing global mobile personal communications systems (GMPCS), procedures to be used to license earth stations on board vessels (ESV) and methods of locating harmful interference from unauthorized transmissions on satellite communication systems.

A CD was distributed with information compiled from various agencies, administrations in the region and other regions on technical and regulatory aspects related to the effects of electromagnetic non-ionizing emissions. A DVD is being prepared that will include up-to-date information and the results of the Workshop held on this topic in Peru on June 19. A second workshop is slated for El Salvador on April 16, 2007.

The following have been updated: Technical Files on Next Generation Systems and Economic Aspects of Universal Service; Implementation Guides for Digital Terrestrial Television; database on the current regulation of satellite systems in the region, and the status of implementation of the Agenda for Connectivity.

One of the essential activities of CITELE during this reporting period was presentation of 61 common proposals agreed by consensus at the World Telecommunications Development Conference (Qatar, March 2006) and the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Turkey, November 2006). In preparing for these meetings, the regional position in the overall international context was bolstered; also, the interests of the Americas were taken into consideration in the development programs, strategies, and future direction of the ITU.

Preparation of the 30 points on the order of business of the ITU's 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) is in its final stages. Various inter-American proposals have been approved. The number will increase in the next two meetings of Permanent Consultative Committee II. The WRC-07 will consider basic aspects of new techniques of modulation and spectrum sharing.

In 2006, the constant exchange of experience, best practices, and information was reinforced to accomplish the objectives of access to telecommunications. Particular mention should be made of the workshops on: interconnection and next-generation networks; IPv6 address assignment policies and technical and regulatory aspects related to the effects of electromagnetic non-ionizing emissions. CITELE continued to circulate the monthly e-bulletin info@CITELE. As of December 2006, 241 articles and 197 country news reports had been published. Coordination and cooperation with other organizations was strengthened and 16 cooperation agreements on issues of mutual concern to increase the efficiency of the parties are in effect.

The significant differences within and among the member states, both with regard to the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure/ICTs and the capacity to use them to access information, make it imperative that the Commission's business move forward rapidly.

Inter-American Committee on Ports

The purpose of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) 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. Its principal objectives are to strengthen inter-American dialogue, provide training and technical cooperation, and promote the ports of this Hemisphere.

Strengthening the inter-American dialogue on ports

The CIP is the only forum for dialogue among the highest ranking national government port authorities in the Americas, which is essential to ensuring compliance with the mandates from the General Assembly, the Summit of the Americas, and other hemispheric forums. To that end, the Secretariat organized and facilitated the First Special Meeting of the CIP (Algeciras, Spain, May 2006), to work together to strengthen port and trade relations between the Americas and Spain and generate a dialogue on ports and provide opportunities to explore businesses and investments in the port sector in those countries.

The VIII Meeting of the Executive Board of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CECIP) (Guayaquil, June 2006) was held. It was an occasion to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the OAS' involvement in port matters of the Hemisphere. The VIII Meeting of the Executive Board provided an opportunity for its four current Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) to meet: Port Operations, Port Security, Environmental Protection, and Navigation Safety.

The First Special Meeting of the Executive Board of the CIP was in Puerto La Cruz, October 2006, its main objective being to evaluate performance of the work plans of the Executive Board's subcommittees: Policy and Coordination; Planning and Port Management; Statistics, Costs, and Tariffs; Port Development for Cruise Tourism; River and Lake Port Development; Training; Regional Port Development, and Participation of Women in the Port Affairs of the Hemisphere.

Puerto La Cruz was also the site of the Second Hemispheric Conference on Port Protection (October 2006), held to enable participants to share experiences in port protection and to encourage training plans for the execution of programs on this subject.

Training, technical assistance and regional and international cooperation

The following activities were carried out to facilitate modernization and development of ports in the Hemisphere:

- Training

This is the CIP's priority activity in cooperation. The Secretariat helped organize and conduct the following training activities: International Seminar on Port Planning and Development: European Vision (Guatemala, March 2006); Railport Seminar: Ports and Railways (Cartagena,

July 2006); Course on Port Cruise Management (Barbados, September, 2006); VII Ibero-American Course on Port Operations, Technology and Environmental Management (Santander, September 2006); Seminar on the Port System and National Development (Lima, October 2006); XI Ibero-American Course on Port Management (Madrid, October 2006); Seminar on Expansion of the Panama Canal: the Economic Impact on the Countries of the Region (Santiago, November 2006).

Two grants were also awarded for Masters Degree Studies in Port Management and Intermodal Transport 2006-2007, organized by the Universidad Comillas in Madrid and sponsored by the Port Foundation of Valencia, Spain (Feports). Finally, 10 grants were awarded to port applicants seeking to obtain the certificate from the Port Management Program “PPM Latino”, organized by the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA). During this reporting period close to 500 port officials and executives from the member countries received instruction through the training activities promoted by the CIP Secretariat.

- Specialized technical assistance

Technical assistance was provided to conduct the project on ports, customs, and trade in the Dominican Republic. Advisory assistance was provided for organization and the CIP participated in port-related events in Argentina, Guatemala, Peru, and Venezuela.

- Cooperation for development

Cooperation for development was provided in three ways: (i) promoting the “Agreement of cooperation and mutual assistance among the inter-American port authorities,” which the Secretariat continued to disseminate and advocate. As of the present, 19 member countries have signed the Agreement, while four have also ratified it (Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru); (ii) Enhancing bilateral cooperative relations with other international agencies involved in port activities in order to pool efforts and conduct joint activities at less cost and with a greater impact. Accordingly, work programs for the year were established with those organizations with which agreements and memoranda of understanding have been signed, all of which were fully executed. Prominent among these was the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), the International Navigation Association (PIANC) - National Section United States, and the *Organismo Público Puertos del Estado de España* [Spain’s State Public Ports Agency]. A memorandum of understanding was also signed on cooperation with the Association for the Collaboration between Ports and Cities (RETE), in Algeciras in May 2006; (iii) Collaborating on activities and projects of mutual interest with national and international port and maritime organizations in order to cover more of the port agenda. Particular mention should be made of the collaboration with the International Association of Cities and Ports (IACP), the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Central American Commission on Maritime Transport [*Comisión Centroamericana de Transporte Marítimo*] (COCATRAM), the Andean Community of Nations [*Comunidad Andina de Naciones*] (CAN), the Ibero-American Institute on Maritime Law (IIDM), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), among others.

Disseminating and promoting the ports of the Americas

The Secretariat has published and circulated information on the major ports in the member states and on the CIP's activities through the following means: (i) three issues of the *Revista CIP* were published and distributed globally, as a means of reporting on and promoting the ports of this Hemisphere, their policies and development; (ii) the ports in this Hemisphere were promoted at the CIP's Web portal (www.oas.org/cip), where e-bulletins, news, and other print media (reports, studies, documents, pamphlets, etc.) are available; (iii) finally, the 50th anniversary of the OAS' involvement in the issue of ports in the Americas was celebrated and publicized through commemorative ceremonies at the various events held during the year, publication of brochures, and recognitions.