

Acuerdos Bilaterales

Clasificación: 85-2005

Fecha de Ingreso: 26 de Octubre de 2005

Nombre de Acuerdo: Third Cooperation Agreement between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and Georgetown University through its Center for Latin American Studies, for the development of the political database of the Americas

Materia:

Partes: SG/OEA & Georgetown University

Referencia: GU

Fecha de Firma: 2 de junio de 2005

Fecha de Inicio:

Fecha de Terminación:

Lugar de Firma:

Unidad Encargada:

Persona Encargada:

Original:

Claves:

Cierre del proceso:

**THIRD COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY THROUGH
ITS CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES. FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
POLITICAL DATABASE OF THE AMERICAS**

THE PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT: The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States ("GS/OAS") and Georgetown University ("GU") through its Center for Latin American Studies ("CLAS"),

WHEREAS the Charter of the Organization of American States ("OAS") defines representative democracy as "an indispensable condition for the stability, peace and development of the region," and establishes the promotion and consolidation of representative democracy in the Americas as one of the Organization's principal objectives;

WHEREAS the OAS General Assembly in Caracas, Venezuela, instructed "the General Secretariat to continue to conduct studies and seminars and to continue to promote or sponsor research work to strengthen democracy in the region, through the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy";

WHEREAS at the Monterrey Special Summit in 2004, through the "Declaration of Nuevo Leon", the Heads of State declared unanimous support for scientific and technological development and their conviction of the importance of research activities and ties among knowledge-generating institutions, calling on participation from the private sector and civil society, as well as support from multilateral organizations;

WHEREAS GU/CLAS is an unincorporated entity within GU dedicated to the pursuit of Latin American studies and affairs, and its Director has been duly authorized to represent GU in all technical matters regarding the present cooperation agreement;

WHEREAS in July of 1993, the Parties, with financial support from GS/OAS and the Tinker Foundation, established the Resource Unit on Democratic Governability in Latin America (now the "Democratic Governability Project") with its main objective being the development of the Political Database of the Americas, a comprehensive database of regional political documents and statistical data, including, among other, constitutions; constitutional comparative studies; executive, legislative and judicial branch information; political parties and electoral laws; electoral data; all sections accessible via a computerized retrieval system through the Internet;

WHEREAS in September of 1997, the Parties signed the first cooperation agreement for the implementation of Phase Two of the Political Database of the Americas, and, in March of 1999, the Parties signed the second cooperation agreement for the implementation of Phase Three; and

WHEREAS after the successful completion of Phase Two and Three promoting the Political Database of the Americas as the most comprehensive electronic source of political information on the Americas, GU/CLAS wishes to cooperate with GS/OAS in the implementation of Phase Four, which seeks to respond to the new challenges facing the hemisphere, as articulated in the mandates of the 1994 and 1998 Summits of the Americas, and ratified in successive mandates from the Summits of Quebec in 2001, and the Special Summit of Nuevo Leon in 2004

AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Article I.

Purpose

1.1. The purpose of this Agreement is to determine the terms and conditions for the contribution of GS/OAS to GU/CLAS for updating and developing the Political Database of the Americas (the Project),

3.5. Funds made available by GS/OAS to GU/CLAS shall be subject to Georgetown University's internal and external auditing procedures as provided for in its financial regulations, rules and directives of Georgetown University. Copies of audit reports shall be submitted to the GS/OAS.

3.6. GU/CLAS will include a description of GS/OAS' Department of Democratic and Political Affairs (DDPA) as a primary collaborating institution in the section of the Political Database of the Americas which describes the institutions which collaborate on the Project. GU/CLAS will include hyperlinks to the DDPA home page, as well as to other pages on different activities being held by the OAS, related to the Political Database of the Americas contents, along with the description. GU/CLAS will also include an acknowledgement of the contribution of the U.S. Government on the database website and in documents produced regarding the Project.

3.7 GU/CLAS shall reimburse the GS/OAS any unused portion of the contribution within 60 days of project's completion.

Article IV.

Indemnification

4.1. GU/CLAS accepts full legal responsibility for its obligations under this Agreement, and accepts all liability for any damages or claims arising from its own actions or omissions under this Agreement.

Article V.

Dispute Resolution

5.1. The Parties shall attempt to resolve amicably any disputes arising in relation to the interpretation and implementation of this Agreement. In the event that proves unsuccessful, the Parties shall resolve their differences by binding arbitration in accordance with the procedures of the Inter-American Commercial Arbitration Commission, in Washington, D.C., applying the laws of the District of Columbia. Nothing in this Agreement constitutes a waiver, express or implied, of GS/OAS privileges and immunities under international and domestic law.

Article VI.

Database Maintenance, Use, and Transfer

6.1. GU/CLAS shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the Political Database of the Americas on a regular basis (at least 4 times per year).

6.2. GS/OAS and the delegations of the OAS Member States in Washington, D.C. shall have cost free and unlimited access to the database for as long as it exists.

6.3. Neither GU nor any of its dependencies may sell or otherwise dispose of all or part of the database without GS/OAS written permission.

Article VII.

Term, Modification and Termination

7.1. This Agreement may be modified by an exchange of letters or other writing, signed by duly authorized representatives of the Parties, dated, and attached hereto.

7.2. This Agreement shall enter into force on the day it is signed by both Parties, and shall remain in force for the duration of the Project, until March 31, 2006.

7.3. Either party may terminate this Agreement with thirty days' prior written notice to the other. In the event of such termination, GU/CLAS shall promptly return to GS/OAS any portion of GS/OAS contribution not yet expended or not irrevocably committed to third parties as of the date of notice.

3.5. Funds made available by GS/OAS to GU/CLAS shall be subject to Georgetown University's internal and external auditing procedures as provided for in its financial regulations, rules and directives of Georgetown University. Copies of audit reports shall be submitted to the GS/OAS.

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Article VIII.

Institutional Coordination and Notice

8.1. The institution within GS/OAS responsible for carrying out and coordinating its obligations under this Agreement is the Department of Democratic and Political Affairs. All notice to GS/OAS in relation to this Agreement should be sent to:

John Biehl.
Director, Department of Democratic and Political Affairs
1889 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-4499

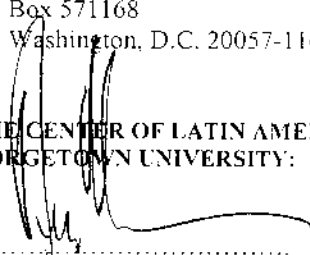
8.2. The institution within GU responsible for carrying out and coordinating its obligations under this Agreement is CLAS. All notice to GU/CLAS in relation to this Agreement should be sent to:

Arturo Valenzuela,
Director
Center for Latin American Studies
Georgetown University, Box 571026
Washington, D.C. 20057-1026

A copy shall also be provided to:

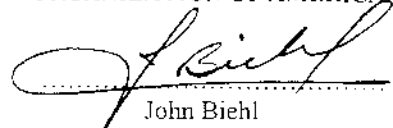
Mary Schmiedel, Director of Sponsored Programs
Georgetown University
Box 571168
Washington, D.C. 20057-1168

FOR THE CENTER OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY:


.....
Arturo Valenzuela

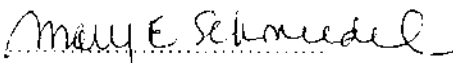
Date: 5/25/05
Place: Washington, D.C.

FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES:


.....
John Biehl

Date: 5/25/05
Place: Washington, D.C.

FOR GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY:


.....
Mary Schmiedel
Director of Sponsored Programs

Date: 6/2/05
Place: Washington, DC

ANNEX I

POLITICAL DATABASE OF THE AMERICAS 2005-2006

May, 2005

INTRODUCTION: The *Political Database of the Americas (PDBA)* was established in 1995, as a result of the First Summit of the Americas, when the community of democratic societies called for the exchange of information and experiences among democratic institutions. The launch of the PDBA as a joint project between the Organization of American States and Georgetown University, represented the culmination of more than two years of hard work at the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS), Georgetown University under the so called "Resource Unit on Democratic Governability", collecting research-quality materials and determining technological standards for that new, untested mode of political information exchange.

The *PDBA* is an Internet-based project that includes primary documents, reference materials, comparative studies and statistical data of the 35 countries of the Americas. The information is provided free of charge and has been organized in eight sections: Constitutions and Constitutional Studies; Executive Institutions; Legislative Institutions; Judicial Institutions; Electoral Systems and Electoral Data; Decentralization and Local Governance; and Civil Society.

The Department of Democratic and Political Affairs (DDPA) of the Organization of American States (OAS) provides technical and administrative support and primary information and material for the *PDBA* utilizing its specialized personnel, institutional partnerships, special programs and projects and its national offices. The DDPA/OAS contributes to the expansion, visibility and enhancement of the *PDBA* based on the Organization's capacity as a privileged space in which to bring together government officials, high-level national representatives, national and international organizations and institutions in activities and processes related to strategic actions and policies in benefit of the countries of the region. The Center for Latin-American Studies (CLAS) of Georgetown University (GU) in Washington, D.C., on the other hand, as a high level academic institution, is a guarantor of the excellence of the database information and provides hosting, systematization and updating activities for a qualified collection of political information; content management and uploading, through its graduate students, scholars, and other institutional associates.

The *PDBA* enjoys a wide readership around the region; it differs substantially from other web resources which provide access to information about the Hemisphere in that it guarantees objective and organized information and data collection for online publication. The *PDBA* while comprehensive in scope gives priority to the information, materials and links provided by the OAS. Some OAS links, as well as other pages included in the *PDBA*, maintain full-text content materials on different topics related to politics and democracy. The *PDBA* fills a unique niche for scholars, policy makers, government officials and citizens interested in democracy-building in the Americas, and it serves as an important research tool for students and users of the Internet. The more than 1500 *PDBA* pages presently receive more than 350,000 hits/visits per month, a 1,400 percent increase from the 25,000 visits averaged in 1997. Constitutions and Comparative Constitutional Analysis account for almost 55 percent of total monthly hits.

ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONS:

Through the *PDBA*, the OAS, in partnership with CLAS/Georgetown University has been able to build lasting institutional relationships among organizations throughout the Americas working to strengthen democratic systems. Institutions such as the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL), Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV) of Brazil, and the Library of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Suriname, have provided the *PDBA* with extensive country-specific data. They have also proven invaluable in the efforts to maintain the *PDBA* Database in the four official languages of the OAS. One of the immediate priorities is to extend the number of institutions involved in the process of enriching the database contents and scope, building a significant network of partnerships and institutional collaborators on regional bases.

The *PDBA* is hosted by Georgetown University servers. The Director of GU/CLAS supervises the GU/*PDBA* director's overall administration and collection, systematization and uploads of the information and data to the Web Site. The process of uploading the content, updating and expansion is done at GU/CLAS, mainly by students/research assistants under the supervision of the GU/*PDBA* director. Content additions and updating are permanent tasks of those involved in the *PDBA*. The OAS project-manager under the supervision of the DDPA Director collaborates with the GU/*PDBA* director in the coordination of the project, assuring a well balanced presentation of contents in accordance with OAS policies, overall administration of the project, policy definition and programming, activities involving institutional relationships, collection of information and promotion of the project. The DDPA/OAS provides a part time web designer who collaborates with the database graphic design as well as the administration of the pages and links from the OAS, and a team of administrative and research assistants (mainly thorough the internship OAS program). The re-design and other technical aspects of the *PDBA* Web-Site must be coordinated to ensure accordance with GU standards. Some information and other materials provided by the OAS and gathered by the *PDBA* project partners are sent electronically to the *PDBA* center at GU. In the near future, the project anticipates creating interfaces to facilitate the process of updating within the network of universities. The project also holds seminars and meetings in Washington, DC, and its staff participates in special conferences and seminars held in the United States and abroad to promote the *PDBA*.

PROPOSAL:

Starting in January 2005, along with the regular information and data collection, systematization and updating activities, the team in charge of the *PDBA*, from the Department of Democratic and Political Affairs (DDPA) and CLAS/Georgetown University, has been working on a comprehensive evaluation of the *PDBA* contents and organization, with the purpose of creating an ambitious strategy for the upcoming years. The aim of this strategy has been to study the potential benefits of the *PDBA* regarding the strengthening of democratic governance in the hemisphere. This can be achieved not only through the collection, systematization and updating of relevant political data, but also through the promotion of academic events (seminars, conferences, etc.), research and up to date political analysis, building up a new capacity to provide information about political developments and potential critical events in the region.

In the face of the mentioned challenges, and considering the important growth potential of both content and structure after almost ten years online, six areas were identified through the mentioned evaluation process, as critical to the efforts to consolidate the *PDBA* as the definitive and authoritative political Database and research tool of the Americas:

- Modernization and improvement of the graphic appearance and accessibility;
- Enhancement of content, including strengthening comparative research.

- New program associates on a sub-regional or country basis;
- New areas of cooperation and project associations;
- Promotion and visibility of the *PDBA* thorough the countries in the hemisphere.
- Continued financial sustainability.

Modernization and improvement of the *PDBA* contents, appearance and accessibility. To adequately respond to the new challenges, a first step is to enhance the current contents, appearance and organization of the *PDBA*, in order to transform it in an effective and modern instrument, capable of better supporting its mission to contribute to the promotion and strengthening of democracy in the Hemisphere.

Among the projected activities aimed at improving the content and scope of the *PDBA* already established areas will be refined and strengthened, and new ones will be developed. These efforts include, for example, the enhancement of the comparative constitutions section, the revision and enrichment of the comparative analyses on decentralization and local governance, the consideration of other sub-sections (as the one of political party laws), and others new Sections like "Democracy and Public/Citizen Security" and "Democracy and Indigenous People. Continuing collaboration with other regional organizations and academic institutions will also allow the *PDBA* to strengthen the existing research projects and develop important relationships with other groups interested in fostering the study of democratic systems in the Americas.

Even though the concern with content is the main priority and objective of the project, the DDPA/OAS and CLAS/GU team is planning a redesign of the home page and the entire website in order to make it easier for the user to navigate on its pages and provide immediate access to a wider range on information and sites, including other OAS areas and programs.

Cooperation and project partners: Efforts will be made to increase the number of associate academic institutions in the hemisphere on a regional basis, in order to enhance the scope and ability of data collection and updating; and to promote academic research and up to date political analysis, building up a new capacity to have available information on political developments. During the year 2005-2006, more institutions will be added to the group of collaborators.

As part of the same initiative, the DDPA/OAS is in the process of building further institutional partnerships with universities, think tanks and research centers in order to create, in the near future, a network of institutions, on a regional basis thorough the hemisphere. This network will collaborate in providing constant input of new or updated information, monitoring of political developments and political analysis, as well as studies on specific issues related to democracy. Among the activities connected to this project, the *PDBA* is planning to invite academic institutions to present papers and research proposals on specific issues related to the different topics within the database (Political parties and constitutions, Inter American instruments, electoral systems and participation, among others). the selection of materials resulting from this activity will be published through the *PDBA*.

Additionally, the DDPA/OAS and CLAS/Georgetown University are currently studying different initiatives involving other areas and activities to increase the coverage and to strengthen the *PDBA*. During 2005 work is being done to develop an association with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through which the *PDBA* would be linked to IDB's *Economic Database*. This initiative, among others, will substantially expand the content of the *PDBA* providing new and timely information.

Promotion and visibility: The *PDBA* is a key political research and information tool available in the Americas to governments, academics and citizens. An electronic bulletin on the activities and content highlights of the *PDBA* as well as displays and special presentations (how-to-use) of the *database*, taking advantage of OAS and Georgetown University meetings and conferences, and other events with the *PDBA* regional partners, and others including large international conferences put on by organizations like the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) or the American Political Science Association, are being considered as a means to reach potential users. In addition to this, a concerted marketing strategy will be implemented in order to bring even more visibility to the website.

Financial sustainability and budget: It is worth mentioning that drawing on the resources of its graduate student staff and location at Georgetown University, the *Political Database of the Americas* is able to operate at an extraordinarily cost effective rate. Student research assistants, who work while studying at the University, are of great help collecting and updating the content. Furthermore, the *PDBA* website is housed on two separate Georgetown servers equipped with state-of-the-art server software which enables sophisticated searching capabilities, database development and automated user services. This results in significant savings. Nevertheless, in the coming year, the *PDBA* will seek to attract sponsorship opportunities from institutions and organizations that target the policy makers and scholars that visit our site so frequently.

The OAS and Georgetown acknowledge the United States Government for its continuous support to this program. However, as part of the development strategy it is of vital importance that the necessary funds are obtained to continue with this hemispheric information and research resource in the near future, which demands significant efforts for its updating and modernization. Therefore, a fundamental component of the *PDBA*'s 2005-2006 agenda is a targeted fundraising strategy and investment in the above mentioned marketing endeavors, which include presenting the project proposal and the original budget for the amount of \$ 337,364 to other potential donors among the OAS member and observer countries, while continuing to look for other local and/or national and international sources of public and private financing.

Attached to this proposal is an adjusted budget for the amount of \$150,000 for the year April 2005-March 2006.

*** CURRENT CONTENTS:**

An overview of PDDBA's main categories is presented below. Some areas are currently active, others are being constructed in accordance with the development plan:

Constitutions and Constitutional Studies

- a. Constitutions (by country)
- b. Comparative Analysis of the Constitutions of Countries with Presidential Regimes (20 countries)
- c. Reference Material
 - Bibliography
 - Links

Electoral Systems and Election Data

- a. Constitutional Electoral Norms
- b. Electoral Laws
- c. National Electoral Institutes
- d. Election Data
 - Election results
 - Electoral calendars
 - OAS Election Observation Missions
 - Election statistics (OAS)
 - Inter-American Electoral Technology Network
- e. Reference Material
 - Bibliography
 - Links

Executive Branch

- a. Comparative Constitutional Norms
- b. Cabinets
- c. Links to Ministries
- d. Chronology of Presidents
- e. Comparative Analysis of Elected Presidents
- f. Reference Material
 - Bibliography
 - Links

Legislative Branch

- a. Comparative Constitutional Norms
- b. Legislative Branch Institutions
- c. Reference Material
 - Bibliography
 - Links
 - Program to Support the Strengthening of Legislative Branch Institutions (PAFII.)

Judicial Branch

- a. Comparative Constitutional Norms
- b. Judicial Branch Institutions
- c. Reference Material
 - Bibliography

- Links
 - OAS Department of Legal Affairs and Services
 - Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA)

Political Parties

- a. Comparative Constitutional Norms
- b. Legislation
 - Basic Laws
 - Campaign Finance Laws
- c. Political Parties
- d. Reference Material
 - Bibliography
 - Links
 - Inter-American Forum on Political Parties (FIAPP)

Decentralization and Local Governance

- a. National Decentralization Institutes
- b. Comparative Studies (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, the United States, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela)
- c. Reference Material
 - Bibliography
 - Links
 - The High-Level Inter-American Network on Decentralization. Local Government and Citizen Participation (RIAD)

Civil Society

- a. Civil Society Organizations
- b. Reference Material
 - Bibliography
 - Links
 - Inter-American Initiative on Civil Society Cooperation

Democracy and Public/Private Security (under construction)

- a. Public Security (Colombia)
- b. Reference Material
 - Bibliography
 - Links

Democracy and Indigenous Peoples (under construction)

- a. Comparative Indigenous Rights
- b. Reference Material
 - Bibliography
 - Links

**POLITICAL DATABASE OF THE AMERICAS
(PDBA) March 2005-2006**

BUDGET

CONTRACTS		#
<u>I. Contracts</u>		
PDBA Administrator - Georgetown University (plus fringe benefits)	33,000.00	12 months
Web Administrator - OAS/DDPA	9,600.00	3 months
Administrative support OAS/DDPA	18,399.00	3 months
Expert Comparative studies (Comparative Constitutions)	5,000.00	1 expert
3 Research assistants	43,200.00	1,200 each/mo.
Subtotal	109,199.00	
AGREEMENTS		
<u>II. Partnerships</u>		
Website GU (Technical support and GU Server)	4,000.00	
Institutional Collaboration (three more associate institutions)	12,000.00	
Research activities with universities (calls for papers on specific topics)	3,000.00	
Subtotal	19,000.00	
TRAVEL		
<u>III. Domestic travels</u>		
1. LASA 2006, San Juan Puerto Rico, March 15-18 Airfare -1 person	500.00	
2. Fort Lauderdale, Fla., XXXV OAS General Assembly, June 5-7 Airfare-2 people Per diem	500.00	
Subtotal	1,000.00	
<u>IV. International travel</u>		
3 Airfare, three Latin American countries- new partnerships, Spanish speaking countries, to be defined by competition, 2 people each travel. Per diem - Administrators (3 trips = 15 days x per diem average: 230)	0.00	
Subtotal	0.00	
SEMINARS AND EVENTS		
<u>V. Special event, PDBA 10th anniversary a promotional activity-presentation of the database</u>		
Rental Conference Rooms	300.00	
Communications and invitations: academic and research institutions, multilateral org.	200.00	
Catering	1,200.00	
Subtotal	1,700.00	
EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE		
<u>VI. Equipment</u>		
Computer equipment purchase maintenance and updating	1,000.00	
Software purchase, licenses and training for DDPA and GU	1,000.00	
Subtotal	2,000.00	
COMMUNICATIONS AND OFFICE SUPPLIES		
<u>VII. Communications and office supplies</u>		
Telephone/Fax/mail	1,800.00	
Office Supplies	628.00	
Translations	500.00	
Subtotal	2,928.00	
PUBLICATIONS AND PROMOTION		
<u>VIII. Printed Material and Promotion</u>		
Marketing materials (brochures, mailings, flyers, posters) and publications	2,700.00	
Subtotal	2,700.00	
GRAND TOTAL WITHOUT CONTINGENCY FUNDS	138,527.00	
CONTINGENCY FUNDS 8.2%	11,473.00	
GRAND TOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY FUNDS	150,000.00	

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
POLITICAL DATABASE OF THE AMERICAS
(PDB)
BUDGET March 2005-2006

CONTRACTS		
I. Contracts		
PDBA Administrator - Georgetown University (including fringe benefits)	33,000.00	12 months
Web Administrator - OAS/DDPA (twelve months) 25% dedication		
Technical and administrative support		
Expert Comparative studies (Comparative Constitutions)	5,000.00	1 expert
3 Research assistants	43,200.00	1,200 each/mo.
Subtotal	81,200.00	
AGREEMENTS		
II. Partnerships		
Web GU (technical support and GU server)	4,000.00	
Institutional Collaboration		
Research activities with universities		
Subtotal	4,000.00	
TRAVEL		
III. Domestic travels		
1. Lusa 2006, San Juan-Puerto Rico, March 15-18, 2006- 1 person	500.00	
2. Fort Lauderdale, Fla., XXXV OAS General Assembly, June 5-7 Airfare-2 people		
3. Hotel Puerto Rico-2 night-1 person	300.00	
4. Meals- Puerto Rico- 3 days- 1 person	200.00	
Subtotal	1,000.00	
IV. International travel		
3 Airfare, three Latin American countries- new partnerships, Spanish speaking countries, to be defined by competition. 2 people each travel.		
4 Meals -Puerto Rico- 3 days- 1 person		
Subtotal	0.00	
SEMINARS AND EVENTS		
V. Special event, PDBA 10th anniversary a promotional activity-presentation of the database		
Rental Conference Rooms	300.00	
Communications and invitations: academic and research institutions, multilateral org.	200.00	
Catering	1,200.00	
Subtotal	1,700.00	
EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE		
VI. Equipment		
Computer equipment purchase maintenance and updating	1,000.00	
Software purchase, licenses and training	1,000.00	
Subtotal	2,000.00	
COMMUNICATIONS AND OFFICE SUPPLIES		
VII. Communications and office supplies		
Telephone/Fax/mail	800.00	
Office Supplies	296.00	
Transactions		
Subtotal	1,096.00	
PUBLICATIONS AND PROMOTION		
VIII. Printed Material and Promotion		
Marketing materials (brochures, mailings, flyers, posters) and publications		
Subtotal	0.00	
GRAND TOTAL WITHOUT CONTINGENCY FUNDS	90,996.00	
CONTINGENCY FUNDS - 10%	9,100.00	
GRAND TOTAL WITH CONTINGENCY FUNDS	100,096.00	



Organización de los Estados Americanos
Organização dos Estados Americanos
Organisation des États américains
Organization of American States

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

THIRD COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, THROUGH ITS CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLITICAL DATABASE OF THE AMERICAS

I, Luigi R. Einaudi, Acting Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), hereby delegate to Mr. John Biehl, Director of the Department of Democratic and Political Affairs, authority to sign on behalf of the General Secretariat, the above noted Cooperation Agreement.

This delegation of authority expires on May 31, 2005.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luigi R. Einaudi".

Luigi R. Einaudi
Acting Secretary General

Date: 23 May 05
Washington, D.C.

Modernization and improvement of the *PDBA* contents, appearance and accessibility. To adequately respond to the new challenges, a first step is to enhance the current contents, appearance and organization of the *PDBA*, in order to transform it in an effective and modern instrument, capable of better supporting its mission to contribute to the promotion and strengthening of democracy in the Hemisphere.

Among the projected activities aimed at improving the content and scope of the *PDBA* already established areas will be refined and strengthened, and new ones will be developed. These efforts include, for example, the enhancement of the comparative constitutions section, the revision and enrichment of the comparative analyses on decentralization and local governance, the consideration of other sub-sections (as the one of political party laws), and others new Sections like "Democracy and Public/Citizen Security" and "Democracy and Indigenous People. Continuing collaboration with other regional organizations and academic institutions will also allow the *PDBA* to strengthen the existing research projects and develop important relationships with other groups interested in fostering the study of democratic systems in the Americas.

Even though the concern with content is the main priority and objective of the project, the DDPA/OAS and CIAS/GU team is planning a redesign of the home page and the entire website in order to make it easier for the user to navigate on its pages and provide immediate access to a wider range on information and sites, including other OAS areas and programs.

Cooperation and project partners: Efforts will be made to increase the number of associate academic institutions in the hemisphere on a regional basis, in order to enhance the scope and ability of data collection and updating; and to promote academic research and up to date political analysis, building up a new capacity to have available information on political developments. During the year 2005-2006, more institutions will be added to the group of collaborators.

As part of the same initiative, the DDPA/OAS is in the process of building further institutional partnerships with universities, think tanks and research centers in order to create, in the near future, a network of institutions, on a regional basis thorough the hemisphere. This network will collaborate in providing constant input of new or updated information, monitoring of political developments and political analysis, as well as studies on specific issues related to democracy. Among the activities connected to this project, the *PDBA* is planning to invite academic institutions to present papers and research proposals on specific issues related to the different topics within the database (Political parties and constitutions, Inter American instruments, electoral systems and participation, among others), the selection of materials resulting from this activity will be published through the *PDBA*.

Additionally, the DDPA/OAS and CIAS/Georgetown University are currently studying different initiatives involving other areas and activities to increase the coverage and to strengthen the *PDBA*. During 2005 work is being done to develop an association with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through which the *PDBA* would be linked to IDB's Economic Database. This initiative, among others, will substantially expand the content of the *PDBA* providing new and timely information.