

III. SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS

SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS

Chapter XVIII of the Charter defines the specialized organizations as intergovernmental organizations established by multilateral agreements and having specific functions with respect to matters of common interest to the American States. They enjoy the fullest technical autonomy, but are to take into account the recommendations of the General Assembly and the Councils. This chapter summarizes the reports that the following Specialized Organizations presented pursuant to articles 127 and 91.f of the Charter:

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

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Established in 1902 by the Second International Conference of American States (Mexico, 1901-1902), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is the inter-American system's specialized organization in health matters and is the World Health Organization's Regional Office for the Americas (AMRO/WHO). Its mission is to "lead strategic collaborative efforts among Member States and other partners to promote equity in health, to combat disease, and to improve the quality of, and lengthen, the lives of the peoples of the Americas." In its efforts to improve health, PAHO targets society's most vulnerable sectors: mothers and children, workers, the poor, the elderly, refugees and displaced persons. Its priorities are equity for those who do not have access to health and, in keeping with the principles of Pan Americanism, urges the countries to work together on matters of common concern.

In the 2002-2003 period, PAHO worked constantly with the member countries to promote Pan Americanism and equitable access to health care. It did this through its principal program areas, which include: a) prevention and control of disease (AIDS and sexually transmitted illnesses; non-communicable diseases; communicable diseases; animal health); b) health and human development (public policies and health; coordination of research; women, health and development); c) health and environment (the health of the family and of the public; mental health; diet and nutrition); e) development of health systems and services (essential drugs and technology; organization and management of health systems and services; development of human resources); f) vaccines and immunization (access to vaccine technology; expanded immunization program); and g) Health Situation Analysis and Trends.

The following are highlights of the activities conducted during the period covered in this report:

26th Pan American Sanitary Conference

The ministers of health of the Americas convened at the headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Washington, D.C. for the 26th Pan American Sanitary Conference, held from September 23 through 27. During that Conference, the member countries elected Dr. Mirta Roses Periago, of Argentina, as Director of the Pan American Health Organization. Her term will begin in February 2003. They also discussed and agreed on budgets and programs that map out the strategic orientations and establish the health program for the Americas. At that same conference, a publication titled *Health in the Americas* was presented, as were a four-year report and a new strategic plan to steer PAHO's work in the 2003-2007 period.

Maternal mortality

A special fund was set up to reduce maternal mortality in the Americas. The ministers concurred that mortality among women in Latin America and the Caribbean as a result of complications during pregnancy and childbirth was unnecessarily high and that the issue had to be addressed immediately. Although some progress had been made, the disparities in mortality rates among the countries was still great. As one of the Millennium's Development Goals (see below), maternal mortality continues to be a public health priority. Therefore, funding is needed to address this problem, particularly to get out information.

HIV/AIDS infection

Some 2.8 million people in the Americas are infected with HIV/AIDS. At 16% of the adult population, the Caribbean is the second most seriously affected subregion in the world after Sub-Saharan Africa. Given this situation, the health ministers have requested that the countries strive to achieve the goals spelled out in the United Nations Declaration on HIV/AIDS, especially those aimed at preventing the infection, providing care, support and treatment to those infected with HIV/AIDS, and at reducing the stigma and social exclusion associated with the epidemic. The ministers were also urged to study new ways of lowering the price of antiretroviral drugs and other supplies for the treatment of those sick with AIDS.

Vaccines and immunization

The health ministers set a goal of 95% vaccination coverage for all children in the countries of the Hemisphere, a necessary step to achieve success in PAHO's program to eradicate measles. To achieve immunization equity across the Hemisphere, the vaccine quality has to be uniform at all levels. A climate of political and technical support has to be established within each country to enable the Hemisphere to get other new or underused vaccines that are of the utmost importance to public health.

Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI)

The strategy known as Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) was expanded to 17 countries whose infant mortality rates were high. Implementation of this program has already saved many thousands of lives. The IMCI strategy is now being integrated into undergraduate and graduate university curricula to train health-care workers at all levels in the treatment of children.

Millennium Development Goals

PAHO has committed itself to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Three of these goals directly concern health: reducing mortality among children under the age of 5 by 2/3 by the year 2015; reducing maternal mortality by 2/3; and interrupting and reversing the spread of fatal diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria. The goal number 10 refers to reducing by half the population that does not have sustained access to good drinking water.

Inter-institutional cooperation

PAHO continued to collaborate with other United Nations agencies and participated in the reform initiative. PAHO also worked with international finance institutions like the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, under an initiative called the "Shared Agenda for Health in the Americas." It worked in a variety of areas simultaneously, such as the National Health Accounts (NHAs), medications, epidemiology and environmental health. PAHO continued to work with the Organization of American States on topics like gender, workers' health, drugs and other unlawful substances, childhood, and disaster preparedness.

Summit of the Americas

After the Quebec Summit and in keeping with the Plan of Action, PAHO continued to serve as the coordinator for health issues. PAHO was charged with undertaking activities and obtaining funding for areas in health sector reform; communicable disease; non-communicable disease, and connectivity. PAHO is working with the Office of Summit Follow-up in the OAS, and with the Inter-institutional Working Group, to coordinate the projects and activities calculated to put into practice the mandates that

the Summits of the Americas had delivered. This has given rise to a number of joint initiatives, such as mainstreaming civil society into the Summit process and ensuring that the reports on health-related mandates are disseminated and that health continues to hold a prominent position in the Summit follow up process. PAHO also supported and took part in the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas Meeting (HEMA) in Ottawa in March 2002, and held its own Meeting of Ministers of Health in September of that year.

Centennial

The year covered in this report was PAHO's centennial, an important milestone for the Organization. PAHO, created in 1902. It celebrated 100 years devoted to improving health and raising living standards of the entire population of all the countries of the Americas. The activities and events, held across the Hemisphere, included the Centennial Symposium titled "Celebrating Partnerships: 100 Years of Health in the Americas." This meeting underscored the international support so vital to PAHO's work with the countries of the Hemisphere over the years. The symposium featured panels consisting of prominent figures from the area of public health and partnership for development. These discussions looked at the accomplishments and the challenges that public health in our region and the Millennium Development Goals pose. Other themes discussed included the principles for international cooperation in the area of health; execution of the hemisphere's health mandates; best practices for inter-institutional cooperation, and the new types of associations for tackling new challenges in health.

INTER-AMERICAN CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE

The Inter-American Children's Institute is a specialized organization that helps create public policy on children's behalf in the Americas, promote the relationship between the State and civil society, and cultivate a critical awareness of the problems affecting children in the Hemisphere. All members are represented on its Directing Council and its Director General is Mr. Alejandro Bonasso.

During the period under consideration, progress was made with execution of the Strategic Plan that, at both the technical and policy level, is the axis around which this organization's work turns, serving as a framework for comprehensive protection of children and adolescents, mandates from the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

At the policy level, reports were prepared on the Struggle against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents and the Situation of Children in the Americas, in compliance with express mandates. A follow-up was done on the mandates emanating from the Summits of the Americas and regional political forums. The IIN hosted the Meeting of Government Experts on the "International Abduction of Minors by One of their Parents," coordinated with the Permanent Council and the Argentine Government, in furtherance of General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 1835.

At the technical level, four legal prototypes were prepared on Child Labor, Sexual Exploitation of Children, Disability and Drug Abuse Prevention. These papers are strategic products of the aforementioned Plan, as they are matched by targeted policies in those same areas and are already beginning to be applied in various countries of the region. With advisory assistance from a team of consultants from the region, a basic prototype was also developed of a National Child System, which was introduced at a Meeting of Consultation with representatives and high-ranking officials in children's affairs.

In terms of communications and dissemination, substantive changes were made in the design of the Institute's Web site (<http://www.iin.oea.org>). A new institutional logo was adopted and a program of videos was developed promoting children's rights, giving greater visibility and weight to public opinion.

Other Institute activities during the period included the following:

- First Inter-American Competition on the Rights of Children, Adolescents and Family; 90 monographs by authors in the member States were submitted.
- Organization of a seven-module seminar on the "Relationships between the context of family and children in contemporary society."
- Eloísa de Lorenzo Prize, awarded in conjunction with the University of Kansas' Beach Center. This year it went to Mary Perez Marranzini, of the Dominican Republic, for her distinguished work on behalf of children with different disabilities.
- Participation in the special session on children, convened by the United Nations in New York.
- Organization of the Third Regional Roundtable in the English-speaking Caribbean on Drug Abuse Prevention.
- In partnership with the Government of Guatemala, organization of the Third Meeting of First Ladies of Central America, to consider the importance of the data systems that the IIN promotes.
- Introduction of the Actions Coordination Site on the Internet, installed in the General Secretariat's server, the goal being to solve missing children's cases and to prevent their disappearance and other serious violations of children's rights.
- Distance course on children's rights, given by Honduran jurist Leo Valladares, with forty specialists from 12 countries participating.

- In conjunction with Save the Children, a technical workshop in Lima, Peru, to develop a method for systematizing the national reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- Cooperation with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in drafting an Advisory Opinion on children's rights, which the Court and the IIN will publish.
- XIII Workshop of Information Centers, Inter-American Network of Information on Children (RIIN), which the IIN operates through its PIINFA information program, to share experiences, modernize methods and plan future activities. More than thirty specialists from the user institutions participated.
- Participation in the Fourth Ibero-American Conference of Ministers and High-ranking Officials in charge of Children's Affairs.
- Organization of a Regional Workshop on Public Policies focused on Children with Different Capabilities, in MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile. This Workshop approved a final declaration advocating development of a regional strategy for educational and social inclusion.

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

Created by the Sixth International Conference of American States (Havana, 1928), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) is the OAS' advisory body on gender-related issues in the Hemisphere. Its purpose is to promote and protect the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of women and, in this context, reports to the governments on the progress accomplished and the problems that need to be addressed, and suggests ways those problems can be resolved. The Commission is headquartered in Washington, D.C. Its Executive Secretary, who heads up the Commission's Secretariat, is Carmen Lomellin.

For 2002, CIM's activities were driven by the 2002-2004 Biennial Work Program, approved by the Thirty-first Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, by the mandates from the thirty-second regular session of the OAS General Assembly, and by the Summit of the Americas process. Because the CIM Assembly and the OAS General Assembly met in late October and June, respectively, CIM's Thirtieth Assembly and the OAS General Assembly's thirty-first regular session should also be mentioned here. During this period CIM devoted greater attention to implementation of the Inter-American Program on Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP).

Compliance with the mandates from the Summits of the Americas

CIM continues implementing the mandates from the Summit of the Americas. The following are some of the activities and projects conducted in furtherance of those mandates: 1) Joint undertakings with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to promote implementation of recommendations presented to the Ministers of Justice and Attorneys General of the Americas for mainstreaming the gender perspective, and in the area of preventing violence against women; 2) Mainstreaming the gender perspective into the ministerial meetings (SEPIA II, Gender and Justice); 3) Implementation of the "Inter-American Program on Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality"; 4) Gender-related training within the OAS for officials who make policy or conduct projects; 5) Continuation of the research projects on violence against women and the trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation in the Americas, and measures to implement the recommendations that come out of both projects.

Strategy for mainstreaming the gender perspective into ministerial level meetings

CIM developed recommendations for mainstreaming the gender perspective into the programs and policies of the ministries of justice. Those recommendations were presented at the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Justice and Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas, REMJA IV. In July 2002, CIM convoked a follow-up meeting (SEPIA II) to analyze and promote strategies for including the gender perspective in the results of REMJA IV. Participating were CIM's Principal Delegates, experts from the Ministries of Justice and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) with experience in the area of justice, such as the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), the International Association of Women Judges, the Rapporteur for Women's Rights from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), and the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (CEJA). The meeting's recommendations were conveyed to the Ministers of Justice, to all CIM delegates and to the event participants. This same strategy could be replicated for the meeting of Ministers of Education.

Execution of the joint CIDA/CIM-OAS project on gender training

With the support of the Government of Canada and the General Secretariat, the joint CIDA/CIM-OAS project was launched in 2001 to train OAS employees, including directors and field personnel, about

mainstreaming the gender perspective into all the Organization's programs and policies. The training for headquarters personnel began in November 2002 and expectations are that around 240 staff members involved in project design, execution and evaluation will receive the corresponding training. CIM was actively involved in preparing the program and is responsible for follow-up.

Participation of women in power and decision-making structures

CIM is a member of and continues to co-sponsor the Executive Council of the Program for the Support of Women's Leadership and Representation (PROLEAD) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which funds projects to promote women's leadership in the Hemisphere. During the last year, in partnership with the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) and PROLEAD, CIM sponsored the "Central American Course on Women's Leadership for Good Governance in Central America," held in Managua, Nicaragua. CIM and the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) also teamed up for the special meeting of the Permanent Council convoked to examine the topic "Women's Participation in Political Processes."

Women's human rights – Violence against women – Trafficking in women

The elimination of violence against women

CIM continues to lobby for all OAS member States to ratify the Convention of Belém do Pará. In March 2002, Suriname became the 31st member State to ratify the Convention. The Commission also continues to conduct activities associated with implementation of the Project on "Violence in the Americas – A regional analysis, including a review of implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará," which began in 1999. The fourth and final subregional meeting of experts from the governments and civil society was held in Guyana, where the research findings were presented and examined and recommendations made on subregional strategies that will expedite the process of putting the Convention into practice. The recommendations include: implementation of interinstitutional and intersectoral policies with specific funds to combat violence; creation of statistical records with indices broken down by sex and age to make it easier to track the problem; training at all levels; and comprehensive care for women who have been the victims of violence and initiatives to ensure their access to justice.

Joint Project of CIM, the IIN and De Paul University of Chicago on trafficking in women and children.

The work in connection with the first phase of the project on "International Trafficking in Women and Children for Sexual Exploitation in the Americas" was completed. The countries in this first phase were Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. CIM is actively involved in implementing the recommendations made in the project's final report, including working with the member States to craft model legislation and train members of Parliament.

Thirty-first Assembly of CIM Delegates

The Thirty-first Assembly of the Delegates of the CIM was held in the Dominican Republic in October 2002. The Assembly elected a new Executive Committee for the 2002-2004 term. Yadira Henríquez, Minister of the Secretariat of State for Women of the Dominican Republic, was elected President. Florence Ievers, Deputy Head of *Status of Women Canada*, was elected Vice President. Also elected to the Executive Committee were Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the United States and Venezuela. The resolutions approved by the Assembly concern the following topics, among others: 1) Continued implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality; 2) Measures to fight the crime of trafficking in persons, especially

women, adolescents and children; 3) Stronger relations with civil society organizations; 4) Follow up of the Convention of Belém do Pará; 5) topics for the agenda of the Second Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States (REMIM II); 6) Biennial Work Program of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

Promotion and dissemination

The video on the situation of women in the Hemisphere, titled “Women of the Americas,” which CIM produced in cooperation with the Office of Public Information, was widely circulated, including to over 200 community television stations in the United States. CIM also celebrated Women’s History Month with an exhibition of CIM’s history. It also sponsored a panel on “Overcoming Obstáculos”, with the women ambassadors to the OAS and the Assistant Secretary General’s Chief of Staff participating. The event was broadcast live on MHZ and carried in the United States. CIM also continues to update its Web page, which includes articles, links with other Web sites, information about CIM’s activities, meetings of interest and reports.

PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Created by the Sixth International Conference of American States (Havana, 1928), the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) offers technical cooperation, training at research centers, circulation of publications, and organization of technical meetings in cartography, geography, history, and geophysics. Headquartered in Mexico City, its Secretary General is Mr. Carlos A. Carvallo Yáñez.

During the period covered in this report, the Institute supported and funded 35 research and training projects conducted in 14 countries: 10 corresponding to the Cartography Committee, 7 to the Geography Committee, 8 to the History Committee and 10 to the Geophysics Committee, all totalling US\$ 181,010.00. It also offered indirect support for events, courses and meetings associated with the Institute's scientific and technical business. Of the projects supported and financed by the Institute, a significant number were in the area of training, modernization, transfer of advanced knowledge through fellowships to attend seminars, workshops, international courses and congresses. In all, 78 fellowships were granted during the period covered by this Report.

Under the PAIGH Modernization Plan, the Call for Proposals for Technical Assistance Projects for 2003 and the Call for Nominations for the Leopoldo Zea "Thought of the Americas" Award were widely publicized, with technical rigor and tailored to the times in which we live. The call for proposals for technical assistance projects elicited 61 project applications from 16 member countries. In the case of the Leopoldo Zea Award, 20 papers were submitted from a total of 10 countries. The "Thought of the Americas" Prize was awarded on February 7, 2003, during the PAIGH's 75th anniversary.

The Pan American Center for Map Design and Mapmaking for the Blind was created. Its purpose is to do research on and produce instructive, audio-tactile cartographic materials to teach geography and sense of space to the visually impaired in the Latin American countries. The idea is to maximize their ability to orient themselves and move, so that they can be independent and well integrated in society. The Center's creation, headquartered at the Universidad Tecnológica Metropolitana de Chile (UTEM), was made possible thanks to support provided by the OAS through the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD). The Center was inaugurated on June 24, 2002.

On February 7, the PAIGH celebrated its 75th anniversary with a ceremony at its facilities. Presiding was the President of the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Information Sciences (INEGI) representing President Vicente Fox of Mexico. In attendance were distinguished officials from the PAIGH, from the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and Education of Mexico, scientists and academics from prestigious Mexican institutions, ambassadors and representatives of the diplomatic corps in Mexico and representatives of international organizations.

During the PAIGH's long institutional history, it has put together an invaluable library with over 30,000 texts and 200,000 journals and publications. For budgetary reasons, the PAIGH turned over the administration of its "José Toribio Medina" Library to Mexico's National School of Anthropology and History [Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia] (ENAH), which has built a special building to house the collection. It has modern resources for the library's operation, such as furniture, shelving, a fire alert system, and complete computer equipment for its operation. The formal ceremony handing over the collection's administration was on August 30, 2002. The collection has been open to the public ever since and work is now underway to make it Internet accessible.

In 2002, most of the Institute's seven journals were updated and a number of occasional publications issued. Through an extensive program of donations and exchanges, the journals are sent to the major

libraries and training and research centers in all the member countries. In the publications area, the Institute earmarked the sum of US\$36,350.00 for its periodicals and occasional publications.

The following periodicals were edited and published: *Revista Cartográfica* Nos. 72 and 73, *Revista Geográfica* No. 131, *Revista de Historia de América* No. 129, *Folklore Americano* No.61, *Boletín de Antropología Americana* No. 36, *Revista de Arqueología Americana* No. 20, *Revista Geofísica* Nos. 56 and 57, and the *Air Bulletins* Nos. 271 (January-April) and 272 (May-August). Starting with issue No. 273 (September-December) the *Air Bulletin* is now being sent by e-mail to all interested persons and is also available at the PAIGH's Web page.

The occasional publications put out during the period were as follows: *Historia de las migraciones limítrofes en el Cono Sur de América del siglo XIX a 1960, Volume I: Argentina; Volume II: Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay; Frontera y globalización*; and *Arielismo y globalización*.

The 57th Meeting of Authorities was held in Caracas, Venezuela, June 4 and 5. The Financial Planning and Evaluation Committee (APEF) met in Mexico City on September 5 and 6. On November 3, Aguascalientes, Mexico was the venue of the 58th Meeting of Authorities, followed by the XXXVI Meeting of the Directing Council, November 4 through 8. The latter approved 36 resolutions.

INTER-AMERICAN INDIAN INSTITUTE

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

Appointment of the Institute's Honorary Director

On March 1, 2002, Guillermo Espinosa Velasco was named the Institute's Honorary Director, for a period of nine months. He took office on April 10 of that year, which meant that the appointment would end on December 31. His principal task would be to redefine the Institute's activities, provided the Institute was on a sound financial footing.

However, what the Honorary Director found was a debt of almost US\$200,000 in unpaid water bills and property taxes. Since then, he has been trying to renegotiate the amount owed to the Mexico City Government, a process that has not yet finished. However, the water bill for the period covered in this report was paid.

At the December 12, 2002 meeting of the Institute's Directing Council, the Honorary Director was asked to continue as the Institute's Honorary Director. He said he would be willing to do so, provided his title was not that of "honorary" director. His contention was that otherwise, there could be no regular administration of the institution. The decision was that he would remain in the post, under the same conditions, until the Directing Council's meeting in late January 2003.

As of December 31, 2002, only Mexico, Costa Rica and Honduras had paid their 2002 assessments. Peru announced in December that it would pay a portion of the 2001 assessment it owed and part of its 2002 assessment. The United States promised to pay a portion of what it owed, which in 2003 totals US\$ 600,000. Mexico's support also included payment of a library, a secretariat, guard service at the building that houses the Institute and the loan of a vehicle.

Measures taken

Headquarters Agreement

No headquarters agreement has ever been signed with the Government of Mexico since the time the Institute was created in 1940. At the present time, the text of an agreement has already been prepared, and was approved by the executive offices of the Mexican government that are in charge of the matter. The agreement will be signed on February 6, and then sent to the Senate for possible ratification.

Library

The Library remained in storage for almost twelve years. Now the Institute's staff has unpacked and shelved some 70% of the approximately 33,000 publications in the collection. Almost 9,000 have been catalogued. Plans are to organize the Library so that it can provide service to the region via a page on the Internet.

Historical Archives

The Institute's staff has organized some 10% of the archive of documents predating 1980. Digitalization of these documents, which have historic value, got underway in order to protect them physically, promote their study by interested parties in the region, and to provide the indigenous peoples with copies of the documents. See the section on Publications below.

Internet page

The Institute's Web page was launched in late June 2002, and is still in its initial condition. At the present time, it contains the following information: a history of the Institute; a directory of the region's indigenous organizations; a directory of ombudsmen in the region; indigenous legislation as of 1999; videos of the visit that Maestra Henrietta Yurchenco made to Institute headquarters, who did research on indigenous music in the 1940s; and an exhibit of engravings that Alfredo Zalce made for the first issues of the magazine *América Indígena*. The Internet will be a good medium to provide information and document services to the region. As of January 7, 2003, the Web site had registered 61,000 visits.

Publications

As of December 31, 2002, the Honorary Editor of the magazine *América Indígena* completed the review of the texts of the first issue of the new volume, which will be published in early February 2003 on the Institute's Web page.

By December 31, 2002, the Institute had participated in the publication of 13 CD-ROMs. The themes include: "La Música y el Instituto Indigenista Interamericano, 1940-1947", "Viñetas de la Revista *América Indígena*, 1941-1978", and "Gladys Villavicencio en Otavalo, 1970-1971".

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE

Founded in 1942, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture is the inter-American system's specialized organization for the agricultural sector. It stimulates, promotes, and supports the member states' efforts to further agricultural development and enhance rural life. Its headquarters are in San José, Costa Rica, and its Director General is Mr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite.

During 2002, IICA engaged in cooperative activities with the member countries, took important measures to comply with the mandates on agriculture and rural life from the Third Summit of the Americas and with the terms of the Declaration that the Ministers of Agriculture concluded in Bávaro, Dominican Republic, in 2001. Specifically, IICA conducted the following activities:

- It brought its mission, vision and the objectives and strategic areas of the Medium-Term Plan 2002-2006 in line with the mandates from the Summits.
- In cooperation with key players in agriculture –public and private sectors, academia, and civil society- it prepared national and regional technical cooperation agendas. The national agendas were prepared to be consistent with national priorities, while the regional agendas targeted supranational problems.
- It established a mechanism for reporting to national authorities, in the form of a detailed annual report on the work accomplished on the cooperation agenda, which improves the transparency of its management and national participation therein.
- It adjusted its structure by creating: (a) the Secretariat for Technical Cooperation, which articulates and targets the Institute's technical resources to execute the cooperation agendas; (b) the Office of the Director of Summit Follow-up in the Office of the Director General; and (c) the Office of the Director of Strategic Partners in Washington, which facilitates and promotes activities with third parties.

In the spirit of the Summit process, IICA devoted special attention to strengthening its relations with other organizations.

- It signed an agreement with the Pan American Health Organization to improve public health by working to make foods safe and to improve plant and animal health programs. In 2003, both institutions will host a meeting of ministers of agriculture and health.
- The Institute continued to support the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation [Consejo Regional de Cooperación Agrícola] (CORECA), the Central American Agricultural Council [Consejo Agropecuario Centroamericano] (CAC) and the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development.
- With the United States Agency for International Development, the Institute conducted activities to work in concert in Central American countries and the Andean subregion.
- The Institute collaborated with ECLAC to analyze trends in agricultural development; it renewed work it was doing with the FAO, especially in the field of information management and communications.

- Working with the World Bank, the Institute promoted the use of digital training, under the Global Distance Education Network.
- With the Inter-Agency Group for Rural Development (IDB, IFAD, the World Bank, FAO, IICA, ECLAC, USAID and GTZ) the Institute worked to design policies, strategies and programs for rural development investment.

The following are examples of the direct cooperation the Institute administered in the countries:

- The Inter-American Program to Promote Agricultural Trade and Businesses and Food Safety.
- The Foodstuffs Labeling Services Center.
- Construction of a model to modernize the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems.
- Consolidation of the Agricultural Information and Documentation System for America (SIDALC).
- Support given to national processes to devise strategies, policies and investments in sustainable rural development, which prioritize co-management, self-management, and the autonomy of territorial units, including redesign of the relevant institutional framework.
- Development of an on-line information management and supply system on strategic topics for agricultural and rural development, which uses advanced digital technology (Infoagro.NET).
- Support for dialogue and horizontal cooperation to raise the quality of agricultural and rural education and increase support to regional graduate programs in international trade, food sanitation and certification, agribusinesses and sustainable rural development.
- The agreements for joint undertakings, concluded at the Third International Meeting of FORAGRO, in partnership with EMBRAPA and with IDB support through the Regional Agricultural Technology Fund (FONTAGRO), the CGIAR and the GFAR.

As Technical Secretariat of the process of Ministerial Meetings on Agriculture and Rural Life, IICA is providing support to the II Ministerial Meeting, slated for Panama in November 2003. The process promotes joint action by agricultural actors in preparing and implementing the Plan of Action for Agriculture with a 2015 horizon.