

## **EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT/ INTER-AMERICAN AGENCY FOR COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Under Article 98 of the Charter of the Organization, the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) is entrusted by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) with programs, projects, and activities in partnership for development. The Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) is a subsidiary body of the CIDI, which determines the IACD's policies and guidelines at its regular and special meetings and at the sectoral meetings at the ministerial or equivalent level in its areas of competence. The IACD was established by the General Assembly in June 1999 and was launched in January 2000. Its purpose is to promote, coordinate, manage and facilitate the planning and execution of programs, projects and activities in partnership for development in the OAS, in accordance with the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development.

In 2002, the IACD continued its unflagging efforts to enable the Agency to implement high-caliber development projects that meet the member States' vital development needs, that are able to attract outside funding, and that make more resourceful and effective use of their resources, all in order to further development efforts in the region.

This period's main thrust is reflected in the following activities: the successful initial phase of the Educational Portal of the Americas, to bring distance learning opportunities to the poorest and most under-served rural areas of the Hemisphere; expansion of the Training Fellowships Program as the number of fellowships increased from 1176 in 2001 to 3721 in 2002; consolidation of the Government Best Practices Program, whose purpose is to encourage multilateral cooperation among the governments of the region; and strengthening of the Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI), which will become a focal point for meaningful integration of IACD operations and for implementation of the policy mandates adopted at the meetings of ministers or high-ranking authorities in CIDI's sectoral areas.

Important efforts were made to strengthen FEMCIDI in order to make it a more effective development grant fund with a real multiplier effect in the region. One of the Agency's chief concerns was the real significance of CIDI as the OAS Development Council, with a mandate to focus on integral development and partnership. While the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development lists eight areas in which activities can be undertaken, it instructs the IACD to integrate its approach. The Agency also has to integrate its various instruments, the development grant fund, its fellowship and training resources, and its effort to widen application of best practices. Because its emphasis is development grants rather than loans, FEMCIDI is the logical instrument for achieving that integration.

Since its establishment, the IACD has adopted a number of measures to make FEMCIDI a more effective development fund. In 2001, measures were adopted to allow it to finance multi-year projects based on development objectives (rather than confine itself to one-year projects). Early in 2002, the Board approved setting aside a portion of the reserve fund for evaluating projects, a move that was essential to gain credibility with sources of financing. While these measures substantially strengthened FEMCIDI as a development fund, steps still need to be taken to reduce the large number of projects that the member States are presenting to the Fund and to change the criteria so that FEMCIDI can better serve the Hemisphere's priority development needs.

In May and June 2002, two regional programming meetings were held -one in the Caribbean and the other in Central America- to discuss the idea of establishing multi-year regional priorities in which FEMCIDI grant resources could be used more effectively for intra-regional cooperation, to promote more effective

cross regional cooperation and as a seed fund using FEMCIDI to attract co-financing. The two programming meetings were held jointly with the subregional development banks, the Caribbean Development Bank and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration. Cooperating with both meetings were the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Secretariat of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Central American Integration System (SICA).

These changes will bring significant collateral benefits for the Agency's management and its role in the OAS. Agency staff will be able to focus on a handful of major fields and develop relevant expertise to help the countries improve their projects, collaborate on a multinational basis, and apply relevant best practices that were successful in other regions. Under the current system, the Agency's small staff is required to analyze projects over such a wide array of subjects that they are unable to cultivate a meaningful core of expertise and take advantage of their presence in Washington, close to the World Bank and the IDB, to provide needed professional assistance to the countries. It will also serve as a centripetal force, more effectively drawing in the expertise of the OAS substantive units.

The IACD is proceeding cautiously and prudently with the countries in examining the best ways to make this approach useful to them. The Secretariat is optimistic that the member States will fine-tune the approach in the coming months and that it will come up with new approaches to present to the Management Board in the year ahead, in its desire to enable the OAS to become a more useful instrument with which to meet the ever-evolving challenges that development poses for it.

To further the objective of enabling CIDI and the IACD to act as facilitators of greater collaboration among the Hemisphere's development agencies, a network of restricted sites was completed and put into operation. It links the Management Board with the other development agencies in each member State.

In another area of responsibility, related to development policy, the IACD continues to work with the OAS' independent units in their shared commitment to provide services to the ministerial meetings within CIDI's area of competence. The Agency took active part in the preparations for and staging of CIDI's regular meeting and the Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture. The Agency has also been deeply involved in the study and recommendation of new approaches to meeting the tremendous pressures that the member States are under, particularly in connection with follow-up on the Monterrey Development Financing Conference. The IACD has worked hard to involve other important inter-American organizations in this undertaking, like the IDB and ECLAC, as well as civil society and the private sector. Based on these joint efforts, the IACD is optimistic that both ECLAC and the IDB will be receptive to invitations to participate in the CIDI meetings to help put together joint recommendations within OAS/IACD.

Concerning administrative and accounting matters, the observations made by the external auditors are in the process of being corrected. Work on the first recommendation has been completed, which was to integrate the trust funds managed by the Agency in the countries into dollar accounts and a single Washington-based combined financial process using the Oracle financial management system of the OAS. The second recommendation, which has to do with the management reporting of the Trust Fund for the Americas, has also been implemented. Nevertheless, the Agency staff responsible for managing the IACD's funds is small, which raises the concern that problems could recur for reasons having little to do with the substance of the financial management. The Agency is therefore negotiating a broader agreement with the General Secretariat to manage all its financial transactions using the Oracle system.

## TECHNICAL COOPERATION

### A. Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI)

- FEMCIDI 2002

The FEMCIDI programming cycle for 2002 received 232 project profiles. As of May 31 -the deadline for the member States to make their contributions and to specify how they were to be apportioned among the accounts- the total amount pledged to FEMCIDI for 2002 came to US\$ 8,228,916.61. As in years past, the number of projects presented and the amount of resources requested far exceeded the amounts pledged. The result was that projects were excluded not just because their technical quality was not up to the required standard, but also because of a lack of resources.

The project profiles that satisfied the selection requirements were sent to the members of the Nonpermanent Specialized Committees – CENPES 2001, and to the units and specialized offices of the GS/OAS, requesting their technical opinion of the profiles. Based on the technical opinions received and the pledge level in each sectoral account, the Executive Secretariat pinpointed the project profiles that, based on their technical merits, it felt could best serve to meet the member States’ development needs. Consequently, 114 projects presented by 32 countries were included in the Preliminary Programming Proposal. The latter was sent to the Permanent Missions on June 13, 2002, and was examined at the VI Meeting of the CENPES. Of those 114 projects, ninety-two (92) received favorable recommendations.

At its Eleventh Meeting on October 15, 2002, the Management Board approved the Programming of FEMCIDI 2002 Activities in Partnership for Development. It includes the 92 projects that the CENPES recommended, plus one more project whose inclusion the Management Board approved. The total amount approved for execution of the projects was US \$6,549,094, apportioned as follows:

SECTORAL ACCOUNT	NO. OF PROJECTS	AMOUNT APPROVED (US\$)
Trade	8	695,000
Social Development	18	848,712
Education	23	1,631,565
Culture	5	153, 518
Science and Technology	21	1,598, 245
Democracy	5	412,373
Tourism	4	438,316
Environment	9	771,365
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>6,549,094</b>

- Execution FEMCIDI 2001

In the first months of the year, execution got underway of the projects recommended by the CENPES at their meeting of October 2001 and approved by the IACD Management Board on November 1, 2001, in the amount of US \$1,147,849. Of the 89 projects approved, 48 are regional and 41 are national. The following is the distribution of those projects by sectoral account:

<b>SECTORAL ACCOUNT</b>	<b>NO. OF PROJECTS</b>	<b>AMOUNT APPROVED (US\$)</b>
Trade	5	490,352
Social Development	20	1,250,301
Education	22	1,961,412
Culture	2	103,000
Science and Technology	21	1,656,841
Democracy	6	484,524
Tourism	6	485,000
Environment	7	716,419
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>7,147,849</b>

By late October, US \$5,048,466.50 had been disbursed for 84 projects, whose activities will get underway once the signed Execution Agreements or Memorandums of Understanding have been received and the corresponding plans of execution duly completed. In the case of 36 of these projects, the IACD Management Board agreed to extend the execution deadline to March 31, 2003; the deadline for another 25 projects was June 30, 2003.

### **B. New Cooperation Mechanisms (Best Practices)**

Under the IACD Business Plan, one of the Agency's main objectives is to refine new mechanisms for conducting programs, based on the use of existing best practices in the countries of the Hemisphere and elsewhere in the world. The new mechanisms should also facilitate private-sector and civil society participation in inter-American technical cooperation and training initiatives.

The programs worked to achieve the following objectives: supporting governments in identifying opportunities for action, lessons learned, and best practices in electronic government procurement and electronic government, and municipal development; developing technical cooperation and training programs with the best practices institutions; developing projects that make use of best practices; and finding co-financing for institution building and for the formulation of projects using best practices, working jointly with institutions in the public and private sectors.

- **Government Procurement Program**

The purpose of the Government Procurement Program is to support the efforts of the governments of the Hemisphere aimed at: improving the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of government-procurement transactions, this as part of the member States' efforts to reduce corruption, strengthen democratic governance, and foster economic growth and development; promoting and facilitating small-business participation in public sector procurement and other forms of e-commerce, with a view to increasing employment and reducing poverty; and strengthening provincial and municipal governments so that they can provide the local communities with better service and enable businesses to grow.

- **Electronic Government Program**

The IACD-OAS Electronic Government Program is intended to be a catalyst for electronic-government initiatives and provide governments of this region with overall support at every stage of the implementation of electronic government. Using best practices in developing electronic government is an innovative approach designed to hasten modernization through efficient use of scarce public resources and to mitigate the risks inherent in incorporating a technological component in projects developed from square one, by using proven solutions transferred with the help of the governments that developed them.

With the user government playing the role of protagonist, the IACD-OAS has developed a method of its own for identifying, documenting and transferring best practices based on cooperation and teamwork with the institutions involved. In consultation with potential users, the IACD Electronic Government Program is focusing initial efforts on the following areas: electronic government procurement; taxes, licenses, permits, records, and access to services supporting small-business development.

- **Municipal Development Program**

The purpose of the Municipal Development Program is technical assistance and training to member states' local governments (municipalities) in order to upgrade their managerial and technical skills for delivery of services. This will be done by applying municipal best practices existing in the region. The development of this initiative is supported with a grant from the U.S. Mission to the OAS and a contribution from the Andean Development Corporation (CAF).

The program being implemented is intended to support local governments in identifying opportunities for action, lessons learned and best practices in the areas of modernization of cadastre systems, e-government applied to municipal management, and management of water and sanitation services; developing technical cooperation and training programs with the best practice institution; developing projects that use the best practices selected by the user local governments; and providing assistance in securing co-financing with grants and loans to prepare and implement projects working with both public and private sector institutions.

- **Occupational Health and Safety Program**

In support of OAS member States' efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, improve governance, promote equitable growth and help reduce poverty and inequality, the IACD is developing a program to assist the ministries of labor of the region in their efforts to modernize the services provided to workers and make those services more efficient. This program will also strive to make business leaders more sensitive to the need to practice corporate social responsibility principles in their businesses, mainly through a planned regional program developed in conjunction with Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) and Forum EMPRESA.

Although the occupational health and safety program is still at a preliminary stage, considerable headway was made in putting the program together, initiating and firming up contacts at OAS/IACD headquarters. The IACD is working particularly hard with the Forum EMPRESA and Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) to finalize a corporate social responsibility program especially related to occupational health and safety, focusing on small- and medium-sized businesses in Latin America and the Caribbean. Work was done with Chile as a purveyor of best practices in occupational health and safety.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN POTENTIAL**

### **A. Fellowships Program**

In compliance with its mandate and based on the priority areas indicated in the Strategic Plan of Partnership for Development, the rules and procedures necessary to grant fellowships for and administer short-term professional training courses and graduate and post-graduate studies were awarded. The Fellowships Program also started to offer e-fellowships as a low-cost alternative that can expand learning opportunities, especially to reach into remote areas of the hemisphere. The e-fellowships give students the ability to pursue studies without having to leave their country. Also, in keeping with its mandate, the administration of fellowships was made easier in order to increase opportunities for study. The fellowships awarded during 2002 are itemized in Appendix F of this report.

- Regular Training Program (PRA)

Fellowships awarded under the Regular Training Program (PRA) were for graduate (masters and doctorate) studies and research at universities in the region. In 2002, 108 fellowships originally granted in 2001 were extended for one more year. In the 2002 fellowship cycle, 185 new fellowships were awarded. The goal was to achieve a geographic distribution and focus that matched the priority areas in CIDI's Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development. The 2002 PRA fellowships and extensions cost approximately US\$5.13 million. Most of the recipients studied in the United States (47.5%), although a considerable number went to Chile (9.8%), Mexico (9.4%), Canada (8.8%) and Costa Rica (6.7%).

- Special Caribbean Fellowships Program (SPECAP)

This program provides scholarships for undergraduate studies in development areas that are priorities for the region, taking into account those that have an impact on integral and sustainable development. The SPECAP program awarded 29 new fellowships for the 2002 cycle and 24 extensions of 2001 fellowships. The approximate cost of the new fellowships and extensions for one school year was US\$813,500.

- Professional development courses

The short-term specialized training courses are supported by the member States, permanent observers and specialized units of GS/OAS. They are of three types:

The *Program of Horizontal Cooperation for Training Fellowships* (CHBA) provides short-term professional training through courses organized by institutions in the member States. Under this program, 411 fellowships were awarded for 32 courses; another 831 e-fellowships were provided for 10 online courses. The OAS provides logistical and administrative support for these courses and covers the cost of international travel.

The *Special Training Program* (PEC) provides awards for long-term training in courses organized by permanent observer institutions. In 2002, Korea and Spain offered 64 scholarships for 7 walk-in courses and 84 e-fellowships for 3 courses offered online. For courses of this type, the OAS provides logistical and administrative support and covers international travel expenses.

The *Courses for Specialized Studies in Technical Areas* (CEAT) focus on a variety of professional areas designated by the OAS' technical units. A total of 36 fellowships were awarded for the course on International Law in Rio de Janeiro. Another 192 e-fellowships were awarded for various courses.

- OAS Fellowship Program/Consortium of Universities

This program is designed to establish a broad university consortium so that the member universities might help co-finance fellowships and training programs. This will multiply the effect of the OAS' limited resources because the costs of the fellowships will be shared with the participating universities and other centers of learning. The IACD signed 26 agreements with institutions of higher learning in 8 member States and is putting the final details in place to sign agreements with other centers and universities in the Hemisphere.

The IACD reached an agreement with LASPAU to provide technical support in the management of the individual scholarships that the OAS awards through the fellowships program. LASPAU will seek co-funding for 50 new fellowships in order to provide more opportunities for study.

- OAS Scholars Placement Mechanism

A mechanism was launched that will maximize the benefits resulting from the co-financing agreements concluded with institutions in the University Consortium. With this new mechanism, students will apply to the OAS for a fellowship; if they are selected, the IACD will place them in a university that is a member of the Consortium. In 2002, 31 new scholarships were awarded via this procedure. Another 20 fellowships were awarded through the OAS/Fulbright Ecology Initiative.

- OAS Corporate Scholarship Program

For some time now, the OAS member States have been asking the General Secretariat to step up its efforts to mobilize external resources for fellowships and training. Responding to the call from the heads of State and of government at the successive Summits of the Americas to accelerate development of and create conditions for the eradication of poverty, the IACD is working to open up more opportunities for human development to the citizens of the Hemisphere. To that end, a corporate scholarship program is being put together, to multiply the educational opportunities available to deserving students. This program will be a partnership with the private sector, giving businesses an opportunity to play a vital role in building up the technical expertise and improving economic conditions in their communities. By participating in this program, the corporate community will make it possible for young people to make their own productive contributions to society, and in so doing will demonstrate its own commitment to corporate social responsibility.

- Leo S. Rowe Fund

The Leo S. Rowe Pan American Funds provides interest-free loans to eligible students from Latin America and the Caribbean for undergraduate, graduate and professional development courses in the United States. The Fund also provides loans to OAS staff and their dependents. In 2002, the Rowe Fund Committee provided 103 student loans totaling \$659,710. It also provided 37 loans to OAS personnel, totaling \$268,672.

In accordance with its Statutes, the Rowe Fund is administered by a Committee of the Permanent Council. Efforts have been made to make the management of the loans more efficient and the loans more accessible to eligible students. The Rowe Fund has considered and worked with applicants who have not been able to put up the traditional type of guarantee and have offered institutions in their countries as guarantors of the loan. In the largest operation of this kind, the General Secretariat signed an agreement with Ecuador's Foundation for Science and Technology (FUNDACYT) and LASPAU, enabling 18 students from Ecuador who came to study in the United States to receive loans from the Rowe Fund.

- Inter-agency co-financing for educational opportunities and loans

New ways of collaborating with the agencies involved in awarding and financing loans are being devised. This includes co-financing fellowships with universities and developing supplemental loan programs to help applicants who have not obtained fellowships. The IACD has signed an agreement with the Pan American Association of Student Loan Institutions (APICE) to co-finance or serve as reciprocal guarantors of loans. With this program the Rowe Fund will be able to provide loans for undergraduate or graduate studies. This agreement will offer more opportunities to qualified students who have not been awarded a scholarship –as scholarships are limited in number- or to those who have received partial scholarships.

## **B. Information Technologies and Telecommunications**

- The Educational Portal of the Americas

In 2002, the activities of the Educational Portal of the Americas ([www.educoea.org](http://www.educoea.org)) focused on expanding the services now offered and building up strategic partnerships with the public and private sectors. To commemorate its first anniversary, the Portal's new format was launched in the four languages; new training tools were added. From the time it came online in September 2001, the Portal has received more than 30 million visits, from over 120 countries around the globe.

In addition to an extensive database providing access to more than 4,500 distance learning courses offered by over 1500 accredited universities in all academic disciplines, the Portal offers information on scholarship opportunities, digital libraries, communities of knowledge, forums, chats, news events and other links of interest.

During the period covered in this report, the Virtual Classroom was designed and programmed. It is to be an easily accessible online environment that emphasizes training for teachers, government officials and the private sector, in the priority areas of the Strategic Plan 2002-2005. The Virtual Classroom will be launched in the first half of 2003, featuring the following courses: "Quality of Basic Education" (Spanish, Portuguese and English versions), "Teachers as Counselors", "Education and Nutrition" and "Strategies for Teaching Mathematics." The Virtual Classroom program hopes to train more than 6,000 people in its first year in operation.

Agreements were concluded with more than 30 universities and institutions in the region, including the Inter-American University Organization (Canada), UNESCO (Brazil), Universidad Nacional de Quilmes (Argentina) and the Province of Tierra del Fuego (Argentina), to collaborate on socioeconomic and cultural initiatives that promote access to knowledge through distance education and learning.

- Institute of Advanced Studies for the Americas

Through a strategic partnership with Spain's Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED), in December 2002 the IACD launched the Institute of Advanced Studies for the Americas (INEAM), to be another tool to provide quality, innovative professional training in an inter-American context. With its academic headquarters in Miami, Florida, the INEAM combines conventional teaching techniques with new information technologies and telecommunications, all to further development and social change in the Hemisphere.

In 2002, the INEAM and the Educational Portal helped train more than 1,633 students, educators, and government officials from the region. In addition, 9 workshops, courses and lectures were held in Central America, where 379 participants were trained.

Another 1,105 received training via online studies programs offered in conjunction with other academic institutions, including Harvard University, the Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), the International Telecommunications Union and Spain's Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED).

- IACD web site and restricted sites

The IACD continued its efforts to compile information for and constantly update the Agency's web site ([www.iacd.oas.org](http://www.iacd.oas.org)), to provide pertinent, up-to-date information on the Agency's priority issues, particularly those related to technical cooperation and training. To that end, monthly news bulletins were

published about its activities. The Agency also continued to promote closer cooperation with the units of the OAS General Secretariat in order to introduce new and relevant content related to the goals set in CIDI's Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development and the IACD's Business Plan.

To foster dialogue between the Agency and various sectors, new restricted sites (virtual meeting rooms) were created where ideas and experiences can be shared. These include the National Development Agencies, LASPAU, the Embassy of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Task Force on Connectivity. Chat rooms were also created for the members of the CENPES and the Fellowship Selection Committee, among others.

## **SPECIFIC FUNDS**

During the first half of 2002, the IACD was responsible for a number of Specific Funds related to the mandate for horizontal cooperation and socio-economic development.

### **A. United States Specific Fund**

In recent years, the United States Government has been strongly supporting CIDI and the work of the IACD. Apart from its annual contributions to FEMCIDI, the US Government has also contributed additional, specifically earmarked funds. The value of the funds varied during the year between \$5.4 million and \$6.1 million, depending on the rate of expenditure and decisions made to supplement existing balances. Generally speaking, the US Specific Funds have constituted the principal source of funding to support the Agency's new programs, especially the Best Practices program and other new cooperation mechanisms. Also, a substantial portion of these Funds has been earmarked to support the IACD's human development programs.

### **B. Other specific funds**

The IACD continued administering the specific funds of Argentina (a balance of \$1.0 million as of 12/31/02) and Mexico (\$2.8 million as of 12/31/02), to promote external cooperation resources from these countries. It provided support with the planning and execution of projects carried out in cooperation with the OAS-IDB White Helmets Commission (\$1.5 million value of the Agreement) and with the IACD-SOPTRAVI housing project in Honduras (\$6.0 value of the agreement).

The IACD is also administering Specific Funds for Member Governments to facilitate the execution of projects. In all these cases, the IACD is only responsible for the financial administration of the funds. Technical execution of the projects is the exclusively responsibility of the Member Governments. These projects are: the IACD-MINEDUC Literacy Project in Guatemala; the IACD-CONACYT Regional Metrology Project in El Salvador; and the IACD PROPRIVAT Privatization Program in Panama. The IACD also has an agreement with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture to provide financial management services for execution of the project on "Sustainable Development of Fragile Ecological Zones in the Trifinio Region" in El Salvador. The IACD also administers other specific or horizontal cooperation funds from Uruguay, Peru, Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Israel and Spain, totaling approximately US\$250,000.

### **C. The Trust for the Americas**

The Trust is a 501c3 foundation affiliated with the IACD. Its mandate is the mobilization of financial resources through partnerships with the private sector and other nonprofit entities. During the first half of 2002, the Trust continued to expand its principal existing programs and its cooperation agreements in two areas: transparency and connectivity.

In the area of connectivity the Trust continued using its Net Corps Americas volunteers as its primary mechanism to deliver communication and information technology training. More specifically, during the period under review, Net Corps sent out 18 volunteers to projects in Central America, the Caribbean and the Andean Region: 8 to tourism-related microenterprises in the Caribbean, in cooperation with the Small Tourism Enterprises Program (STEP); 9 to Central America in the context of its “Job Readiness and Technology Training” initiative for people with disabilities, and one to Colombia as part of the “Women Leaders in Technology” program.

As for transparency and good governance, in April 2002 the Trust, working in partnership with the Government of Mexico, organized the Conference on *México Contra la Corrupción*, which was broadcast via television throughout the Hemisphere. This event was the third in a series of conferences sponsored by the Trust as part of its efforts to increase public awareness of the problems that corruption causes in the economies of the Hemisphere. The conference was a great success and was seen by some 10,000 viewers; more than 1,000,000 people participated via the Internet.

Preparations are also underway for the establishment of the first *TRUST/OAS Award for Corporate Social Responsibility in the Americas*, which will be presented on January 31, 2003, at the “Gala for the Americas.” The event, to be held at the Biltmore Hotel in Miami, will be carried out in partnership with the Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America (AACCLA) which is holding its winter meeting in Miami that same week. The award by the Trust/OAS will recognize a company whose leadership has provided low-income communities with an avenue out of poverty and whose actions can serve as a model to facilitate socially responsible practices and actions by other corporations.

The Trust program received a grant for a second year from the United States Department of Labor, in the amount of US\$542,300.00.