Institute for Connectivity in the Americas

NETwork

In this edition:

Prime Minister of Canada Witnesses signing of E-Campus Americas Project; ICA Commits CDN$300,000

In Mexico, on February 27, 2003, Prime Minister of Canada Jean Chrétien and Mexican President Vicente Fox witnessed the signing of a letter of intent between the Canadian Centre for Management Development (CCMD) and the Mexican Ministry of Comptrollership and Administrative Development (SECODAM). The goal of this e-Learning initiative, called "E-Campus Americas" is to modernize and connect the public service through an exchange of best practices. ICA has committed $300,000 to the project, and is pleased to be able to broker Canadian experience to the South and adapt it for local needs. For more information see:

http://pm.gc.ca/default.asp?Language=E&Page=newsroom&Sub=NewsReleases&Doc=canmexicobilateral.20030227_e.htm

"Virtual Parliament" Online Chat Launched to Promote Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue

February 20/21, over 87 parliamentarians from 19 countries met in Panama City to discuss issues on the hemispheric agenda. The Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) is a major supporter of Foro Interparlamentario de las Américas' (FIPA) connectivity efforts, having partnered with Bellanet and the Parliamentary Centre to create FIPA's "Virtual Parliament". This project focuses on meeting the information and communication needs of the Foro Interparlamentario de las Américas (FIPA). The first online chat for the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas'

(FIPA) Executive Committee took place on January 29, 2003. Read the Press release at http://www.icamericas.net/news_FIPA.html.

Regional Satellite Study Underway to Negotiate a Bulk Deal with Satellite Providers

ICA has undertaken a market analysis of available Satellite Service Providers to be completed by April 2003. The goal is to identify satellite connectivity options for Latin America and the Caribbean, and make recommendations towards negotiating a comprehensive agreement with Satellite Providers. A regional satellite agreement would help achieve economies of scale, resulting in lower prices, and improved opportunities for regional telecenters and other small rural institutions.

Focus on Caribbean: ICA Announces Funding for Three ICT for Development Projects

- **Caribbean Distance Education Network (CDEN):** ICA sends a consultant from the College of the North Atlantic, Newfoundland, to participate in a needs assessment study for a Caribbean Distance Education Network (CDEN). The project is being developed in collaboration with the World Bank and the OAS.
- **Strategic Regional Online Collaboration:** To follow-up on the recommendations of the ICA/ITU Caribbean ICT Roundtable, ICA has partnered with Bellanet to launch six thematic virtual discussion groups. Over 100 people are signed up and actively exchanging ideas. The goal is to identify potential regional projects, and provide collective input to upcoming international events.
- **Development of an ICT Incubator in the Caribbean - CBET:** Stemming from recent consultations, in conjunction with the Caribbean Development Bank, ICA will provide funding for the development of an ICT small enterprise incubation and micro enterprise facility for the Caribbean region.

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D. Barbour
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Connecting People

Connecting Ideas

Connecting the Americas

ICA Partners to Host Event Supporting Indigenous Peoples' Connectivity in the Americas
March 24-26, in Ottawa, in collaboration with DFAIT, CIDA, and Industry Canada, ICA will host the "Connecting Aboriginal Communities Across the Hemisphere" Workshop, as part of the 2nd Annual National Connecting Aboriginal Canadians Forum. An Online Discussion Group will be made available to explore the challenges, opportunities, and possible connectivity strategies for aboriginal people in the Americas to fully access and benefit from the appropriate uses of information and communication technologies (ICTs). Webcast will also be available to expand the reach of the event. For more information go to www.ICAmericas.net or http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/abdt/interface/cacwebsite2.nsf/engdoc/0.html

ICA Supports Regional Telecentre Network in Latin America, Telecentre Resources Available Online
The Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) has announced its support for phase two of the 'Digital Inclusion: Telecentre Network in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)' project. Phase one of the project (1999 - 2001), sponsored the creation of the *Somos@Telecentros* Network (S@T), a regional forum grouping more than 800 members and 2,600 registered telecentres in LAC. "If telecentres are to make their mission more effective they need to organize themselves in overlapping national, regional and international networks," ...read more: http://www.ICAmericas.net/News_somos.html

To assist the S@T network, a number of resources were produced. *"Telecentres... for What?"*, covers the basic principles for community telecentres, sustainability options, lessons learned, and future challenges. Available in English and Spanish at http://tele-centros.org/tcparaque/. A more in-depth study, *"State of the Art of Telecentres in the LAC region"*, is available in Spanish, at http://www.tele-centros.org/estarte/ .

Stockholm Challenge – Awards for Innovative IT Projects
The Stockholm Challenge is an international awards programme for pioneering projects using IT in innovative ways. Latin American projects have for many years been underrepresented in the Stockholm Challenge. The competition is open to private, public and academic contestants. Projects compete in six categories, in areas where IT has great influence on people's lives, culture, education, environment, health, e-government and e-business. Read more about Stockholm Challenge at www.challenge.stockholm.se

Upcoming events – get involved!
- March 11-13: Ben Petrazzini represents ICA at 2003 TechFunders Summit, in San Diego, USA www.techfunders.org
- March 21: Randy Zadra, ICA's Managing Director, and Maureen O'Neil, President of IDRC, will speak on the e-governance panel preceding the IDB annual meeting, in Milan, Italy. www.iadb.org
- March 24-26: Connectivity for Indigenous Peoples in the Americas Event, in collaboration with DFAIT, CIDA, INAC, and IC. Ottawa, Canada. www.ICAmericas.net
- March 24-25: IV IBEROAMERICAN Conference on Digital Cities, Monterrey (Mexico) www.iberomunicipios.org
- April 9: Latin American Monetary and Fiscal Policy Tele-learning event, with Carleton University and the GDLN of the World Bank, Multiple Countries involved.
- April 9-11: Second Regional Meeting of Telecentres from Latin America and the Caribbean, Quito, Ecuador. http://www.tele-centros.org/comunidad/encuentros/regionalII/
- May 14-16: ICTs in action: Strategies for Social Development in Central America (in partnership with the OAS, the AED, the IDB and the Development Gateway), Miami, USA. www.ICAmericas.net

A full list of projects, case studies and events can be found on our website at www.ICAmericas.net. If you would like to submit a proposal to ICA, please follow the guidelines on the website, under projects. Comments or questions can be directed to ica@ICAmericas.net.

ABOUT ICA
The Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) promotes the implementation of innovative uses of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Institute strives to connect the Americas by supporting knowledge creation and capacity building, actively enabling partnerships, and co-funding projects. As one of Canada's contributions to the 2001 Summit of the Americas, ICA was created and provided seed funding to build on the success and experience of the Connecting Canadians Strategy and Canada's international development and ICT programs.

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