

JUSTICE STUDIES OF THE AMERICAS
TRIMESTRAL REPORT
April - June 2.001

The following report contents the Justice Studies Center of the Americas main activities and its financial situation between April to June 2001. These corresponds to the execution of the project with USAID financing N° LAG-G-00-00-00035-00.

I. ACTIVITIES.

1. Center Installation Process

- a) A person entrusted of computer science, a journalist and entrusted of publications and a secretary/translator were hired.
- b) Complementary Technological equipment was acquired, necessary for the Center functioning.
- c) All regional Public Prosecutors and the Judiciaries were formally invited to sign a joint work agreement with JSCA.
- d) Many contacts and actions had been carried out in order to expand the Center financing, as wel in Chile as abroad. During this period, Canadian Government financial support was obtained.

2. JSCA difusión and events participation.

JSCA has had an active participation in the development of many events that have made possible dissemination about the JSCA, and have facilitated to spread its view about the judicial topics. These event are:

- Seminal about Independence and Judicial Responsibility among the Judiciales of the U.S. and México, organized by the University of Texas, Austin. Austin, May 3rd to 5th, 2001.
- Seminar “Nuevos Enfoques para Atender la Demanda por Justicia”, organized by the World Bank an CIDE of Mexico, May 10th to 12th, 2001. During this seminal the Executive Director exponed a paper about “Opciones de Política Pública para Acercar Oferta y Demanda por Justicia Civil y Comercial”.
- VI Supreme Courts Presidents Summit. Tenerife, May 23rd to 25th, 2001.
- XXI OAS General Assembly. Costa Rica, June 3rd to 7th, 2001.

During this period, new JSCA dissemination material was prepared. We continue also working at the Center’s databse. As in the past trimestrial, the meeting with Embassies continued and many contacts were made during the visit to regional countries.

3. Activities performed in order to get JSCA objectives.

3.1. Activities to facilitate the human resources improvement

The Center is organizing an intensive workshop, 60 hours long, on Judicial Reform Instruments, directed to people responsible in the design and implementation of public policy in the area. This workshop will be performed during January in Santiago, Chile. The teaching staff will be formed by professors from Germany, Argentina, Canada, Spain, United States, Chile, England, Italy and Venezuela. The idea is to get the workshop autorinanced.

We continued developing a judicial public policies post degree program. For this reason, we kept contacts with Universities and elaborating proposals. Nevertheless, as this program is very complex, it will take some more time to be carried out.

3.2. Activities to make the information exchange and other forms of technical cooperation easier.

- a) We have intensively worked in the JSCA web site, which is now available at (www.cejamericas.org), and will be available in English very soon. This has required to work in its design and its computer aspects as well as in the collection of information that will feed it.
- b) Conversations with the World Bank have continued in order to make the transfer to us of the Inter American Justice Network of non governmental organizations, that they impulse.
- c) We performed a Project for the obtention of homogeneous statistics about justice sector. This project was presented for its joint financing to Inter American Development Bank.
- d) The first "Judicial Systems Magazine" issue was published, the contacts for the creation of a Editorial Board and the 2nd issue work was started. This 2nd issue will be dedicated to Alternative Systems for Dispute Resolution.
- e) The first issue of the JSCA monthly bulletin was created and sent to the JSCA mailing list.

3.3. Activities to facilitate the support to the reform processes and modernization of the regional judicial systems.

- a) Studies:

According to this Project, there was the first international meeting. To it attended people from the institutions that will collaborate in its execution as from Argentina (Córdoba), Chile, Costa Rica and Paraguay. During this meeting the objectives and general contents were established and some logistical decisions were made.

Then, the work has been focused in the elaboration of demonstration and specification tools.

b) Technical Assistance:

The Center has defined a technical assistance policy: the kind of activities that can be offered, the services that can be provided, and the conditions for both. This policy is now being diffused among the countries and financing agencies.