III IBERO-AMERICAN MEETING OF NATIONAL DRUG OBSERVATORIES

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA
DECEMBER 11 TO 15, 2006

CI CAD/ OAS
XLI Regular Session

III Ibero-American Meeting of National Drug Observatories

Cartagena, Colombia,
December 11 to 15, 2006
MEETINGS OF THE OBSERVATORIES

EVERY TWO YEARS, IN THE SUBREGIONS BELOW:

- 2004, 2006 - North, Central, and South America (including Dominican Republic)
- 2005, 2007 (September?) - the Caribbean

Translation of caption below: Santo Domingo Cloister

CLAUSTRO DE SANTO DOMINGO
MEETING HELD IN TRAINING CENTER OF THE SPANISH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY

SPONSORED BY:

- NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG PLAN OF SPAIN
- NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE (NIDA) (UNITED STATES)
- INTER-AMERICAN OBSERVATORY ON DRUGS (OID) OF CICAD/OAS

Translation of caption below:  III Ibero-American Meeting of National Drug Observatories, Cartagena, Colombia, December 11 to 15, 2006
57 PROFESSIONALS FROM:

- Drug observatories of: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela
- Latin American universities
- NIDA (USA)
- National Hispanic Science Network (NHSN)
- National Plan of Spain
- Health Canada
MAIN ACTIVITIES

- A review of the status of drug use in the region
- Examination of the relationship of national drug observatories (NDOs) with demand reduction programs and the MEM
- Gaining awareness of the experiences of some countries of:
  - Prevention program evaluation (Chile)
  - Epidemiological Surveillance System (Mexico)
Gaining awareness of NIDA research programs and their potential use by countries of the region

Gaining awareness of the programs of the NHSN and its future ties with universities in countries of the region

Gaining awareness of experiences of the impact of research on policy formulation [NIDA (USA)]

Gaining awareness of drug problems in Europe, particularly Spain

Gaining awareness of the status of the UNODC/CICAD subregional drug information and research project in countries of South America

The role of national observatories in the supply control area: evaluation of the effectiveness of drug supply reduction actions: the cases of Chile, Mexico, and Colombia

Gaining of programs in order to address problems of inhalant use in Brazil

Other …
MAIN FINDINGS

- **ALCOHOL**: The most widely used drug. A serious and growing problem among youth.
- This should be viewed as a problem of greater relevance:
  - Responsible for high youth mortality rates
  - Evident association with illicit drug use
  - Significant “causal” relationship between the use of alcohol and of illicit drugs
  - Accounts for a significant proportion of treatment center care
  - High social and economic cost

MAIN FINDINGS

- Drug use realities vary widely from country to country:
  - High prevalence of use in some countries
  - Certain drugs predominate
  - High prevalence of multi-drug use in some countries

- In countries with low prevalence of illicit drug use, there may be high prevalence of licit drug use (non-prescribed tranquilizers and stimulants).
MAIN FINDINGS

- Insufficient information and research to provide a complete overview of the dynamics of the problem

- NDO: incorporate information and research elements for more in-depth analysis and more precise interpretation

- NDO: strategic alliances with research institutions and universities

MAIN FINDINGS

- National observatories must become reference points for drug information and research for our societies.

- Territorial drug observatories (intermediate or municipal level) must be capable of focusing their examination more precisely on the drug reality and on problems within their territorial sphere.
At the meeting, the Drug Researchers’ Network was established.

Nine researchers, NIDA, the Hispanic Network, and the OID participated.

Description of REDLA
A group of academic researchers who share an interest in conducting research on drugs that refers to the Latin American context.
REDLA’s mission
To reduce, through scientific research, the societal burden drugs impose

General objective
To conduct research on drugs through contact among academic researchers in order to address national and regional needs in Latin America and generate corresponding scientifically-based practices and policies

RESEARCHERS’ NETWORK: Specific Objectives

1. To evaluate epidemiological research on drugs
2. To conduct secondary analyses of available epidemiological databases
3. To develop an epidemiological early warning system
RESEARCHERS’ NETWORK:
Specific Objectives

4. To develop a proposal for collaboration between REDLA and U.S. researchers

5. To strengthen researcher training

6. To develop REDLA/NHSN research projects

Translation of caption below: Traditional carriage ride