



## ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

cicad

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Washington, DC

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### III IBERO-AMERICAN MEETING OF NATIONAL DRUG OBSERVATORIES

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA  
DECEMBER 11 TO 15, 2006

GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

## CICAD/OAS XLI Regular Session



### III Ibero-American Meeting of National Drug Observatories

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## 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



III ENCUENTRO IBEROAMERICANO DE OBSERVATORIOS NACIONALES DE DROGAS  
CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, DICIEMBRE 11 AL 15 DE 2006

## PARTICIPANTS:

### 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

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## 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)

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

- 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

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

- 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.



## RESEARCHERS' NETWORK (REDLA)

- 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.

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



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## RESEARCHERS' NETWORK

- 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



PASEO TÍPICO EN COCHE