



Report of activities of CIESS from January to June 2007

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Conferencia Interamericana de Seguridad Social



**Centro Interamericano de
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Mexico, D. F., July 24 2007.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the CIESS
Mr. Juan Molinar Horcasitas

Members of the Board of Directors

On the occasion of the extraordinary meeting of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Center for social Security Studies (CIESS), and in compliance with the statutory norms, the Directorship of the CIESS will inform on the activities performed from January through June of the current year.

I) DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

As the members of the Board know, the 2007 academic program was approved by that Board in the meeting held last October in Cancun, Mexico. For this reason, the Director will now inform of the academic activities in our see and, later on, he will refer to those held in other countries.

A) Activities held in headquarters

Course “Administration of health services”. Developed from March 12 through the 16th, this academic activity had the purpose of providing a frame of reference for the study of the administrative process of the institutions that offer health services, from a theoretical and from a practical perspective, with the purpose of improving

their performance and satisfying the needs for health care, starting from an ethical presentation of its administration. Forty six officials from Honduras and Mexico participated. The teaching work was entrusted to specialists of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), of the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico (UAEM), of the Autonomous Metropolitan University (UAM-Mexico), of the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), of the Ministry of Health (Mexico), of private consultants and of the CIESS.

Semi-presence course “Administration competences in social securities”. This activity was carried out with the purpose of offering methodological elements to design a plan for the development of administration competences integrated to the strategic development of social security programs and services. In its at-a-distance modality, it was developed from April 16 through June 17, and its presence phase in the see of the CIESS from June 18 through the 20th. This phase included a video conference in which Dr. Charles Godue, head of the Human Resources of the PHO/WHO participated from the see of that Organization. The academic coordination was entrusted to the CIESS and the tutoring task to specialists of the National University of La Plata (Argentinean Republic), the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and private consultants.

This course had eighty two participants, fourteen of which were from institutions of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Mexico Peru and Uruguay. The remaining sixty eight participants were officials of the Social Security Fund (CSS) of Panama. In consideration of the important number of participants from the above mentioned Panamanian institution, and with the purpose of avoiding that this institution could incur in excessive expenses for the transportation of their participants to the see of the Center, the CIESS carried out in the city of Panama, on July 2 and 3, a presence session specifically to allow said participants to present their final papers.

Course “Social protection, health policies and equity (emphasis in maternal-infantile population)”. The academic treatment of this subject has been a concern since years ago on the part of the CIESS and of the Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PHO/WHO), to such extent that it is considered, in the text of the General Technical Cooperation Agreement signed between both organizations in 2004, as one of the priority matters to be taken care of jointly. As the members of the Board well know, this subject is at present part of the agenda of the social policy of the countries of the region, and is reflected in the Development Objectives for the Millenium (ODM).

In this manner, the CIESS and the PHO/WHO held this course from April 23 through the 27th, with the objective of analyzing mechanisms that will permit reducing the exclusion from health in the maternal and infantile population, as well as schemes and options of social protection in health that will improve equity of access, utilization and results in health, with the purpose of strengthening the capacities of the institutions committed to the care of that population. As has been traditional in this type of activities, the number and hierarchy of the participants was highly satisfactory. Fifty one officials participated from different institutions of Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay. The subjects were presented by outstanding specialists on the matter, from the Ministry of Health of Chile, Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS), Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL) Chile see, Autonomous University of the State of Morelos (UAEM), Ministry of health (Mexico), representatives of the PHO/WHO in Washington, Haiti, Mexico and Uruguay, as well as from the CIESS.

For our Studies Center is highly significant, for example, the presence in the course referred to above, of Dr. Nicanor Alberto Jove Aparicio, Executive Director General

of the National Health Insurance Institute (INSES) of Bolivia and member of this Board of Directors, and of other hierarchs of the Bolivian social security, as well as of directors of the Social Prevision Institute for Professionals in Law of Honduras, the Vice-Minister of Public Health and Social Well Being of Paraguay and of a numerous delegation from the Republic of Haiti. In its academic aspect, it is satisfactory to say that this Workshop-Course achieved, as a result of the CIESS-PHO/WHO link, a valuable symmetry among institutions of the health sector, social security and superior education centers. With respect to its results we can repeat part of what Dr. Carl Murat Cantave of Haiti said in the words he addressed during the closing ceremony: “This exchange was a colossal and richening experience that gave us the opportunity to make an X-ray of the situation of health in several countries, to know the models that have been developed and to observe the advancements operated throughout the years; it also brought us up to date in the strategies developed for its achievement”. Finally, we mention that a good part of the material of this course was incorporated in the *web site* of the PHO/WHO.

Seminar “Fringe Benefits and social services in social security”. With the objective of examining the situation prevailing for the furnishing of social services and other economic assignments vis-à-vis cultural, economic, demographic and social changes, this seminar was held from May 14 through the 18th. For the purpose of learning the experience of one of the principal countries related to this subject, The Executive Director of the Corporation for the Development of Social Security CODESS) of Colombia participated who, together with professors of the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), the Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PHO/WHO) and the CIESS itself, analyzed the importance of such benefits in the design of social security policies and actions under an integral and solidary approach. Twenty six officials from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru and the Dominican Republic participated in this seminar.

Diploma Course “Pension systems”. According to the replies to the academic survey that were the basis for the structure of the 2007 program, this activity was developed in the diploma course modality from May 28 through June 8 with the purpose of undertaking more punctually the analysis of this subject, highly demanded for its study by the institutions. This new version had the traditional and valuable co-sponsorship of the Research, Study and Development Social Security Corporation (CIEDESS) of Chile. Among other aspects, a panorama was presented of the pension policy implemented during the last decades in different countries of the continent, and its incidence in the reform processes that are being developed within an economic, financial and demographic environment. For the purpose of learning of other experiences outside our region, we had two exponents from the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry of Spain, who exposed realities both the European Union and Spain. We also had professors of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), the Colegio de Mexico (COLMEX), the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (ITAM) and of the co-sponsoring institutions. On that occasion twenty seven officials participated from the Argentinean Republic, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Peru. The level of participation may be highlighted mentioning, just as an example, the attendance of officials with authority in the taking of decisions in the National Social Security Administration (Argentina), of the Pensions Superintendence of El Salvador and of the Office of Welfare Normalization of Peru, an institution of recent affiliation to our Organization. We also had the attendance of personnel of the Central Bank of Honduras, an organization that, as far as we know, has expressed its interest in affiliating.

It is very satisfactory to inform the members of the Board that, during the first semester, the number of participants in our courses held in our see was twice the number in the same period of the previous year. Last year we mentioned that 159

officials participated in six activities, which was the equivalent of twenty six students per course. This year, we have received 232 students in five activities, which represents the presence of forty six students per course.

B) Activities outside headquarters

Due to circumstances beyond the control of the CIESS, some of the activities that had been scheduled for the first semester were cancelled or transferred to the second semester by the co-sponsoring institutions. We present below a detail of the activities developed during the period covered by this report.

Workshop Seminar “Marketing in health”. Developed in the city of Panama jointly with the Social Security Fund of that country, this activity was held from March 26 through the 30th. It was aimed at medical directors, managers and supervisors of that Institution. Its purpose was to reinforce the ideas of marketing in health, with the purpose of projecting promotion and prevention actions and strategies in the population. The number of attendants was forty Panamanian officials. The teaching task was entrusted to specialists of the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), Autonomous “Juarez” University of Tabasco (Mexico) and of the CIESS itself.

We are pleased to inform that the results shown by the evaluation processes both of the activities held in our see and of those held outside our see, have been very satisfactory, as the general average was 9.1 over a maximum possible of 10. For the present year, the format of the evaluation form was modified to facilitate its completion and information processing. Among the sections evaluated are the pertinence of the academic activity, usefulness of the thematic contents, proficiency

and knowledge of the exponents, achievement of the academic objectives, as well as aspects concerning administrative and support services.

C) Masters

Master in “Administration of health services”. For eleven consecutive years, the CIESS, jointly with the Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla (BUAP), carries out this specialization activity in its see. As a result of the relationship of the CIESS with Argentinean institutions linked to the subject matter of said master, it has been possible to put into practice an important exchange of specialists and participants during several months. In this manner, we have had professors from that country throughout the master and, also, it has been possible that some of the participants visit the sees both of the National University of La Plata and of the ISALUD Foundation, which has enhanced the international sense of the master.

In addition to the above, within the academic links with the BUAP, we are analyzing the possibility of scheduling in the near future a master in health and safety on the job.

At-a-distance in line “Administration of social security”. According to what was planned since this academic activity was structured together with the Post-Grade Course in Administration Science Program of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), the CIESS, on the one hand, developed those modules inherent to its competence. On the other hand, it started a diffusion at an international level that resulted in an important response on the part of several institutions of the continent. At present, due to circumstances outside the control of our Center, the start of the Master has been postponed. The authorities of the

UNAM have expressed their confidence that during the coming weeks the activities inherent to this Master will start.

Other activities in headquarters and in the at-a-distance modality;

At a distance course “Introduction to the economy of health services” (July 23 through October 5). This academic activity, according to its schedule, started yesterday. Due to its teaching modality, we are still in a condition to receive some candidacies for a reasonable space.

Course “Social security in globalization: work market and informality (employment, family and the State)” (August 20 through the 29th). Will have participants from the Scholarships Program of the OEA.

XIV Workshop course “Health legislation: regulations within the frame of global security in health”. (September 3 through the 7th). Will have the traditional co-sponsorship of the Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PHO/WHO).

At-a-distance course “Introduction to actuary for social security” (September 10 through November 30). Will have participants from the Scholarships Program of the OEA.

Diploma course “Social protection for elder persons: pensions, health and social benefits”. (September 17 through October 5). Will have participants from the Scholarships Program of the OEA, as well as a specialist from the Labor and social Affairs Ministry of Spain.

Diploma course “Safety and health on the job”. (October 15 through the 26th). Will have a specialist from the Labor and social Affairs Ministry of Spain.

With respect to the activities outside our see, we wish to inform that we started yesterday in San Jose, Costa Rica, the course relative to “Operative audit”, held jointly with the Social Security Fund of Costa Rica, on which we will inform during the next meeting of the Board, because it is included in the second semester. We will do the same in the case of those activities of this nature that are implemented later on. We will also report in that meeting with respect to the conclusion of the Course “Development of managerial skills” which is being held since September 2006 in the *e-learning* modality, jointly with the Social Security Research, Study and Development Corporation of Chile (CIEDES) .

Participation in other activities of an academic nature

By express invitation, the CIESS continues participating in different activities of an academic nature both in Mexico and in other countries. On this occasion we will inform only of some of those activities. As a general rule, in this type of activities, the representatives of the CIESS have presented conferences or dissertations.

Updating Workshop in Social Security (January 16 and 17). The CIESS organized this workshop at the invitation received from the Social Security Commission of the Chamber of Deputies of the LX Legislature of the Congress of the Union of Mexico. This activity, of an eminently academic nature, was held at the see of the above mentioned Congress and gathered a numerous and select audience made up, mainly, by the members of the Commission, members of the parliament, technical secretaries and consultants of other commissions interested, academic personnel of different universities and representatives of institutions related to social security in

Mexico. The opening ceremony had the presence of the parliamentary coordinators of the three principal political parties of Mexico, of the above mentioned social Security Commission and of the reporting Director, who presented the inauguration conference “Panorama of social security in Latin America”. During the course of the event, we also had the participation of renown specialists of the National Autonomous University of Mexico; Mexican Social Security Law Academy; National Competence Commission; Social Security Analysis and Studies Center; National Social Security Workers Union, represented by its Secretary JGeneral, and Economic Commission for Latin America, Chile see. Additionally, on the part of the CIESS presentations were made by the General Academic Coordinator, Dr. Armando Ruezga Barba, as well as by Dr. Nelly Aguilera Aburto, Actuary Carlos Contreras Cruz and the sociologist Fernando Errandonea Diaz, Research Coordinator and investigators of said area, respectively.

It is satisfactory to report what the President of the Commission said, in the sense of asserting that the CIESS had been entrusted with the organization of this Workshop in consideration of the success achieved in the International Seminar on “Pension systems: challenges and opportunities”, developed at the end of 2003 with the previous Legislature.

Conference “Quality of Education in Latin America (February 2 and 3). The Research Coordinator, Dr. Nelly Aguilera Aburto and the Academic Coordinator, Professor Martin Gomez Silva, attended this conference summoned by the CISS, the Universidad Iberoamericana (UIA) and the Sustainable Development and Social Equity Research Institute. This forum, held at the see of the UIA in Mexico, gathered an important number of officials from organizations such as the World Bank and the Bank for Inter-American Development, as well as several ministries, universities and superior education centers from Mexico, Italy, Venezuela, Argentina, Colombia, the United States of America, Brazil and Singapore. The

presentation and the initial comments were made by the Secretary General of the CISS, Dr. Gabriel Martinez.

XVII National Nurses Congress (February 14 through the 17th). With the purpose of analyzing the trends and challenges of nursing in the socio-political and health sceneries, this congress was held in Sonora, Mexico. More than two hundred professionals from different Colleges and Associations of Nurses from Colombia and different states of the Mexican Republic were present. On the part of the CIESS, Professor Raquel Abrantes Pego attended as speaker with the topic “Decade of human resources in health: challenges for nursing”. In like manner, the above mentioned official participated in the panel “Present and future sceneries in the administration actions of nurses in the world”.

Ninth Ordinary Session of the Pensions Council (March 7). With the purpose of analyzing the competitive schemes of the administrators of retirement funds, this event was held with the attendance of more than forty participants from, among other institutions, the National Commission of the Retirement Savings System (CONSAR) and of the Mexican Association of Retirement Funds Administration (AMAFORE). On that occasion, Dr. Nelly Aguilera Aburto, Research Coordinator, presented the report “To improve competence in the market of the AFORES”. This activity was summoned by the National Commission for the Protection and Defense of the Users of Financial Services (CONDUSEF) whose Pensions Council has, among its functions, to make recommendations to the different regulators and to take actions in its ambit of competence.

Meetings held with Canadian authorities in Toronto. In the last meeting of the Board of Directors, we informed about the meetings held by the Director of the Center in the city of Toronto (September 18 through the 20th) with authorities of the Industrial Accident Prevention Association (IAPA) and of the International

Association of Labor Inspectors (IALI), with the purpose of agreeing upon the work agendas of the meetings “Health and Social Security Canada 2007” and “Conference of the International Association of Labor Inspectors” scheduled to be held in that city in 2007. This, in consideration of the capacity of the CIESS as member of the organizing committee of these activities.

With the purpose of defining the academic aspects and trying to have the participation on the part of the institutions affiliated to the CISS in these events, through more favorable criteria, other meetings were held in Toronto on January 17, 18, 19 where, in addition to officials of the Canadian institutions mentioned before, authorities of the Labor Ministry (MOL) of the Province of Ontario, of the Department of Human Resources and Social Development of the government of Canada and of the International Labor Organization (ILO) participated. As a result of these conversations, it was possible to obtain, among other benefits, the exemption of payment of the inscription in both conferences for officials of institutions affiliated to the CISS, which represented a considerable saving for each participant.

In this manner, the CIESS carried out an important diffusion of these conferences among our affiliated institutions, as it considered that they represented an opportunity to know the reality of many countries on the matter. We make below a brief outline of the development of the conferences:

Conference “Health and Social Security Canada 2007” (April 16 through the 18th). Held within the frame of the nineteenth anniversary of the IAPA, this Conference included basically aspects related to four areas: healthy places of work; principal health and safety practices; achievements in topics of leadership and innovations in development resulting from research.

On the other hand, the Conference held from the 18th focused the sessions at the treatment of the innovations and challenges to perform Universidad Nacional de La Plata (Argentina) the inspection of work in the changing labor world. In like manner, it examined the performance and the consolidation of the inspection of work in economic environments developed and in transition.

These activities had the presence of specialists such as the Labor Minister and the Deputy Labor Vice-Minister of Ontario, the Chairman of the IALI, officials of the ILO and of institutions of different continents. On the part of our Organization, we sponsored the attendance of an international committee integrated by thirteen participants from eight countries, including some belonging to the English speaking Caribbean region. Among them we can mention that the Labor Risks Superintendent of the Argentinean Republic and the Labor and social Security Under-Inspector of Uruguay participated in a capacity as professors. On that occasion, the Secretary General of the CISS, Dr. Gabriel Martinez was present, as well as the official of the CIESS, Mr. Ricardo Irra Fernandez.

XX Technical Meeting of the American Commission for Elder Adults (April 26 and 27). Summoned by the Secretariat General of the CISS and the Commission itself, this meeting was held at the facilities of our Organization. The CIESS collaborated, together with the summoning organs, in the structuring of the program of this meeting and, also, proposing the participation of some exponents. It particularly propitiated a videoconference from Washington, which was entrusted to Dr. Enrique Vega, specialist on the matter of the PHO/WHO. The reporting Director participated in the conclusions table.

Meeting/Workshop “The health of elder adults in Latin America” (Havana, May 10 through the 12th). The CIESS and the Pan-American Health Organization /World Health Organization (PHO/WHO) continue to be closely linked in the academic

treatment of activities relating to elder adults. For this reason, Professor Raquel Abrantes Pego, Academic Coordinator of the Center, participated in this activity “The commitments of Madrid five years later”, sponsored by the PHO/WHO through its Aging and Health Program. As can be deduced from the name of the meeting, it included an evaluation, among other aspects, of how the health systems are facing the commitments and the recommendations emanating from the International Plan of Action for Aging, Madrid 2002. In like manner, the principal barriers and opportunities that have been found in this effort were discussed and, additionally, a scientific workshop was developed on the opportunities that primary care can offer to cover the needs for health of elder adults in the Latin American context; the foregoing considering that the above mentioned Plan of Action was supported on the occasion of the inter-governmental Conference on “Aging: towards a regional strategy for the implementation of the Madrid Plan in Latin America and the Caribbean”, held in Chile in 2003.

Previously, on May 9, the above mentioned Professor Abrantes Pego met with specialists of the PHO/WHO —and of the Latin American Medicine Academy for Elder Adults (ALMA) an institution created with the support of the PHO/WHO for training on the matter of geriatrics and public health in the region— in order to follow up the educational program related to the specialization in “Management of health programs and services for elder adults”, an activity that the CIESS and the PHO/WHO are structuring. Among the achievements of this meeting, were the agreements regarding the pedagogic counseling of the National Public Health School of Cuba and other important public health schools of the region, the utilization of the *virtual campus* of the PHO/WHO, where the CIESS also participates, to include certain modules under the at-a-distance modality, among other aspects.

VI National Meeting and IV International Meeting of the Mexican Association of Health Institutions Administrators (May 16 through the 18th). This meeting, held in Mexico City, was aimed basically at administrators of health institutions, with an audience of more than one hundred persons. On the part of he CIESS, Dr. Nelly Aguilera Aburto, Research Coordinator, presented the conference “Successful international experiences”.

In like manner, the above mentioned Dr. Aguilera Aburto participated on May 22 in the debate table on “The Unemployment Insurance in Mexico”, summoned by the television program Public Opinion. This event had as an objective to debate on the demand and viability of establishing the unemployment insurance in Mexico. In addition to Dr. Aguilera, other specialists of renown prestige participated in the debate table.

Course “Generating business value from IT: achieving both agility and current performance” (June 11 through the 15th). This activity, developed in Boston USA, was organized by the Center for Information Systems Research, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), a leader institution at an international level due to its renown academic prestige. Considering that the topics of this course would have a favorable incidence in some of the projects of our Organization, among them the Report on Social Security in America 2008, Dr. Nelly Aguilera Aburto, Research Coordinator, attended.

XII Latin American Meeting on At-a-Distance Superior Education “*The quality of at-a-distance superior education in the Euro-Latin-American ambit: perspectives, policies and strategies*”. (June 13 through the 15th). Among the priorities of this meeting, held in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, was the consideration of the development of a space that will link this academic modality with projects in operation in the Latin American ambit and of the possible cooperation mechanisms

as necessary conditions to increment the quality of at-a-distance education. The axes of this meeting were concentrated basically in the following thematic lines: transnational superior education spaces, institutional strategies to potentiate the quality of at-a-distance education and institutional strengthening. This activity was organized by the Latin America At-a-Distance Superior Education Association (AIESAD). On the part of the CIESS, Professor Martin Gomez Silva, Academic Coordinator participated, in consideration of the position of the Center as full right member of the Association. On this occasion, the representation of the CIESS highlighted the willingness to collaborate with the AIESAD to structure a videoconference net on social security, so that the institutions of our Conference that do not have this technology may, eventually, use the videoconference rooms of at-a-distance universities.

Colloquium on “The challenges of social security in Mexico” (June 19). With the purpose of analyzing the sceneries and the future of social security in Mexico, the Social Security Institute of the State of Mexico and Municipalities (ISSEMYM), developed this forum in its see of the city of Toluca. It had the attendance of more than two hundred officials of that institution, among them the complete directive group. The participation of the Director of the ISSEMYM in the dissertations and discussion tables, reveals the importance of the event. In representation of the CIESS, the General Academic Coordinator, Dr. Antonio Ruezga Barba and the official, Actuary Carlos Contreras Cruz, attended.

Some tasks performed by the Directorship of the CIESS

Last January 22, the Director of the CIESS met with the Chairman of the CISS and of the Board of Directors of the CIESS, Professor Juan Molinar Horasitas, who had recently assumed his high responsibility as head of the Mexican Social Security

Institute and of the CISS. On that occasion, the above mentioned Chairman was informed on the academic activity scheduled by the Center for the year 2007, including some aspects related to the cooperation links foreseen to those effects. Also, topics inherent to the research and publications programs were discussed, as well as the relationship that the Mexican Social Security Institute maintains with our Organization. The undersigned Director, on behalf of the personnel of the CIESS and personally, wishes to express our appreciation to Professor Molinar Horcasitas for the demonstrations of support and encouragement to our work that he stated on that occasion.

Within the frame of the XVIII International Book Exposition of the Palacio de Minería, held from February 22 through March 4 in Mexico City, the North Border College presented the book "Economic effects of pension systems". In this exposition, characterized by a numerous and qualified attendance, Dr. Rolando Cordera, Coordinator of the Center for Studies on the Economic Development of Mexico of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and the undersigned Director participated as commentators. The presentation was coordinated by specialists of the above mentioned College and of the UNAM.

Attending to an invitation received by the Director of the CIESS, he visited the city of Santiago, Chile, on March 1 and 2. On that occasion, he held work meetings with the Under Secretary of Social Welfare, Mrs. Lisette Garcia Bustamante and other Chilean social security authorities, both of the Labor and Social Prevision Ministry and of other institutions affiliated to our Conference.

From March 13 through the 20th, the Director of the CIESS traveled to Buenos Aires and Montevideo. In Buenos Aires, he met with different officials of affiliated institutions located in that city. He also discussed with the Coordinator of Sub-Region III Southern Cone, aspects related to the development of the Forum on the

processes of prevision reform in Argentina and Chile “Reforms to the reforms”, on which we will inform later on. In Montevideo, he met with authorities of the Labor and Social Security Ministry of that country, following up the steps taken by that institution to affiliate to our Organization. In like manner, he held meetings with officials of universities and other organizations, among them the University of the Republic and the Health Ministry on matters of an academic nature.

With respect to the Forum related to the analysis of the previsional reform in Argentina and Chile, called “Reforms to the reforms”, mentioned before, we report that it was developed successfully in Buenos Aires in May 3 and 4. It was summoned by Sub-Region III Southern Cone, the National Social Security Administration (ANSES) of Argentina and the Labor and Social Prevision Ministry of Chile. Its objective consisted in analyzing the deficiencies inherent to the first stage of the reforms experienced in the region and the corrections that, in this sense, are to be introduced. There was an important and qualified number of attendants and the exponents, among them the Executive Director of ANSES, Mr. Sergio T. Massa, the Secretary General of the CISS, Dr. Gabriel Martinez, as well as authorities of the Labor and Social Prevision Ministry of Chile, of the Social Prevision Secretariat of Brazil and of the Social Prevision Institute of Paraguay. On the part of the CIESS, the Research Coordinator, Dr. Nelly Aguilera participated with the report “Recent reforms to the pensions systems in Mexico”, and the Reporting Director with the report “Reasons of the movement towards new rules on the matter of social security”.

On May 25, the Director of the CIESS, accompanied by the General Academic Coordinator, Dr. Antonio Ruezga Barba, participated in the international *symposium*, “Social security in the present times”, summoned by the “Alfonso Velez Pliego” Social Sciences and Humanities Institute of the Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla (BUAP). This activity that was part of the Medicine History

and Philosophy Seminar of the post-graduate course in History of the above mentioned University, was held in the city of Puebla, Mexico. The above mentioned Dr. Ruezga Barba presented the conference “Concept of social security and social safety”, while the Director of the CIESS presented the report “Social security in Latin America”. Likewise, the Counsel of the Directorship of the CIESS, Dr. Guillermo Fajardo Ortiz, disserted on “Medical care in social security in Mexico, the United States and Canada”. The importance of this activity, that had the presence of the Secretary General of the above mentioned University, Dr. Jose Ramon Eguibar Cuenca, as well as of an important and qualified number of investigators in social policy, was highlighted by different communication media of Mexico and other countries.

Collaboration with institutions affiliated to the CISS

In addition to the academic activities that the CIESS offers to the institutions affiliated to the Conference, we have also developed other collaboration programs. Thus, for example, in the month of April we offered our support to a delegation of the National Health Insurance Institute of Bolivia (INASES), headed by its Executive Director General, Dr. Nicanor Alberto Jove Aparicio, especially in the coordination of interviews with authorities of different dependencies of the Mexican Social Security Institute and of the Ministry of Health so that they could exchange opinions to reinforce different actions that the above mentioned Bolivian institution is undertaking. In like manner, we have been performing similar actions with authorities of the Costa Rican social Security Fund. Also, with the aforementioned Costa Rican institution, we are in the process of analyzing a program relative to the topic of “needs for medical specialties in Costa Rica” which is being developed by a commission established for that purpose in that country.

As regards the region of the English speaking Caribbean, we are considering the participation of a representative of the CIESS in the XIII Technical Meeting of the American Organization and Administrative Systems Commission (CAOSA) “Achieving results relative to the mission through the administration of performance”, that will take place in Anguilla in the month of August where, also, the Social Security Council of that country is commemorating its twenty fifth anniversary.

II) RESEARCH

As has been customary since the Secretariat General of the Conference coordinates and edits the Reports on Social Security in America, the Research Coordinator collaborates in the issue corresponding to Report 2008, which, tentatively, bears the title “Innovating the models of social assurance; determinant actions to face the XXI century”.

In like manner, our Research Coordinator participates with the above mentioned Secretariat General in tasks related to the Inter-American Prize to Research in Social Security 2007. Within the first actions carried out on this Prize, is its diffusion among the affiliated institutions themselves, universities and other organizations of the region. As in previous years, we trust that the response to the summons will result in the receipt of high level works within the different categories of participation.

Independently of the foregoing, the personnel assigned to this area continue to work in the preparation of specific documents and projects, in addition to participating in a capacity as exponents, both in our own forums and in other activities of an academic nature to which they are summoned, as will be appreciated later on.

III) OTHER ASPECTS INHERENT TO THE ACADEMIC TASK

Inauguration of the Videoconference Room. Last February 27 the Videoconference Room of the CIESS was inaugurated, with an academic act under the title “International experiences in social security”, that involved three countries: Mexico, Brazil and the United States of America.

This act had the presence, in the see of the Center, of the Chairman of the CISS and of the Board of Directors of the CIESS, Professor Juan Molinar Horcasitas who, in offering the inauguration words, referred to the need to pay attention to —taking advantage of the Inter-American academic ambit of the CIESS— the new challenges faced by social security, among which he pointed out labor migration, thus expressing his interest in promoting the enhancing of experiences and points of view on the portability and acquisition of rights of migrant workers. Likewise, he made an outline of the so called “First job program” established by the Mexican Government as from March 1, to favor the creation of new formal jobs. On his part, the Social Prevision Secretary of Brazil, Mr. Helmut Schwarzer, exposed aspects related to the “Reforms to social security: international dialogue table in the Federative Republic of Brazil”. He also referred to the new designs that, on the matter of social prevision programs, are being promoted in that country. The Deputy commissioner for he International Affairs Office of the Social Security Administration of the United States of America, Mr. Rogelio Gomez, talked about the international agreements signed by the Government of that country on the matter of social security, with emphasis on the aspects and procedures that must govern the implementation of said agreements.

In addition to the conferences of the three officials mentioned above, an interesting questions and answers session was held among the speakers and the tables of the

three countries connected. Both in Mexico as in Baltimore and Brazilia, counsels and other persons responsible for different work areas were present. In the see of the CIESS participated, in addition to Dr. Gabriel Martinez, Secretary General of the CISS, officials of the Mexican Social Security Institute, professors and investigators of the CIESS, and officials both of the Secretariat General of the CISS and of the CIESS.

As the members of the Board of Directors can appreciate in the contents of this report, the use of the videoconference has been ample and varied during the first semester of the year. Therefore, it is especially significant for our Studies Center to make evident that this Room is as of now entirely at the disposal of al the institutions and organs of the CISS, and we do not doubt that this will permit us to achieve a higher wealth and diversification of our academic tasks. Likewise, we want to express our appreciation to the General Directorate of Academic Computation Services of the National Autonomous University of Mexico for the technical support and counsel afforded in the installation of this Room.

44th Anniversary of the CIESS. Our Studies Center commemorated on April 26 its forty fourth anniversary with various academic acts. This commemoration was headed by Professor Juan Molinar Horcasitas, Chairman of the CISS and of the Board of Director of the CIESS, and Director General of the IMSS.

As central act of this activity, Dr. Gilberto Quinche Toro, Chairman of the Social Securities Institute of the Republic of Colombia, presented the masterly conference “The elder adult in the Colombian health system”. Within the frame of this commemoration the Secretariat General of the Conference and the CIESS, delivered the recognitions to the winners of the Inter-American Prize on Research in Social Security, in its 2005 and 2006 versions.

On that occasion, the following officials integrated the honor table: Dr. Nicanor Alberto Jove Aparicio, Executive Director General of the National Health Insurance Institute of Bolivia and member of this Board of Directors; Dr. Miguel Angel Fernandez Pastor, Coordinator of Sub-Region III Southern Cone of the CISS and also member of this Board; Mr. Miguel Angel Yunes Linares, Director General of the Social Security and Services for Employees of the State (Mexico); Dr. Maki Esther Ortiz Dominguez, Under-Secretary for Innovation and Quality of the Health Ministry of Mexico, who represented Dr. Jose Angel Cordova, Secretary of the field; Dr. Gabriel Martinez, Secretary General of the CISS; Dr. Philippe Lami, recently appointed Representative in Mexico of the PHO/WHO; and Dr. Jose Ramon Eguibar Cuenca, Secretary General of the Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla.

Virtual Campus. As we informed the Board of Directors last October, the CIESS was constituted as “nodule in social security” of the public health *virtual campus* headed by the PHO/WHO. In the course of this year, a series of sessions have been held in order to continue enhancing the contents of this *campus*. Additionally, this portal is being adapted permanently with the intention of attending to the different responsibilities of the CIESS, among them, the utilization of information technologies for the development of courses in line; distribution of specialized documents; development of forums and diffusion of investigations and academic activities. In this latter case, the development with the University of Chile of a seminar on social protection is underway, which will be linked to other institutions by means of videoconferences.

In the most recent meeting of the *campus* held on May 3 and 4 in Costa Rica, the participant institutions expressed their interest to establish nodes in Canada, Costa Rica, some countries of the English speaking Caribbean, Mexico and Puerto Rico. The importance was also highlighted of dealing with the problems of social

protection under an integral perspective with the fundamental participation of the social security institutions. This meeting was inaugurated by the Health Ministry of the host country, with the participation on the part of the CIESS of Professor Martin Gomez Silva, Academic Coordinator.

The CIESS finds in the *virtual campus* a mechanism of collaboration to potentiate its training actions and at the same time it is recognized as an international point of reference to link the academic ambit with the personnel responsible for health services. In this sense, the social security node of this *campus*, whose responsibility, we mentioned, corresponds to the CIESS, is permanently open to receive the collaborations of all the institutions affiliated to the Conference so that it will reflect the wealth of knowledge and experiences of our Organization and at the same time make it possible to take advantage of more technological resources for the academic exchange and the diffusion of knowledge in social security.

Editorial task. We have papers and investigations of specialists of different countries, whose topics cover different fields of social security. These works are being analyzed for their eventual publication. We can mention that in the course of this process we have found that several of them are in a condition to be edited by the CIESS, whether in the collection “Biblioteca CIESS”, or as a specific publication. Under this same heading, we inform that we continue to publish bi-monthly the Revista CIESS.

Web Page. The growing interest of our Internet site is notorious. The level of visits is established, in medium terms, in five thousand per month, detecting that they are made not only from our region, but also from Europe and Asia. According to our records, the United States of America is the country that has made more visits, followed by Mexico, Uruguay, Peru and Argentina. On the other hand, the facility it

offers to diffuse our activities and propitiate a fast handling of inscriptions, has favored our intention to offer a better attention to our users.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS

At the start of the year, through the Technical Administrative Secretariat, we renewed the contracts with the companies that are in charge of subrogated services, that is, food, vigilance, cleaning, maintenance and gardening. The above, in consideration of the positive results of the evaluation applied to each one of those services during the previous year. In the case of the cable television service for the hotels, it was found necessary to carry out a bid to hire a new company, because the one hired last year did not offer the service in an optimum manner.

Likewise, we are pleased to inform that, as has been traditional, the exercise of the budget assigned to the CIESS has been carried out with the due responsibility. The income obtained from courses and rent of facilities has been satisfactory, expecting —especial in the latter case— an improvement of income during the second semester because we have different requests in this sense. Added to the above, promotional posters are being prepared and we have been updating directories with the purpose of strengthening in the near future our diffusion policy, including other institutions potentially susceptible of renting our spaces.

According to the contract held with the Mexican Social Security Institute, in the course of the first semester we have continued to have the support of that institution with respect to the major maintenance of our facilities, while other tasks of this nature are for the account of the budget of the CIESS.

The Director of the CIESS expresses his appreciation to the authorities of the Conference and especially to its Chairman, Professor Juan Molinar Horcasitas and to the Secretary General, Dr. Gabriel Martinez, for the constant encouragement and support to the programs of the Center. In like manner, he expresses his appreciation to the affiliated institutions for their permanent support. He also expresses his sentiments of gratitude and recognition to the members of the Board of Directors for their outstanding commitment and accurate orientation of our tasks and, finally, to all the employees of the CIESS for their permanent effort in the performance of their work.

Exhibits

Exhibit A

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES IN OUR SEE
PERIOD JANUARY-JUNE 2007

Date	Name	Nature	No. of Attendants*
March 12-16	"Administration of health services"	Course	46
April 23-27	"Social protection, health policies and equity (emphasis on maternal-infantile population)"	Course	51
May 14-18	"Fringe benefits and social services in social security"	Seminar	26
May-28-June 8	"Pension systems"	Diploma Course	27

AT-A-DISTANCE ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES
PERIOD JANUARY-JUNE 2007

Date	Name	Nature	Number of Registrations*
April 16-June 20	"Competences of administration in social insurance"	Semi-presence Course	82

* Countries of origin: Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay

Exhibit B

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OUR SEE
JANUARY-JUNE 2007

Date	Name	Country	Number of Participants*
March 26-30	Workshop seminar “Marketing in health”	Panama	40

*The participants correspond to the see country.

Exhibit C

**INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE COLLABORATED IN THE
ACTIVITIES IN OUR SEE, AT-A-DISTANCE AND
OUTSIDE OUR SEE
DEVELOPED FROM JANUARY THROUGH JUNE 2007***

Caja Costarricense de Seguro Social
Comisión Económica para América Latina (Chile)
Corporación de Investigación, Estudio y Desarrollo de la Seguridad Social (Chile)
Corporación para el Desarrollo de la Seguridad Social (Colombia)
El Colegio de México
Health Ministry (Chile)
Health Ministry (México)
Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México
Labor and Social Affairs Ministry (Spain)
Organización Panamericana de la Salud/Organización Mundial de la Salud
Private Consultants
Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México
Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos (México)
Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (México)
Universidad Juárez Autónoma de Tabasco (México)
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Universidad Nacional de La Plata (Argentina)

* Have collaborated organically or through their exponents