

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT
AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN
OAS ACTIVITIES

OEA/Ser.G
CP/CISC-141/04
12 November 2004
Original: Spanish

APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6 OF THE
GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANIZATIONS IN OAS ACTIVITIES [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

[Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (IOHE)]

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE INTER-AMERICAN ORGANIZATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (IOHE)

This document was prepared by the Office for the Summits Process to provide information on the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education. It contains the basic data and a list of supporting documentation submitted by this civil society organization (CSO) pursuant to the Guidelines for Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities.

1. Background

The Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (IOHE) is a non-profit organization established in Quebec City, Canada, in 1979. Its objective is to improve the quality of university programs and to foster cooperation among member universities in the Americas. IOHE seeks to promote the transfer of knowledge, encourage academic mobility, strengthen educational systems, and contribute to the development of university professors. Its institutional mission is to support sustainable development, democratization, and the internationalization of higher education in the Americas.

In keeping with the globalization of education and technological developments, IOHE promotes academic and educational exchanges between various universities and organizations. Among its programs are the Institute for University Management and Leadership (IGLU), which is responsible for evaluating and updating training projects for university executives, and the College of the Americas, a pilot training center for the design, drafting, assembling, and conducting of on-line training courses. In February 2003, IOHE signed a cooperation agreement with the OAS General Secretariat through the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) and participated in the forum "Future of the Americas" at the OAS Special Summit of the Americas, held in Monterrey in January 2004. Likewise, in 2004, it signed an agreement with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) on academic collaboration in the area of higher education management.

IOHE also participates in cooperation programs with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Institution for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC). Further, it established inter-university cooperation agreements with the following: Asociación Universitaria Iberoamericana de Postgrado (AUIP), International Association of University Presidents (IAUP), Asociación Internacional de Presidentes de Universidades de América Latina (AIPU), Centro Interuniversitario de Desarrollo (CINDA), Asociación de Universidades Grupo Montevideo (AUGM), Asociación de Universidades Jesuitas en América Latina (AUSJAL), Asociación de Universidades Amazónicas (UNAMAZ), Grupo Universitario Latinoamericano para la Reforma y Perfeccionamiento de la Educación (GULERPE), Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Consejo Superior Universitario Centroamericano (CSUCA), Asociación Nacional de Universidades e Institutos de Educación Superior de México (ANUIES), Conselho de Reitores das Universidades Brasileiras (CRUB), and Asociación Colombiana de Universidades (ASCUN).

IOHE is funded by member contributions. Laval University, the University of Quebec, and the University of Montreal contribute to the headquarters' operations. IOHE has 400 members in 25 countries of the region.

It filed its application with the OAS on April 16, 2004.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name: Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (IOHE)

Address: Edifice Vieux Séminaire, local 1244
1, Côte de La Fabrique
Quebec City, Canada
G1R 3V6

Telephone: 418.650.1515

Fax: 418.650.1519

Internet site: www.oui-iohe.qc.ca

E-mail address: secretariat@oui-iohe.qc.ca

Secretary General Marcel Hamelin

Date established: 1979

3. Primary areas of activity of the CSO and their relationship to OAS activities

IOHE considers that its participation in OAS activities can help to strengthen educational systems and to promote national and regional cooperation with a view to hemispheric integration. It can make a contribution through the following activities:

- Support for the work of teachers with a view to raising the quality of teaching, in particular, establishment of the Gilles Boulet prize, awarded for the best professional paper (or intervention project) aimed at solving a specific problem “confronting the university executive within his or her institution.”
- Development of research programs, workshops, and seminars; and promotion of national and regional mechanisms for facilitating inter-university cooperation through strategic partnerships.
- Support for the Academic Training Network, made up of experts from 15 countries in curriculum design and academic accreditation.
- Promotion of the work of the Education and Telematics Network, which focuses on master’s degree training and continuing education in environmental management and ecotourism, public health, and women and development.
- Continued support for the Inter-American Training Network for Trainers in Indigenous Education (RIF-FOEI) and the Teacher Training and Legislative Management Network.
- Promotion of the Inter-American Network for the Connectivity of University Libraries (RICBLU), which links 135 libraries in 20 countries: Central America (17),

Brazil (31), the Caribbean (18), the Southern Cone (29), Mexico (33), and the Andean countries (27).

- Through the Inter-America Seminar Program (SIA), course offerings designed to promote student mobility in the Hemisphere. Through this program, the IOHE seeks to make young people more aware of the challenges posed by regional and inter-American integration. A total of 19 seminars have been held, including “Mercosur: Legal, taxation, logistical, and business aspects” and “Community, Culture, and Environment.”
- Promotion of the College of the Americas (COLAM), a pilot teacher and student training center, in connection with the pedagogical use in higher education of new technologies in information and communications (ICT) and in distance education.
- Collaboration with inter-American training networks in the design, formulation, and offering of on-line training courses.
- Fostering of the activities of the Institute for University Management and Leadership (IGLU) that assess and update training programs for university executives.
- Holding of thematic seminars and workshops on strategic university management, quality assessment and accreditation, university-business ties, internationalization of higher education, and university reorganization.

4. CSO contributions that could be of interest to the OAS

The principal objective of the IOHE is to foster higher-quality university programs in the Hemisphere, to promote better teaching, and to encourage cooperation among universities. It can make a contribution through the following OAS activities:

- Presentation of reports to the Inter-American Committee on Education on the development of educational research and development programs, projects, and activities in the Hemisphere.
- Dissemination and promotion of the recommendations of the Inter-American Committee on Education concerning the diagnostic assessments of inter-American educational systems.
- Presentation of strategies for the design and implementation of tools for integrating educational systems and policies.
- Dissemination and preparation of analysis, training, and information on the standards and procedures of international educational systems.
- Development and promotion of the design of a regional, national, and inter-American educational system.
- Support for the preparation of studies and publications on reform of the region’s educational system.
- Participation in the work of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD).

5. OAS work areas to which the CSO can provide support

The CSO will support OAS activities in the following areas:

- Promotion and development of technical cooperation activities in the educational area.
- Ensuring follow-up in the OAS of resolutions, decisions, and conventions dealing with educational development.
- Support for the Office for the Promotion of Democracy through national and regional courses for young democratic leaders on “Institutions, Values, and Democratic Practices.”
- Support for the design and implementation of tools for the integration of educational and political systems in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI).
- Support for the Office of Education, Science, and Technology of the OAS General Secretariat.
- Submission of data to the Inter-American Committee on Education as an input for diagnostic assessments of inter-American educational systems.
- Provision of analysis, training, and information on the standards and procedures of international educational systems.
- Follow-up in the OAS to resolutions, decisions, and conventions dealing with educational development.

6. Documents submitted by the CSO

- Letter to the Secretary General dated 2004
- Charter
- Statutes
- Financial statements 2002 and 2003 (draft) audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Annual report for 2003
- Institutional mission statement
- List of sources of funding