



*A Summit of the Americas Initiative for Child Literacy*

“Education is everyone’s business”

**KEY PERUVIAN INSTITUTIONS STEP FORWARD TO SUPPORT CETT**

On September 3rd, the Minister of Education of Peru, the Ambassador of the United States and a former Chief Executive of the nation’s largest extraction company jointly visited a CETT elementary school in Ventanilla. Their purpose was to talk with the first, second and third grade children, to review the progress of the CETT program and to show that business and government should work together to give children the life skill of literacy.

Second grade students read stories and poems to their distinguished guests. U.S. Ambassador James Struble, Education Minister Javier Sota Nadal and Augusto Baertl, former Chief Executive of Compañía Minera Antamina, chatted with the children about their homes, family life and classroom experiences. “These are *our* children who are the future of our country,” declared Mr. Baertl. “We are delighted to do our part in this important private-public partnership.”

This high-profile visit highlighted the cause of child literacy in Peru, as well as demonstrated the commitments of the governments of Peru and the United States to improve the situation through public-private partnerships. The engagement of these nations’ leaders is vital to the children because studies have shown that less than half of all 15-year-old students in Peru achieve a functional level of reading comprehension—and only 1 in 10 children who finish the first grade can read or understand what they are reading.

Peruvian businesses and non-profit foundations are responding to CETT’s invitation to become engaged in public-private sector partnerships. Close to \$400,000 in commitments has been received since September of 2004.



*Peru’s Minister of Education Javier Sota Nadal, U.S. Ambassador James Curtis Struble and Antamina’s former CEO of Investments, Augusto Baertl (far right), visit CETT school in Peru.*

**Compañía Minera Antamina, S.A.**, a multinational company and operator of the world’s third largest copper and zinc mine located in Peru, will make a sizable donation over the next two years through its non-profit Ancash Association. **Pluspetrol**, an oil, gas and energy management firm, will make three annual donations in support of

additional teachers, schools and children. **Lima Tours**, a leading travel agency, is adopting a CETT teacher training program for three years. The **Fondo de las Americas**, a leading Peruvian foundation, will contribute to the CETT program for two years.

The CETT program is reaching schools throughout Peru. The teacher training efforts, provided through the School of Education of the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia and USAID Peru, are helping students learn to read at higher levels and are giving teachers and principals the knowledge and tools they need. In the words of INMED’s Andean Region Director Eduardo Arrarte, who is a key catalyst in the creation of public-private partnerships, “We look forward to further collaborations and visits like the one in Ventanilla throughout Peru in the months and years ahead. As our ceremony demonstrated on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, education is everyone’s business!”



Distribution of 120,000 books by spring, 2005

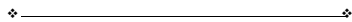
**CETT CLASSROOM LIBRARIES GREATLY EXPAND REACH, NETWORK**

The CETT program and a consortium of partners from the public and private sectors will complete the distribution of approximately 120,000 books to CETT schools by the spring of 2005, thereby establishing nearly 1,000 new classroom libraries in the hemisphere. It is projected that the number of books contributed will double within the next 24 months.

In opening these classroom libraries, CETT is providing thousands of primary school children in marginalized rural and urban areas with award-winning children’s books and literacy decoratives that are diverse, colorful and culturally appropriate. All 14 CETT countries in Latin America and the Caribbean will benefit from the program.

Classroom libraries are a critical component of a literacy-rich environment. By providing immediate, easy access to a wide range of high-quality reading materials and visual aids, the libraries help make reading a natural part of the children’s everyday activities. This stimulates the children’s imagination, facilitates their sense of ownership and promotes learning at their own pace. It increases their motivation to read—ultimately improving their reading skills. Libraries are also very cost-effective, because one book can be used many different times by many different children.

A key factor in this dramatic effort to develop literacy-rich classrooms is CETT’s success in forming private-public partnerships. The U.S.-based publisher Scholastic, DHL, Project HOPE, Ford Motor Company Fund, The Palmer Foundation and the Central American firm Grupo Lis are among the companies supporting the program to date.



USAID Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean Adolfo Franco (middle), CETT Central America Director Carleton Corrales (left) and Scholastic Chairman, President and CEO Richard Robinson (right) discuss school libraries expansion.



On September 9, 2004, USAID, Scholastic and CETT met in New York to mark the expansion of Scholastic’s support for the CETT program. Adolfo Franco, USAID Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, applauded Scholastic’s continuing support. “This raises the effectiveness of USAID’s multimillion dollar investment in teacher training because the colorful books help CETT’s teachers to instill in their students a love of reading.”



Plan International has committed to train 100 new CETT teachers in Choluteca, Honduras.

Pilot program with hemispheric potential  
**CETT AND PLAN INTERNATIONAL JOIN FORCES IN HONDURAS**

In a bold initiative that could serve as a partnership model in countries throughout the region, CETT and PLAN International have launched a joint pilot program to train, employ and manage 100 CETT teachers in Choluteca, located in southern Honduras. PLAN will fund this project, underwriting a 3-module training process. With its completion and success, the program will be replicated in additional sites with continued funding by PLAN. The first training course began in November of 2004.

PLAN International is one of the world’s largest and most renowned development agencies, working to improve the lives of children in 45 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. Founded in 1937, the organization has generated health, education, livelihood, housing, water and sanitation projects across the globe—with special emphasis on programs that benefit children.

CETT’s program in Honduras is administered by the Universidad Pedagógica Nacional Francisco Morazán (UPNFM), one of Central America’s leading teaching universities. PLAN and UPNFM are working together to provide high quality reading education training to the CETT teachers.

Román Madrid, coordinator for PLAN in Choluteca, noted that “In this country, we make a difference in the lives of 34,000 children and their families. Our collaboration with CETT could extend that reach dramatically—not only in Honduras, but in many of the other Latin American countries in which our two organizations operate.”

Content for Intranet, distance learning  
**PROQUEST PROVIDES ACCESS TO KEY EDUCATIONAL DATABASES**

The Caribbean Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training (CCETT) and INMED's Caribbean Region Director Robert Wright have announced a substantial donation from ProQuest Information and Learning. ProQuest will give teacher educators and teachers in the program access to 5 databases that will help with the instruction of reading and most subject disciplines taught in colleges and schools. This donation is an ideal fit with CCETT's plans to enhance its program with online content and state-of-the-art technology.

ProQuest is a global leader in the collection, organization and distribution of value-added information to academic and government institutions around the world. The company's archive includes more than 5.5 billion pages of information.

ProQuest's donation is significant in several ways. It will allow teachers and lecturers in the CCETT project schools to gain access to the latest publications, real-time journals, up-to-date research and current best practices in the field. No single academic institution in the region could afford the access license to the databases. In addition, these databases are the quickest and most efficient means by which teaching libraries can be updated. The value of this donation is \$125,000 per semester.

In keeping with CCETT's commitment to utilize current technologies, on November 13 the Joint Board of Teacher Education (JBTE) launched its Wireless Wide Area Network, which will allow colleges and schools easy and speedy access to the ProQuest databases. According to Dr. Errol Miller, Director, CCETT and Deputy Chairman, JBTE, "This Intranet will create a virtual community for teachers colleges, principals, teachers and students in project schools; project managers and researchers in the University of the West Indies; and education officers in Ministries of Education by linking multiple educational centers via voice, video and data transmissions."

"When fully implemented, the network will include 50 project schools, 14 project colleges, the regional offices of the Ministry of Education in 7 countries and 2 campuses of the University of the West Indies in Jamaica and Barbados. This could serve as a model for CETT schools in the entire hemisphere."

CCETT is working with 15 teacher training colleges, reaching 143 primary schools and more than 17,000 students in the Commonwealth Caribbean.



White House photo by Susan Sterne

**FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH ENDORSES CETT**

"President Bush and I strongly support your goal of improving the reading skills of children at the earliest grade levels. We greatly admire your dedication and know that it will have a profound impact on teachers and students throughout the region. We are grateful to the companies, foundations and

individuals who are contributing to the Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training program. The President and I look forward to following the progress of the CETT initiative in the months and years ahead and wish you the greatest success."

**TRINIDAD AND GRENADA JOIN CETT**

Dr. Errol Miller, Director of Caribbean Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training, has announced that 55 schools in Trinidad and 18 schools in Grenada will join CCETT in 2005. In Trinidad, this will add 273 classrooms and in Grenada 87 classrooms.

The Government of Trinidad has allocated funds to finance the participation in CETT of the schools and classrooms in Trinidad. The private sector has also stepped in with strong measures of support. BP Trinidad & Tobago (BP TT) announced that it will fund teacher training and classroom libraries in 5 schools in the Mayaro district. The oil firm has built and equipped a high tech Community Center and is already working with a number of secondary schools.

"Joining us in private-public partnership is an exciting opportunity for firms and agencies here in Trinidad," states Dr. Ival Melville Meyers, representing the Ministry of Education. "We invite the business community to emulate BP TT and step forward in support of child literacy."

The participation of additional CETT schools and classrooms is especially helpful in Grenada. Hurricane Ivan devastated the country, destroying nearly 90% of the schools. In many classrooms that have reopened, teachers and students are without basic learning materials—especially those students who lost their books when their homes were damaged or swept away.

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT LIFTS CETT SCHOOLS AT GRASSROOTS LEVEL

In the **Dominican Republic**, the "Junta de Vecinos del Copal II" (neighbors association) was concerned. The elementary school in their neighborhood lacked books and visual aids. So, Liliana Montenegro, CETT's Program Director at the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra and board member of the Junta de Vecinos, approached the neighbors with a plea on behalf of the children at the school. The Junta soon raised \$5,000 to purchase the learning materials.



Liliana Montenegro (far right) with other Board members of the Junta de Vecinos del Copal II in the DR.

Liliana's activities are just one example of how local leaders and organizations are embracing CETT supported child literacy initiatives at the grassroots level. Through their activism, these community members support the literacy levels of their own children and those of their neighbor's children as well.

The CETT program has improved the lives of teachers and children. That inspired a teacher in a neighborhood in Santo Domingo to compose a song.



Smiling students at CETT school in Peru

Bienvenida Delgado, a CETT-trained teacher at the Escuela Conrado Mieses, named her song "We Are Happy Everybody" to praise the CETT program for its contributions to her community.

In **Ventanilla, Peru**, children in a CETT school demonstrated their newly-achieved literacy skills by writing stories and reading them to visiting dignitaries (see front page story). Among them was Erick Matos, a 9-year old boy whose uncle worked in a mine deep in the Andes. Erick, his mother and his three brothers migrated from the town of Huanuco in search of a better life when his father abandoned them. The marshes and birds in Ventanilla remind him of the lake in his home town. "I want to be a lawyer when I grow up," states Erick, "so that I can defend children from abuse and innocents from injustice."

Erick now reads and writes at a higher level than his mother, who received a third grade education.



Erick Matos reads "The Miner Who Did Not Obey"

The story he chose to read to the visiting Minister of Education and the U.S. Ambassador, entitled "The Miner Who Did Not Obey," is a cautionary tale about miners who perished because they did not honor the spirits of the mountain in which they worked. Through his writing, Erick has stayed connected with his roots while contemplating his promising future.

## CETT'S ACHIEVEMENTS 2002-2004

CETT Region	Teachers Trained 9/30/02 to 9/30/03	Teachers Trained 9/30/03 to 6/30/04	Total Teachers Trained as of 6/30/04
Caribbean	550	675	1,225
Central America	50	1,175	1,250
South America	1,180	2,280	3,460
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>4,105</b>	<b>5,910</b>



**INMED Partnerships for Children**, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, develops private sector participation to help sustain the CETT program. Founded in 1986, INMED is committed to strengthening communities around the globe by supporting public-private partnerships that bring about sustainable advances in health and education.

For partnership opportunities, contact  
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