

Press Release

Strategic Partnership in Science, Technology and Innovation between UNESCO and the Inter-American Development Bank

Mexico City, 9 March 2009 – Last 6 October the Director-General of UNESCO, Koïchiro Matsuura, and the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Luis Alberto Moreno, signed in Paris a Memorandum of Understanding for a Strategic Partnership to strengthen existing cooperation between the two organizations.

This memorandum brings up to date the cooperation agreement concluded by UNESCO and the IDB in 1967. Reflecting the strategic interests of the two organizations and their new priorities, it provides a framework for cooperation between the two partners in education, science, culture and communication.

Following said agreement, and within the framework of the *First Regional Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean: Towards a New Social Contract for Science*, UNESCO and IDB experts established a set of priority areas for cooperation between the two organizations in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for cooperation within the 2009-2010 period.

Actions identified seek to foster and create synergies between the cooperation efforts of UNESCO and IDB in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation. The goal is to improve the national and regional research, development, and innovation systems operation for accelerating development processes in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In particular, experts identified the following areas for partnership between the two organizations:

1. Policy dialog and analysis of the trends of STI programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean. UNESCO and IDB will articulate and foster the dialog and exchange between those responsible for the execution of policies in the Region. Also, the two organizations will make available to them tools for analysis, knowledge products and data bases for assessing main trends of STI policies and instruments.

2. Science, Technology and Social Inclusion. UNESCO and IDB will work jointly in the organization and dissemination of conferences and studies, networks support, and the fostering of funding mechanisms for promoting the use of science and technology to solve the problems of the excluded.

3. Human resources training in STI policy and management. UNESCO and IDB will work on a training agenda oriented to improve the capacities of directors-managers from scientific and technological institutions at universities or research centres as well as ministries, secretariats or other organizations responsible for the management and formulation of policies related to STI activities.