



Organization of American States

www.oas.org

Press Release

January 12, 2004

AWARD-WINNING STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SUMMIT

MONTERREY, Mexico— Three university students who won an essay contest on the key topics of the Special Summit of the Americas agreed that young people in the region should participate in finding solutions to the region's problems.

Stanislao Maldonado Zambrano, who studies at Peru's *Universidad Mayor de San Marcos*, told reporters Sunday that as a result of his research on social development, he could appreciate the contribution that young people could make in analyzing regional challenges and coming up with concrete proposals. But he said he believed such participation should not be institutionalized, in order not to lose the independence, flexibility and originality that youth could offer. Zambrano's winning essay was called "Social Development is Equity: Towards a Distributive Justice Focus for Development."

Andrea Ancira García, who wrote about "Democratic governance in Latin America," talked about the need to overcome apathy not only among youth but also among other citizens of the region. Democratic governance is possible only when governments respond to the demands of their society, said the student from Mexico's *Centro de Investigación y Docencias Económicas* (Economic Research and Studies Center).

Matthew Lieber of the United States, who studies at The George Washington University, won for his essay on "The Theater of Agriculture in the FTAA," which analyzes this aspect of the Free Trade Area of the Americas within the context of another topic of the Special Summit, economic growth with equity. "It's a great experience to be able to share this Summit with other young people," he said.

"I believe these young people are the academics and leaders of the future," Irene Klinger, Executive Secretary of the Organization of American States' (OAS) Summits of the Americas Secretariat, said at the news conference.

The OAS Summits Secretariat organized the essay contest to involve youth in the Summit process. As their award, the three winners received the opportunity to participate in several activities related to the hemispheric meeting of presidents and prime ministers, which begins today in Monterrey.

The Summits Secretariat received a total of 83 entries from 15 countries, which were evaluated by a nine-member international panel. The winning essays were determined on the basis of originality, relevance to the specified topics and novel approaches to problem-solving.

General Secretariat of the Organization of American States
Department of Public Information
17th St. & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20006
Telephone: (202) 458-6386 Fax: (202) 458-6421
On the Internet: WWW.OAS.ORG E-Mail: info@oas.org