

PD-A-EL-160

A.I.D. EVALUATION SUMMARY - PART I (S.M.)

1. BEFORE FILLING OUT THIS FORM, READ THE ATTACHED INSTRUCTIONS.
2. USE LETTER QUALITY TYPE, NOT "DOT MATRIX" TYPE

IDENTIFICATION DATA

A. Reporting A.I.D. Unit: Mission or AID/W Office: <u>USAID/EL SALVADOR</u> (ES# _____)		B. Was Evaluation Scheduled in Current FY Annual Evaluation Plan? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Slipped <input type="checkbox"/> Ad Hoc <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation Plan Submission Date: FY <u>90</u> Q <u>3</u>	C. Evaluation Timing Interim <input type="checkbox"/> Final <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ex Post <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
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D. Activity or Activities Evaluated (List the following information for project(s) or program(s) evaluated; if not applicable, list title and date of the evaluation report.)

Project No.	Project /Program Title	First PROAG or Equivalent (FY)	Most Recent PACD (Mo/Yr)	Planned LOP Cost (000)	Amount Obligated to Date (000)
519-0334	Centro de Investigaciones Tecnológicas y Científicas (CENITEC)	1987	12/31/89	600,000	600,000

ACTIONS

E. Action Decisions Approved By Mission or AID/W Office Director		Name of Officer Responsible for Action	Date Action to be Completed
Action(s) Required			
- A new Cooperative Agreement should be signed to continue with present activities, not adding new ones, but trying to improve existing ones.		Rolando Molina ODI	January '90
- CENITEC should start evaluating each seminar, by allowing all the participant to critically evaluate all aspects of the presentation.		Rolando Molina ODI	October '89
- CENITEC should develop a system to summarize the main finding of each of its seminars, publish the seminars and give them wide distribution.		Rolando Molina ODI	January '90
- The program of "charlas" is an effective addition to CENITEC outreach activities and should be continued.		Rolando Molina ODI	October '89
- CENITEC should continue to investigate ways to reduce the cost and improve the format of Presencia, at the same time, Presencia should give more emphasis to articles that are designed to systematically explore alternative approaches to public policy themes.		Rolando Molina ODI	January '90
- The T.A. component should remain suspended, but should be periodically reconsidered.		Rolando Molina ODI	January '90
		* Completed.	

(Attach extra sheet if necessary)

APPROVALS

F. Date Of Mission Or AID/W Office Review Of Evaluation: September (Month) 5 (Day) 1989 (Year)

G. Approvals of Evaluation Summary And Action Decisions:				
Gail Lecce Dir./ODI	Project/Program Officer	Representative of Borrower/Grantee	Evaluation Officer	Mission or AID/W Office Director
Name (Typed)	Salvador Novellino Project Officer	Ivo Priano Alvarenga Ex.Dir. CENITEC	Bernard E. Dupuis	Henry Bassford Mission Director
Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>		<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
Date			7/26/90	30 Aug 90

ABSTRACT

11. Evaluation Abstract (Do not exceed the space provided)

The project aims to strengthen the democratic process by promoting a fuller and more informed discussion of significant public policy and development issues within and among sectors of Salvadoran society. The funding provided should assist CENITEC to expand its public education and outreach activities by means of (1) conducting studies of various contemporary issues in El Salvador; (2) sponsor seminars designed to bring together different sectors of Salvadoran society to discuss contemporary issues; (3) disseminate the results of the studies and seminars through publications of written material; and (4) provide technical assistance to senior officials of the Government of El Salvador in the formulation and/or modification of policies of public interest. This evaluation was done jointly by AID and the Research Triangle Institute, and its purpose was to evaluate CENITEC's performance under the \$600,000 Cooperative Agreement signed on August 21, 1987.

The principal findings of this evaluation are:

- a) CENITEC is strongly identified with PDC.
- b) Despite this strong political identification, CENITEC outreach is generally viewed as impartial and managed in a technical, rather than political, fashion.
- c) Monthly seminars are being held in which timely, appropriate themes are discussed for a largely objective prospective.
- d) Presencia is generally a well respected journal.
- e) Weekly "charlas" are being held increasing CENITEC's visibility and credibility as well as fulfilling an information dissemination function.
- f) An incipient research program appears to be on the right track under energetic leadership.
- g) CENITEC enjoys a generally positive image among leaders in many sectors of society.
- h) There appears to be no serious incompatibility between USAID and financial support from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

COSTS

1. Evaluation Costs

1. Evaluation Team		Contract Number OR TDY Person Days	Contract Cost OR TDY Cost (U.S. \$)	Source of Funds
Name	Affiliation			
Allan Austin	Research Triangle	24 Persons/ Days		
Carlos Ayerbe	Research Triangle			

2. Mission/Office Professional Staff

Person-Days (Estimate) 5

3. Borrower/Grantee Professional

Staff Person-Days (Estimate) 10

A.I.D. EVALUATION SUMMARY - PART II

SUMMARY

J. Summary of Evaluation Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations (Try not to exceed the three (3) pages provided)

Address the following items:

- Purpose of evaluation and methodology used
- Purpose of activity(ies) evaluated
- Findings and conclusions (relate to questions)
- Principal recommendations
- Lessons learned

Mission or Office: Office of Democratic Initiatives	Date This Summary Prepared: February 20, 1990	Title And Date Of Full Evaluation Report: CENITEC Evaluation Report September 1, 1989
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The purpose of the Cooperative Agreement with the Centro de Investigaciones Tecnológicas y Científicas (CENITEC) is to assist CENITEC to expand its public education and outreach activities, as one means of airing significant public policy and development issues within the many sectors of Salvadoran society. The funding provided through this Agreement has enabled the Grantee to: (1) Conduct studies of various contemporary issues in El Salvador; (2) sponsor seminars designed to bring together different sectors of Salvadoran society to discuss contemporary issues; (3) disseminate the results of the studies and seminars through publication of various written materials; and (4) provide technical assistance to senior officials of the Government of El Salvador in the formulation and/or modification of policies of public interest.

The purpose of this contract with the Research Triangle was to evaluate CENITEC's performance under the \$600,000 Cooperative Agreement, determine whether they have complied with the terms of the Agreement, give some indication of the impact, and make recommendations for changes, to be implemented by CENITEC.

The methodology used by the Research Triangle was:

- a) Interviews with knowledgeable USAID officials and examination of relevant project files and documents.
- b) Intensive meetings at CENITEC headquarters with key professional staff and review of relevant publications, documents, and written reports of outreach activities.
- c) Development of questionnaire regarding perceptions of CENITEC's reputation and quality of its outreach activities.
- d) Administration of questionnaire of 22 Salvadorans, representing a cross section of political orientations and social sectors.
- e) Integration of all factors cited above into evaluation findings, and recommendations.

Findings and conclusions made by the Research Triangle:

- a) CENITEC is strongly identified with PDC.
- b) Despite this strong political identification, CENITEC outreach activities are generally viewed as impartial and managed in a technical, rather than political fashion.
- c) A generally respected journal, PRESENCIA, is appearing regularly and circulates among a substantial number of readers.

- d) Monthly seminars are being held in which timely and appropriate themes are discussed from a largely objective perspective.
- e) Weekly "Charlas" are being held which increase CENITEC's visibility and credibility as well as fulfill an information dissemination function.
- g) CENITEC enjoys a generally positive image among leaders in many sectors of Salvadoran society.
- h) There appears to be no serious incompatibility between USAID and Konrad Adenauer Foundation financial support.

Current relationships (bad) between the PDC and the governing party ARENA, virtually eliminate the possibility of any early resumption of the technical assistance component.

The most significant recommendations made by the evaluators are:

- a) USAID should continue to support CENITEC's outreach activities.
- b) CENITEC should devise an evaluation instrument that allows each member of a seminar audience to critically evaluate all aspects of the presentation.
- c) CENITEC should develop a system to summarize the main findings of each of its seminars, publish the summaries, and give them wide distribution.
- d) The program of "Charlas" is an effective addition to CENITEC outreach activities and should be continued.
- e) CENITEC should continue to investigate ways to reduce the cost and improve the format of Presentia.
- f) Presentia should give more emphasis to articles that are designed to systematically explore alternative approaches to public policy themes and that are published as a group.
- g) The technical assistance component should remain suspended for the time being, but should be periodically reconsidered.

Lessons learned:

- a) It would be helpful, in the future, for any institution that is to be evaluated to carry out its own internal evaluation before the arrival of the external evaluators. The institution should be aware of the format to be followed by the external evaluators and use the same in the internal evaluation. This would force the institution to give serious consideration to its own strengths and weaknesses and would provide a useful body of data for the external evaluators.
- b) In El Salvador it is possible for a politically affiliated institution to develop a reputation for objective, impartial outreach programs.
- c) The development of a think-tank institution is much more complex than constructing physical facilities and requires a correspondingly longer time frame.