

THE *INSTITUT DES AMÉRIQUES*—A MAJOR NETWORK IN TEACHING, RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The recent appointment of Mr. Jean-Michel Lacroix, renowned Canadianist, Professor of North American Civilization, Director of the Centre de recherches sur l'Amérique du Nord (CRAN) at Paris 3 Sorbonne and AFEC's (Association française d'études canadiennes) President—as general secretary of the Institut des Amériques (IDA) has put the spotlight on a relatively young organization that was inaugurated in 2007.

The *Institut des Amériques* (IdA) represents a “groupement d'intérêt scientifique” or GIS, i.e. an entity and a system imagined and set up by the Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in France. It brings together in a Conseil de groupement (group council) about forty higher learning and research institutions in France. This Conseil de groupement defines IdA's general policy.

One of IdA's distinctive feature is its international projection on the American continent. As such, on top of its five regional poles (West, North-East, South-West, South-East and French Antilles-Guyana), IdA has 7 international poles in development in Montreal, Boston, Washington, Saint-Domingue, Bogota, São Paulo and Montevideo, and 8 projects for implementation in Toronto, California, Austin, Mexico, Costa Rica, Belem, Lima and one other location to be determined. One of these international poles' missions is to insure the broadcasting of research on the Americas, to promote French higher teaching and to put forward co-diplomation and joint PhD programs, to be an entry point on Europe and to foster exchanges between European and American specialists. The IdA includes a Bureau of 7 members that insures IdA's management, a scientific council of 25 members, 8 of those other than French, that define IdA's research policy and five working groups—partnership, science and technical based information, international relations, research/teaching/training—all with their own mission and goals.

The IdA allows the federation and coordination of studies in human and social sciences on North America and Latin America, through developing a cross American and transdisciplinary approach for the American continent and its societies, creating as such a major network in teaching, research, documentation and international cooperation.

For further details regarding the Institut des Amériques, visit website <http://www.institutdesameriques.fr/index.jsp>.