



### **Taiwan Contributes to Young Entrepreneur Programs**

The Young Americas Business Trust is pleased to announce that Taiwan, through the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) and the International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF), will provide a two donations to Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) to support YABT's work with young entrepreneurs during 2006. This includes \$200,000 to be provided through TECRO for YABT's Young Business Leader Network and \$100,000 to initiate the project Talent and Innovation Competition in the Americas (TIC Americas).

The Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) and Taiwan signed a General Cooperation Agreement for young entrepreneurs in Latin America and the Caribbean on March 17, 2003. Since then, Taiwan has assisted YABT in building its network of young business leaders and offering training opportunities for young people.

The Young Americas Business Trust acts as a catalyst for young entrepreneur development through public / private sector partnerships, working with international organizations to increase the resources available for young people to become successful entrepreneurs to combat poverty and create employment for young people. Creating employment for young people in the Americas remain high priorities of the Member States of the Organization of American States.

The Young Americas Business Trust will use the contribution to continue to build its young entrepreneur network and offer additional training opportunities to young business leaders in the Americas. The network focuses on increasing linkages among young people in business in the Americas through trade, training, and technology initiatives. Young entrepreneurs in the network increase their contacts in the region and internationally, participate in conferences and seminars on business and technology, and learn how to become good business citizens in their community. For 2006, YABT also will give high priority to the development of its national units and partnerships that have grown rapidly in the past year under this program.

His Excellency David Lee, Representative of Taiwan in the United States, said: "We view our continued collaboration with the Young Americas Business Trust as a significant contribution to economic and social development in the Americas. We are always happy to share Taiwan's expertise and knowledge with our many friends in the Western Hemisphere." He noted that twelve countries in the region recognize the Taiwan, the largest number of any area of the world. He added, "Taiwan believes in giving back to the international community since we have benefited from the generous cooperation of the international community in the past. We also make these contributions in recognition that the OAS is the leading forum for Inter-American cooperation. This contribution to YABT demonstrates Taiwan's continued belief in the value of these programs for young people."

The Chief Executive Officer of the Young Americas Business Trust, Roy Thomasson, noted, "Taiwan's generous contribution will enable YABT's Young Business Leaders Program to advance significantly and our new Talent and Innovation Competition Program to get off to a solid start, building on a similar initiative in Taiwan that has been extremely successful for more than six years."