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[Welfare of the Blind;  
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On August 16, 2008 Colombia issued a stamp for *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of INCI – Instituto Nacional para Ciegos ( National Institute for the Blind) 1955 - 2005*.

The \$1.400 stamp shows the letters INCI in print, print Braille and *embossed* Braille, underneath “Trabajamos por una forma diferente de ver el mundo” (We work towards a different way of seeing the world) 1955 – 2005. On the left side it shows a blind man walking using a long white mobility cane, in the background a raised dotted outline map of Colombia for use by the blind.

### Sheet

A 12 stamp sheet was issued. The top two rows of 3 stamps on line show tabs 4 pictures. Starting right to left a young woman using a computer with an audio output which she is using head phones to listen to; frontal picture of the same man as on the stamp using his mobility (white) cane; a girl in school uniform walking along using her mobility cane; a young child having an eye examination. Also there is additional Braille.

### National Institute for the Blind (INCI)

#### Organization

The INCI is directed and administered by a council of directors and the general director and other civil servants who determine the pertinent acts of the council.

The council is composed of the following members and their deputies:

The minister of Education who presides over the council.

The Minister of Health.

The Minister of Labor and Social Security.

The manager of the National Planning Department.

A representative appointed by the President of the Republic of a list presented by the legally recognized organizations of blind persons for a period of two years.

### **Establishment**

The National Institute for the Blind was established in 1955. Its structure and functions were modified by the Degree No. 369 in 1994. The INCI is a national public entity under the Ministry of Education with legal status and own patrimony with administrative autonomy. It has a character of an inter-sectoral technical agency.

### **Mission**

The INCI renders its knowledge, material and technology to the education, rehabilitation and economic development of the blind persons and persons with a visual impairment, and as an advisory body of the national and territorial service providers it projects its knowledge to the improvement of the social well-being of the blind persons with a visual impairment through the promotion of the decentralization process.

### **Objectives**

The objective of the INCI is the organization, planning and execution of the policies that are aimed at the integration of persons with visual impairment to rehabilitation, education, labor market and society, and at the social welfare and culture of persons with visual impairment. In the development of these objectives, the INCI co-ordinates its actions with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labor and Social Security in their fields of competence. Also, it supervises the public and private organizations of and for persons with visual impairments.

### **Functions**

The INCI has the following functions:

- to propose to the Government the social development plans and programs aimed at the integration of persons with visual impairment to rehabilitation, education, labor market and society, at the social welfare and culture of the persons with visual impairment, and the prevention of blindness, in accordance with the development plans established in Article 339 of the National

Constitution, and to advise in the these matters that territorial entities so that they fulfill the functions established in the Political Constitution and Law 60 of 1993.

- to advise the departments, the districts, the municipalities, other public entities, private entities and individuals in matters concerning the integration of persons with visual impairment to rehabilitation, education, labor market and society, the social welfare and culture of the persons with visual impairment, and the prevention of blindness.
- to supervise and monitor, in coordination with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labor and Social Security, the inter-sectorial fulfillment of the plans and programs aimed at realizing the rights concerning persons with visual impairment in Articles 13,47,54 and 68 of the Political Constitution and the norms in general that are adopted for the benefit of persons with visual impairment and for the prevention of blindness.
- to supply the scientific-administrative norms on the organization and presentation of rehabilitation, education, labor market and social services and the welfare and cultural services to persons with visual impairment and the prevention of blindness, and the technical norms that apply to all organizations, institutions of and for persons with visual impairment and other providers of services to persons with visual impairment.
- to advise in the formulation of plans and programs on the integration of persons with visual impairment to rehabilitation, education, labor market and society, the social welfare and culture of the persons with visual impairment, and the prevention of the blindness and to execute these plans and programs directly and indirectly in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labor and Social Security, the departments, districts, municipalities and the public and private organization and individuals.
- to update and disclose in coordination with special institutions the didactic and technical elements of support for the learning within scholastic models in the educational integration, as well as to provide information and the handling of these elements.
- to participate in the elaboration, modification and evaluation of academic programs related to the training of educators and rehabilitation of persons with visual impairment in coordination with the Ministry of Education and the Secretariats of Education of the departments, municipalities and districts.
- to promote, conduct and update the research that results in a better fulfillment of the general mission of the INCI, in coordination with competent the public and private entities.
- to acquire and provide the persons with visual impairment, the entities that serve them and the organization of and for these people with material or equipment of any kind that are related to the objective of the INCI.
- to attain to the effectiveness of the right to information of the persons with visual impairment.
- to coordinate with the departments, districts and municipalities, and with the national and foreign, public and private entities and individuals the financial and human resources that benefit the objectives of the INCI.
- to propose to the Government the regulations on the delegation of the execution

of the programs of integration of persons with visual impairment to rehabilitation, education, labor markets and society, the social welfare and culture of the persons with visual impairment, and the prevention of blindness to the territorial entities in coordination with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labor and Social Security.