



Organization of  
American States | More rights  
for more people

Quality  
Teachers,  
Quality  
Education

2005 - 2015



**iten**

Inter-American Teacher Education Network



The Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN) is an initiative developed and coordinated by the Department of Human Development and Education of the Organization of American States (OAS).

This initiative is carried out with the generous contribution of the United States Permanent Mission to the OAS.

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Executive Secretariat for Integral Development

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**Quality  
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## Why use a TANGRAM?

A tangram is an old Chinese puzzle consisting of seven geometrical shapes that originally make a square. Hundreds of different figures can be made by re-arranging the seven pieces. Tangrams are used in entertainment, psychology, architecture and design. In education, these pieces are used as a tool in the teaching of mathematics, geometry and arts education to foster reasoning and fine spatial and motor skills, encouraging problem solving and fostering creativity.

Over the past 10 years, we have worked for and with teachers to put together the pieces with the aim of creating innovative solutions to improve student learning outcomes.

10 years,  
1 goal:  
Quality Teachers for Quality Education





*ITEN Technical Cooperation Mission*  
*Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines*  
2014



# 1.

Foreword

# 10 years, 1 goal

10 | iten | 10 years



**Marva Ribeiro**  
*Former President and Vice President of the Inter-American Committee on Education 2003-2009*  
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

The professionalization of teachers has been a recurring theme of the educational international agenda for many years. Concerns and attention for improving education in the Americas resulted in bold steps being taken in this regard.

The Inter-American Teacher Educator Network (ITEN) was an offspring of the hemispheric FEMCIDI project ("Responses to the challenge of improving the quality of recruitment and selection, initial formation, professional development and evaluation of teachers in countries of the hemisphere"). Its growth and expansion resulted in the present Inter-American Teacher Education Network, where all teachers are included.

ITEN has further evolved over the years to provide much needed professional development opportunities to thousands of teachers. Its webinars are sought after, and teachers benefit from being engaged in various communities of practice. Innovative policy documents and good practices from member states are available in the Collaboratory for the Teaching Profession, and officials from ministries of education benefit from technical cooperation exchange among countries in the region.

Coordinating the hemispheric project for the Americas in the first three project years, then the Caribbean sub-region in the last project year, proved to me that all our sub-regions, if they work together to achieve the important goal of quality education in the Americas, can succeed, even if at different rates.

ITEN is alive and well, supported by education officers in the OAS and embraced by countries whose teachers build, share and apply their knowledge and experiences - thanks to the resources of ITEN - to improve the quality of their teaching and the engagement of students.

I am happy to be involved in such a worthwhile demonstration of what teachers can do, and it gives me great pleasure to share the accomplishments of ITEN over the last ten years.

Despite the considerable improvement in the access to primary and secondary education in recent years, the Americas still face challenges in achieving a high quality education for everyone. Studies that focus on top-performing school systems lead to the notion that the "quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers"<sup>1</sup>. With over six-million teachers in the region, many of whom live in rural and marginalized areas, the task of supporting teachers is of crucial importance.

Since 2005, ITEN has been committed to supporting ministries of education in OAS member states in matters related to good teacher policies and practices, and to helping practitioners acquire new knowledge and skills that enable them to bring innovative pedagogies to the classroom. All along the way, ITEN's achievements have been recognized by ministries and teachers. In this publication, we aim to share some of these achievements as we seek further support from OAS member states to be able to continue a regional endeavor that matters more than ever in the global education agenda.

<sup>1</sup> Source: *How the world's best-performing school systems come out on top*, McKinsey & Co, 2007, 23.



**Adriana M. Vilela**  
*Education Specialist*  
ITEN Coordinator



*Mi Escuela en Acción*  
San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala  
2015



## 2. What is ITEN?

## Quality Teachers, Quality Education

During the past ten years, the Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN) team has worked with Ministries of Education of OAS member states, helping them advance the teaching profession.



### Our Goal:

To contribute to the improvement of the quality of education in the Americas by promoting knowledge exchange, capacity building and technical assistance, through the use of virtual tools and in-person activities targeted at teachers and policymakers.



### How we do it:

ITEN promotes collaboration and interaction among its participants, empowering them to take the lead and learn from each other, generating change towards the professionalization of teachers and the improvement of education in the Americas.

Teachers are at the core of education and play a key role in preparing young generations for the global challenges of the 21st century.

The underlying intention of ITEN is to provide Ministries of Education with models of professional development **activities that can be implemented in their countries using local resources.**



### SIXTH INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CIDI

**“Better Opportunities for the Youth of the Americas: Rethinking Secondary Education”**  
Declaration of Quito

#### SPECIFIC MANDATE

15. Considering the fundamental role of teachers in education, we reaffirm the commitment to adopt cooperative mechanisms for the development of pre-service education and professional development of teachers that respond to the demands of the 21st century education. We entrust the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE) to follow up on this issue through the **Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN)**, to which we give our full backing.



### SEVENTH INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CIDI

**“Transforming the role of the teacher in response to 21st-century challenges”**  
Declaration of Paramaribo

#### SPECIFIC MANDATE

13. Will redouble our efforts to generate knowledge and to exchange good practices concerning innovative policies and programs for initial preparation, professional development, improvement of labor conditions, and strengthening the teaching profession. We entrust the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE), with support from its Technical Secretariat, with following up on this issue through the region’s cooperation mechanisms, including the **Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN)**, whose progress we applaud.







**ITEN Technical Cooperation Mission**  
Huacho, Peru  
2014

## The Future: ITEN's alignment to the Sustainable Development Goals

In light of the launch of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the United Nations in late September of 2015, ITEN is in a unique position to contribute to Goal 4: *“Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”* and especially Target 4.c: *“By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States.”*

ITEN is committed to promoting awareness in teachers to enable them to design classroom activities that address topics related to the SDGs.

## ITEN's alignment to the 2015 OAS Inter-American Education Agenda

*ITEN's activities contribute to each of the following items:*



Promoting policies of quality, equity and inclusion.

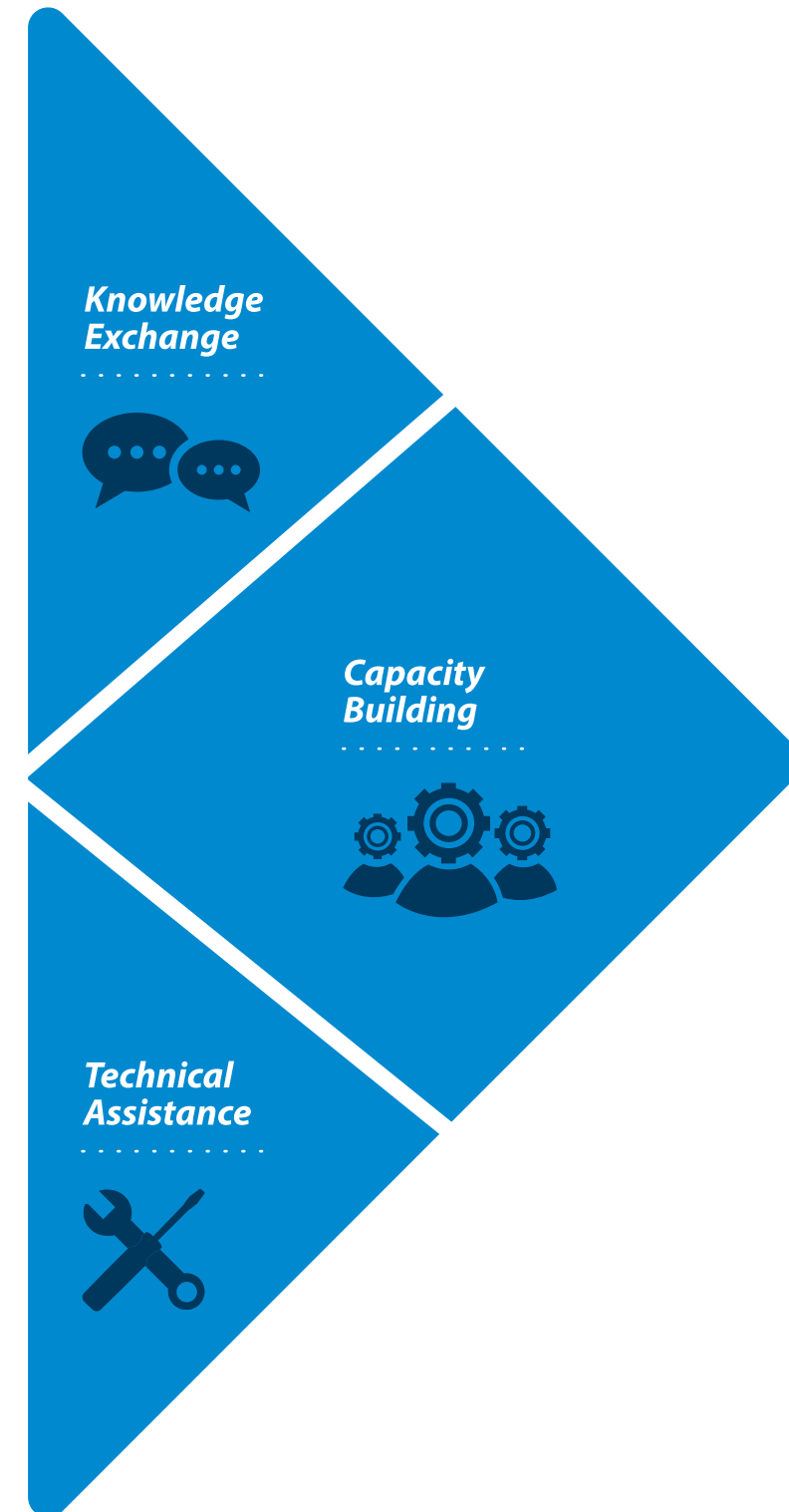


Strengthening initial teacher preparation, professional development and the teaching profession.



Contributing to comprehensive early childhood care by supporting ECCE teachers.

## ITEN pillars >



Teachers



Policymakers



*Mi Escuela en Acción, Centro Educativo Pavarotti*  
San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala  
2015

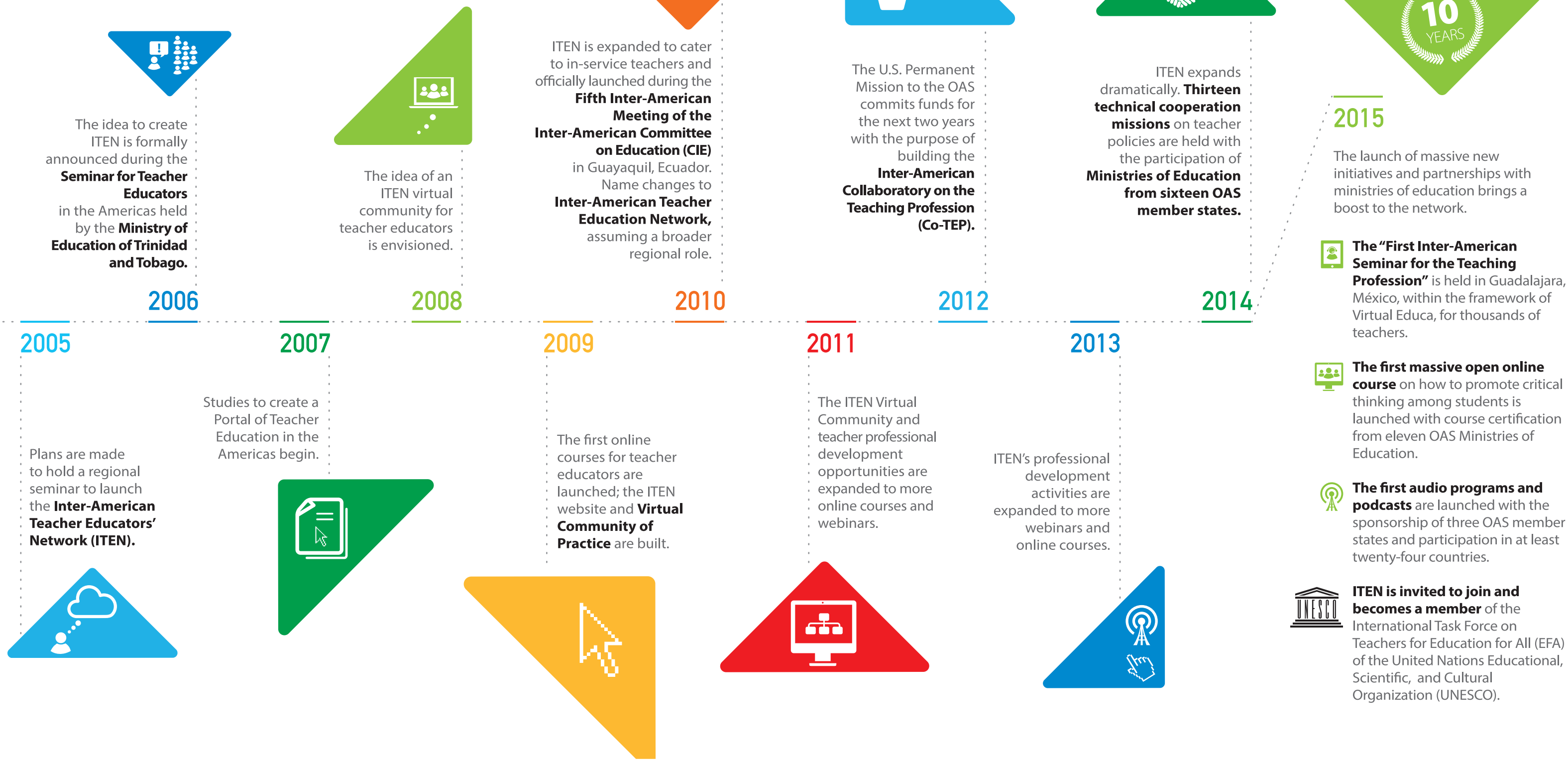
### 3. 10 Years of History



# Timeline >

The inspiration to build a network for teacher educators arises from the FEMCIDI hemispheric OAS Project.

10 years  
| iten  
20



**2005**

Plans are made to hold a regional seminar to launch the **Inter-American Teacher Educators' Network (ITEN)**.

**2007**

Studies to create a Portal of Teacher Education in the Americas begin.

**2006**

The idea to create ITEN is formally announced during the **Seminar for Teacher Educators** in the Americas held by the **Ministry of Education of Trinidad and Tobago**.

**2008**

The idea of an ITEN virtual community for teacher educators is envisioned.

**2009**

The first online courses for teacher educators are launched; the ITEN website and **Virtual Community of Practice** are built.

**2010**

ITEN is expanded to cater to in-service teachers and officially launched during the **Fifth Inter-American Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE)** in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Name changes to **Inter-American Teacher Education Network**, assuming a broader regional role.

**2011**

The ITEN Virtual Community and teacher professional development opportunities are expanded to more online courses and webinars.

**2012**

The U.S. Permanent Mission to the OAS commits funds for the next two years with the purpose of building the **Inter-American Collaboratory on the Teaching Profession (Co-TEP)**.

**2013**

ITEN's professional development activities are expanded to more webinars and online courses.

**2014**

ITEN expands dramatically. **Thirteen technical cooperation missions** on teacher policies are held with the participation of **Ministries of Education from sixteen OAS member states**.

**2015**

The launch of massive new initiatives and partnerships with ministries of education brings a boost to the network.

**The "First Inter-American Seminar for the Teaching Profession"** is held in Guadalajara, México, within the framework of Virtual Educa, for thousands of teachers.

**The first massive open online course** on how to promote critical thinking among students is launched with course certification from eleven OAS Ministries of Education.

**The first audio programs and podcasts** are launched with the sponsorship of three OAS member states and participation in at least twenty-four countries.

**ITEN is invited to join and becomes a member** of the International Task Force on Teachers for Education for All (EFA) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

# Main Contributions that have made ITEN possible >



2005 - 2007	Reserve Subfund (Education) ("Subfund") Resolutions CP/RES.831 (2006)	▶	USD \$60,000.00
	<b>Government of Trinidad and Tobago</b>		USD \$20,000.00
	Inter-American Organization on Higher Education		USD \$20,000.00
2007 - 2009	<b>Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)</b>	▶	USD \$99,750.00
2010 - 2011	Reserve Subfund (2011)	▶	USD \$179,600.00
	<b>CIDA</b>		USD \$46,966.00
2012 - 2013	<b>U.S. Permanent Mission</b> to the OAS	▶	USD \$345,529.00
2014 - 2015	<b>U.S. Permanent Mission</b> to the OAS	▶	USD \$1,586,083.03
<b>Total</b>			▶ USD \$2,536,128.03



*Mi Escuela en Acción*  
San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala  
2015



# 4.

ITEN Activities



**ITEN Activities  
For Policymakers**



Co-TEP •

Technical Cooperation Missions •



- Virtual Community
- Webinars
- MOOCs
- Online Courses
- Blended Workshops
- Audio Programs
- Online Critical Thinking Toolkits



**ITEN Activities  
For Teachers**

The contents of ITEN professional development programs are inclusive and therefore the use of the masculine or feminine in its content does not imply the exclusion of another gender identity.



## The Inter-American Collaboratory on the Teaching Profession

The Inter-American Collaboratory on the Teaching Profession (Co-TEP) is a collaborative virtual knowledge bank created to allow ministries of education and key stakeholders to share policies, good practices, publications and research documents related to the teaching profession in the Americas. The Co-TEP was conceived from the need identified by ministers of education during the Seventh Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education of OAS Member States to create a regional bank to foster knowledge exchange and cooperation among countries on teacher policies in the Americas.

[www.oas.org/cotep](http://www.oas.org/cotep)

### How does Co-TEP promote information exchange among member states?

Facilitates knowledge exchange through the dissemination of specialized publications with innovative solutions and research findings in the field of the teaching profession.



Allows leaders and policy-makers to identify policies and good practices that can be used to implement technical cooperation missions and study visits.

Provides a regional platform and network for OAS member states and key stakeholders to promote their good practices, bringing visibility to the contributions published in this knowledge bank.

400+  
Contributions

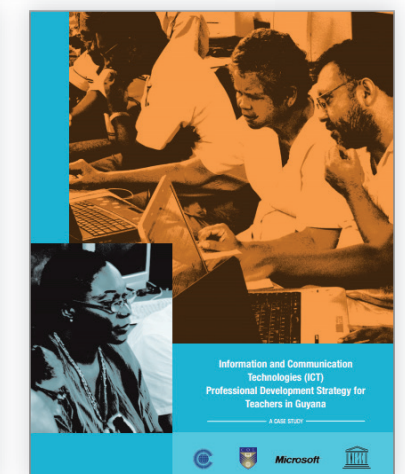
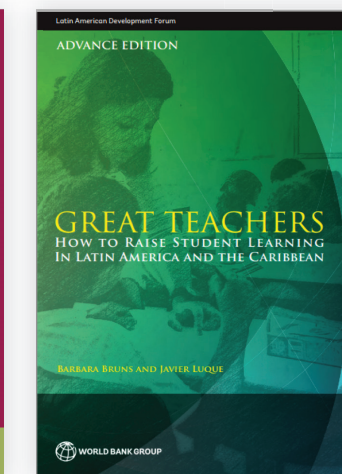
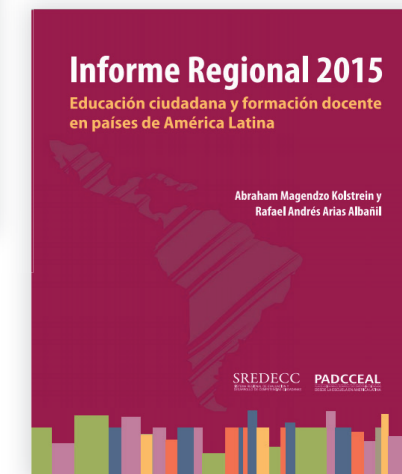
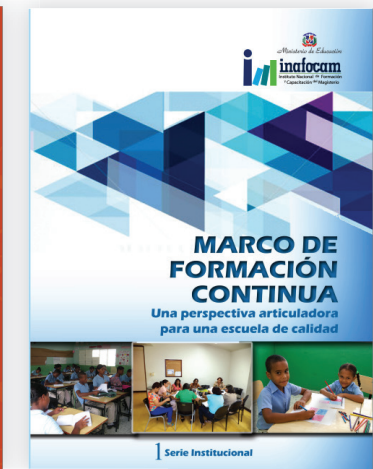
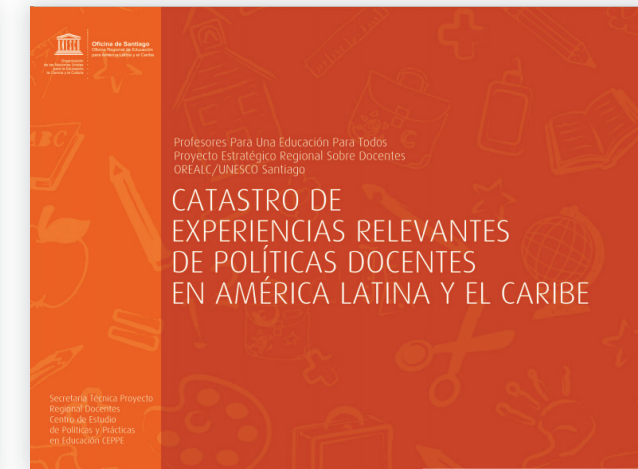
8.700+  
Users

With the Support of OREALC/UNESCO Santiago

### Co-TEP Themes

- Recruitment
- Preparation and Professional Development
- Career Path
- School Leadership and Principals
- Special topics related to the teaching profession: literacy, numeracy, science, early childhood education, citizenship education and information and communication technologies (ICTs)

### Most Downloaded Publications










## ITEN Technical Cooperation Missions

ITEN's technical cooperation missions are field visits financed by ITEN, which aim to support institutional strengthening of Ministries of Education of OAS member states. These encounters allow ministry representatives and education experts to exchange knowledge on specific policies, experiences and good practices in the field of the teaching profession in the Americas. All participating countries provide reports containing detailed information about the mission, which are shared in ITEN's knowledge bank, Co-TEP, for reference by other OAS member states and interested parties.

### How the Missions Work

- ✓  The Ministries of Education of an OAS member state or states identify a need to learn about a specific practice related to the teaching profession.
- ✓  A ministry or institution of another OAS member state successfully implementing this specific practice is identified.
- ✓  ITEN facilitates a study visit among the interested parties.
- ✓  The requesting ministry or ministries experience the practice and learn from the experts.
- ✓  After implementing the practice, the requesting ministries produce a report about their experience and the results, which is uploaded to ITEN's knowledge bank, Co-TEP - [www.oas.org/cotep](http://www.oas.org/cotep).

14  
Missions

630+  
Participating teachers and ministries  
of education representatives

11.900+  
Students reached

### Main Themes of the Missions



- Critical Thinking
- Reading Comprehension
- Mathematics
- Sciences
- Teaching Methodologies
- Teacher Career Path
- Principals and School Management
- Pre-service Teachers
- Teacher Working Conditions
- Self-sustaining Rural Schools
- Science Curriculum Revision

### Participating Countries



“

The visits to education institutes and meetings with government representatives allowed us to see the academic theory applied in practice, broadening the understanding of our strengths and weaknesses for the project that we will be implementing.

”



Participant from  
Argentina

“

These cooperation missions are very useful to our Ministry of Education and teachers because they give direction and focus to our teacher policies.

”

Participant from  
Saint Lucia



Note: Data calculated using the teacher-pupil ratio data published by UNESCO statistics.





## Virtual Community of Practice

A virtual education platform created to facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge and dissemination of professional opportunities for teachers.

The vibrant ITEN virtual community has more than 23,500 registered teachers from all over the region. Its platform, built in English and Spanish, allows teachers from numerous countries in the Americas to interact by exchanging ideas and experiences and joining special interest groups, thus encouraging peer-to-peer learning.

[www.itenamericas.org](http://www.itenamericas.org)



23.500+  
Participants

351.700+  
Students reached

### In the Virtual Community participants can access

- Peers with whom to exchange ideas
- Scholarships and free courses
- Education conferences and events
- Education webinars
- Education videos
- Specialized forums and groups

ITEN Virtual Community Member  
and Teacher from Peru



“

*Dear teachers from the Americas, this platform is a great opportunity to learn and share our pedagogical practice, which always favors a better education for public schools. Kind regards to all of you, the organizing team and our trainers.*

”

“

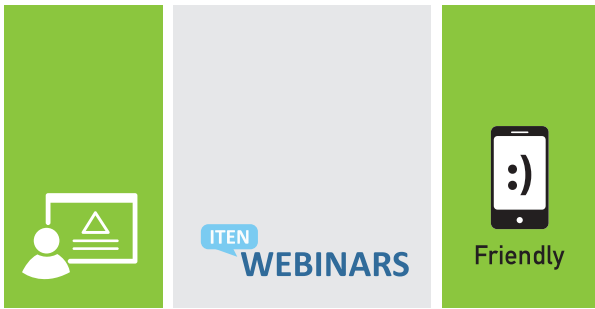
*I am happy to be a part of this network. I hope that I will be able to connect with like-minded individuals who are also members here and collaborate on projects that can be mutually beneficial.*

”



ITEN Virtual Community Member  
and Teacher from Trinidad and Tobago

Note: Data calculated using the teacher-pupil ratio data published by UNESCO statistics.



## Webinars

These free, live, online seminars are one-hour long events led by a specialist from the region on themes that provide K-12 teachers with practical and methodological tools to be used in class. All webinars are recorded and posted on the ITEN YouTube channel and virtual community of practice for free access. The ITEN video library provides teachers with invaluable educational resources.

[www.youtube.com/riediten](http://www.youtube.com/riediten)

Participant from Barbados

“Dear ITEN team, I appreciate the opportunity to join the Webinar, which as usual was of the highest standard. Thank you.”

Participant from Guatemala

“This was an excellent webinar because the specialist shared information and strategies that can be used within the classroom.”

52  
Webinars held to date

15.780+  
Registered participants

44.000+  
Recorded Webinar views

### Webinar Themes

- Critical Thinking, Literacy, Leadership, Technology, Teacher Policies, Education for Inclusion, Peace Education, and more.

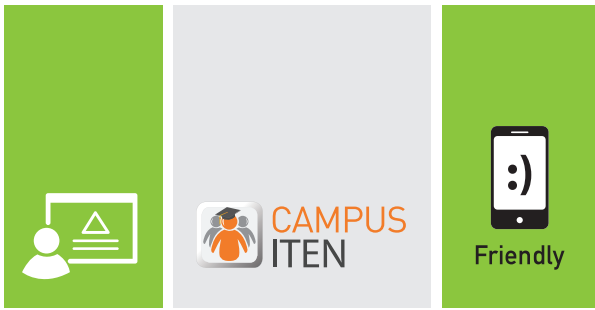
### Top Participating Countries

#### Webinars in Spanish

Ecuador  
Colombia  
Mexico  
Peru  
Argentina  
El Salvador  
Cost Rica  
Guatemala  
Uruguay  
Chile

#### Webinars in English

Antigua and Barbuda  
United States of America  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Jamaica  
Barbados  
The Bahamas  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
St. Lucia  
Guyana  
Grenada



## Massive Open Online Courses - 1<sup>st</sup> Edition

The development of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) is rooted in the idea of openness in education, free sharing of knowledge, and the belief that the desire to learn should be satisfied without demographic, economic, and geographical constraints. ITEN MOOCs aim to strengthen teachers' skills, offering practical tools such as lesson plan formats and methodological approaches to develop critical thinking skills among students.

[www.campusriediten.org](http://www.campusriediten.org)

Soon to be launched, the first ITEN MOOC in English is expected to complement the workshops for teachers called "Learn and Save" held within the framework of the Caribbean Energy Education and Awareness Program (CEEAP) of the OAS Department for Sustainable Development.

### Top Participating Countries



Ecuador\*

Colombia\*

Costa Rica\*

Guatemala\*

Mexico\*

Paraguay\*

Honduras\*

Peru

Argentina

Venezuela

\* Countries certifying or validating the ITEN MOOC.

6.790+  
Registered Participants

106.370+  
Students reached

## ITEN Online Courses

Since 2009, ITEN has partnered with other teacher organizations such as iEARN, Fundación Evolución, Fundación Cisneros and, along with the OAS Professional Development Scholarships Program, to deliver traditional online courses in the use of ICTs in the classroom.



Note: Data calculated using the teacher-pupil ratio data published by UNESCO statistics.





## Blended Workshops: *Mi Escuela en Acción*

*Mi Escuela en Acción* (My School in Action) is a series of face-to-face teacher professional development workshops that provide theoretical knowledge and practical skills in the design and implementation of local community service projects in secondary schools. ITEN workshops strengthen teachers' pedagogical skills in project-based learning to engage students in addressing problems in their community. Students document the process and create an electronic portfolio. To date, the workshops are only offered in Spanish.

### Sample project themes



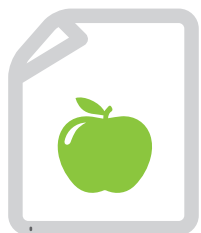
“  
Latin  
American  
Cultures  
”



“  
Let's  
Clean  
our River  
”



“  
The  
Importance  
of Water  
”

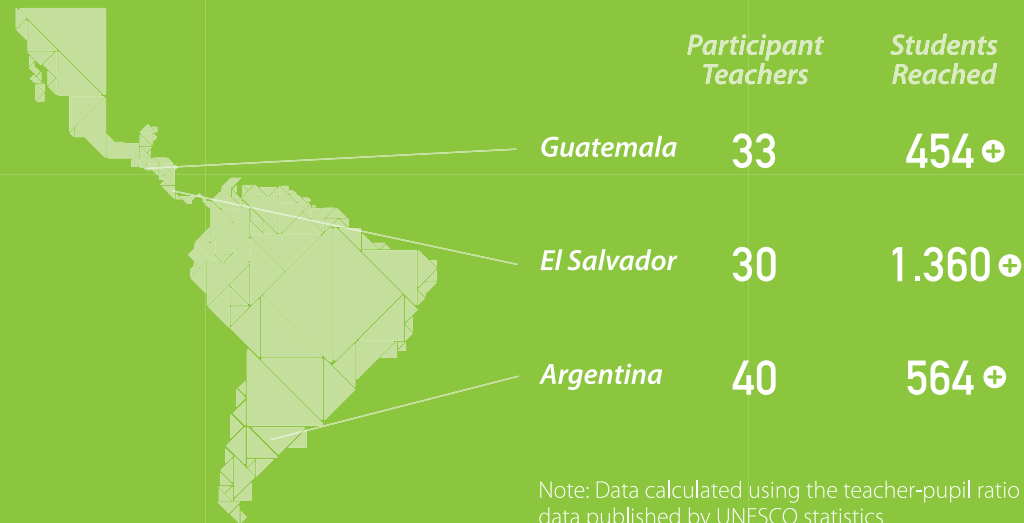
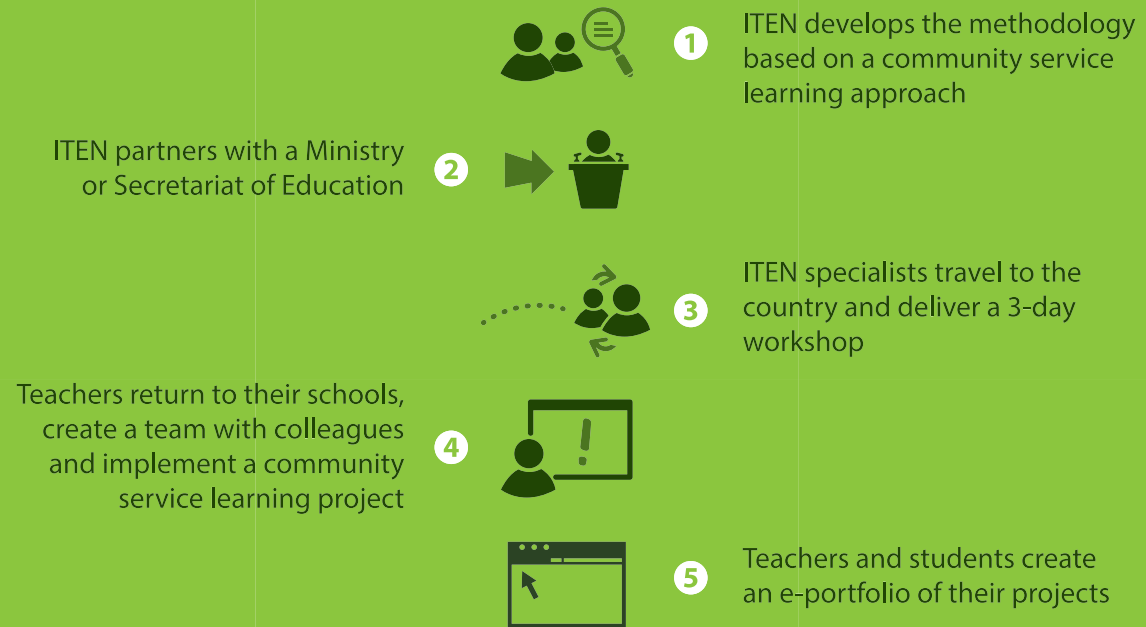


“  
Food  
Safety  
”



“  
Family  
Orchards  
”

### How *Mi Escuela en Acción* Works



Note: Data calculated using the teacher-pupil ratio data published by UNESCO statistics



## Audio Programs

ITEN created a series of interactive radio programs and podcasts for teachers in areas of OAS member states where Internet access is limited. These audio programs strengthen teachers' ability to teach critical thinking skills in mathematics, reading comprehension, science and citizenship education. Woven into an entertaining drama series, the participatory lessons feature short pauses that allow teachers to respond to questions, partake in group discussions, write plans for their classes, and more. They learn practical skills to apply in the classroom immediately.

**Program available via podcast at**



App available for Android and iOS systems

### Why an audio program?



- Greater access for teachers to the tools of ITEN.
- Multiple dissemination channels (radio, CD, flash drive, podcast, web portal).
- Familiar technology.
- Potential for reaching a large audience at a reasonable cost.
- Tradition of radio education in the region.

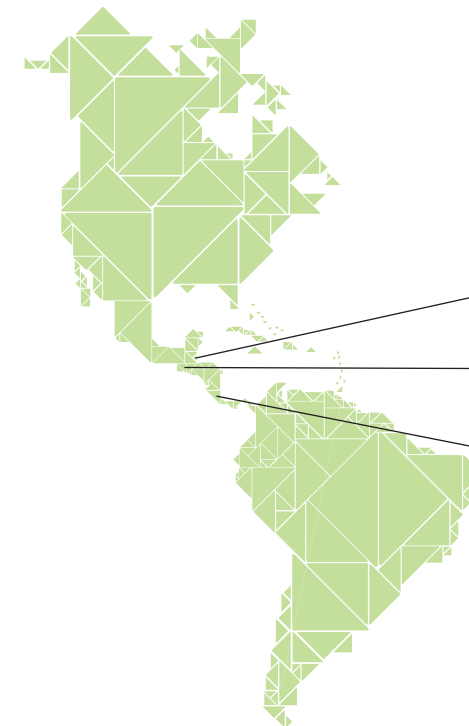
**1.106** downloads and online listens in **24** OAS member states in the first 5 weeks

*Participating teacher from Barbados*

**“**  
This is an awesome series that will surely help teachers grow professionally and aid significantly in their pedagogy.  
**”**

*Participating teacher from Mexico*

**“**  
It gives me confidence to ask complex questions. It provides me good examples of how to do it.  
**”**



	Participant Teachers	Students Reached
Belize*	3.000+	55.000+
Guatemala*	100+	1.300+
Costa Rica*	240+	3.300+

\* Countries implementing the ITEN Audio Program  
Note: Data calculated using the teacher-pupil ratio data published by UNESCO statistics



Friendly

## Online Critical Thinking Toolkits

The online critical thinking toolkits provide teachers with theoretical and practical tools to strengthen teaching methodologies in the classroom, including the design, implementation and evaluation of lesson plans. These toolkits are focused on general concepts to promote critical thinking skills in all subjects for secondary-level students with emphasis on mathematics, reading comprehension, science and citizenship education. They are available on an ongoing basis for an unlimited number of participants.

The English toolkit is soon to be released.

Toolkit available at



App available for Android and iOS systems

2.087+

Participating Teachers

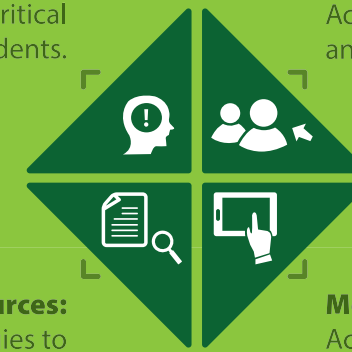
36.512+

Students reached

## Online Critical Thinking Toolkits Components

**Theory and Methodologies:**  
Know-how to strengthen the critical thinking skills of secondary-level students.

**Lesson Plans:**  
Access lesson plans designed by educators and specialists across the region.



**Educational Resources:**  
Access tools and methodologies to implement effective lesson plans.

**Media Resources:**  
Access complementary videos to enhance the learning experience.

## Top Participating Countries

- Ecuador
- Colombia
- Mexico
- Peru
- Panama
- Dominican Republic
- United States of America
- Costa Rica
- Argentina
- El Salvador





ITEN Technical Cooperation Mission  
Huacho, Peru  
2014









# 5.

ITEN in the Americas



# ITEN in the Americas >

## Activity:

- 
> 1
- 
> 2
- 
> 3
- 
> 4
- 
> 5
- 
> 6
- 
> 7
- 
> 8







OAS Country Office  
Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis  
2015

# 6.

ITEN and  
its Partners



## Partners >

10 years  
| iten  
| 50



Organization of  
American States  
More rights for more people

### OAS Partners

- Inter-American Commission of Women
- Virtual Educa
- Professional Development Scholarships Program
- Department of Sustainable Development



### Universities and Colleges of the Americas

- University of the West Indies  
- Faculty of Humanities and Education
- University of Puerto Rico, Facultad de Educación
- California State University, San Marcos
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Community College
- National College for Education Leadership of Jamaica
- University of Saskatchewan
- Universidad de El Salvador  
- Facultad de Cs. Naturales y Matemática
- University of Pennsylvania (GSE)



### Multilateral Organizations

- OREALC UNESCO Santiago
- UNESCO International Task Force on Teachers
- World Bank
- Inter-American Development Bank



### Other Organizations

- Boston Arts Academy
- iEARN Orillas
- iEARN USA
- Fundación Evolución (iEARN Argentina)
- Instituto de Formación Docente Marie Curie - Argentina
- Centro de Modelación Matemática de la Universidad de Chile
- Institutional Council for Science, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Teachers Without Borders
- International Reading Association
- Fundación Omar Dengo - Costa Rica
- Fundación Rigoberta Menchú Tum

## ITEN Advisory Board >



### **DAVID EDWARDS**

*Deputy General Secretary of Education International*

### **DEYANIRA CASTILLEJA**

*M.A. in Education with concentration in the Development of Teacher Competencies*

### **DENISE VAILLANT**

*Pd.D. (Education), University of Québec à Montréal, Canada*

### **DINA ROSEN**

*Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education at Kean University*

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*Chief of the Education Division at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, DC.*

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*Director, Strategic Alliances, Education & CSR, Intel Latin America*

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*Central American Education Expert*

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*Professor at the Universidad Diego Portales, School of Education, Chile*

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*Acting Senior Director for International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) in the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education*

### **MARCELA GAJARDO**

*Harvard University DRCLAS Visiting Scholar; International Advisor at Mexico's National Institute for Educational Evaluation (INEE); Co-founder and Past Director of PREAL in Chile.*

### **MARVA RIBEIRO**

*International Education Consultant focusing on Teacher Education, Special Education, Early Childhood Care and Education and Program Development and Assessment at the tertiary level*

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*Senior Fellow, Graduate School of Education, Director, Mid-Career Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership*

### **PAZ PORTALES**

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# The ITEN 2015 Team >

iten | 10 years  
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ITEN Coordinator



**Daniel Pier**  
Audio Programs



**María José de León**  
Partnerships & Outreach



**Michaela Reich**  
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**Nathalia Khayat**  
Technical  
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Missions



**Valentina Pernetto**  
Webinars



**Mónica de la Garza**  
Digital Media



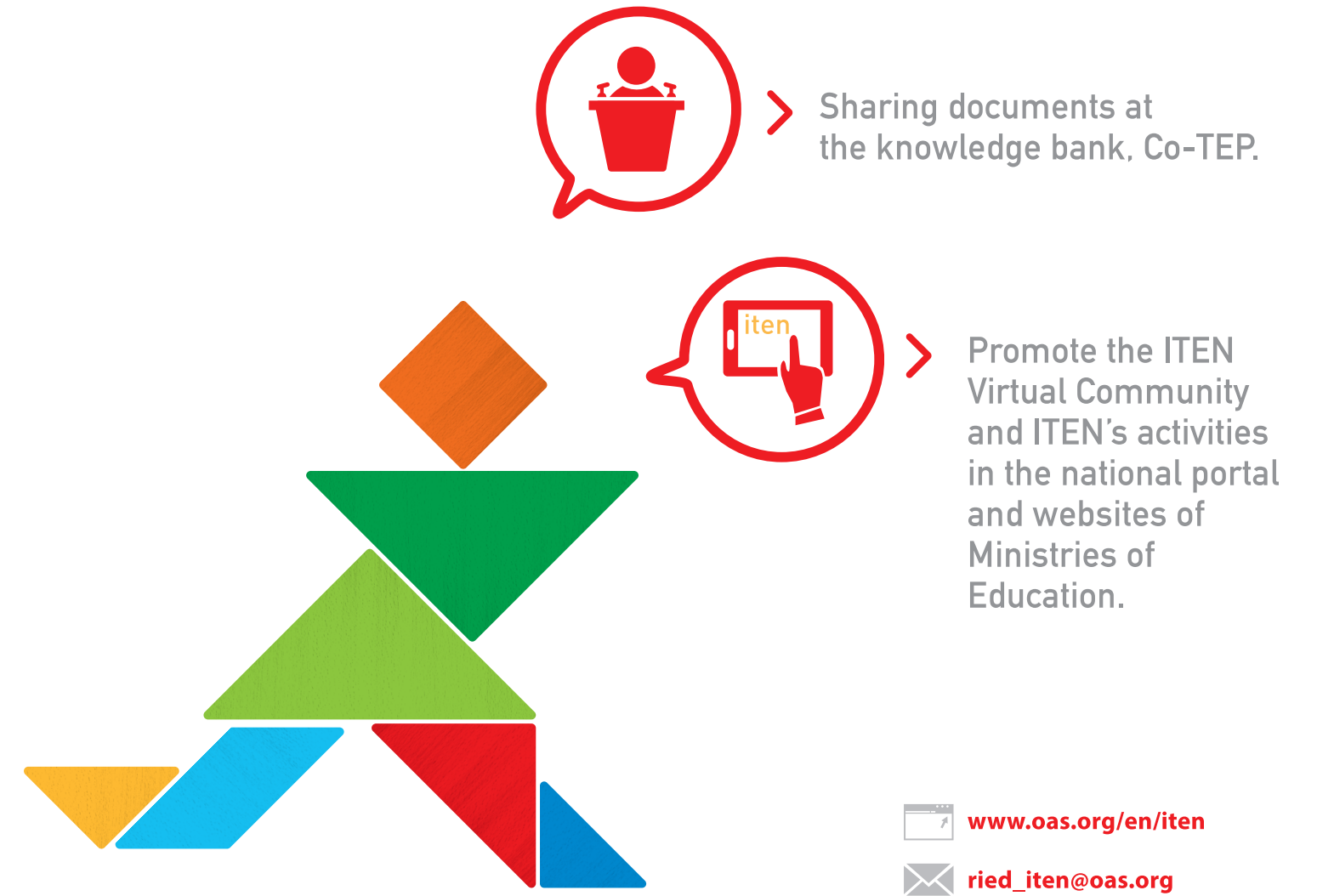


*ITEN Technical Cooperation Mission*  
*St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda*  
2014



**7.**  
How to  
Participate

## How to Participate >





Organization of  
American States | More rights  
for more people

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# Quality Teachers, Quality Education

2005 - 2015

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Inter-American Teacher Education Network

