Biographical Information

Media Contact:
Patricia Delaney
Director of Media Relations
Boston College
617-552-3352

PIRLS Project Contact:
Ina V.S. Mullis
Michael O. Martin
Co-Directors
TIMSS and PIRLS
International Study Center
617-552-1600

April 8, 2003

Dr. Alejandro Tiana, Chairperson, IEA

Dr. Alejandro Tiana is Chair of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), an independent international cooperative of national research institutions and governmental research agencies. The IEA has been conducting large-scale comparative studies of educational achievement since 1959, and is the sponsoring organization for PIRLS and TIMSS. Currently Professor of Education and Vice-Rector for Innovation and Evaluation at the Spanish National Distance Teaching University with about 200,000 students, Tiana worked for the Ministry of Education and Science of Spain from 1989 to 1996, first as Director of the Centre for Educational Research and Documentation and subsequently as Director of the National Institute for Quality and Evaluation. Over the past decade and a half, he has participated in the work of a number of international organizations, including terms as President of the Consortium of Institutions for Development and Research of Education in Europe (CIDREE) and of the Governing Board of OECD's Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI). He began his second three-year term as chair of IEA in September 2002. He received his Ph.D. from the University Complutense of Madrid in 1985.

Dr. Hans Wagemaker, Executive Director, IEA

Appointed Executive Director in 1998, Hans Wagemaker brings to IEA extensive leadership experience in administration and research. Headquartered at IEA's permanent Secretariat in the Netherlands, Wagemaker facilitates the planning and development of IEA studies and monitors their progress. He initiates and coordinates country participation in IEA studies and performs fund-raising activities for various IEA projects. Prior to his IEA appointment, Wagemaker was the TIMSS National Research Coordinator for New Zealand in the Research Section of the New Zealand Ministry of Education. He also led the development of New Zealand's School Entry Assessment and was heavily involved in IEA's Reading Literacy Study, serving on the International Steering Committee. He has represented New Zealand at the OECD's Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) and Education Committees and was head of Delegation to the APEC Education Forum. His areas of specialization include research and evaluation, policy analysis, program/project management, comparative and international education, and large-scale survey/assessment methods. Wagemaker received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in sociology of education/comparative education.

— MORE —

Dr. Ina V.S. Mullis, Co-Director, TIMSS and PIRLS International Study Center at Boston College

Co-Director of PIRLS (the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study), Ina V.S. Mullis has been with the International Study Center at Boston College since 1994. She is a Professor in the Lynch School of Education in the Department of Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation, Co-Director of the TIMSS and PIRLS International Study Center, and Co-Director of TIMSS (the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study). Prior to joining Boston College, Mullis was Project Director of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) at Educational Testing Service. She received a Ph.D. in educational research from the University of Colorado, where she was the 1983 recipient of the distinguished alumni award from the school of education. She has considerable management experience and technical expertise in a wide range of large-scale national and international assessment methods and issues. She is the contributing author in more than 50 publications. Mullis serves on several national advisory panels, including the NAEP Validation Studies Panel, and is the independent evaluation specialist for the Foundation for Teaching Economics.

Dr. Michael O. Martin, Co-Director, TIMSS and PIRLS International Study Center at Boston College

Michael O. (''Mick'') Martin has been directing PIRLS (the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) internationally since its inception in 1999. He is Co-Director of the TIMSS and PIRLS International Study Center at Boston College, and a research professor in the Lynch School of Education. He is also Co-Director of TIMSS (the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study), serving as a director of TIMSS since joining Boston College in 1994. He is an internationally recognized expert in designing assessment instruments, operations procedures, and quality assurance procedures. Before joining Boston College, he was a Research Fellow at the Educational Research Center at St. Patrick's College, Dublin, where he directed Ireland's national surveys of student achievement and served as Ireland's national project representative for four major international students surveys. He has served on IEA's Technical Advisory Committee since 1992. Martin received a M.Sc. degree in computer applications from Trinity College, Dublin (1973) and a Ph.D. in psychology from University College, Dublin (1980).

— END —