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## Latin American Nations Plan New Uses For Copper

*by Barbara Khol*

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On Aug. 9 in Santiago, Peter Lowick-Russel, of the Chilean state-run Copper Corporation (CODELCO), told reporters that copper producers in five Latin American nations have agreed to establish a network to promote new uses of the metal. Lowick-Russel spoke at the close of a meeting with copper company executives from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Peru. The meeting was sponsored by the International Copper Association (ICA), created in 1988 to carry out distribution transactions in the world market with funds donated by producer-nations. ICA established regional councils in the US and Europe. During the encounter in Santiago, a council for Latin America was approved. Lowick-Russel told the Inter Press Service that current copper consumption in Latin America totals about 500,000 metric tons per year, or about 1 kg. per inhabitant. The world average is 2.5 kg. Copper substitutes include optic fiber, plastics, ceramics, and certain organic compounds. Producers say about \$100 million in investment is necessary for industry improvements. Market possibilities include nuclear waste containers, new electronic non-pollutant vehicle technologies, and heating systems based on stored energy. (Basic data from Inter Press Service, 08/09/91)

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