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## **Ecuador: Five New Turbines Added To Paute Hydroelectric Complex**

*by Barbara Khol*

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On Nov. 3, Julio Ponce, top manager of the Ecuadoran Electricity Institute (INECEL), told reporters that five new turbines at the Paute hydroelectric complex are operational. Combined power generation capacity of the new turbines is 500,000 kilowatts/hour, nearly doubling existing capacity of 575,000 kw/hr. Transmission lines from the Paute plant cross nearly all mountain and coastal provinces in Ecuador. At present, Ecuador sells 3,000 kw/hr to Colombia, priced at US\$0.04 per kw/hr. Quito is currently negotiating the sale of 30,000 kw/hr to Colombia. Ponce said the cost of installing the five new turbines was US\$205.9 million. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Italian government, and the Italian construction firm GIE contributed US\$161.8 million of the total investment. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 11/03/91)

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