

## **INSTITUTE OF SECURITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES**

*Instituto de Seguridad y Servicios Sociales de los Trabajadores del Estado (ISSSTE)*, the Institute for Security and Social Services for Public Service Employees, is financed by premiums paid by all federal and state employers on behalf of their employees. Employees and their immediate families are covered. The *ISSSTE* offers comparable services to those provided by the *Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social (IMSS)*, Mexican Institute for Social Security.

In addition to providing a health care network to members, *ISSSTE* is also responsible for the administration of social security benefits. This includes, as in the case of *IMSS*, sports and recreation facilities, summer camps, disability insurance, pension administration and funeral services, for its members and their families.

In 1993, the *ISSSTE* moved towards decentralization of administrative functions through a program called *Programa de Descentralización de Presupuesto a los Hospitales Regionales*, Program for Budget Decentralization to the Regional Hospitals. The eventual impact this will have on procurement decisions remains unclear. In 1993, the organization privatized 343 of its stores and pharmacy facilities by selling them to the private sector. During this same period, it contracted out funeral services thus freeing resources for reallocation within the system.

In 1992, the *ISSSTE* operated a total of 1,180 units in all 31 states. These units included 1,093 clinics or primary care facilities and 87 hospitals of which 10 were specialized hospitals.

In 1993, the *ISSSTE* undertook a significant infrastructure rehabilitation and expansion program. It completed construction of 18 new primary care centres and one clinic which includes hospitalization facilities. Most of the agency's budget was dedicated to improving existing facilities with improvements to 14 primary care units, one specialized clinic, six primary care hospitals and four general hospitals. The emphasis was on both renovating the premises of these units and introducing new equipment.

