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CWC PROMOTES YOUNG TALENT IN PANAMA

17 year old Irma Eneida Hernández Berrío has won Panama's 2013 National Oratory Contest, a popular public speaking competition sponsored by the Panama business of Cable & Wireless Communications.

Panama's National Oratory Contest was started in the 1970s and each year involves thousands of high school students, teachers and parents from across the country. Cable & Wireless Panama has been the Contest's principal sponsor since 2005.

The 2013 finalists spoke on the topic, 'The role of youth in democracy: Legitimacy, efficiency and active participation'. A prime time television audience watched the final in which Ms Hernández Berrío, a high school junior from Pureza de María High School in Panama City, won the Oratory Cup 2013.

There were 11 participants in the final, with the winners sharing prizes worth more than US\$300,000. Second place went to Marixsa Brown of Jose Ibarra High School from the province of Bocas del Toro; third was Jaime Mendez of the Felix Esteban Oller High School, Guna Yala region; fourth place went to Daniel Arauz from Salomon Ponce Aguilera high school in Coclé province; fifth was Laura Miranda from Our Lady of Angels High School, Province of Chiriquí; and sixth place went to Ivania Barrios from the Augustinian School of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd from Panama's Herrera province.

The judging panel was chaired by Panamanian academic, Juan David Morgan, and included Lord Garel-Jones from the UK; Victoria Hernandez Salcedo, a Colombian actress; Javier El-Hage, a Bolivian attorney and former Fullbright scholar; Yara Iveth Campos from Panama's Electoral Court; Dr. Stanley Muschett, a Panamanian academic and Claudia Gurisatti Barreto, a Colombian journalist.

The final was hosted by Ismael Cala, a renowned journalist from CNN, and the Panamanian singer Erika Ender.

About the National Oratory Contest

- Cable & Wireless Panama became official sponsorship of the National Oratory Contest in 2005, increasing its exposure in the national media and the value of prizes
- The National Oratory Contest is the most important event of the year for Panama's high school students. It was popularised in the 1970s and 1980s by Caja de Ahorros, a Panamanian bank
- Past winners have gone on to fill senior positions in Government and private enterprise
- The winners of the National Oratory Contest, 2005-2013 were:
 - 2005 Milagros Ramos - Moreno High School of Macaracas, province of Los Santos
 - 2006 Katherine Sandivel - José Dolores Moscote High School, Panama City
 - 2007 Israel Romero - Parroquial San José High School, province of Bocas del Toro
 - 2008 Gabriela Cano Rodríguez - San Francisco de Asís High School, province of Chiriquí
 - 2009 Carlos Saldaña - Our Lady of Angels High School, Province of Chiriquí
 - 2010 Hugo Stocker Lou - Ruffo A. Garay Institute, province of Colón
 - 2011 Santiago Gallardo - Félix Esteban Oller High School, Guna Yala Region

- 2012 Suellen Ayala – Institute David, province of Chiriquí
- 2013 Irma Hernández – Pureza de María High School, Panama City

About Cable & Wireless Communications

Cable & Wireless Communications is a full-service communications business. We operate leading communications businesses offering mobile, broadband and domestic and international fixed line services in most of our markets as well as pay TV, data centre and hosting, carrier and managed service solutions. Our operations are focused on providing our customers - consumers, businesses, governments - with world-class service. We are the market leader in most products we offer and territories we serve. For more information visit www.cwc.com.

About Cable & Wireless Panama

Cable & Wireless Panama (CWP) is a Panamanian telecoms company. We are jointly owned by Cable & Wireless Communications (49%), the Government of Panama (49%) and our employees (2%). Cable & Wireless Communications has both management and Board control.

We are the market leader in the provision of fixed, mobile and broadband services in Panama. We are also a major supplier of pay TV and enterprise services.

We are committed to contributing towards the social and economic development of the country through investing in projects and programmes to provide equal access to telecommunications, closing the digital divide and promoting access to new information technology. One example of this is our social telecoms projects (telecoms-enabled public services) which are helping to improve medical services, education and public safety across Panama.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.cwpanama.com>

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