

Brazilian President Promotes Information Economy



Rio de Janeiro, July 3 (Xinhua-RHC) -- Brazil needs to develop an information economy to ensure adequate wealth distribution and reduce inequality, President Dilma Rousseff said Wednesday.

In a speech at a graduation ceremony for technology students in Vitoria, Espirito Santo state, Rousseff said the country needs to boost education and technology. She also stressed the need for more Brazilians to study abroad.

One of her administration's pet programs, Science without Borders, offers scholarships to Brazilian students to enable them to attend undergraduate and postgraduate courses around the world, mainly in technological and medical fields.

Rousseff also underscored her government's push to increase spending on education by enacting a law which calls for 75 percent of the federal government's royalties from pre-salt oil reserve exploration to be invested in education.

In addition, 50 percent of the country's so-called Social Fund, also financed with oil revenues, is to be invested in education.

Rousseff said those two sources would amount to 1 trillion reals (446 billion U.S. dollars) in education spending over the next 35 years.

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