Good morning, this is Tomás Uribe assistant to the CEO of Cementos Argos. I am here with Mr. Ricardo Sierra, CFO and María Clara Aristizábal.

We wish to thank each and every one of you for your interest and attendance to this conference call, which we have prepared to share with you the results of Cementos Argos for the first quarter of 2010.

Mr. Sierra will go over the most important numbers of our income statement and our balance sheet, which are contained in the report delivered to you all yesterday, and will refer as well to recent developments in our company. I would like to mention also that a slide presentation referring to these results has been made available on the company’s website which we strongly recommend you to follow during this call. To download this presentation please go to our website www.argos.com.co; then go to the section Investors, then go to Communications and finally in the presentation’s section you will find a Powerpoint file called Cementos Argos’ 1Q10 Results.

At this time I would like to introduce our CFO, Mr. Ricardo Sierra.

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, thank you for joining us today.

First of all, it is important for you to know that due to the current economic conditions, as well as the absence of the coal assets divested which were registering revenues for our company in the previous year, we were expecting lower figures for the first quarter of 2010. For instance, in terms of consolidated revenues and EBITDA, we had budgeted a 19% and 16% decrease respectively for this year’s first quarter. Besides, in addition to this circumstances mentioned, we experienced an even weaker start of the year than expected, hit by the harsh weather conditions of last winter and poor pricing in the US, the unfortunate events in Haiti, and the standby position for major projects that surrounds an electoral environment like the Colombian right now.

Fortunately, weather conditions have improved since mid-March in the US, resources have been pledged for Haiti’s reconstruction and infrastructure projects in Colombia are preparing its kick-off. As seen in the last month of the quarter, we expect to continue catching up in order to offset the figures obtained in the first two months of 2010. All of the above leads us to believe
that despite this critical start, we shall still accomplish our main goals for the year as we mentioned in the guidance when reviewing last year’s results.

In second place, I am very pleased to announce that, despite this rough beginning, after all this years of continuing efforts in the positioning of our brand and the continuous transmission of our value-added proposition to the consumer, our brand Argos in Colombia got a clear first place in the latest Top of Mind survey conducted by the recognized marketing consultant Invamer Gallup, and published in the latest issue of Dinero magazine. Overall, the brand Argos got the first place with 41% recall among the consumers. This last, more than satisfying us, commits us even further with our company in order to maintain this privileged position in the minds of our consumers by keep working on our excellent-positioned quality and service strategy.

Thirdly, during this first quarter of 2010, we signed a joint venture for 3.2 million dollars with Vensur, a company belonging to the Kersten Group, which is Suriname’s main business group. This shall give Cementos Argos grinding and packing facilities, as well as port access with silos. This joint venture shall allow the Company to ensure an important sales channel for clinker which could well reach between 90 and 150 thousand tons. The Surinamese cement market caters to a population of more than 500 thousand and represents about 200 thousand tons of cement per year, with an interesting growth potential.

With initiatives such as this, we continue to build up a network of commercial alliances which shall ensure that we efficiently place our new production output from our Cartagena plant, as well as strengthen our leadership in the Caribbean. This region has a strategic importance for Argos and forms part of its expansion process. It also has holds a very special attractiveness for Argos, since it has been present on the Caribbean markets for more than fifty years, having begun to export to these countries back in the 1950s, in which time it has built up substantial in-depth knowledge of this part of the world. It has also maintained commercial relations with Vensur over the past thirty years.

Let’s move to the financial results for the first quarter 2010.

As you can see in slide number 6, on a consolidated basis Cementos Argos first quarter revenues were 27% lower than those achieved in the same period last year, however and as we just said, we were expecting a decrease in revenues of 19% due to all the facts mentioned previously.
On a challenging year for our industry as the one starting, we registered better and positive figures on March by achieving a last seven-month best that we expect to be a trend upturn for the coming months.

In this same slide you can notice that while we were expecting a drop in the operating profit of 32% for this first quarter, the major decrease in sales, as well as the facts illustrated, made it to decline 37%.

Moving on to the next slide, it is important noting that even though our operating figures for the first quarter were generally down compared to the previous year, due to efficiency and productivity campaigns held as contingent strategies during this exigent year start, the EBITDA margin for the first quarter increased by 110 basis points from 16.4% in first quarter 2009 to 17.5% for this same period in 2010. EBITDA for the first quarter declined by 22% with a figure of 122 thousand million pesos, 93% of our budgeted EBITDA.

In this slide, you can see that during the last three months, our consolidated assets increased by 2% to 14.9 billion pesos (or 7.7 billion dollars), liabilities decreased by 1% to 4.8 billion pesos (or 2.5 billion dollars) and shareholders’ equity increased 3% to 10 billion pesos (or 5.2 billion dollars).

In reference to the non-operational result, the net profit for the first quarter of 2010 amounted to 33 thousand million pesos. This figure is not comparable to the one recorded for the same quarter of 2009 given the non-recurring profit of around 357 thousand million pesos caused by the sale of our coal export business to VALE in the same period of 2009.

Before proceeding to discuss our regional results, it is important to note the change made to our organizational structure, with regard to the way in which we now classify our regions. Before, we considered that all those plants, ports and businesses located in a specific region, belonged to the corresponding Regional Division. For example, the Cartagena plant belonged to the Colombian Regional Division and our US ports to the US. Now with this new structure, we shall continue to analyze our different regional business based on the assets strategically assigned to such, the results of which are the responsibility of their respective Regional Divisions.

These changes mainly consisted of: transferring the US and Colombian ports, the Cartagena plant and the trading, to the Caribbean region. Also, our real estate and forestry businesses together with those remaining under the direction of our Business Development Division, that is to say white cement and lime, amongst others, no longer belong to our Colombian Regional Division but
are classified as Other Businesses. On the other hand, our coal-mining business, which previously figured under Other Businesses, is now included as part of our Colombian Regional Division. In any case, the results herein contained are comparable since they are presented in their proforma version for this same period in 2009.

Finally, we have separated the corporate component that had been previously assigned to each of the Regional Divisions; this for the purpose of being able to better monitor our corporate results.

**Colombia:**

As you can see in slide number 11, operating revenues of our operations in Colombia declined by 17% to 365 thousand million pesos, 2% more than our budgeted decrease. The decrease in revenue was mainly due to the absence of the coal export assets divested last year which were in our balance in the first quarter of 2009. The budget accomplishment for the revenues in the Colombian region stood at 98%.

As previously mentioned, the Colombia Regional Division now includes our coal business, and bearing in mind that revenues obtained from our divested coal-mining assets came to COP$79 thousand million for Q1 2009, this would provide a comparable revenue figure of COP$361 thousand million for this same quarter. Upon comparing this figure with the revenues obtained in Q1 2010, we would have obtained an increase.

The EBITDA for this region registered 108 thousand million pesos, 15% lower than the one achieved during the same period in 2009; although we were expecting a drop in EBITDA, first quarter figure was 16% higher than the one we had estimated for the first 3 months of the year. The EBITDA margin rose to 29.6%, increasing 80 basis points on last year's first quarter figure and 460 basis points on our goal for this quarter.

As you can see in next slide, in the case of Argos within the Colombian region, cement sales decreased by 4% on this first quarter to 928 thousand tons, while for the same period, ready mix sales increased by 33% to 396 thousand cubic meters.

It is valid to emphasize on the fact that although we increased our ready mix volumes, they were behind our expectations for the quarter. To date, we have been awarded so far around 2.5 million cubic meters of ready mix contracts for infrastructure projects to be dispatch on the next 2 to 3 years, however, there
have been delays in deliveries due to the normal passing of the works of major infrastructure projects like the ones we are working in. Furthermore, we have an optimistic stance in terms of cement sales for the remainder of the year given the current low interest rates that could certainly encourage housing construction and the expectations of analysts’ consensus forecast reflecting an expected GDP growth for 2010 of around 2.70%. We are estimating for the current year, a 5% growth in cement sales, in terms of volume.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (DANE), so far this year to February, the area approved for constructions increased by 8.3% over the same period for the previous year. Out of this area, 66% was approved for housing projects and 34% to other type of construction.

Finally, in March 2010 we successfully completed the installation and conditioning of our tower number 2 kiln in our Rioclaro cement plant, with zero accidents rate and ensuring full compliance with environmental emission regulations. This will allow us to meet our delivery cement schedule on time.

Moving on to the next slide, you will see the results for the United States region.

**United States**

In slide number 14 you can appreciate that for the first quarter of 2010 we were expecting a decrease in US revenues of 14% compared to 2009. Revenues from our US operations for the first quarter of 2010 totaled 89 million dollars, down 25% compared to this same period in 2009 and showing the effects of this weak start of the year and the poor pricing in the region. Despite the fall in the first two months of 2010, we are starting to visualize signs of recovery given the better weather conditions after the cold winter experienced.

In addition, EBITDA for the US operations registered a negative figure of 1 million dollars for the quarter way behind the 5 million previously budgeted. However, in March of 2010 we finally got back in track for black figures since October 2009, we indeed hope and expect to route our efforts in order to keep on this trend and continue on the path of positive EBITDA figures for the rest of the year.

As you can see in this same slide, despite the overall fall for the quarter in terms of ready mix volumes, we had a very positive month of March increasing by 22% to 354 cubic meters compared to March 2009.
On the macroeconomic field, the Portland Cement Association is expecting the US economy to grow 2.1% in 2010. Subprime issues, weak labor standards and state deficits could persist to hold back growth. As we mentioned on last conference call, we still agree with the PCA regarding the 5% cement demand growth for 2010 with a potential of major recovery for the second half of the year now that the weather is giving a break.

The Caribbean

On slide 16 you can see the Caribbean Region performance.

During the first quarter of 2010, the Caribbean region was not immune to the situation experienced by the United States, particularly on the cement exports. Total revenues for the Caribbean region accounted for the first quarter of 2010 68 million dollars, a 17% drop comparing to the same period last year. It is clear the impacts of the current situation were beyond our expectations, we had budgeted a drop in revenues of 2%.

In terms of EBITDA, the region totaled 14 million dollars, decreasing by 7% against the 2009 figure. As happened in the other two regions, the operating cost and expense efficiency campaign accomplished an EBITDA margin in the region of 20.5%, 220 basis points higher than the one achieved for the same period in 2009.

Regarding the volumes produced by Argos in this region, showed in slide 17, on a proforma basis considering 2009 acquisitions, cement and ready mix sales declined by 20% and 21% respectively. Nevertheless, volumes on the last month of the quarter showed a better behavior than the first two months, fact that makes us preview some recovery for the rest of the year.

It is important for you all know that we are still working hard in meeting thoroughly all the requirements and precedent conditions in order to be part of the Panama Canal expansion, decision that should be informed in the next few months.

As expected, Haiti’s reconstruction is highly demanding our products, as we are still deeply committed to the Haitian people with their reconstruction. In the last edition of the World Economic Forum for Latin America held in Cartagena, nations, multilateral institutions and non-government organizations pledged nearly 10 billion dollars for Haiti’s reconstruction, 50% percent being executed
in the next 18 months which, as seen in this past months, should mean more demand of our cement and ready mix during this period.

**Debt Profile:**

Please move on to slide number 21 to focus on our debt profile. On a consolidated basis, debt coverage is still in adequate levels as can be noticed in the following ratios: net indebtedness to EBITDA plus Dividends of 3.89; last twelve months EBITDA to financial expense of 2.55 and indebtedness to equity of 26.7%.

The average cost of the company’s dollar-denominated debt dropped from 1.95% in December to 1.73%. On a 12-month basis as of to March 2010, this debt cost has dropped 154 basis points mainly due to the declining LIBOR. Moreover, the average cost of debt in pesos came to 6.9% in March 2010, decreasing from 7.6% in December and from 11.8% in March of 2009. This last, caused by the declining of the CPI index that clearly affects our interest cost in the local currency.

On March 25, Cementos Argos successfully placed in the Colombian capital market commercial paper for 100 thousand million pesos for a period of 363 days, seeking to optimize its working capital structure. The issue had a demand of 1.5 times the amount offered leading to an exceptional annual cut rate of 4.8%.

During this quarter we also closed synthetic short-term loans to cover temporary cash shortages, taking advantage of specific market opportunities and obtaining lower rates than those offered by cash credits. This generated important interest savings for the company.

**Portfolio of Non-Cement investments:**

As you can see in slide number 23, as of March 31st 2010, Cementos Argos’ portfolio of non-cement businesses came to more than 5.2 billion pesos compared to 4.8 billion pesos in December 2009, showing a 9.2% increase in pesos.

Finally, even though we are not satisfied with the results of this first quarter, I am comfortable by transmitting to you all a strong feeling of commitment with the results for the rest of the year as we could perceived a positive and better trend in the last month. Besides, we hope the infrastructure projects in Colombia to start demanding more of our products and the weather in the US to let us perform in a better way.
Meanwhile we will keep working internally on our cost and expense reduction program to still increase our margins as we significantly did on this past quarter.

At this time, I would like to thank you all for your attention and make way to the Q&A session.