

Minutes Summary of the ISTECH IX General Assembly Meeting
Motorola Inc. Ft. Lauderdale headquarters
November 17-19, 1999

The theme of the 1999 General Assembly was "Promoting Transnational Cooperation through Science and Technology". All materials presented can be found at:

<http://www.istec.org/assembly/pres.html>

under the General Assembly link. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Executive Office at: info@istec.org

Agenda

Wednesday, Nov. 17

16:30-17:30	Tour of Motorola Facilities
18:30-20:00	Welcoming Reception at Reed's River House, hosted by Nortel Networks

Thursday, Nov. 18

8:00-8:30	Welcome Address by Motorola and ISTECH
8:30-10:00	Short Presentation of New Members (3-5 minute introduction)
10:00-10:15	Posters and Coffee Break
10:15-10:30	ISTECH Special Recognition Awards
10:30-11:45	Executive Office Report
11:45-12:45	ACE Report
12:45-13:45	Lunch in Atrium
13:45-14:30	R&D Report
14:30-15:30	Los Libertadores
15:30-15:45	Posters and Coffee Break
15:45-17:00	Library Linkages
19:00-21:00	Dinner, hosted by Motorola

Friday, Nov. 19

8:30-10:00	Forum I: Los Libertadores
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break
10:30-12:00	Forum II: Los Libertadores
12:00-13:00	Lunch in Atrium
13:00-15:00	Discussions and Vote
15:00-15:30	Wrap-up
15:30-15:45	Coffee Break
15:45-17:00	Technology Licensing

The Organization of American States (OAS) kindly provided the services of simultaneous interpretation in both English and Spanish at the IX ISTECH General Assembly.

Thursday, November 18

1) Introduction

Mauro Miskulin (President Executive Committee), Ramiro Jordán (Executive Director), and Keats Soder (Motorola Inc. host) delivered welcome addresses.

2) New member presentations

The following conditional members made formal presentations to the GA:

1. Universidad Católica de Córdoba (Córdoba, Argentina)
2. Universidad Católica Boliviana (La Paz, Bolivia)
3. Universidade Federal de Uberlândia (Minas Gerais, Brasil)
4. Universidade de Brasília (Brasília, Brasil)
5. Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Bogotá, Colombia)
6. Universidad del Cauca (Popayán, Colombia)
7. Universidad Autónoma de Occidente (Cali, Colombia)
8. Universidad de Antioquia (Medellín, Colombia)
9. Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (Loja, Ecuador)
10. Universidad de Málaga (Málaga, España)
11. Instituto Tec. De Chihuahua (Chihuahua, México)
12. Universidad de las Américas (Puebla, México)
13. Universidad de Guadalajara (Jalisco, México)
14. Secretaría Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación SENACYT (Panamá)
15. Universidad de Puerto Rico / Malaguez (Malaguez, Puerto Rico) (*see voting session for acceptance terms*)
16. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Massachusetts, USA) (*see voting session for acceptance terms*)
17. Veribest Inc. (Colorado, USA) (*see voting session for acceptance terms*)
18. Khoral Research (New Mexico, USA)
19. Invenio (Massachusetts, USA)
20. Morgan Kaufmann Publishers (California, USA)
21. Universidad de los Andes (Mérida, Venezuela)

3) ISTECE Special Recognition Awards

Ramiro Jordán presented Terry Heng, Robert Bloedon, and Senator Tom R. Benavides with an ISTECE special recognition award for their continued support over the last 9 years of the Consortium's existence.

4) Executive Office Report

The minutes from the previous GA meeting (*which had been disseminated previously, see ISTECE Webpage*) were presented and approved.

An update was given on new activities from the Executive Office, including conversations and negotiations with the United Nation's ECOSOC and UNESCO councils, IADB, WB, and other entities in various countries. Travel, workshops, and related activities in Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Chile. (*for details see Quarterly Message*). Recruitment efforts with Virginia Tech, Los Alamos, and Sandia National Laboratories. ISTECE's growth and success is being studied by other organizations in different countries, some of which have asked the Consortium to expand and include other geographical areas. Other relevant information included the ISTECE Executive Office (EO) I2K plan (*see EO presentation for more details*), and Soraya Abad Mota's

sabbatical at the University of New Mexico during the first semester of 2000. Soraya Abad Mota will work with EO personnel during the first semester of the year 2000 in order to develop the Distributed database, and assist EO personnel with other ISTECS databases, industrial contacts, and funding possibilities.

Year 2000 elections. All ExCom positions and Executive Director would be up for elections during the X General Assembly, which Costa Rica has offered to host through Universidad de Costa Rica, Motorola, and CENAT.

A. The budget report for 1999 and the proposed allocation for 2000 were presented at this time (*see budget report*). The budget was voted upon by the General Assembly at the end of the meeting.

E. Creation of ISTECS Inc. explained

The Executive Director commented that the person responsible for all the legalities is Theo Crevenna, treasurer of ISTECS Inc. and Deputy Director of the UNM Latin American and Iberian Institute. The Executive Committee will translate and study the legal document and will inform the members of all pertinent details.

F. The Executive Director reminded the General Assembly of the pending need to identify funding alternatives and raise more money as a result of increased expenditures and more projects.

?? All ISTECS members should explore funding options and assist the EO with the fundraising process.

G. Regarding the Membership Policy drafted by the ExCom during its Campinas meeting, no specific decision was taken at this moment, due to the transitional changes arising from the creation of ISTECS.Inc as a non-profit entity. The ExCom members will study them and a decision will be made at their next meeting and presented to the GA during the next annual meeting.

?? All ExCom members will study the Membership Policy and be prepared to discuss and make suggestions regarding the plan

?? Effective in the year 2000, ISTECS's official fiscal year (in regards to payment of membership dues) will run from November to November (at the time of the General Assembly), date which will be the deadline to make payments. After the time of the General Assembly, the EO will consider members who have not paid either "observed or objected".

?? The EO will send reminders to members who have not paid their dues in one year's time regarding their status of "observed", and a reminder after two years' outstanding debt reminding that member's "objected" status, with recommendation for expulsion from the Consortium.

5) ACE – Nicolás Perez de la Blanca presented his proposal for the software to be used in the Distance Education Program for Iberoamerica (*see ACE-DEPI proposal*), and announced a call for collaborators in ACE projects. Nicolas spoke of several issues to be addressed in the Distance Education Program for Iberoamerica (D.E.P.I.), such as a questionnaire to determine what courses will be produced, copyright issues, content, technical support, and compensation. At this time the agreements with Morgan Kaufmann Publishers were announced, and issues surrounding author's royalties were discussed.

- ?? The MCore manual / training book will be produced in 2000. Motorola (Keats Soder/Bob Aron) and Howard Pollard will discuss the details.
- ?? Motorola will provide the authors with MCore boards and will explore the possibility of offering incentives
- ?? The DEPI task force will exchange ideas at a distance, and then meet in 2000 to solve details and trouble shoot the pilot plan
- ?? Those ISTECS members interested in collaborating in DEPI and other ACE programs should visit Nicolas' ACE page at: <http://cyberpc.ugr.es/ace/index.htm>

6) R & D – From EO: reports on *Divertiñanza project with Ministerio de Educación de Chile and Universidad Católica to create a learning tool for school children, New Blue Tooth wireless technologies, MCore developments and need for translation of legal contracts into Spanish and Portuguese. Publication of MCore book (to be published by Morgan Kaufmann) by different ISTECS members. Since this project has been delayed, Motorola and ISTECS will look into implementing a work schedule with new deadlines and offering incentives to the authors. Those responsible must also look into the legalities and author's rights and royalties.*

From Initiative Directors:

Francisco Viveros and Howard Pollard spoke of current programs such as Data Base development, procedures to evaluate proposals, and the need to generate more professional end of year reports that include number of labs, number of people trained, and other results in order to raise funds for R&D initiatives. They also announced Motorola's plan to license new technologies to ISTECS, including DSP in 2000. Additionally, Howard explained that the company Veribest had been sold to MentorGraphics, and ISTECS will have to wait for them to complete their transition phase prior to entering any negotiations with them. Andreas Wild (Motorola) briefed members on Motorola / ISTECS history and the MCore technology transfers, which were signed at the end of the GA.

- ?? Khoral Research will offer a 25% discount to all ISTECS members for their software
- ?? Executive Office and ExCom will look into feasible options for non-legalized translation of future contracts
- ?? EO and Motorola will push the MCore book publication by creating a chapter outline, delivering MCore tools to the respective professors, settling on legal terms, and exploring a plan to offer incentives to the authors
- ?? The EO, Motorola, and the OAS will study different alternatives that could be used to minimize problems associated with shipping costs, customs, and taxes for the delivery of equipment to members.
- ?? Motorola (Marielos Aldi) will explore the possibility of realizing regional workshops in Motorola technologies in the region, and also of flying selected ISTECS experts to Phoenix for training
- ?? Motorola announced the commitment of US\$500,000 to future ISTECS endeavors

7) Los Libertadores - Report of events in Mexico and Brasil, US-Spain White Paper on S & T collaborations, negotiations with Ministry of S & T in Brazil. Conversations with the OAS, WB, IADB (ISTECS was invited to participate in their next GA, to be held in New Orleans in March, under the theme of Information Technologies). Deployment of servers to ISTECS institutions, with end goal of creating a very complete and competitive intranet in the region with one server per institution. The EO is studying funding options.

?? The EO is studying a medium term plan to fund and deploy server stations to every member institution, thus establishing one of the most complete intranet sites in the region

8) Liblink - From EO: F.A.S.T. (Fast Access to Science and Technology), increased need for funds, electronic journal to be managed (or at least mirrored) by Virginia Tech, Digital Libraries events sponsored by ISTE/C / OAS in New Mexico and Costa Rica, Electronic Dissemination of Thesis seminar in Paris.

From Initiative Directors:

Marisa de Giusti informed the General Assembly that due to increased activity in the Liblink realm, projects stemming from growth had arisen. These include extended delays, technical problems, and the need to increase the allocation of resources.

Isabel Santoro presented the LigDoc report, which highlights an example where Brazilian universities saved over US\$85,000 by using Liblink and collaborating with each other.

Angela María Mejía presented a report on behalf of Universidad Javeriana which included Colombian figures as well.

Johann vanReenen introduced a comprehensive Liblink annual report. This report highlighted some of the problems (staffing difficulties that cause bottlenecks, depletion of funds due to growth) and achievements (Liblink has been the “motor” behind ISTE/C’s growth). He also made various comments and action to be taken, including:

- ?? Members and Liblink Directors will study the proposed Liblink plan and its alternatives to turn the initiative into a self-financed operation, including CISTI costs
- ?? Liblink Directors will explore the possibility of further decentralizing the Liblink operation by relying on collections other than CSEL's, in order to reduce turnaround time to the initial 3 day commitment
- ?? Liblink Directors will work towards standardizing the collections and posting these on the ISTE/C WebPages as a single request form in such a way where the requester will not have to individually search different collections for a title. They will also study options for automatic statistical record keeping and will work with EO personnel to create an updated Liblink webpage
- ?? Given the current situation where ISTE/C members rely on the Ariel software to execute Liblink, the EO will contact RLG (makers of Ariel) in order to negotiate a preferential rate for ISTE/C members.
- ?? To avoid this dependency on Ariel, Nicolas Perez de la Blanca will investigate the current situation with the Randex project, which could eventually be a viable alternative product to Ariel, and become available to members free, or at a minimal charge.

Friday, November 19

9. Forum “Promoting Transnational Cooperation through Science & Technology”

Different panelists from the private sector, academia, and international funding agencies delivered presentations in response to the theme, followed by Q&A sessions.

The first session of the forum was moderated by Dr. Domingo do Campo, Rector of Universidad de Vigo, Spain. Participants included representatives from:

Motorola / Mission XXI (Carlos Baradello)
Nortel Networks (Rica Levy Dray)
Raytheon (Juan Bujosa)
Microsoft (Javier Páramo Ortega)
Picture Tel (Angela Smith)

Genaut.com (Edoardo Lima)

Dr. Alvaro Trueba Barahona, Rector of Universidad Tecnológica Equinoccial, Ecuador moderated the second Session. The participants included representatives from:

Interamerican Development Bank (Andres Garret)

Organization of American States (Carlos Paldao)

Morgan Kaufmann Publishers (Tim Cox)

Pontificia Universidad Católica do Rio Grande do Sul (Paulo Franco)

Secretaria Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología, e Innovación, SENACYT-Panamá (Dr. Gonzalo Córdoba)

10) General Assembly Discussion / Vote

A. During the IX General Assembly, the ISTECEO staff distributed voting cards to all present members that were eligible to vote. These numbered 25 members from 12 countries in total. The issues that were subject to the voting procedures were the following:

?? Proposal #1

Approval of 1998 GA minutes.

24 in favor, 1 abstention

?? Proposal #2

Approval of 1999 (Jan-Nov.) budget report, budget slides # 56, 57, 58

After various questions were raised regarding logistical procedures and other clarifications, the GA voted

All approved

?? Proposal #3

Approval for year 2000 expenditures, recommended by the Executive Committee, budget slide #72. This is an allocation of the funds that will be realistically collected from membership dues, totaling US\$175,000.

The Assembly also voted on the recommendation made from budget slide #71, which is an idealistic allocation of money that could be collected if different fundraising efforts succeed and the Consortium raises US\$500,000.

All approved both proposals

?? Proposal #4

Nicolás Perez de la Blanca reminded the General Assembly of the proposed plan for ACE, and particularly for the Distance Education Program for Iberoamerica, DEPI (*see attached document*).

After detailing some preliminary information and answering qualitative and quantitative questions pertaining to both technical and educational realms, it was decided that a questionnaire will be generated to decide what courses will be produced.

All approved the proposed plan

?? Proposal #5

Regarding membership and the evolving membership procedures. The GA was reminded that there was a new membership regulation currently being studied by the ExCom, but since these efforts must be synchronized and in harmony with the creation of ISTECE Inc. as a non-profit, it

would take a little longer (until the next meeting) to disclose all the pertinent accurate information. A discussion regarding membership ensued, and the GA debated on the definition of who is a member, along the lines of payment and active collaboration in Consortium initiatives, and what actions should be taken for those members who do not pay nor collaborate. Some irregularities in the cases of Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Universidad de los Andes (Colombia), and ITESM-D.F. (Mexico) were individually voted upon.

It was decided that those universities would have to present some type of explanation by a determined deadline (end of 1999) in order to maintain their membership in ISTEAC.

By next year, the new membership regulations will be enacted and the EO will clarify the details regarding ISTEAC Inc.

?? Proposal #7

For the specific membership categories of governmental research agencies that have ties to the private sector and academia, Gregory Randall explained that the ExCom decided that in the case of multimember S & T institutions such as CONACYT-México, CENAT-Costa Rica and SENACYT-Panamá, the applicant would be considered a government agency. This new position will now be called government agency / industrial sponsor, and pay the corresponding fee within the interval of US\$2000-US\$20,000, with relevant privileges.

The President of the Executive Committee then proposed the acceptance of the new members that had successfully completed the application process to become full ISTEAC members. He also proposed the acceptance of the following members that completed the procedures but were not able to attend the GA:

Universidad Bolivariana (Colombia)

MIT (USA)

Veribest (USA)

All approved the acceptance of these new members

?? Proposal #8

Two ISTEAC members volunteered to host the year 2000 General Assembly, one proposal was to host it in Cancún, Mexico, and the second was to hold it in Costa Rica.

21 members voted for Costa Rica, and 10 members voted for Cancun

Note: The discrepancy between the 25 voting cards that were issued and the 31 votes received consists in that some of the accepted new members voted on this item.

B. Intranet

John Salas (KRI-USA), Oscar Bonilla (Universidad Francisco Marroquín-Guatemala), Martín Quiroga (ISTEAC EO), and Antonio Figueiredo (UNICAMP-Brasil) presented a proposal to initiate the ISTEAC intranet. The envisioned project will have a master site at the ISTEAC Executive Office, with a server in each ISTEAC institution. It will involve all four initiatives and include such e-services as e-mail, free access software, newsgroups, mailing lists, push and search engines, courses, software support sites, data collection, news and events, online publications, electronic thesis and dissertations, among other services

11) Technology Licensing

Motorola Inc. and interested ISTEAC members proceeded to sign the technology transfer agreements for the M-CORE technologies. Those who were interested but not legally authorized

to sign on behalf of their institutions wrote their names and are to be contacted by the EO regarding the transfer procedures.