

Welcome to the ISTECE Quarterly Message,
Year II, Volume I
January 2001



Happy New Year from the ISTECE Executive Office!!

(From the Executive Office)

The X ISTECE General Assembly "Transforming ISTECE: Challenges for the Next Decade," was celebrated in Cuernavaca - México from the 30th of November to the 1st of December 2000. Without any doubt, a big part of the success of this assembly is due to the high assistance of the private sector, the active participation of the members, the incorporation of new members and the importance of the agreements achieved.

The following are some highlights of the most recent GA. For more complete information, please visit the updated section of www.istec.org

- 2001 General Assembly

Hector Monroy from Universidad de Puerto Rico, Campus Mayaguez, announced his institution's official candidature to host the 2001 ISTECE General Assembly

- Results of the Election for Board of Directors

The elections for the first Board of Directors according to the new ISTECE Inc guidelines and the approved election proposals took place on Friday, December 1. The results were as follows:

34 voting cards were distributed to eligible voting members
34 ballots were counted
none were annulled

Witnesses: Horacio Sanchez, Tim Cox, Humberto Cervantes, Jorge Sanin, Matias Pizarro

Three year Terms:

Soraya Abad-Mota, Universidad Simón Bolívar - Venezuela (32)
Nicolás Perez de la Blanca, Universidad de Granada - Spain (31)
Paulo Franco, Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio Grande do Sul - Brazil (30)

Two Year Terms:

Ricardo Fernandez del Busto, Tecnológico de Monterrey Campus Cuernavaca – Mexico (29)
Gregory Randall, Universidad de la República – Uruguay (29)
Howard Pollard, University of New Mexico – USA (29)

One Year Term:

Mauro Miskulin, Universidade Estadual de Campinas – Brazil (27)
Marisa de Giusti, Universidad Nacional de la Plata – Argentina (25)
Antonio Garcia, Universidad de los Andes – Colombia (23)
Francisco Viveros, Universidad Javeriana – Colombia (22)

The new Board of Directors convened later that evening.

- Results of the Election of Officers

The Newly elected Board of Directors convened on the evening of Friday, December 1. They proceeded to elect the following officers:

President – Mauro Miskulin
Vice President of International Affairs – Jorge Sanín
Vice President of Administrative Affairs – Matías Pizarro
Treasurer – Theo Crevenna
Secretary - Howard Pollard
Director of Strategic Affairs – Ramiro Jordán

For complete information regarding the conditions and terms of these positions, please visit the ISTECEC webpage.

- Ratification of ISTECEC Inc. by the General Assembly

Dr Miskulin led this discussion, explaining that the Executive Committee and the Albuquerque-based lawyers had been working on refining the Consortium's By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation during the last year, and that this finalized version was being presented to the General Membership for their approval. Dr. Miskulin also reminded the General Assembly that these materials had been posted on the ISTECEC webpage for the past few months, and had been sent to all members electronically. Additionally, these documents were included in the registration package for the GA. *(Please visit the ISTECEC webpage to read the ISTECEC Inc By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation).*

This process was approved by the General Assembly. Currently, ISTECEC stands as a US based, non-profit 501 c (3) Consortium.

- Working Proposals

One of the focus of this year's GA was to open a space of discussion where institutions that have been interacting with the Executive Director and the Executive Office could present concrete proposals to the General Membership. The following is a list of the proposals addressed to the GA at Cuernavaca. Please visit the ISTECEC Webpage for more details.

Los Libertadores

- Interamerican Agency for Cooperation and Development / Organization of American States (Dr. Ronald Scheman – Dr. Carlos Paldao)
- Microsoft – University Relations (Dr. Wayne Johnson), Latin-American Plan (Dr. Rafael Perez-Colon)
- ISTECEC Portal and Database (Mrs. Soraya Abad-Mota and Dr. Ramiro Jordan)
- Sun Microsystems / SCT (Mrs. Lisa Pendrys, Dr. Jose Luis Sánchez)
- Motorola (Mrs. Ruth Ruiz)
- Latin American Center for the Studies of Informatics – CLEI (Dr. Patricia Corbo)

ACE

- ISTECEC – ACE (Dr. Nicolás Perez de la Blanca)
- GWEC (Mrs. Misti Baker)
- ABET (Mrs. Eva-Angela Adan)
- Universidad de Puerto Rico-Mayaguez (Dr. Ramón Vazquez)
- Microsoft – Learning Federation (Dr. Randy Hinrichs)
- Educational Systems (Dr. Andrei Sergeev – Mr. Shawn Bundegaard)
- ARIADNE Consortium (Dr. Eddy Forte)

- PUCRJ-Brazil (Dra. Ana Pavani)
- Tecnológico de Monterrey Campus Cuernavaca-México (Ing. Carlos Cordero)
- Universidad de Guadalajara-México (Dr. Donato Vallín, Jalil Fallad, Adolfo Espinoza)
- CREFAL – Centro de Cooperación Regional para la Educación de Adultos en América Latina y el Caribe (Dr. Juan Millán)

Liblink

- ISTECS - Liblink Overview (Mr. Johann van Reenen, Mrs. Marisa deGiusti)
- EBSCO (Mr. Oscar Saavedra / Mr. Jose Antonio Yanez)
- Silverplatter (Mr. Ken Jackman)
- UNLP-Argentina (Mrs. Marisa deGiusti, Mr. Emiliano Marmonti)
- ITESM – Monterrey, Phronesis (Martha Sordia Salinas)
- Institute of Physics (Dr. David Densmore)
- University of South Florida-USA (Dr. Mel Pace)
- IACD / OAS Presentation (Dr. Carlos Paldao)

R&D Laboratories

- Microsoft - Mobile and Wireless (Dr. Jay Sangiwani)
- Motorola (Mrs. Ruth Ruiz)
- Sun Microsystems -
- Nortel Networks -
- Khoral Research (Mr. John Salas)
- Los Alamos National Laboratories (Dr. Abad Sandoval)
- USF- (Dr. Wilfredo Moreno)

- ISTECS Strategic Plan

Dr Jordán presented some of the key strategic alliances that the Executive Office has developed over the past year. Due to these alliances and the need to generate revenue to finance the expanded Consortium operations, the Executive Office is currently preparing a strategic plan with the assistance of new ISTECS member HighTechGurus.com.

Some of the most important points of this plan is that it will permit ISTECS to generate revenue through services and spin-offs from the region. This would allow the Consortium to not only expand and better its mainstay operations, but would provide financial growth to support larger activities, such as connecting all participating universities to Internet 2 and serve as an ASP /ISP provider. He highlighted the fact that the process would be a gradual one, with a small group of universities leading the way in carefully structured pilot projects.

Liblink News from the X General Assembly

Liblink Operation – Executive Office (Johann van Reenen)

Dr. van Reenen spoke of growth in membership and thus in volume of Liblink requests, and explained that this should be offset in part by the decrease in CISTI orders. He prepared an Executive Summary of the initiative, which was also distributed to participants and will be posted on the ISTECS Webpage. Some of the most salient points of his report were:

- The importance of supporting local Liblink initiatives in new member institutions in Nicaragua and Venezuela, which are willing to serve as directors for their countries' LibLink offices. Johann van Reenen and Bel Santoro will work to develop criteria and expectations for national Liblink offices and their directors.

- Members who want to continue CISTI services at US \$15 per order, need to make arrangements with Juan Larrañaga at Liblink - UNM. Additionally, LibLink organizations in specific countries need to develop funding plans for supporting their ISTECS requests and write grants to diminish the cost for their members.
- New members requested more basic training, especially in Central America and the Andean Region.
- A Digital Libraries workshop is being planned for Rio de Janeiro in 2001. The lead person is Ana Pavani from Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio de Janeiro. She will keep members informed as the planning progresses.
- In order to promote better communication, the new ISTECS web pages and regular electronic newsletter should be taken advantage of. Additionally, members should use the LibLink list to communicate more regularly and send each other feedback.
- Johann van Reenen also clarified the role of the LibLink main office, which is responsible for supporting emerging local LibLink initiatives in all member countries by finding out which libraries are strong in Science and Technology, by bringing them together, and finally by identifying and supporting a regional director. ISTECS – Liblink fund these initial steps and is present at the start-up events as time and money allow. Once a local LibLink initiative is established, ISTECS – Liblink is happy to participate in events and fund speakers, but the major responsibility for future events, funding and initiatives, shifts to the local organization.

R&D News from the X General Assembly

Dr. Howard Pollard and Francisco Viveros presented the following updates on the R&D Initiative:

- Dr. Pollard mentioned that the MCORE book is in progress, and that the entire first draft is due to be out by March.
- Francisco Viveros emphasized the need for an operational website to share results of laboratory projects and share information. He explained that Universidad Javeriana had a first version to share with ISTECS members, currently accessible at:

www.venus.javeriana.edu.co/istec/proyectos

- Regarding the MCORE licensing, Dr Pollard clarified that Motorola had actually only licensed the first part of the system, and some of the peripherals. According to recent information received from Motorola, the final procedures for the technological transfer of this technology should be completed within the next months. However, he pointed out that there are certain technical requirements that must be met from participating universities. These include proficiency in tools such as Mentor Graphics and Synopsis. Initially, the University of New Mexico (USA) and Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (Brazil) will serve as distribution centers.
- The Directors of the initiative clarified that ISTECS would first complete the tech transfer with MCORE technologies before engaging in the same procedures with DSP technologies. Additionally, Dr Jordan added that Motorola will formally announce a DSP contest with cash prizes at the GA, which will be announced through the ISTECS webpage.
- The Directors also briefed the General Assembly on current negotiations with Mentor Graphics and Synopsis. For Mentor Graphics, there have been problems with support for the licenses, as well as very

brief periods for the use of these. Additionally, the company recently experienced problems with personnel rotation and inadequate structure for tech support, especially with the language factor involved in dealing with ISTECS members.

- The Hot Lab Support Program will be extended to on-site training sessions with the University of South Florida, as well as through seminars and trainings with Guillermo Jacquenod.

- The EO will post all the information related to the services provided through the R&D initiative on the ISTECS Webpage. This will be the guide that will define the processes and methodologies used to deliver services to both industrial and institutional members. Any member that wishes to send comments and/or suggestions should send an email to Jorge Garcia at jgarcia@istec.org.

ISTECS sponsored conferences and meetings, 2000

August

ICEE – Taipei, Taiwan

ICEE 2000 is the International Conference on Engineering Education. It was held in Taipei, Taiwan on August 14-16, 2000. Related workshops were carried out at Cheng Kung University in Tainan, Taiwan. Members of the Executive Office and Universidad Simón Bolívar (Venezuela) submitted a paper explaining the Portal Project of ISTECS, which was accepted and presented at the conference. During the International Conference in Engineering Education, a special steering committee meeting took place to analyze the existing format and propose a more dynamic and interactive participation of attendees. NSF organized this meeting and the purpose was the creation of industry-academic networks throughout the world. The ISTECS model was presented and various institutions in Asia (Taiwan, China, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia) and in Eastern European (Poland, Hungary, Check Rep., Rumania) expressed much interest in replicating it in their respective regions.

“Technologies in Education”, Bogotá - Colombia

The University Jorge Tadeo Lozano of Bogotá held a workshop to analyze the challenges that education faces regarding the use of new technologies. ISTECS made a presentation and offered its experience as a role model to offer solutions for problems such as the deficiencies of the educational systems in the region through associative mechanisms between universities and the private sector. This event took place on August 28 and included the participation of representatives from Sun Microsystems, Microsoft, ALCATEL, Copex Ltda, and IBM.

First Digital Culture Course, Cartagena – Colombia

ISTECS and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI), along with the Ibero-American Science and Technology Program for Development (CYTED) organized the First Digital Culture Course, in Cartagena, Colombia from August 29 to September 1. The main objective of this course was to transfer knowledge, information, documentation, and accumulated experiences from elite groups to all those who will participate in the week's program.

First Course for the Training of Project Directors for Electronic Thesis and Dissertations ETD -Net – Cartagena - Colombia

The First Training Course for Electronic Thesis and Dissertations ETD-Net took place in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from August 30 to September 1, 2000. The course was organized by UNESCO, the VII CYTED, Universidad de los Andes and ISTECS, whose Library Linkages Initiative seeks to promote easy access to scientific information in the region, especially to thesis and dissertations of master's and doctoral candidates.

Alliance Meeting – Albuquerque, USA

Personnel from ISTECE Executive Office participated in the Alliance bimonthly meeting. The Alliance is a non-profit organization grouping libraries of different academic and scientific centers. The vision is to move from a buyers club to an innovators club, that is, actively participating in the design of future scientific publications and knowledge sharing and management. ISTECE is a member of the Alliance. The meeting was held at the University of New Mexico on August 18, 2000.

Synopsys – Portland, USA

ISTECE Executive Office personnel Howard Pollard and Jorge Garcia reached a new agreement with Synopsys on August 23-25 for the distribution of software licenses of their products to ISTECE members. This agreement includes the distribution of Electronic Design Automation software (EDA) necessary for ISTECE members to work the M*CORE technology provided by Motorola. Through the ISTECE-Synopsys partnership, ISTECE will continue coordinating the application process and providing technical support, while Synopsys will manage the license distribution. ISTECE academic members are required to fill the application forms sent by the ISTECE Executive Office to have access to these set of tools. The licenses are valid for a year and are renewable. Under this agreement, each ISTECE academic member can access 25 licenses.

MentorGraphics - Palo Alto, USA

As it was posted at the ISTECE Quarterly message, Mentor Graphics absorbed Veribest earlier this year. Because of this merge, ISTECE had to redefine its working relationship with Mentor Graphics to continue providing ISTECE members with the Veribest and Mentor Graphics licenses. In the latest communiqué that Mentor Graphics sent to the Executive Office, it was announced that they would continue to provide ISTECE member with Veribest tools. For now, Mentor Graphics will renew and/or deliver the Veribest tools, and it will provide a full package to include the Mentor Graphics devices as well. Please be aware that the students utilizing this technology will require an agreement of confidentiality. The Executive Office will send the necessary forms. *Please note: At the time that this Quarterly Message was published, negotiations were still underway with MentorGraphics due to rotation in personnel at the company. The Executive Office will keep you updated with any new developments.*

Digital Image Processing and Graphics, Lima – Peru

Professors Ed Angel and Ramiro Jordan from the University of New Mexico delivered a 40-hour graduate course at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP). This course is one of a series under a joint PhD program managed by the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM) and PUCP. The course consisted on theory and practice in Digital Image Processing, Computer Graphics and Scientific Visualization. It was held at PUCP from July 31 to August 5.

September

ICIP 2000 – Vancouver, Canada

As a result of the research performed by Vinicius Licks for his EECE MS Thesis at UNM, a paper was presented at the International Conference in Image Processing. Vinicius Licks obtained his BS at the Pontificia Universidade de Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil, and continued his studies at the University of New Mexico Electrical and Computer Engineering Department under the new scholarship program launched by the Chair of the EECE Department Christos Christodoulou at the IX ISTECE General Assembly meeting.

InfoEdu 2000 - San Luis de Potosi, Mexico

Personnel from the ISTECE Executive Office, Johann van Reenen and Ramiro Jordan, participated at the seminar called "Información y Educación: Agentes para el Desarrollo de la Humanidad" that took place in San Luis de Potosí, Mexico, September 13-15. In this event, the ISTECE LibLink and ACE Initiatives were presented, as was a talk on Science and Technology Trends and Needs in the region.

CLEI – Mexico City, Mexico

During the XXVI Conferencia Latinoamericana de Informatica, September 18-22, in Mexico City, hosted by TEC de Monterrey – Campus Estado de México, Centro Latinoamericano de Estudios en Informatica (CLEI) and ISTEAC reached a strategic alliance. The agreement was later presented, discussed and voted for its approval by ISTEAC members at the X ISTEAC General Assembly. The agreement facilitates the exchange of knowledge, joint conferences and workshops, on-line publications, public relations, funding of projects, cross memberships, and R&D efforts in the areas of Computer Science, Computer and Electrical Engineering.

October

I Jornada de Tecnología “Diseño e Implantación de Estrategias de Negocios en el Gran Mercado Virtual” – Carabobo, Venezuela

On October 4 - 6 in Valencia, Carabobo – Venezuela, Professor Willie Moreno from the University of South Florida (USF) gave a presentation on ISTEAC latest achievements. The purpose of this workshop analyzes the challenges of the Information Technologies in Latin America.

Global Disaster Information Network – Honolulu, USA

Professor Willie Moreno from USF participated on behalf of ISTEAC in the Latin America Forum on the Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN) in Honolulu, on October 9-11. This forum was organized with the Support of NASA and the Center for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CDMHA) at the College of Public Health at USF. Professor Moreno presented “The Potential Use of the Existing Latin & Ibero America ISTEAC Network for Disaster Events”.

EduCause - Nashville, USA

Sun Microsystems invited ISTEAC to present its model to EduCause on October 10 –13. EduCause is the largest fair in the world that integrates all the companies that work in the development of new technologies to improve higher education. As a result of this participation, ISTEAC has reached an ambitious strategic alliance with Sun Microsystems that will provide ISTEAC academic members the opportunity to access to Sun new developments in networking, system administration, and software, incubating program, equipment purchases, certification and curriculum enhance, e-services and support for ISTEAC Information Technologies workshops.

Prince of Asturias IT Endowed Chair at University of New Mexico – Albuquerque, USA

The ISTEAC Executive Office participated in a ceremony held at UNM on October 21, where the Crown Prince of Spain, Felipe de Borbón, Prince of Asturias announced the establishment of a new endowed chair in information science and technology. The Prince of Asturias Endowed Chair is being funded by a US\$ 1.5 million grant from Iberdrola.

Minister of Science and Technology, Anna Birulés, meets with ISTEAC – Santa Fe, USA

On October 23, ISTEAC Executive Director met Anna Birulés, Minister of Science and Technology of Spain. The purpose of this encounter was to establish a strategic alliances between the private and public sectors, to facilitate international cooperation on science and technology, promote the exchange ideas, organize workshops, sharing of policies, information, and carry out joint projects on research and development.

ICEE / iINNER Steering Committee Meeting – Norway

ISTEAC Executive Director participated in the ICEE/iNEER steering committee meetings, October 1-4, to organize ICEE-2001 conference in Oslo, Norway, in August 2001. At this opportunity the idea of organizing similar consortiums in Asia and Central Europe was further explored. Agreements were reached to have an organizing meeting in Korea in March 2001 for the Asia network, and a second meeting in Poland or the

Czech Republic in May 2001 for the Central European network. ISTECS will collaborate in the creation of both networks.

II Symposium Internacional en Tecnologías Inteligentes - Apizaco, Mexico

Professor Howard Pollard delivered a short course on Microcontroller Technologies and Applications at the Instituto Tecnológico de Apizaco, October 23-24, during the "II Symposium Internacional en Tecnologías Inteligentes." In addition, the ISTECS Executive Director gave a keynote talk in Science and Technology Reality Check in Latin America, and was designated Honorary Chairman of the Symposium.

Designing for the Human Experience: The Evolution of the Internet and Society – Boston, USA

ISTECS Executive Director participated in the workshop organized by Nortel Networks, October 16-18, to brainstorm on the future of the Internet. Participants came from all over the world and from different sectors; academia, industry, NGOs, and others. Discussions were held around three topic areas as they relate to societal implications and the human experience and technology: Fidelity, Ubiquity, and Simplicity. Please visit www.standards.nortelnetworks.com/theforum/ for more information.

Actualización Permanente Tecnológica por Operación Virtual (APTO) - Guadalajara, Mexico

Under the Advance and Continuing Education initiative, ISTECS inaugurated a series of courses under the name "Actualización Permanente Tecnológica por Operación Virtual" (APTO) on October 26. These courses will be developed by the Technical Vocational Institute, ISTECS, and el Centro Universitario de la Costa del Sur (CUCSUR) de la Universidad de Guadalajara. The seminars consist of monthly classes transmitted from an industrial or university site and received in the classrooms of Universidad de Guadalajara – CUCSUR. The theme will be state-of-the-art technologies and their applications. This participation will be negotiated on an individual basis with the different agents involved.

Common Market of Knowledge Project, Organization of American States – Washington DC, USA

ISTECS Director/Coordinator of the Library Linkages initiative, Johann Van Reenen, participated in the "Common Market of Knowledge Project" meeting sponsored by Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), an specialized institution from the Organization of American States'. On this occasion, national librarians from Peru, Brazil and Chile were present, as well as the Latin American Reading Room Librarian from the US Library of Congress. This project aims to facilitate the integration process in the region through a project of exchange of information in which National Libraries will play an important role.

Master in Library Science – University of South Florida (USF)- Tampa, USA

The Director/Coordinator of Library Linkages, Johann van Reenen met with the School of Library & Information Science (SLIS) at the University of South Florida (USF) on October 26 to begin negotiations to provide a web-based distance education Masters in Library Science for Latin American students. In addition, Professor van Reenen discussed USF Library potential support for LibLink document delivery.

November

First Seminar – Workshop of the Network of Mexican Digital Libraries (REBIDIMEX)- Colima, México

The REBIDIMEX-ISTECS digital libraries workshop was held during the INTERFACES event at Universidad de Colima from November 19-21 with the main objective of creating awareness among a select group of politicians and administrators that make important decisions regarding the importance of a cooperative program to create, develop, and maintain digital libraries. The objectives of this seminar-workshop were to propitiate a space to exchange experiences, encourage the development of digital collections and electronic publications, present a new global landscape of general processes associated with the creation of a digital library, establish working alliances in the short term, and train participating personnel in this initiative.

Concapán XX –Microcontrollers Course – San Salvador, El Salvador

Professor Howard Pollard from UNM taught a course on microcontrollers using two Motorola microcontroller / microprocessor at the Concapán XX, held on November 21, 2000. The course aimed to examine and understand what types of applications can be implemented with these processors. The course examined the processors and identified the fundamental concepts that do not change as technology advances, and also identified the characteristics that are different in the newer technologies.

Motorola M*CORE Personnel visit to ISTECH Executive Office – Albuquerque, USA

Motorola personnel visited the ISTECH Executive Office on November 13-16 to setup the necessary infrastructure for the dissemination of the M*CORE technology to ISTECH academic members. The announcement was presented at the X ISTECH General Assembly meeting. Once the methodology has been tested and debugged, a similar procedure will be followed to disseminate the DSP technology already licensed to ISTECH.

Primer Taller Latinoamericano y del Caribe sobre Tecnologías de la Información y Comunicación (LACTIC-2000) – Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

ISTECH was invited to participate in the Primer Taller Latinoamericano y del Caribe sobre Tecnologías de la Información y Comunicación (LACTIC-2000), on November 27-28. This event was organized as a result of the commitments agreed by Latin American countries during the ECOSOC sponsored meetings in Florianopolis and New York in which ISTECH participated. The topics addressed were Education, Health, Production, and Trade, under the framework of the Information Society. Although ISTECH could not be present due to the parallel General Assembly meeting, the Consortium has been an active participant in this forum and continues to work very closely with its members.

The Schargel Consulting Group– Albuquerque, USA

The ISTECH Executive Office met with Dr. Franklin P. Schargel (www.schargel.com) to identify collaboration efforts to bring Quality Control in the Education processes into the ISTECH agenda. As a result of this meeting, ISTECH will develop an Action Plan for the next two years with Dr. Schargel in order to implement his work on education in the ISTECH program.

Segundo Congreso Internacional de Tecnología y Política de Investigación Científica – Cuernavaca, Mexico

Motorola and ISTECH organized the “Segundo Congreso Internacional de Tecnología y Política de Investigación Científica” that was held at Hacienda Cortez, Cuernavaca on November 28-29. This event aimed to promote the technological advancement in Mexico, create a forum for the analysis of the science and technology for the society, and to promote the investment in technology in the entire sectors of the economy. For more information on this event, which is part of ISTECH’s IT Challenge Seminars under the framework of the X General Assembly, please visit: www.motorola.com.mx/congreso.

X ISTECH General Assembly

The X ISTECH General Assembly was held on November 30-December 1 at Hotel Villa Bejar and was hosted by the Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Cuernavaca in the city of Cuernavaca, México. Many new developments took place, including the presentations of working proposals by ISTECH academic and industrial members and the acceptance by the GA of ISTECH Inc as a non profit entity. For more information please visit the GA page under www.istec.org. Additional details are included in this Quarterly Message as well.

December

II Training Course of Directors of Project of Electronic Thesis and Dissertations ETD-Net - Montevideo, Uruguay,

UNESCO Montevideo and the Asociación de Universidades Grupo Montevideo (AUGM), with the sponsorship of ISTECS and CYTED organized the II Training Course of Directors of Project of Electronic Thesis and Dissertations ETD-Net, held in Montevideo, December 7-9. The main goal of this initiative was to create a group of specialists responsible of the dissemination and management of electronic dissertations and thesis for masters and PhD students.

EuroLat- IS – Santiago, Chile

ISTEC participated in the Third EUROLAT-IS Thematic Workshop held in Santiago de Chile, on December 11-13. EUROLAT-IS is a thematic network supported by the European Commission and the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid. Its main objective is to stimulate Euro-Latin American collaboration in areas of application of Information Society Technologies, boosting a wide number of concrete actions undertaken by consortia of European and Latin American companies, universities and other institutions, in areas of importance for the social and economic development in Latin America. The Third EUROLAT-IS Thematic Workshop was devoted to "Information Society Technologies in Education and Training", which is an action line defined as a research and development priority by the IST 2000 Workprogramme. The workshop took place in the Auditorio Gorbea, Escuela de Ingeniería, Universidad de Chile. Visit: www.eurolatis.upm.es for more details.

ISTEC Executive Office – Albuquerque, USA

The ISTEC Executive Office was officially closed to from December 15 through January 15, 2001 for end of the year holidays.

ISTEC sponsored conferences and meetings, 2001

Conference on the "Universalization of Access to Information for Educators in Latin America and the Caribbean" / Center of Regional Cooperation for the Education of Adults in Latin America and the Caribbean (CREFAL)

This conference, to be held at the CREFAL headquarters in Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, México, is currently being rescheduled. The purpose is to contribute to the enhancement of the quality of education of youths and adults in the region, and facilitate access to pertinent information for the educators that will be responsible for these educational programs. The objectives are to:

- Explore the existing infrastructure that educators have in the areas of computer and telecommunications
- Create awareness of the strengths and opportunities that IT offers in facilitating access to information, using communications as a tool in the educational process of youths and adults, and form a work team to develop an Internet based Portal for this project.

The expected participants include Ministers of Education and representatives from NGO's from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico, Dominican Republic, and Venezuela, in addition to 5 academic representatives in the field of education technologies.

March

General Assembly of the Inter-american Development Bank (IADB)

The Forty-second Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank and Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Investment Corporation will be held in Santiago, Chile, from 19 to 21 March 2001. As in the past, the Bank and the host country are sponsoring a series of seminars on topics of interest to participants. These preliminary activities will begin on Thursday, 15 March. ISTEAC is invited to this high level meeting to bring the experiences learned from 10 years of partnerships between academia, the private sector, governments, and international organizations.

April

V Brazilian Conference on Neural Networks, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

This event will take place at the convention center of Hotel Plaza Copacabana in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on April 2-5, 2001. The National Council on Neural Networks and the IEEE Council on Neural Networks are the organizers of this event. The V CBRN will consist of workshops in the application of neural networks in the energy financial markets, and in conferences and presentation of technical articles and expositions on products and services.

The main areas of interest include learning, generalization, methods related to statistics and neural networks, new architectures, memory, artificial intelligence, hybrid intelligent systems, neuro-fuzzy systems, neuro-expert systems, wavelets networks, neuro-dynamics and chaos, implementation of neural networks, opto-electronics, VLSI, DSP, neural networks relations with classical statistical methods, learning by reinforcement, neuro-biology, and specific applications. For more information, visit: <http://www.ele.ita.cta.br/cnrm/>

May

Annual Iberoamerican Research and Development Summit (AIRDS), Albuquerque, New Mexico

The AIRDS will take place on May 7-9, 2000. AIRDS will create and expand opportunities for technological research, development, and application (R&D&A) for the Iberoamerican region. The emphasis of this event will be on project partnering and technology transfer among academic institutions, centers of excellence, US federal laboratories, industrial institutions, and government agencies. The long-term mission of this summit is to create and sustain partnerships and alliances among participants from the Iberoamerican region, address science and technology needs, and pursue innovative and collaborative ventures.

This year's Summit mission is:

1. Highlight indigenous IT challenges, strengths, developments, and applications in the Iberoamerican region with a special focus on innovative uses of e-services.
2. Create profitable and sustainable partnerships in the Iberoamerican region between academic institutions, the private sector, US federal laboratories, technological parks, government agencies, industries housed in Iberoamerican technology parks, and businesses seeking international partners in Iberoamerica.
3. Facilitate science and technology education in the region and provide a cost-effective vehicle for technology transfers and joint international projects.
4. Offer New Mexico's Iberoamerican heritage and unique technology infrastructure as the "R&D&A Partnership Gateway" to and from the Iberoamerican region.
5. Capitalize on and advance the emerging investments and cross-border transactions within the Iberoamerican region to create new partnerships, synergies, and collaborative projects.

The Executive Office encourages all ISTEAC members to participate in this important event. For more information please visit: www.IRDsummit.org

July

ENGINEERING EDUCATION SEMINAR, Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro

The main objective of this event, to be held in July at PUC-Rio, is to raise the interest and involve more institutions in Engineering Secondary Education. Additional objectives are:

To develop skills in the tools that support Engineering Education;

To identify national and international partnerships;

To establish relations with groups in the basic areas (business administration, humanities, science and technology).

A desired outcome of this meeting is a more effective participation of institutions in the Americas, especially in Central and South America, in ICEE (International Conference on Engineering Education) and iNEER (International Network on Engineering Education and Research).