



Albuquerque, August 10, 2002

The Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá (UTP) and the Iberoamerican Science and Technology Consortium (ISTEC) are pleased to invite you to the XII ISTEC General Assembly, which will take place during the week of November 19-22, 2002 at the Hotel Riande Continental in Panama City, Panama. Training workshops under the Library Linkages (Liblink), Advanced Continuing Education (ACE), and Research & Development (R & D) Initiatives will be conducted on the three days prior to the event, from November 19 - 21. Additionally, the Secretaría Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología, e Innovación (SENACyT), Motorola, and ISTEC will be hosting an "IT Challenge" to discuss Policies for Scientific and Technological Development.

The following are the proposed themes and the dates for the series of events:

Nov 19: SENACyT / Motorola / ISTEC

IT Challenge: "Foro de Discusión sobre Políticas de Desarrollo Científico y Tecnológico", and panel discussions on Accreditation / Certification and Centers of Excellence.

Nov 19-21: Series of parallel workshops –These concurrent workshops will focus on LIBLINK, R&D, and ACE. We are inviting lecturers and panelists from different backgrounds that have either led the three initiatives, or have had important contributions in the fields.

These workshops will follow the thematic of current ISTEC initiatives:

- **Liblink** (regional presentations; digital libraries; statistical software; electronic thesis and dissertations; tentative leading edge international digital libraries projects; Consortial purchasing and others.)
- **R&D Labs** (regional presentations; tentative workshops on LabVIEW, VHDL and DSP; Technology transfer issues; and other forums and roundtable discussions)
- **ACE** (regional experiences; presentation of Chips & Salsa web-based educational tool; brainstorming discussions)

Nov 22 – ISTEC XII General Assembly. This is an annual event where members and observers meet to set future Consortium direction, identify opportunities, discuss current initiatives, network, define internal administration and participate in brainstorming sessions.

Additionally, UTP and ISTEC are promoting creativity in the engineering careers in the region by sponsoring an INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DESIGN CONTEST UTP – ISTEC 2002. This contest will select the best student project presented by an ISTEC member. The Engineering areas are Electronics, Telecommunications, and Computer Science and Software Development.

The Organizing Committee will be coordinating an optional visit to the Panama Canal for those participants that might be interested. We thank you in advance for your attendance to our General Assembly, and we hope that your visit to the beautiful country of Panamá will be pleasant and productive. If you have any doubts or suggestions, please contact the local coordinator Gregorio Urriola (gurriola@vipe.utp.ac.pa) or the ISTEC Executive Office (info@istec.org).

For more information about the agendas, hotel information, visa requirements, transportation and other activities during that week, please visit the website at www.istec.org.pa.

Sincerely,

Mauro Miskulín
President, ISTEC