

Defining Messina II Project

As a result of the Worldwide Jesuit Conference on Adult and Distance Learning, celebrated in Denver in November 2006, it was detected the necessity of establishing a joint course of actions where the universities will contribute with their knowledge to provide higher quality education to those sectors that World not have it otherwise.

This proposal, named Messina II, was inspired on a virtual-learning program for refugees in the Thailand-Myanmar border, presented by Fr. Michael Smith s.j., Director of the Jesuit Theological College (Melbourne, Australia). This program allows young people and adults to continue higher-education studies, overcoming the violence and tragedy that surrounds their lives.

Based on this idea, a group of participants outlined a possible joint project among universities of AJCU and AUSJAL, JesuitNet, International Federation of «Fe y Alegria», social-sector organizations and The Jesuit Service for Refugees.

A meeting convened by the Conference of Latin American Provincials of the Society of Jesus (CPAL) will be held on March 20th to 22nd, in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) to establish objectives, time-table of the project, fundraising, organizational structure and specific actions.



The Communications Secretary of Jesuit Company, Thomas Rochford s.j.; the CPAL President, Ernesto Cavassa s.j., Educational Sector Coordinator, Jesus Montero Tirado s.j.; Educational Sector Secretary, Miguel Petty s.j.; Social Sector Coordinator, Jorge Julio Mejia s.j.; «Fe y Alegria» International-Federation Coordinator, Jorge Cela s.j.; President of AJCU, Charles L. Currie s.j.; for the JesuitNet, Cindy L. Bonfini-Hotlosz; AUSJAL Executive Secretary, Susana Di Trolio; for the Parishes Sector, Roberto Oliveros s.j.; for the Social Sector of Mexico, Rafael Moreno s.j.; and for the IJND, Bernard Lestienne s.j. are expected to attend this event.

Diploma on Information and Communication Technologies ICTs: Third edition

102 participants will take the challenge to participate in the AUSJAL Diploma on Information and Communication Technologies ICT. This third edition will be offered in six different universities: PUJ (Bogota, Colombia), PUJ-(Cali, Colombia), ITESO (Guadalajara, Mexico), UCU (Montevideo, Uruguay), UCAB (Caracas, Venezuela) and «Instituto Universitario Jesus Obrero-IUJO (Caracas, Venezuela).

The Diploma was initially designed as a ICTs training tool for the faculty of AUSJAL but it has become a powerful tool for professionals working in Jesuit institutions, as well as private organizations. The participants on this edition are: 47 members of the AUSJAL's faculty, 30 representatives of Jesuit primary and secondary schools and «Fe y Alegria» centers, 14 representatives from non-Jesuit private schools, and 11 independent participants and representatives of educational training companies.

In order to meet the different interests of the participants, the group was divided into several virtual classrooms, such as: primary and secondary education, ICTs and Projects, global projects, small and middle business, higher education, virtual-learning communities and children and educational policies.

This is the biggest cohort since the beginning of the ICTs Diploma in 2005, although not all the originally expected universities were able to offer this edition. The current 102 participants highly outnumber the past two cohorts of 55 and 69 students, respectively.

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Virtual tutors graduation. The first edition of the Course for Online-Programs Tutors, ended through with a video-conference attended by ITESO, UCAB, PUJ-Bogota, UCU, PUCE and «Fe y Alegria». This cohort of 27 graduates includes professors coming from Colombia, Ecuador, México, Uruguay y Venezuela. The next edition of this course is expected for April 9th.

«Fe y Alegria» Live. A video-conference with «Fe y Alegria» International Federation and AUSJAL will be offered during the 4th Meeting of AUSJAL Network of Peers on Education, which will take place in UIA (Puebla, Mexico) on March 15th and 16th. The purpose is to design the specific projects of the Teachers Formation Agreement signed by both organizations. (More information on AUSJAL al Dia, N° 01)

AUSJAL Audio-conferences. Due to the increasing cost traveling to attend live meetings of AUSJAL Networks of Peers, the use of technologies for virtual communication has become even more important than before. The Networks of Peers on: ICTs; Social Responsibility for Universities; and Pastoral and Poverty, have taken great advantage of these tools. In fact, on March 9th, the Network of Peers on Pastoral held a video-conference through which they design the syllabus of the AUSJAL Program for Latin-American leadership.

«Values» has come true. The Network of Peers on Education will offer the Online Course «Values and Ethics» starting on March 15th. The «Universidad Catolica de Uruguay» (UCU) is coordinating this initiative. The course will have 70 participants from the following universities: UCU, PUJ-Bogota, UCAB and UIA-Mexico City, PUCE (Ecuador), UIA (Leon, Mexico), UIA (Puebla, Mexico) and UCA (Managua, Nicaragua).

JesuitNet Meeting. During March 15th and 16th, the JesuitNet will meet in The Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles) to discuss on: building bridges between generations, ethnic groups, and learning communities for continuing and adult learning.

AUSJAL Course About Poverty Growth. The 7th edition of the AUSJAL Continental Course on Poverty in Latin America, with 194 participants, is the largest cohort since the launching of this program in 2004. The students come from PUJ (Bogota), UCAB (Caracas), UCAT (Tachira, Venezuela), UIA (Puebla), UCC (Cordoba, Argentina), Instituto Filosofico Pedro Francisco Bono (The Dominican Republic), PUCE (Ecuador), and there is also one graduate student from Postgraduate Studies of Gonzaga University (USA).

AUSJAL International Presence. The AUSJAL President, Luis Ugalde s.j., will present the conference «Education Credit in Latin America» as part of the Pan-American Conference on Educational Credit coordinated by the World Bank and UNIVERSIA. This event will take place in Lima, Peru, on March 22nd and 23rd. The President of the PUC- Rio de Janeiro, Jesus Hortal s.j., and representatives of the «Universidad del Pacifico» will also participate in this conference. The AUSJAL President will also offer two opening lessons about Christian inspiration in Chile (Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso and Universidad Catolica de Temuco) on March 26th and 27th.

AUSJAL Letter: digital version. Starting with the 22nd volume: *Globalization and Higher Education*, the AUSJAL Letter will also be edited and delivered in an electronic format. The objective is to facilitate the distribution of the documents; that many will be of great interest for all AUSJAL's members and friends.