

Meeting of Peers on Education

The 4th Meeting of AUSJAL Network of Peers on Education was held during March 15th and 16th at «Universidad Iberoamericana de Puebla» in Mexico. The universities that participated were: «Universidad Alberto Hurtado» Santiago, Chile; «Javeriana de Bogota», Colombia; «Catolica del Ecuador», Ecuador; «Centroamericana» from El Salvador; «Rafael Landívar», Guatemala; UIA Torreon, Ciudad de México, UIA Leon, UIA Puebla and ITESO, Mexico; «Antonio Ruiz de Montoya», Peru; «Catolica del Uruguay», «Catolica del Tachira» and, «Catolica Andres Bello», Venezuela.

The sessions included a presentation of the management report by the network coordination. The report pointed out the beginning of the Course on Values and Ethic and the co-financing by Magis Center of Young People Culture Research in AUSJAL universities. This research will be coordinated by the «Universidad Catolica Andres Bello.»

Additionally, other two activities took place during the meeting: the conference offered by PhD. Miguel Angel Lopez titled «The Network Society and its Impact in Higher Education»; and a videoconference with Professor Beatriz Borja from the «Fe y Alegria» International Federation and Susana Di Trollo from AUSJAL, where it was proposed to enhance cooperation between the Federation and the universities in order to design formation courses for the Federation's professors and directors and the corresponding accreditation by the universities. A commission for developing and monitoring this initiative was established. It is integrated by the Network of Peers Coordinator, the AUSJAL Executive Secretary, «Universidad Catolica del Ecuador», «Universidad



Antonio Ruiz de Montoya», and «Universidad Catolica del Tachira.»

Some of the most outstanding agreements achieved by the Network during this event were: to relaunch «Web as a Didactic Tool» Course and «Learning Communities» Course; to support the Values Course coordinated by UCU (Uruguay) so that more teachers from AUSJAL's universities may subscribe next edition; to start the Young Culture Research Project in AUSJAL's universities; and to develop other formation programs for teachers.

The coordination of the network was assigned once again to UCAB. The Professor Rafael Estrada, Director of the Education School in this university, was unanimously elected as the new coordinator. He will replace Professor Silvana Campagnaro.

Latin-American Coordination of Educative Services

The first agreement that was reached during the meeting of the Conference of Latin American Provincials of the Society of Jesus (CPAL) was to create a Latin-American coordination of complementary educative services with the support of IT and a variety of distance learning modalities for those who are not likely to have access to educative formal systems.

The meeting took place in Rio de Janeiro from March 20th to 22nd and it was attended by: CPAL's Coordinator of Education and Secretary of Education; the coordinators of: Social Sector, «Fe y Alegria» International Federation, Parish Sector, Jesuit Service for Migration; AJCU President; and AUSJAL Executive Secretary.

The Latin-American Coordination is coordinated by CPAL and integrated by representatives of educative and social networks; its major aims are: to identify the needs of potential educative-services' participants and the complementarities between educative and social sector; to coordinate, encourage, advise, and evaluate the implementation of those alternative educative services.

The project will be presented to the provincials' assembly and will be gradually developed, taking advantage of the available resources. The first stage will include collaboration projects and initiatives started between AUSJAL and the sub-sectors: with «Fe y Alegria International Federation»: the design and accreditation of formation programs for teachers and directors, and strengthening of IT use; with Social Sector: a political formation program managed by the Political Formation Network of the Social Sector; with Parish Sector –RELAPAJ-: development of an online diploma for pastoral promoters based on program developed by Pontificia Universidad Javeriana and RELAPAJ; and formation and sensitization on the IT use for the Jesuit Service for Migration.

AUSJAL briefs

AUSJAL Presence in the Congregation. Four AUSJAL's directors and one professor will attend the 35th General Congregation in Rome during January 2008. They are: UIA President José Morales Orozco SJ, from Mexico City; UCA Vice-President Jesus Sariego SJ, from Managua; UCAT President Arturo Sosa SJ, from Venezuela; the President of the «Universidad Catolica de Cordoba» (Argentina) Luis Rafael Velasco SJ; and Professor José Ivo Follmann SJ (Insinos, Brazil).

AUSJAL Editions. Two new titles have been published in AUSJAL. First, «Ignacian Identity and University» published by Universidad Catolica Andres Bello. This is the result of a regional seminars series organized by AUSJAL between 2001 and 2005. And the book: «Reviews about Michel de Certeau», a joint effort of «Universidad Iberoamericana» (Mexico City), «Universidad Javeriana» de Bogota, «Universidad Catolica del Uruguay» and AUSJAL Executive Secretariat. It presents some re-interpretations about Certeau captured during the Seminar of Michel de Certeau Intellectual Itinerary.

Second Cohort. With a 140 hours length, the AUSJAL Diploma for Online-Programs Tutors is offered once again. The first edition was delivered from October 2006 to February 2007; it ended with a

graduation ceremony through videoconference that connected Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela. This new edition started last April 16th. Representatives coming from AUSJAL, FLACSI and «Fe y Alegria» are benefited with a US\$200 preferential fee. The registration fee is US\$ 600 for the rest of the public. More information at: <http://www.ausjal.org/sitios/dtutor>.

Theoretical Framework for RSU. On March 29th, the University Social Responsibility Group organized a videoconference where the Professor from «Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru» François Vallaeys presented a conference about the theoretical framework and political central ideas of the universities social responsibility. 14 representatives of AUSJAL universities participated in this virtual forum.

Ignacian Leadership in Audio-conference. An audio-conference was offered last April 13th as part of the AUSJAL Training Program for Jesuit University Leaders in Latin-America. It was attended by the national coordinators to monitor the progress of the programs and to prepare a series of video and audio conferences that will be delivered, in Latin-America, among the participant students and coordinators of the program. The themes selected by the coordinators to reflect on, will be: «Poor People, Poverty and Overcoming in Latin-America» and «Governability and New Leadership in Latin-America».

Educational Credit and Christian Inspiration

During the Pan-American Conference of Educational Credit coordinated by the World Bank and UNIVERSIA, the AUSJAL President Luis Ugalde SJ presented a conference titled «Educational Credit in Latin-America» where he explained how a wide educational credit system with a considerable public investment and private contributions represents the most fair and sustainable solution for higher education financing.

The event took place in Lima, Peru, last March 22nd and 23rd. The President of the «Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Rio de Janeiro», Jesus Hortal SJ, and representatives of the «Universidad del Pacifico» also participated.

Later on, the AUSJAL President presented two opening lessons about Christian inspiration, at the «Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso» and the «Universidad Catolica de Temuco», in Chile, during March 26th and 27th. Ugalde emphasized that universities are obligated to consider the integrity of human knowledge beyond the positive-rational reductionism and the formation-action complementarity of the university person. These lectures are available at: www.ausjal.org/superior.php.