

Analyzing university's social responsibility

The Meeting of the AUSJAL Network of Peers on Social Responsibility was attended by 25 staff members from 17 AUSJAL universities and the Catholic University of Lima (Peru), the Catholic University of Temuco (Chile) and the Catholic University of North of Chile, all dedicated to social responsibility and university mission programs. They gathered in UCAB (Caracas) from June 12th to 14th, for the International Seminar on University Social Responsibility. It was sponsored by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, UCAB and AUSJAL.



The meeting allowed the participants to share information about the situation of the different university social programs. They also set up during this meeting the Peers Network which will work, during the next two years, on the formulation and implementation of the AUSJAL project of Institutional strengthening of university social responsibility areas, approved during the 15th Assembly, and will also work on the identification of experiences that might be shared among the universities in order to develop joint projects.

Each university representative had the opportunity to describe the activities and policies concerning social responsibilities that have been carried out by their institutions. The agenda included a discussion panel and workshops about policies and indicators of university social responsibility. Also, they defined guidelines for the AUSJAL Institutional strengthening project on university social responsibility.

An international seminar on university social responsibility took place in the context of this meeting. It included the presentations of PhD. François Vallaëys from the Catholic University of Lima (Peru), who explained the factors that must be taken into consideration in order to have a social responsible university; these go from the relationship with community members and conditioning spaces to respecting the environment and taking in to account the sustainable development.

Monica Jimenez President of Catholic University of Temuco (Chile) explained the institution experience on social responsibility during her term. Luis Ugalde AUSJAL and UCAB President talked about social responsibility in Christian inspiration universities, emphasizing the social projection policies. A panel integrated by Rosario Méndez (UCAB) and Hortensia Muñoz («Universidad Ruiz de Montoya»-Peru) analyzed the presentations. All three presentations are available at AUSJAL Portal: www.ausjal.org

AUSJAL briefs

Videoconference on Environment. A videoconference organized in the context of the AUSJAL Course on Environment and Sustainable Development allowed the participants to listen to PhD. Arnaldo Gabaldon and to PhD. Maria Elena Febres-Cordero who lectured about Transition towards Sustainable Development: the Millennium Goals and Latin American Perspectives, and The Role of Engineers in the 21st Century, respectively. This encounter was conducted by UIA (Mexico) and it gathered participants from Bogota, Caracas, Guatemala and Puebla.

Educative Sector Meeting. The educative sector and social sector of the Latin American Provincials Conference (CPAL) gathered in Bogota from June 2nd to 4th. Luis Ugalde, who was recently ratified as AUSJAL President in Bogota, attended the meeting and

described it as highly positive. The meeting was attended also by CPAL President and Coordinators and by representatives from FIFyA, FLACSI, Social Sector and CLAR. The meeting allowed them to share information on the educative networks performance and to identify joint initiatives.

Governance Virtual Analysis. During the Formation Program for Ignacian University Leaders of Latin America, Arturo Sosa s.j. President of UCAT gave a lecture on semocratic governance in Latin America through a videoconference that was watched by students on the six participant universities: PUJ (Colombia), UCAT (Venezuela), UCAB (Venezuela), Landivar (Guatemala) and UIA (Leon, Mexico). Later on the students were able to make questions about the video content. This video is available at www.ausjal.org/videos/sosa.wmv.

Network of Peers on Journalism

The first meeting of the AUSJAL Network of Peers on Journalism was held in the «Pontificia Universidad Javeriana» Cali, Colombia from May 30th to June 1st.

The participants agreed the following: to establish a reasonable number of goals to work on and to follow the guidelines of the AUSJAL Executive Secretariat; to organize the Network's work in groups in order to facilitate the execution of initiatives; to make a live meeting once a year to follow the progress on the objectives and to set new guidelines based on the members' needs and proposals; and to organize virtual meetings and materials exchange via email.



The following initiatives were established and them will be coordinated by the following universities: Research and publications (UCAB-Caracas); teaching practice (UCU-Uruguay); specialized teaching training (ITESO- Guadalajara, Mexico); and curriculum design and academic quality (PUJ-Bogota and Cali, Colombia).

They also agreed to support the different newspapers and radio programs of the Society of Jesus and works through the AUSJAL universities' communication programs, and to present regular reports on the objectives progress, a task that will be carried out by the Coordinator and the groups assigned to the areas of research, teaching practice, specialized teaching training, and curriculum management.

A joint research line is expected to be implemented by the second half of 2007. The initial proposal is to start an observatory that will follow the professional performance of the graduates of AUSJAL universities' journalism programs

