

AUSJAL *al día*

Executive Secretary Newsletter. Latin American Universities Entrusted to the Society of Jesus

Luis Ugalde joins the Venezuelan Academy of Political and Social Science

Luis Ugalde S.J. AUSJAL president has been elected as member of the Venezuelan Academy of Political and Social Science. During the ceremony that took place in the Palace of the Academies Ugalde pointed out that this position acknowledges UCAB's work and its role in the orientation of the country's development.

The incorporation speech was titled «Political Utopia, between hope and oppression» and it points out the danger of the utopist regimes. «When a regime pretends to be the incarnation of the utopia, the regime is the absolute good. Anybody who criticizes, anybody who opposes goes to guillotine or the concentration camp.»

Also, the UCAB's President mentioned that the most important of the political concerns is to make sure that democracy works, that institutions are respected and that the democratic system produces social welfare equally for everyone and not just for a small group. «Any democracy that is not capable of establishing social justice and, at the same time, preserves the liberties, diversity of opinions, and autonomy of institutions, stops being a democracy.»

The full speech is available at <http://www.ucab.edu.ve/ucabnuevo/noticias/recursos/academia.pdf>



Going hand in hand with «Fe y Alegría» in the formation of Disadvantaged-areas Teachers

The design project of the Formation Program for Disadvantaged-areas Teachers is developed by the AUSJAL universities «Universidad Javeriana» of Bogota (Colombia), UCAB (Venezuela), «Universidad Católica de Ecuador» and «Universidad Ruiz de Montoya» of Lima (Peru) and «Fe y Alegría» International Federation. In this context, the experts from both networks, AUSJAL and «Fe y Alegría», started the activities to design the contents for the 10 Program's modules. Also, the universities and the Federation started to define the operative agreements that will allow training 900 teachers from «Fe y Alegría» Schools and the public sector of Latin America, in two years, starting on the first quarter of 2009.

The Executive Secretariat in the IRFA

Susana Di Trollo AUSJAL Executive Secretariat offered a conference in the National Seminar «Edu-communication & Adult and Distance Learning» of the



Venezuelan «Fe y Alegría» Radio Institute (IRFA) where she presented the AUSJAL distance-learning programs and projects and possibilities for cooperation between AUSJAL and IRFA the Latin American network. The meeting has held last June, 5th in the Venezuelan Episcopal Conference.

Strategies for awareness-raising on University Social Responsibility

The Network of Peers on University Social Responsibility held its 15th Audioconference. The Network's coordination team, lead by the «Universidad Católica de Córdoba», presented a series of strategies and instruments designed to facilitate the awareness and internal support to the Project «Institutional Strengthening of the Social Responsibility in AUSJAL Universities». These strategies and instruments are part of the document title «Framework for Institutionalization Strategies and

Awareness-Raising Instruments» that will be included in the document of Policies and Indicators on University Social Responsibility. It includes digital material that can be used in different places and audiences, adapting it to the reality and organization form of each of the participant universities.

AUSJAL President in Uruguay

Luis Ugalde SJ AUSJAL president will attend the conference «News and Contributions of Jesuit Universities to the Latin American Culture and Society» in the «Universidad Católica del Uruguay.» The event will also include workshops to debate on the activities that contribute somehow to the integral formation and allow to developing the intelligence-will-affection trilogy as well as the other trio, thought-action-reflection.

Commitment Confirmed

Joaquin Sanchez SJ president of the «Pontificia Universidad Javeriana» of Bogota addressed Jorge Cela SJ coordinator of the «Fe y Alegría» International Federation to confirm the commitment on the coordination of the Project for designing and managing the Diploma on Ignacian Social Management developed by CPAL, «Fe y Alegría» International Federation, Social Sector, FLACSI, Society of Jesus' Cooperative Shop and AUSJAL. The coordination will be a joint effort of «Universidad Javeriana» of Bogota and Cali.

Leadership Program finishes its first cycle

The formation activities of the Ignacian Spirituality Axis of the AUSJAL Program for Ignacian University Leaders finished with the virtual conference on Ignacian Identity offered by Jose Numa Molina S.J.; Faculty members and students from the «Pontificia Universidad Javeriana» of Bogota (Colombia), «Pontificia Universidad Javeriana» of Cali (Colombia), «Universidad Iberoamericana» of Mexico City, «Universidad Iberoamericana de León» (Mexico), «Universidad



Católica Andrés Bello» of Caracas and Guayana (Venezuela), «Universidad Católica del Táchira» (Venezuela), «Universidad Católica del Ecuador» and «Universidad Centroamericana de Managua» (Nicaragua), participated in this videoconference. At the end, the students had the opportunity to make questions and also to share their ideas about identity in the light of the situation that university students live in each of the 5 countries represented in the program. This second group participating in the Leadership Program will finish the rest of its formation activities with the Latin American Forum that will take place in September in the «Universidad Católica del Táchira», San Cristóbal, Venezuela.

Progress in Youth Culture

The «Universidad Católica Andrés Bello» as regional coordinator of the Project «Youth Culture Watch in the AUSJAL Universities», and the participant universities, submitted the questionnaire designed for youth-culture data gathering to different experts from these universities. The pilot test for the research has been programmed for the last quarter of 2008. During an audioconference, the participant universities also planned their activities for 2009.



Audioconference on Environment.

The coordinators from the participant universities of the AUSJAL Course on Environment and Sustainable Development held an audioconference to work on the publication of a technical series on the course contents; they also shared the evaluation of the technological, academic, methodological and content aspects of the most recent edition. This is the Seminar's third edition and students from «Universidad Javeriana» of Bogota (Colombia), «Universidad Rafael Landívar» of Guatemala, «Universidad Centroamericana» of Managua (Nicaragua) and «Universidad Católica Andrés Bello» of Caracas and Guayana (Venezuela).