

AUSJAL *al día*

Órgano divulgativo de la Secretaría Ejecutiva de la Asociación de Universidades Confiadas a la Compañía de Jesús en América Latina

4th AJCU-AUSJAL-DACE Meeting

The 4th Meeting for AJCU, AUSJAL and DACE was held in Miami during March. More than 38 American and Latin-American universities attended the meeting in order to present their progress on distance education. The event included workshops where representatives from AUSJAL, AJCU and DACE discussed on the design of the Consortium on Distance Learning for Jesuit Higher Education in the Americas, based on the Agreement for Online Courses (MOA) signed by AUSJAL and AJCU in March, 2008.

This Consortium promotes and supports the joint offer for On-Line Courses among universities. It represents the first virtual space for distance learning for these university networks, on common basis. The pilot experience is expected to begin in August, 2009. The other issues included during the meeting were: models, methodologies and best practices for assessment on virtual-learning as well as possible cooperation areas for AJCU's and AUSJAL's universities, and other Jesuit networks on education in Latin-America.



16th AUSJAL Assembly

The 16th AUSJAL Assembly will take place in Rio de Janeiro from May 13 to 17. It will include the election of the AUSJAL Board of Directors for the next two years; the presentation of the Reports from the AUSJAL Presidency and the Executive Secretariat; and the debate on new networking projects.

They will also debate on the following issues through discussion sessions: - 35th General Congregation and Jesuit Universities, which will be carried out by Arturo Sosa s.j. and Ernesto Cavassa s.j. - 35th General Congregation and the Intellectual Apostolate, carried out by José Morales Orozco s.j. and Rafael Velasco s.j. - Planning the World Meeting for Jesuit Universities' Presidents with the General Father for 2010, coordinated by Paul Locatelli s.j. (Higher Education Secretary of Society of Jesus) and Luis Ugalde s.j. - CPAL and its Education Secretariat, and the Jesuit Strategic Plan for Latin America, presented by Ernesto Cavassa s.j. CPAL President, and Jesus Montero-Tirado s.j. CPAL Education Secretary.

The Directors from Fe-y-Alegría International Federation, Colleges' Federation, Social Sector and the International Jesuit Association of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Universities, took part in the Assembly.

6th Meeting of the AUSJAL Network of Peers on Engineering



Sixteen Deans of Engineering took part in the 6th Meeting of the AUSJAL Network of Peers on Engineering, as guests from Deusto University and North Carolina State University (USA). It was held in the "Universidad Iberoamericana" in Mexico City from April 1 to 3. The most important initiatives and projects included were: 1) Institutionalization of an exchange program for students and faculty; 2) Designing the AUSJAL Engineer's Profile; 3) Preparation of an action plan that will allow reviewing the study programs for the engineer's career based on the competences' model; 4) The Network's Website Development; 5) Certification of

equivalencies for the careers on Civil, Electronic, Systems, and Computing Engineering.

They also carried out the Workshop on Assessment and Redesign for the AUSJAL Course on Environment and Sustainable Development where 7 specialized teachers took part. The new design was presented and approved by the deans. In addition, 10 universities agreed to participate on the next course's edition.

A Debate on Environment and Sustainability took place on April 4th, in the context of the Meeting for the AUSJAL Network of Peers on Engineering. It included a conference offered by the UCAB's professor Maria Elena Febres-Cordero and the comments by experts from different universities. Professor Febres-Cordero presented an action plan in order to relaunch the AUSJAL Network of Peers on Environment. She was entrusted with the task of coordinating the Network's strengthening process.

AUSJAL en Breves

Meeting of Peers on Education and Technology. The 2nd Meeting of the AUSJAL Network of Peers on Education and Technology was held after the 4th Meeting of AJCU, AUSJAL and DACE. It was attended by representatives from 15 universities. The results of the academic programs run by the AUSJAL Network of Peers on Education and Technology were presented in the meeting (AUSJAL Diploma on Information and Communication Technology and Formation Diploma for On-Line Tutors); the institutions' strengths on distance education were identified and working groups were proposed based on these strengths. Another issue was the discussion on the Consortium on Distance Learning for Jesuit Higher Education in the Americas. The participants acknowledged the common need for AUSJAL and AJCU to share courses, programs and virtual-learning experiences.

UNESCO Chair celebrates its 15th Anniversary. The UNESCO Chair of Deusto University has celebrated its 15th anniversary with the 8th Conference on Latin America. The program has allowed the formation of more than 120 faculty members from the AUSJAL universities at master's and PhD levels, since its beginning and is nowadays sponsored by the Santander Group.

University Social Responsibility Publishing. "Policies and Self-Assessment and Management System for University Social Responsibility in AUSJAL" is the title of the publication made by the AUSJAL Network of Peers on University Social Responsibility. This explains how is performed the University Social Responsibility in AUSJAL universities as well as the definition and development phases of the self-Assessment and Management System for University Social Responsibility in AUSJAL; and the System's dimensions and variables and instruments for data gathering.

New Universities' Presidents. The AUSJAL Presidency and Executive Secretariat welcome Hector Acuña s.j. and Eduardo Casarotti s.j. who have been appointed as presidents for the "Universidad Iberoamericana de Torreon" and "Universidad Católica del Uruguay", respectively.

Towards the Meeting with the General Father. In order to continue preparing the World Meeting for Jesuit University Presidents with the General Father titled "Shaping the Future: Jesuit Higher Education for the Globalizing World" which will take place in UIA, Mexico City, in April 2010, an agenda is being designed to answer the following questions: 1) How can Jesuit universities face the serious contemporary problems of humanity?; 2) What organizational scheme and strategies would be needed in order to create a global network that is able to undertake regional and global projects in among Jesuit universities?; 3) How can Jesuit universities strength their identity and mission as catholic and Jesuit oriented universities?