



Co -Hemis... update

Working Towards a Hemispherical Center for Cooperation in Technology

THE CO-HEMIS CONFERENCE A DEFINITE SUCCESS

The Hemispherical Cooperation Conference on Engineering and Applied Science Research, held at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus on November 13-15, 1991, culminated with the creation of the **Center for Cooperation in Education and Research in Engineering and Applied Science (Co-Hemis)**. This step of potential transcendence was taken in the final session of the event which gathered representatives from the respective national agencies in charge of technological research in Argentina, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Guatemala, México, Perú, Dominican Republic, Trinidad-Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela, besides the United States and Puerto Rico. Brazil, which had confirmed its participation but because of last-minute problems could not attend, send its contribution in writing.

The projections are that this Center will eventually attain an annual budget of approximately \$15 million to conduct programs of transfer of information and technology and to assemble, in its own facilities and those of the Mayagüez Campus, a battery of visiting researchers from different countries of America. Research topics will be technological problems of interest to several countries in the region. At present, the Center enjoys a subsidy provided by the National Science Foundation of the U.S. (NSF) and the Mayagüez Campus until December 1992, to help in raising the necessary funds to start its programs.

The purpose of the important

international conference sponsored by the University of Puerto Rico and NSF was, precisely, to plan a Center as a means to improve the technological capacity and public health situation of the countries of the American hemisphere and thus stimulate its social and economic development and its industrial competitive capacity on the global level. In addition to the representatives mentioned, U.S. and Canadian agencies which sponsor or facilitate international research programs, the U.S. State Department, and the Scientific Division of the Organization of American States (OAS) also participated.

A unanimous declaration of the delegates pointed out that Puerto Rico and the Mayagüez Campus are in an advantageous position to be the seat of a hemispheric center of technology because of geographic, political, and cultural circumstances, as well as their human capacity and infrastructure. The delegates committed themselves to promote and generate support to Co-Hemis within their respective governments and institutions.

The conference was endorsed by the technological divisions of UNESCO and United Nations, several U.S. Congressmen, and personnel from the Office of Strategic and Technological Policy (OSTP) of the White House in Washington. During the opening of the important event, the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Rafael Hernández Colón, addressed the participants in a message which pledged support to our initiative.

The Co-chairmen of the Confer-

ence, and now of the Center, Dr. Luis F. Pumarada and Dr. Carlos I. Pesquera, both from the School of Engineering of the Mayagüez Campus, will be advised by a Committee composed of five of the delegates to the Conference, the representatives of Argentina, Canada, México, Trinidad-Tobago, and Venezuela, plus Chile and Guatemala as alternates. The delegates of these countries share the responsibility of organizing the next phase of Co-Hemis, which will be supported partially through proportional contributions of the countries constituting its Board of Directors.

Co-Hemis ... update is the newsletter of the Hemispherical Center for Cooperation in Education and Research in Engineering and Applied Science (Co-Hemis), sponsored by the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus and the National Science Foundation of the United States of America.

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THANK YOU!

Many thanks to our sponsors, the National Science Foundation of the United States and the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, for their moral and financial support, as well as to John B. Scalzi, Leandro Rodriguez, and Rafael Muñoz-Candelario, for having entrusted us with the conversion of their idea into reality.

The success of the November Conference was principally a consequence of the good will and interest of the agencies and persons participating in it, to all of which we are very grateful. Another key factor was the dedicated work of many of our professors and students, committed to the ideal of hemispheric cooperation, perfectly coordinated by Eng. Gisela González and her fine team.

The relations established in the hospitality room of the College Hotel and the reception at the Chancellor's house, as well as the vibrant display of Puerto Rico tradition in the show given by Don Joaquín Mouliert and young Luis Daniel Colón, were other ingredients which added up to an atmosphere in which all our visitors could feel comfortable. It is therefore not surprising that the final plenary session produced a declaration, beyond the expectations of the organizers, proclaiming the existence of the first phase of the Center and the offer from the delegates to help us with the details of organization of the second phase.

It now remains for us, our institution, and our government, with the advice and cooperation of the Advising Committee, to convert this hemispheric support into concrete commitments and operational funds. That will be our next step!

Conference Participants:

Eng. Numa Capiati, Argentina
Dr. Alberto Pignotti (invited speaker)
Eng. Alberto Arcodaci, Argentina
Dr. David W. Bacon, Canada
Dr. Robert J. Kavanagh, Canada
Dr. Mauricio Sarrazin, Chile
Eng. Ismael Mazon, Costa Rica
Dr. Félix D. Piedra, Cuba
Eng. Edgar Bravatti, Guatemala
Dr. Manuel Martinez, Mexico
Dr. Mario Rojas Delgado, Peru
Lic. Franklin Martinez, Dominican Republic
Dr. Keith Crichlow, Trinidad-Tobago
Eng. Eduardo Muguerza, Uruguay
Dr. Graciela Sosa, Venezuela
Eng. Oscar Rodriguez, Venezuela
Dr. Wayne Clough, VPI-USA
Dr. Rafael L. Brás, MIT-USA
Dr. John B. Scalzi, NSF-USA
Dr. Jonathan Margolis, US State Dept.
Dr. Gene Rosenberg, AAAS
Dr. James L. Noland, Atkinson-Noland Assoc. (USA)
Dr. Stephen Carpenter, NIST (USA)
Dr. Saul Hahn, OAS
Lic. Sylvia I. Correa, EPA (USA)
Dr. James O'Shaughnessy, WPU-USA
Mr. Miguel Deynes, Puerto Rico Development Bank
Dr. Rafael Muñoz-Candelario, RUM-PR
Dr. Carlos I. Pesquera, RUM-PR
Dr. Luis F. Pumarada O'Neill, RUM-PR

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

December: Set up a schedule of development stages and budget needs. Establish preliminary contacts with entities which can provide funds or with persons who can move them to do so.

January: Consult with the Advising Committee and the established contacts, internally, about the preliminary scheme.

February: Develop the preliminary scheme in consultation with the Advising Committee. To agree upon March and April meetings.

March: To present a concrete preliminary proposal to governmental entities. To hold meetings with persons in the highest levels of the governments of Puerto Rico, the United States, México, Guatemala, and Venezuela.

April: To hold a meeting of the Advisory Committee in Washington with persons of high level and to reach agreements.

May: To submit concrete proposals to possible sources of funds.

Text of the Statement:

GATHERED ON THE 15TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1991, AND SERVING AS DELEGATES OF OUR RESPECTIVE NATIONS OF THE AMERICAS AT THE ACADEMIC SENATE ROOM OF THE MAYAGÜEZ CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO AS A RESULT OF AN INITIATIVE AND INVITATION OF THE UNIVERSITY SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

WE HAVE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY THE IMMEDIATE CREATION OF A HEMISPHERICAL CENTER ON COOPERATION ON ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (CO-HEMIS), THE FIRST PHASE OF WHICH WILL BE THE CONFERENCE'S ORGANIZING OFFICE, SUPPORTED BY THE MAYAGÜEZ CAMPUS AND THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION. THIS PHASE WILL BE ACTIVE BETWEEN THIS DAY AND DECEMBER 31, 1992. ITS MISSION WILL BE TO ESTABLISH THE ORGANIZATION AND PRODUCE THE FUNDING FOR A NEXT PHASE WHICH WILL ENJOY THE PARTICIPATION OF THE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES OF OUR HEMISPHERE AND CARRY OUT RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WHICH ARE OF COMMON INTEREST. A COUNCIL COMPOSED OF FIVE CONFERENCE DELEGATES HAS BEEN CREATED TO ADVISE THE ORGANIZERS IN THIS TASK.

WE SUBSCRIBE, ALSO UNANIMOUSLY, THE STATEMENT WHICH FOLLOWS.

WHEREAS:

The world is moving toward higher levels of social and economic integration.

The advances in communications and transportation have brought countries nearer to each other reduced the size of our world.

Economic development depends largely on technology, education, and research.

Many countries have an urgent need for applied research with the potential of short term benefits.

There are many problems of common interest whose solutions depend to a large degree on the development of technologies, which would be facilitated by the united efforts of the nations of America.

Problems such as pollution and the degradation of resources that extend beyond national

boundaries require regional cooperation for their solution.

Delegates of most of the nations of the Americas are meeting here to discuss hemispheric cooperation, in support of the initiative undertaken by the University of Puerto Rico, under the sponsorship of the National Science Foundation of the United States of America, to consider the creation of a Center to achieve such cooperation.

We understand that Puerto Rico and its Mayagüez' University Campus are in a very advantageous position to become the site of a hemispheric technology Center, by reason of geographical, political, and cultural circumstances, and of their capacity to establish a hemispheric Center of the type we urgently need.

THEREFORE:

We recommend the creation of the referred hemispheric Center for technological cooperation at Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.

The delegates present here resolve to promote and seek support for the Center within our respective governments and organizations, and to promote their membership once it is adequately organized.

We declare that the delegates present in this conference have constituted ourselves into the Provisional Assembly of the Center being developed.

We hereby delegate on the Advisory Committee which has been created the function of collaborating with the office of the Center in the task of defining its organization and of obtaining the funds required for the development of the Hemispheric Center.

CO-HEMIS MOVES

During January 1992 Co-Hemis will occupy its own offices in the campus' Research and Development Center. These facilities will give the Co-directors ample room to work there, since the development of Co-Hemis will become their principal task for the rest of the academic year. Our new address, fax, and telephone numbers will be notified in the next *Update*. Until then we have (809) 265-3816.

The new office space as well as the time allotted to the codirection of the Center are evidence of the commitment of the Mayagüez Campus to the success of our efforts.

TAKEN FROM THE MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO

..."The goal of hemispheric success within the global market would not be attained without every country having in its hands the tools and knowledge necessary to develop its own resources in a democratic environment. This achievement and overcoming of obstacles we can reach through technological cooperation, which the organizers of this activity very suitably expressed in their slogan, "Overcoming through cooperation".

..."Puerto Rico, as a Latin American and Caribbean country, fully identifies itself with the other Latin American and Caribbean countries. We share the cultural heritage, to a fair extent the climate and geography, and some of the economic problems. On the other hand, the integration of Puerto Rico

to the United States in the economic, professional, and academic aspects helps us to function perfectly within the scientific, research, and educational organization of English-speaking North America"...

..."The level reached by our scientific, educational and industrial activity, although still leaving much room for improvement, enables us to take advantage of our geographic position and historical circumstances to facilitate this cooperation. Understanding both worlds, with bonds to both as no other country has, and as a full participant of the scientific and technological community of the hemisphere, Puerto Rico can help to attain a better communication among the scientists, educators, and agencies of all countries of the Americas and the Caribbean"...

..."It is necessary to share development because you can't sell to people who do not have the capacity to buy; because the more each country develops its own resources, we shall all improve as producers and as consumers, thereby enhancing the interchange. This has been the great lesson of the European Common Market. We, Puerto Ricans believe in shared development. Not only do we believe in it, but we have shared development through the so-called Twin-Plant Program which functions on the Caribbean level"...

..."We hope that the Center may agglutinate here a **Center** for services and a world-level scientific community in constant renovation in service to the hemisphere, and that it contributes to establishing in this city the first University Industrial Park of Puerto Rico, from which through the Center, all the hemisphere may benefit"...

..."Many conferences and high-level meetings have been held on our island through the years. But, the one that starts here today may perhaps become the most important of all if it succeeds in laying

the foundation of a cooperation that deserves the support of all our countries and thus can provide all with the technological tools that are indispensable to reach that improvement which may bring greater prosperity and a better quality of life to our countries".

FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

..."It is symbolic that this Conference and the Center of Hemispheric Cooperation to be planned in it, is taking place in Mayagüez, birthplace of Don Eugenio María de Hostos, known as the Educator of America. Exiled by Spain in the nineteenth century due to his political views, Hostos traversed Latin America and sowed seeds which still produce benefits for some of our countries. He founded universities and educational systems in Chile and the Dominican Republic, and favored the ideal of uniting the Greater Antilles into an Antillian Confederacy"...