

ECIU – 5-year Anniversary and New Chairman

This autumn five years ago the ECIU member institutions signed the charter that officially set up the Consortium of Innovative European Universities (abbreviated into ECIU). At the recent ECIU Executive Board meeting the Board evaluated the first five years; whilst much has been achieved, it was recognised that ECIU needed to concentrate on fewer activities and to emphasize internal communication.

Building on inspiration from Burton Clark's book "Creating Entrepreneurial Institutions", the ECIU member institutions attempted to carve out a niche as *the* entrepreneurial or innovative institutions. Consequently over the years the Consortium has focussed on a wide number of activities ranging from regional development activities to accreditation efforts, to establishing joint master programmes and also involving students from the member institutions in its efforts. As in all international consortia, co-operation has resulted both in successful activities, such as the increased level of networking among staff from the respective institutions, and in less successful activities arising from the tensions between international cooperation on the one hand and national rules and regulations and local university cultures on the other.

Focus on fewer activities and better communication

During the ECIU Executive Board meeting held in November at the associate partner ITESM in Monterrey, the Board reflected on past achievements and concluded that despite the difficulties encountered over the last five years, all institutions had definitely learnt a lot from each other. And all participants agreed unanimously that the ECIU should continue, but also that the ECIU should *focus* on a limited set of activities and that the ECIU should *communicate* to a substantially greater extent with staff in the constituent universities. To many staff members, the ECIU is not known and to others it may seem like a management club, but it is hoped to give staff and students a much better impression as to what the ECIU is about by improved communication.

Also at the ITESM board meeting, a change of chairmanship took place. Rector Frans van Vught, Rector of the University of Twente, who has been the chairman of the ECIU since the Charter was signed, was thanked very much for all the efforts put into the ECIU in the past five years. Principal Andrew Hamnett, University of Strathclyde, took over the chairmanship, and it will now be Andrew Hamnett's task, along with his board colleagues, to further define and explore the objectives of the ECIU in the future.

The next ECIU Executive Board meeting will take place at the University of Strathclyde in June 2003.

Suggestions for two text boxes:

The 10 members in 1997 were

University of Aveiro, Portugal
University Autonoma in Barcelona, Spain
University of Twente, the Netherlands
University of Dortmund, Germany
Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg, Germany
Warwick University, England

University of Strathclyde, Scotland
Chalmers Technical University, Sweden
Aalborg University, Denmark
University of Joensuu, Finland
Later member
The Technical University of Compiègne, France

Two associate overseas partners

The Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, ITESM, Mexico
Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong

Text box

Tec de Monterrey System

The Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), commonly known as Tec de Monterrey, was founded in 1943 by a group of entrepreneurs headed by Don Eugenio Garza Sada.

Seeking to educate professionals and equip them with the skills needed to succeed in the business world, Tec de Monterrey has developed into an institution recognized, nationally and internationally, for its academic excellence.

A private non-profit nationwide university system, Tec de Monterrey is comprised of 33 campuses spread throughout 28 Mexican cities

With over 95,000 students, nearly 3,800 of them from across the globe, one of Tec de Monterrey's priorities is that of internationalization. To strengthen its worldwide presence, Tec de Monterrey:

- Maintains liaison offices in the United States, Canada, Europe and Latin America.
- Promotes an international exchange program offering academic research and continuing education for both students and professors.
- Invites foreign professors to serve as visiting faculty members.
- Encourages proficiency in English for students, faculty and administrators.

RESTRUCTURING THE TEACHING-LEARNING PROCESS

With the purpose of developing values, attitudes and abilities in each student, Tec de Monterrey has restructured its teaching-learning process. Along with traditional learning methodologies, the University has integrated new approaches that make its students internationally competitive in their field of expertise.

Over 7,600 professors approach education from an innovative, student-centered model that:

- Advocates self-study and the collection of information from different sources.
- Promotes collaborative learning through problem-based learning and case study methodologies.
- Provides distance learning opportunities, at the graduate and undergraduate levels, through the Virtual University.
- Gives access to international information banks and networks.

- Involves the student in research and development projects in the areas of manufacturing, automation, biotechnology and more - especially at the graduate level.

1943	Tec de Monterrey founded
1951	Received accreditation from Southern Association of Colleges & Schools (SACS) in the United States of America
1963	First Masters of Science is issued
1968	First doctoral program in chemistry is offered
1978	Medical school opened
1997	Virtual University founded

FACTS AT A GLANCE	
<u>Enrollment</u>	95,000 full-time students
<u>Programs</u>	34 undergraduate, 51 masters, 6 doctoral, Virtual University
<u>Faculty</u>	7,600 professors
<u>Endowment</u>	Tuition payments, corporate contributions, financial campaigns
<u>Character</u>	Private non-profit nationwide university system