

V MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE FORUM FOR EAST ASIA – LATIN AMERICAN COOPERATION (FEALAC)

February 10th and 11th, 2009 – Panama City, Panama

Final Report

- Present at the meeting were participants of the following member countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, Uruguay and Venezuela. The list of delegates is attached to this report.
- The delegations complied with the mandate issued by the III Meeting of Ministers of Brasilia, 2007, and focused their deliberations on making recommendations in the fields of epidemics, natural disasters, and renewable energies.
- Presentations by Panama, Japan, Ecuador, Peru, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Chile, and Bolivia were made on the public policies to promote science and technology.

In this regard, discussions focused on ways to enhance the efficiency of the Working Group, leading to proposals that will be conveyed to each country member's Chancery for their consideration before the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of Buenos Aires (April 7th and 8th, 2009):

- To promote inter-institutional cooperation among the government organizations of the FEALAC member countries responsible for fostering science and technology, with a focus on inclusion and complementary vision.
- To prepare an inventory of the existing bilateral agreements on this matter.

- To take the full advantage of the FEALAC website (www.fealac.org) and other related websites as a place for the exchange of information and as means of communications through the feeding of these websites with relevant information on national, bilateral, and multinational programs and projects, such as telemedicine, the “El Niño” and “La Niña” phenomena, and bio-fuels among others. In this regard, the WG expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its efforts in creating and maintaining the FEALAC’s website.
- To explore the feasibility of holding meeting and seminars of FEALAC by means of teleconferencing, taking advantages of current and future technologies facilities in order to increased working fluency and optimization of resources.
- To invite the Inter-American Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank to attend Working Groups’ meetings, Senior Officials’ Meetings, and Ministers’ Meeting to effectively coordinate the financing of the studies, programs, and projects set forth within the FEALAC framework.
- To consider opening the tasks of this WG to other sectors related to science and technology such as productivity and competitiveness or other fields that conduct science and technology cooperation to develop production, technology transfers and innovation systems.
- To welcome the Chilean proposal of the National Emergency Agency (ONEMI) for cooperation with FEALAC Members on the exchange of information, on models of risk management and the formal invitation for FEALAC experts to participate in the Training Program of Civil Protection in Chile.

- To welcome an “ad-referendum” proposal for the development of an inventory of initiatives, events and competitions in FEALAC Member Countries, promoting scientific and technological creativity and innovation in the younger generations. The effort would provide the basis for the creation of a biennial FEALAC Award, to be presented in scientific and social fields to young people by the Foreign Ministers’ Meeting.
- To welcome the Japanese proposal concerning the new modalities of FEALAC meetings, which have received the support from several delegations; and Japan showed its gratitude.
- A visit was conducted to the “Ciudad del Saber” (City of Knowledge), the Panamanian foundation that is dedicated to hosting academic programs and companies that focus on science and technology, as well as international organizations.
- The delegates expressed their gratitude to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama, the National Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation (SENACYT), and to The City of Knowledge (Ciudad del Saber) for hosting and organizing the meeting.

Other Business

During the meeting a question of avoidance of duplication of initiatives and efforts arose between Ecuador and Peru over the competence of the CIIFEN (Ecuador) and ENSO Project - IMARPE (Peru) on “El Niño” and “La Niña” Phenomena, and after efforts from the participants on the meeting to conciliate positions without reaching consensus, the Co-Chair (Panama) decided to elevate the question to the consideration of the SOM. The proposed paragraphs are shown below:

- To support the action of CIIFEN (International Research Center on El Niño and La Niña Phenomena) as the competent global mechanism taking care of prevention and monitoring these phenomena in order to avoid duplicated initiatives on this matter. - Ecuador
- To welcome the report of Peru on the advances of ENSONETWORK project, regarding the bi-regional cooperation on the “El Niño” and “La Niña” Phenomena, with the participation of seventeen (17) FEALAC Members. - Peru