



TIEC GAZETTE

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Newsletter of the Texas International Education Consortium

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Overview

A unique association of 32 public universities in Texas

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New Saudi University Prepares to Open in Fall

Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMU) was officially launched with a foundation stone laying ceremony in Al-Khobar on March 29th. More than 2,400 persons attended the events.

TIEC was represented by TIEC President, Dr. Nick Poulton (on left, below), and Ms. Conchita Hickey, Executive Director of Programs for Academic Support & Enrichment at Texas A&M International University.



PMU is on schedule to open in September 2006 with 600 students in the Preparation Year Program. Ms. Hickey was a member of the TIEC team that designed this program.

Under the current operations assistance contract between TIEC and PMU, TIEC has recruited five professionals to work full-time in Al-Khobar to initiate and manage key operational areas of information technology, finance, human resources, enrollment management, and administrative services.

Three more professionals will be added this summer. TIEC is also recruiting academic leaders and faculty for the Preparation Year Program for both the male and female campuses.

Reform of Yemen Higher Education Finance

TIEC has been awarded a World Bank-funded contract to assist the Government of Yemen in its efforts to promote the decentralization of financial planning and expenditure authority to public higher education institutions in that country.

The project will entail a detailed review and assessment of existing regulations and practices relevant to current financial planning, budget, accounting, and expenditure systems, including the existing information technology infrastructure; the design of a new Budget and Financial System Plan; and the development of specifications for a Financial MIS and Pilot

Test Plan, to be followed by ongoing monitoring of the execution of that Plan.



Mr. Langabeer (right) met with Mr. Ali Gubran Al-Shamahi (left), General Manager of Budget, Yemen Ministry of Finance, on March 25 to discuss the project objectives.

Mr. James R. Langabeer, Vice President for Business Affairs at The University of Texas – Pan American, will serve as the Team Leader. He and TIEC Vice President, Dr. Ronald Aqua, visited Yemen on March 20-27 to meet with key personnel, collect data and information, and organize subsequent activities.

Learning English to Become a Chef

Andy (Chan) Lai, a native of Malaysia, worked at restaurants in England and New Zealand and decided that he wanted to do formal training to become a chef. When his cousin, who works in Austin, suggested he come to Austin to improve his English and then enroll in the internationally-known Texas Culinary Academy (TCA), Lai jumped at the opportunity.

“I had studied English in school since I was 10, but I needed to improve my skills to perform in an academic setting,” said Lai. “TIEP helped me improve my skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing so that I could achieve my goal of first getting admitted to and then performing well in TCA’s Associate of Applied Science Degree in Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Arts program.”

At TCA Lai had to write a business plan; he said that his writing courses at TIEP helped prepare him to accomplish that difficult task. Lai said, “TIEP teachers also helped me improve my spoken English, which is very important in having good relationships with TCA faculty, staff and fellow students. To be a top-notch, international chef, English is important because good communication with other chefs, servers and customers is essential.”



Lai is currently seeking a summer internship in fine dining or catering in Austin and plans to graduate from TCA in September.

For more information on TIEP classes, visit <http://www.tiec.org/tiep> or e-mail tiep@tiec.org.