



# TIEC GAZETTE

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## More About TIEC...

### Overview

**A unique association of 32 public universities in Texas**

**Programs and Services**  
*Offering assistance to public and private organizations worldwide*

### Study in Texas

**Featuring a full range of programs for students and professionals**

**Opportunities at TIEC**  
*Career opportunities for university professionals*

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## New TIEC President Will Seek to Strengthen Ties to 32 Member Universities

Dr. Ronald Aqua, recently named as President and CEO of TIEC upon Dr. Nick Poulton's retirement in August, told the TIEC Board at its annual meeting that this would be a propitious time to take a fresh look at how TIEC might better serve its 32 affiliated Texas universities. "For those of us who work inside the U.S. higher education system," Dr. Aqua noted, "the competitive pressures and international challenges have never seemed greater. But at the same time, many people abroad view our system as one of America's crown jewels, creating many exciting new opportunities for our students and faculty."

Dr. Aqua plans to travel around the state in the coming months to meet with administrators and faculty at TIEC member institutions who have an interest in promoting a stronger international presence on their campuses. According to Dr. Aqua, "The impressive academic assets that we have in Texas, coupled with TIEC's extensive experience in international project development and strong network of overseas partners, could bring many more tangible benefits to our affiliated universities."

Dr. Aqua previously served as Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer of TIEC.

*Shown below with TIEC President Ronald Aqua (center, both pictures) on recent campus visits are: (left) Dr. Richard Berry, Interim Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Baker Pattillo, President, Stephen F. Austin State University; and (right) Dr. Gretchen M. Bataille, President, and Dr. Earl F. Gibbons, Vice Provost and Associate Vice President for International Education, University of North Texas.*



## TIEP Experts Develop Pilot English Test for Korean Middle School Students

Korean middle school students currently take standardized, multiple-choice English tests that are designed for older students as part of their application process to select high schools in Korea. Speaking and writing are two language skills that are often underemphasized in English instruction in Korean secondary schools.

When Mrs. Jai Ok Shim, Director of the Korean American Educational Commission (KAEC - Fulbright) in Seoul, looked for a partner to collaborate in the development of a new English proficiency testing program for third-year Korean middle school

students, she turned to experts at TIEC's Texas Intensive English Program (TIEP).



*Ssangyong High School, Cheonan*

Under an agreement signed between KAEC and TIEC, the new testing program will assess middle school students' listening, speaking, and writing proficiency in English. Over the longer term, such a proficiency test will promote and enhance the teaching and learning of English in Korea.

The first step in the test development process involved a visit to Korea in September by Ms. Mimi Parris, TIEP Instructor and testing expert. While there, Ms. Parris researched English instruction and student English skills and visited elementary, middle, and high schools, interviewing students to ascertain their level of English proficiency.

In addition, Ms. Parris had the opportunity to meet with Korean English teachers who had completed training in Austin at TIEP and with American English Teaching Assistants, both groups sponsored by KAEC. The Korean teachers provided valuable knowledge and insights on English instruction in Korea. "I was very impressed with teacher dedication and long hours worked, the high-tech classrooms, and the strong focus of English in the curriculum," Ms. Parris said.

In the current phase of this unique KAEC-TIEC partnership, Ms. Parris and TIEC Academic Coordinator Dr. John Schmidt will develop a pilot test to be administered in Korea in early December.

**For more information on TIEP, visit <http://www.tiec.org/tiep> or e-mail [tiep@tiec.org](mailto:tiep@tiec.org).**

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## TIEC Delivers Design for New English Language Center at Egyptian University

TIEC has developed and delivered a unique new program design for Misr University for Science and Technology's (MUST) English Language Center. MUST, a private, English-medium university located outside of Cairo in 6<sup>th</sup> of October City, enrolls approximately 15,000 students, all of whom must complete the English-language program in order to graduate.

Focused on enabling students to be successful in English in their degree coursework as well as gain valuable English language skills for the job marketplace, the new TIEC program design enhances the university's program by expanding the levels taught and the amount of English language instruction.

Ms. Meagan Hopkins, TIEP Instructor and co-author of the new design, traveled to MUST in September to orient MUST English faculty to the curriculum, instructional materials, learning outcomes, and student assessment. She also provided intensive training on communicative language teaching techniques, working in close collaboration with Dr. Amal Kary, Chair of the MUST English Department.



According to Ms. Hopkins, "The English language instructors who attended the training sessions were enthusiastic and eager to learn new interactive instructional methods to apply in MUST English classes," noting that, "teachers have already begun implementing the suggested curriculum focused on skills-based learning" this fall.

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## Forging New Relationships in the Middle East

TIEC President Ronald Aqua and TIEP Director Terry Simon traveled to Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, and Egypt in mid-September to meet with leaders of educational institutions and government agencies interested in exploring new cooperative relationships with TIEC.

In Kuwait, Drs. Aqua and Simon visited the offices of Al Arabia Educational Enterprises, which is developing two new private higher education institutions, American College of Middle East (ACM) and American University of Middle East (AUM).



They then went to Abu Dhabi, where they met with senior officials of the UAE Academy and Abu Dhabi Department of Planning & Economy (*shown at left, l-r, Dr. Magdi A. Hafiz, Chief Executive Officer, UAE Academy; Mohammed Omar Abdullah, Undersecretary, Abu Dhabi Department of Planning & Economy; Drs. Aqua and Simon*).

They also met with officials at the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the Scholarship Coordination Office, and the American Center for Press & Cultural Affairs (U.S. Embassy).

In Cairo Drs. Aqua and Simon reviewed ongoing activities and future plans with representatives of two TIEC partner institutions: Dr. Mostafa M. Kamel, Misr University for Science & Technology (MUST), and Dr. Yehia El-Mashad, Delta Academy of Science.