



TIEC GAZETTE

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Newsletter of the Texas International Education Consortium

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Overview

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University Consulting News

TIEC Workshop in Yemen Defines Key Elements of Design for New University

Experts from Texas higher education institutions traveled to Sana'a, Yemen, in March to present detailed recommendations for the design of Al Saleh University.

Dr. Peter Cooper, Professor and Chair of the Department of Computing Science at Sam Houston State University, presented TIEC's recommendations for the new university's curriculum.

Dr. Fernando Gomez, Vice Chancellor and General Counsel of The Texas State University System, presented TIEC's recommendations for the university's administrative structure, as well as policies and procedures designed to support university operations.

About 35 people attended the workshop, which provided a forum for the new university's planning committee and other stakeholders to review and offer comments on the TIEC recommendations.

The group expressed agreement with one attendee's comment that Al Saleh University should be "unique among Yemeni universities — a destination for students from all parts of the world."

Dr. Cooper identified the defining elements of the university curriculum as the degree program structure, the core values that underpin the curriculum, the concept of "immersion" or total engagement in the environment that students will experience in their profession, and a shared vision.



Dr. Peter Cooper of Sam Houston State University



Dr. Fernando Gomez of The Texas State University System

Noting plans for degrees in management as well as information and communication technology (ICT), Dr. Cooper stated: "There needs to be an ongoing connection between the experiences of emerging professionals and the expressed needs of business and industry, not only within Yemen but also in a regional and international context."

Describing plans for a series of courses that all students will take regardless of their major, he pointed out the need to "provide a common set of concepts and language skills that allows a level of communication and understanding between management and ICT professionals."

Dr. Gomez outlined an organizational structure he said was "designed to assist

the institution in meeting its vision and mission to become the benchmark for higher education in Yemen; foster student success; prepare students for leadership both within the country and internationally; and deliver a viable 21st century workforce for Yemen's business, industrial, and government employers."



TIEC Project Manager Ernie Wood introduced Dr. Gomez and Dr. Cooper to the workshop in Sana'a.

He then discussed quality control, accreditation, governance, office functions, and the roles of the President—who he said would not only be responsible for administering the institution but also would serve as the university's public face in the community, the country, the region, and the world.

Policies addressing students, faculty, staff, administration, and the physical plant are designed to create stability and continuity of operations while being flexible enough to address changing institutional circumstances and needs.

TIEC Outreach

Making International Connections in Texas

TIEC President Dr. Ronald Aqua was a guest in March at the "Explore Vietnam" luncheon in Houston marking the opening of the Consulate General of Vietnam.

Co-sponsored by the International Trade Expo Council of Houston, the meeting focused on emerging opportunities in Vietnam for Texas institutions and provided the occasion for Dr. Aqua to meet with Consul General Le Dzung and the Ambassador of Vietnam to the United States, the Honorable Le Cong Phung.

Ambassador Phung noted that when he came to the U.S., he promised that he would help make the United States the largest investor in Vietnam. "One need we are facing in our infrastructure is the level of education, particularly in higher education," he said. In all areas of development, he invited the people of Texas to "sit down and see what we can do together."

"This was a very useful opportunity to network with a wide variety of interested parties representing broad segments of our Texas community," said Dr. Aqua. "Over the coming months, we will be looking for similar opportunities around the state to extend the reach of our member universities to Vietnam and other countries."