



# 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*

## Texas A&M-San Antonio Looks Forward to Active Involvement in TIEC Programs

Texas A&M University-San Antonio, one of the newest institutions in the Texas A&M System, has joined the Texas International Education Consortium, a move welcomed by the TIEC Executive Committee at its most recent meeting on October 25.

In taking this step, President Maria Hernandez Ferrier indicated that she will encourage all TAMU-SA faculty and administrators to join actively in TIEC program initiatives. "We have high hopes of providing exceptional international development and education to our students," she noted. "Membership in TIEC is an important concern for us, and we look forward to working with TIEC to develop our international infrastructure and offerings."

Formerly known as Texas A&M University-Kingsville System Center-San Antonio, the new institution was granted stand-alone status in 2009 to address the educational needs of south San Antonio, offering junior and senior-level courses in an area that has been historically underserved by higher education.

Dr. Daniel A. Glaser-Segura, Director of TAMU-SA's Office of International Education, who will represent the University on TIEC's Operating Council, observed, "We are mission-driven, very much a teaching institution with a hands-on approach. We look forward to working with TIEC to develop programs that enhance the global understanding of our non-traditional students and faculty, many of whom would like to conduct research and travel."



## TIEC Designs Key Elements of New Engineering University in Vietnam

TIEC has been providing technical assistance to the Vietnam Oil and Gas Group for the design and development of PetroVietnam University (PVU), a new engineering institution that will feature a strong career and applied science orientation to meet the growing demand for highly trained human resources for Vietnam's petroleum industry.

To help PVU become a leading, internationally recognized university, TIEC assembled a team of nine senior faculty and administrators—including

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experts in engineering and the geosciences—from six Texas public universities. They worked closely with five Vietnamese scholars in the fields of higher education planning, management, and finance to deliver detailed plans for the new institution's curricula, laboratories, and library, as well as its administrative, operational, and financial systems.



TIEC President Emeritus Nick L. Poulton directed the overall the team effort. According to Dr. Poulton, "The project presented unique challenges for balancing government and corporate regulations and requirements. TIEC was very pleased that Vietnam's national oil company chose to work with leading experts in petroleum engineering from Texas universities."

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## Al Saleh University Prepares for Opening After Completion of TIEC Design



TIEC has completed its year-long, five-phase design for the establishment of Al Saleh University in the Republic of Yemen. Team members for the final two phases, which produced detailed implementation and financial plans for the new institution, presented their detailed findings and recommendations at a workshop in Sana'a in early July.

The three earlier phases included a survey of needs, an institutional development plan, and an infrastructure and equipment plan. A total of 20 experts, most of whom are senior administrators or faculty members at Texas public universities, served on the various TIEC task teams.

The new university will strive to provide the next generation of Yemeni citizens with the cognitive skills and applied knowledge needed to assume leadership positions in the fields of business and technology for the entire Gulf region of the Middle East. Its founders hope that Al Saleh University will become a model for higher education development in Yemen, in order to help that country meet the twin challenges of societal development and economic globalization.

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## Presidential Delegation from Dominican Republic Visits TIEC Headquarters

Dr. Leonel Fernández Reyna, President of the Dominican Republic, brought a delegation of senior Dominican government and business executives to TIEC headquarters on September 30, where they met with TIEC Board Chairman Joseph C. Rallo, President of Angelo State University, joined by TIEC President Ronald Aqua and Texas Intensive English Program (TIEP) Associate Director Woody Smith, to discuss ways to strengthen relations between higher education institutions in the two countries.



During the visit TIEC signed a Cooperation Agreement with the *Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo* (FUNGLODE), a not-for-profit organization headquartered in Santo Domingo, to promote academic exchanges and foster technical cooperation between Texas institutions and their Dominican Republic counterparts in such fields as history, law, and the political and social sciences.

President Fernández commented that this Agreement “will bring unlimited opportunities for our best students and scholars to learn, exchange, and interact with counterparts from Texas universities.” He expressed the hope that TIEC and its affiliated institutions could follow up with visits to Santo Domingo to share their knowledge, experience, and ideas.

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## TIEC Participates in Strategic Planning Process for New Saudi University



TIEC is providing expert guidance to Majmaah University in Saudi Arabia for its development of a new strategic plan. The university was established in August of 2009, bringing under one central administration several existing regional institutions that included a community college as well as technical institutes and colleges in science, the humanities, education, management, medicine, and dentistry.

TIEC's role in this process, initially, will be to conduct several on-site workshops and to produce a report on international best practices in several fields related to the new institution's formation and development. This will be followed by a review of each phase of the strategic plan, including an analysis of situational and strategic issues; the setting of a vision and mission statement; goals and objectives; and the definition of measurement indicators, projects, and programs.

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## Short Takes

- In July, TIEP conducted a three-week Intensive English Language and American Culture course for high school students from Taiwan. Later in the month, students from Mishima Senior High School in Japan arrived for a similar course, the eleventh such program since 2000.
- Also in July, the tenth American Studies Institute (ASI) was conducted for eight secondary-school English language teachers from Chile, sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Santiago, and four English teachers from India, sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi. On December 4- 17, TIEP will host the 11<sup>th</sup> American Studies Institute for a group of 10 English teachers from India, also sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.
- TIEC Secretary-Treasurer Fernando C. Gomez (Vice Chancellor and General Counsel, Texas State University System) traveled to Lexington, Kentucky in October to meet with a senior civic and business delegation from Normandy, France regarding potential new academic partnerships in such fields as language training, biotechnology, and renewable energy.
- The TIEC Operating Council met on November 12 in Austin, with representatives of 14 Texas public universities in attendance. The agenda included a briefing by TIEC President Ronald Aqua on current TIEC activities and new developmental initiatives, followed by information-sharing among the campus representatives about ongoing programs and future plans at their respective institutions.
- The U.S. Department of State has approved TIEC's application for re-designation as a Sponsor of the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program for 2010 through 2012. Under this program, TIEC issues Form DS-2019 for international students, professors, research scholars, and short-term scholars who take part in exchange visitor programs at participating TIEC-affiliated Texas universities.

