



TIEC GAZETTE

Newsletter of the Texas International Education Consortium

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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

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August 2011

Celebrating Our 25th Anniversary!

New Vice President Welcomed to TIEC

Dr. Jaime Ortiz has been named as the TIEC Vice President, following an extensive national search.

Dr. Ortiz assumed his new responsibilities on August 1, 2011. He previously served as Associate Vice President for International Programs and Associate Professor of Economics at Texas A&M International University in Laredo since 2006.

An accomplished scholar as well as seasoned university administrator, Dr. Ortiz has directed international programs at William Paterson University and Florida Atlantic University, taught and consulted in economic and business affairs in 19 countries with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean, and

authored, co-authored, and edited numerous books, textbooks, and book chapters along with technical reports and journal articles. He received his B.S. from the University of Chile, his M.A. from the International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, The Netherlands, and his Ph.D. from Virginia Tech.

Dr. Ortiz is excited about the fast pace of the work at TIEC, the diversity of projects in which he will be involved, and the wide variety of connections he will be able to make with faculty and administrators at TIEC's 32 participating Texas public universities.

"The magnitude of projects here involves many players," he noted. "I've worked for an assortment of international organizations,



corporations, NGOs, universities, and private businesses. I have a good understanding of the work they do and can relate to how they see things," he said.

TIEC President Ronald Aqua added that Dr. Ortiz' deep knowledge of Latin America "should serve TIEC's developmental interests well by complementing our existing relationships in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East."

TIEC Greets Teachers from Japan for Training Program

Fourteen teachers of English from Japan are participating in a six-month training program at TIEC sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (JMOC).

This is the 15th group of Japanese teachers to come to TIEC. The goals of this recently-expanded program are to develop the participants' English competency and their comfort in

using English as the primary language of instruction, expand

their knowledge of English teaching methods, and explore ways to help their students assume more responsibility for their own active learning.



The teachers will take classes taught by Texas Intensive English Program (TIEP) instructors and will also gain teaching experience through a practicum in Austin public schools. In addition, they will audit university courses

and have two month-long home stay experiences, a four-month

residency in a university dormitory, and a series of field trips around Austin.

According to Mimi Parris, TIEP academic coordinator, the participants will be working closely with a mentor teacher during the practicum. "Through their active involvement in classroom activities, the teachers will learn about the American school system and form new professional relationships with American teachers and school administrators," said Ms. Parris.

Majmaah University Strategic Planning Process Continues



TIEC has been working closely with the Arab Organization for Training and Development in Saudi Arabia to help guide the development of a strategic plan for Majmaah University, a new institution located 120 miles northwest of Riyadh that was established through the consolidation of several existing regional colleges and technical institutes.

The TIEC advisory team has provided detailed recommendations regarding the vision and mission of the new university as well as practical suggestions for utilizing strategic planning models, tools, and techniques that are commonly applied in the American higher education setting.

Now in its concluding phase,

the project is currently focused on the development of measurable objectives and performance indicators for the strategic plan. Earlier phases dealt with the implementing framework for the plan, an environmental scan of strategic threats and opportunities, and longer-range goals and objectives.

“We found that enhanced enrollment trends and growing business needs in Georgia will necessitate additional academic programs . . .”
-Dr. John Edwards

TIEC Conducts Study for New Higher Education Institution

TIEC investigated the potential development of a new higher education institution in the nation of Georgia this past spring under a project spearheaded by that country's Ministry of Education and Science.

The two-month study considered university enrollment patterns and workforce development issues in Georgia as well as throughout the greater

Black Sea, Caspian Sea, and Central Asia region.

“We found that enhanced enrollment trends and growing business needs in Georgia will necessitate additional academic programs, hopefully linked to an American university, or a consortium of American universities,” said Dr. John Edwards, TIEC consultant and visiting assistant professor in

the department of history and philosophy at The University of Texas-Pan American.

The TIEC study team met with public officials and business leaders in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi and also visited the Black Sea coastal city of Batumi, a potential site for the proposed university.

TIEC to Review and Update PMU Curriculum

Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMU) has engaged TIEC to conduct an extensive review of the institution's curriculum, which was originally developed by TIEC experts more than six years ago as part of a major design project encompassing all programmatic, organizational, and operational aspects of this new private

university located in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia.

The latest TIEC project will help ensure that PMU courses reflect current international accreditation standards and best practices for the university's degree programs in business, information technology and computer science, engineering, and interior design.

PMU, which earlier this spring saw its first class of graduating students, emphasizes learning competencies and applications of information technology in all of its instructional areas. It is the only higher education institution in Saudi Arabia offering a Core Curriculum as an integral part of its degree programs.

Japanese Students Savor American Experience at TIEP

TIEP welcomed 49 students from Japan's Mishima Senior High School for a three-week intensive English program this summer, the 12th group from this Nihon University-affiliated campus since 2001.

The program is designed to give the students an opportunity “to experience U.S. culture and society first-hand, to interact with Americans, and to give them more confidence and

facility in the use of English, particularly with listening and speaking,” according to Dr. Terry Simon, director of TIEP.

Mishima freshmen Sae Matsukage and Arika Aoki said that, despite the Texas heat, they enjoyed their experience in Austin and hope to return to the United States one day.

Aoki thought her English improved during her studies at

TIEP. “I've learned more words,” she said.

TIEP has added more cultural activities and field trips to the Mishima students' schedule over the years, Simon said. This year's program included an American home stay experience, a trip to San Antonio, conversation groups with Americans, a picnic, cultural field trips around Austin, and a special dance night.

