

November 2007

COVIDSET 2007

ITS supported the 2nd African Regional Conference of Vice-Chancellors and Deans of Science, Engineering and Technology (COVIDSET 2007) held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 25-27 September 2007. The Conference was organized by the African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI), a project of the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology in Africa (ROSTA) in conjunction with Tshwane University of Technology and the International Council for Science (ICSU).

The theme of the conference was the "Relevance of Science, Engineering and Technology Training to the Development Challenges in Africa". Its main goal was to provide a forum for the discussion of issues pertaining to the relevance of current science and engineering curricula with particular reference to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development

ANSTI established COVIDSET as a forum for university leaders responsible for science and engineering education to meet and discuss strategic issues on these topics. COVIDSET is a forum both for the exchange of ideas and experiences as well for the sensitization of University Leaders on trends in science and engineering education in the region and globally.

More information on the conference can be accessed at <http://ansticonference.org/2007/>



Mosibudi Mangena, Minister Science and Technology, South Africa

Discussions with Nicaraguan CONICYT on a national science, technology and innovation agenda

On October 23rd, representatives from the National Council on Science and Technology from Nicaragua (CONICYT for its name in Spanish) and Gustavo Crespi, ITS' Senior Program Officer based in Montevideo's Regional Office, met to discuss a proposal aimed at the formulation of an strategy to develop science, technology and innovation in Nicaragua. CONICYT invited to the meeting diverse specialists from government, business and the academy to build a group of experts who will support the Council in the formulation of the strategy.

The progress of the discussion between CONICYT and IDRC was briefed to the Nicaraguan government Vice-President, Mr. Jaime Morales Carazo. Mr. Morales received members of the CONICYT, the Nicaraguan Scientific Association and IDRC, and formally delivered a petition for support in the definition of a science, technology and innovation agenda for Nicaragua.

More information on the CONICYT is available in Spanish at www.conicyt.gob.ni. The meeting report can be found at http://www.conicyt.gob.ni/Documentos/CONICYT-CIID%20_2_.pdf.



ITS' Gustavo Crespi (center), Dr Ernesto Medina Sandino (left) Dean Universidad Americana, and Dr. Jorge Huete (right) Research Director, Universidad Centro Americana-UCA