Science, Technology and Innovation Collaboration in Latin America and the Caribbean: Specific Actions.

Dr. Rodrigo Santos
CLEI President
What is CLEI?

- CLEI stands for Centro Latinoamericano de Estudios en Informática – Latin American Center of Studies in Informatics.
- It groups over 100 Universities and Computer Societies in Latin America, Caribbean, United States and Spain.
- Since 1974 organizes the main Computer Conference in the region.
- Since 1998 publishes an electronic journal, CLEI EJ. In process of indexation at Scielo.
- www.clei.org
What CLEI does?

• Conferencia Latinoamericana de Informática.
• Congreso Iberoamericano de Enseñanza Superior de Computación.
• Concurso Latinoamericano de Tesis de Maestría.
• Latin American Networking Conference (junto a IFIP y ACM).
• Congreso de la Mujer Latinoamericana en Computación.
• Simposio de Historia de Informática en América Latina y el Caribe.
• Next event 18th-22nd October 2010, Paraguay
What CLEI does?

• Around 100 papers in the main conference with an acceptance ratio below 30%.
• Around 500 people during the event, most of them undergraduate students and graduate students.
• Depending on the country and economical situation good relationship with sponsors offering tutorials and courses on the main technologies (CISCO, Microsoft, Intel, Motorola, IBM, Oracle, etc.)
• **Meeting Point** for researchers.
Projects and lines of action

• CLEI provides and interesting University network to start up collaboration projects.
  • CYTED.
  • LACCIR.
  • Graduate courses.
  • Financial support for local activities.
  • Latin American Computer Challenges (promoted by SBC).
  • Meeting of Latin American Computer Societies.
  • Others.
Collaboration in LA, what is going on?

• It is possible and there is a big potential behind it.
• CYTED is one of the main sponsors for these projects.
  – ALICE has produced a very important impact and has shown that collaboration in a big scale is possible.
• Bilateral programs between the LA Countries.

• Cons
  – Asymmetries
  – No regional organization that provides economical support and academic orientation.
  – Important mobility costs.

• Pros
  – Two languages closely related.
Why Europe or US and not LA?

• We impose to ourselves a double standard.
• Travelling costs are equivalent.
• Political instability prevent long term projects from taking place.
• Asymmetries in academic development.
• Twenty years ago two projects have shown the potential of collaboration:
  – Escuela Brasileño-Argentina de Informática.
  – Escuela Superior de Estudios en Informática
Collaboration in LA in interdisciplinary areas?

• The ALICE project have shown the potential. Peru, Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica, etc.
• Great opportunity if properly funded, instrumented and guided.
• **Energy**
  – Big continent with many alternative energy sources not yet developed.
• **Environment**
  – Global climate change and the expansion of human activities impact on the environment. Lots of research area to mitigate the adverse effects.
• **Health**
  – Still with an important part of the population outside the health care system.
Which are the instruments to do this?

- A regional enforcement for a common base in computer science and engineering. (Still same name means completely different things along the region).
- Common standards for scientific expected results.
- A regional scientific agency independent of the political changes in the countries and with long term policies.
- Clear definition of the rules to apply for financial support.
- Incentives for projects involving groups in different countries.
- Incentives for projects involving industrial partners.