

The Concept of Engineer of the Americas: Focus on Economic Development

Authors:

Luiz C. Scavarda do Carmo, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, 22453-270, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil, scavarda@vrd.puc-rio.br

Lueny Morell, University Relations, Hewlett Packard Company, Puerto Rico, lueny.morell@hp.com

Russel C. Jones, World Expertise LLC, Falls Church VA, USA, RCJonesPE@aol.com

Abstract — *The concept of Engineer of the Americas has been conceived to foster professional mobility of well qualified engineers within the Hemisphere of the Americas, and to generate a technical workforce that stimulates local, regional and Hemispheric economies by attracting and developing the private sector and industry, particularly high-tech industry who have interest in these regions. The formation of supra-National economic regions with strong internal ties is a reality of the present day and induces a new vision for human resource development, particularly in the field of Engineering. This paper presents the efforts already developed by a set of professionals that embody a task force to better define the Engineer of the Americas and start a pilot project involving a few Schools of Engineering and selected industry representation. Some mechanisms to facilitate the establishment of the Engineer of the Americas are also presented. They are analyzed within the framework of Hemisphere Accords that facilitate grass root, bottom-up initiatives, like pilot projects, but also lobby for political Declarations, like the Bologna Declaration in Europe, where top down measures have been implemented based on ministerial decisions. The authors advocate a blend of bottom-up and top-down actions that take into consideration the reality represented by the economic asymmetry within the Hemisphere of the Americas. In particular, this paper will discuss the competencies associated with an ideal Engineer of the Americas that includes skills that will allow contributions to local development as professional tasks and, by doing so, contribute to the increase of the overall Hemisphere competitiveness. Engagement strategies and viewpoints of several stakeholders of the process of creating a new breed of professional engineer are presented, starting with the students and the School of Engineering, followed by the industry and the professional organizations, accreditation bodies and the government.*

Index Terms — Engineer of the Americas, International Accreditation, Regional Development.