



ACOFI

Asociación Colombiana
de Facultades de Ingeniería

35
años
1975 - 2010

Reunión Nacional **ACOFI 2010**

El compromiso
de las facultades de ingeniería
en la formación,
para el desarrollo regional

INVITATION

Septiembre 15, 16 y 17
Centro de Convenciones Santamar, Santa Marta



ACOFI 2010 NATIONAL MEETING

The commitment of engineering faculties to training, for regional development

Santa Marta, September 15 to 17, 2010

Presentation

In 2010, the Board of Directors of the Colombian Association of Engineering Faculty, ACOFI, invited engineering schools around the country to study the topic of “**The commitment of engineering faculties to training, for regional development**”. In both the Preparatory Forums and in the ACOFI 2010 National Meeting, to be held in the city of Santa Marta between September 15 and 17, the following topics will be discussed: how the characteristics of today’s engineering students influence their training; which requirements does current engineering training make upon engineering curriculums; which are the challenges posed by education in social responsibility within engineering faculties. All of these aspects will be dealt with within the framework of regional development, and national and international opinions and experiences will be taken into account. A set of conclusions and recommendations will be drawn up as a product of the Preparatory Forums and the National Meeting. The work proposed for 2010 continues with the development of the general topic set forward by ACOFI in 2006: “Colombian engineers in 2020: Challenges in their education”.

Main objective:

To reflect on, debate and propose conclusions and recommendations regarding the relationship between educating engineers, which is the primary responsibility of engineering faculties, and the development of the regions they serve.

Specific Objectives

- Understand the situation of today’s engineering students, find the motivational aspects that drive their decision to study engineering and adapt training and evaluation strategies to this reality.
- Propose guidelines for adjusting curricular structures, so that they will take regional development into account.
- Foster the social responsibility of engineering faculties in the development of their regions, underlining this aspect of their educational mission, in both undergraduate and graduate studies and in continuing education.





Thematic Axes

The proposed topic will be developed along the following thematic axes:

1. *Engineering students*

The activities included in this first track have the goal of reflecting on the characteristics of current engineering students and the motivation behind their deciding to study these careers. It also has the goal of analyzing the preparation these students have when they enter engineering programs and getting to know successful experiences and proposals for improving their education.

2. *Curricular structure*

The topic covered by this second track requires continuing reflection and debate regarding the quality and pertinence of engineering education curricula, with regard to the regions' development. Likewise, work must continue on organizing certain areas of the different study plans, including the number of credits, flexibility regarding lines of advanced training and the integration of undergraduate and graduate programs.

3. *The social responsibility of education with regard to regional development*

This third track deals with, on the one hand, the responsibility of engineering faculties to the educational system and especially the development of upper secondary education within the region; and, on the other, education in social responsibility offered by engineering within their undergraduate, graduate and continuing education programs, as well as the pertinence of these programs in light of regional realities.

Main activities

- Keynote presentations by special guests from the United States, Chile, Portugal and Colombia
- Thematic panels moderated by experts
- Simultaneous topics in different conference halls
- Discussion tables, groups and forums
- Thematic, technical and specialized talks
- Publishing and commercial exhibition. Companies with engineering-related services and products and publishing houses specializing in the field of engineering
- Poster presentation
- Social and cultural activities including: a closing party, an installation session, a group lunch, historical tour, and technical visit.

Participant profile

- Directors of Institutions of Higher Education with Engineering Programs
- Teachers, professionals, researchers and students related to Engineering
- Government representatives
- Business sector representatives
- Advisors, consultants and researchers on issues of higher education and training in engineering
- Professional associations, academics, research or extension groups related to engineering.
- Representatives of international entities with ties to education
Media



SANTA MARTA, COLOMBIA



Santa Marta is the capital of the Department of Magdalena, located on the shores of the Colombian Caribbean. It was founded on July 29, 1525 by the Spanish conqueror Rodrigo de Bastidas and it is the oldest Colombian city, where the country's development of tourism, trade and industry meet.

Due to its characteristics, it was named the Pearl of America by father Antonio Julián in the XVIII century. It has beaches of white sand and calm waters, perfect places for tourists. It has the highest peaks in the country, where the mountains of Santa Marta's Sierra Nevada stand out, giving life to many rivers and natural habitats that range from dry forests to magnificent tropical rainforests.

It is also the deepest port in the Americas and one of the safest in the world. Commercial vessels arrive here from all different places contributing to the economic dynamism of the whole region.

Among its many attractions, its historic importance stands out for taking in the liberator Simón Bolívar at the end of his life and until his death on the Quinta de San Pedro Alejandrino ranch in 1830.

The influence of the Tayrona culture is evident in the Pueblito Chairama which corresponds to a pre-Colombian city made up of a complex of terraces with quite a creative and innovative aquifer system for its time; distinguishing the capabilities of this culture.

Santa Marta contrasts its great metropolis with the charm of the oldest cultures that have inhabited the country. Today, in the highlands of the Sierra Nevada, there are villages of indigenous people who are descendants of the Tayrona culture.

- **Height:** 6 meters above sea level
- **Temperature:** 28 degrees Celsius
- **Population:** approximately 423,000 inhabitants
- **Economy:** tourism, fishing, trade
- **Distance from Bogotá:** by land: 965 km
- **Length of flight from Bogotá:** 1 hour 25 minutes.
- **Access:** Air, sea or land. Avianca, a Colombian airline, offers four daily flights to the city from Bogotá and one from Medellín.

