

# 2009 ACOFI National Meeting and Engineering Expo

Science, technology and innovation in engineering  
as a contribution to the country's competitiveness



Asociación Colombiana  
de Facultades de Ingeniería

Santamar Convention Center • Santa Marta • Colombia  
September 16, 17 and 18, 2009

# Presentation

The Colombian Association of Engineering Schools, ACOFI, for 34 years, has kept alive its mission to foster support for and improve the quality of the country's engineering faculties and programs, with international projection. Among its main activities there is the National Meeting of Engineering Schools, which has 29 years of tradition and it has become one of the most important gatherings in engineering education in Colombia.

This year, ACOFI is organizing the **2009 ACOFI National Meeting and Engineering Expo** from September 16 – 18

at the Santamar Convention Center, in Santa Marta city (Colombia) will develop as central subject: **Science, technology and innovation in engineering as a contribution to the country's competitiveness**; in order to create a setting for analyzing and reflecting upon the relationship of the university with the productive sector, State, business and innovation processes and their impact upon society, in the different fields in which engineering operates.

**The 2009 ACOFI National Meeting and Engineering Expo** will be a venue for presenting all of those experiences and proposals that represent the true potential of the scientific and technological development of engineering, as a contribution for the country's competitiveness. ACOFI invites to academic community of engineering, institutes, research centers or groups, to professional associations and businesspeople related to the field of engineering.

## Objectives

### General:

To create an academic venue for analysis and reflection upon the relationship of the university with the productive sector, the State, business and innovation processes and their impact on society from the perspective of the engineering schools.

### Specific Objectives

- ◆ Disseminate the capacities of the engineering schools in science, technology and innovation, generation in order to promote alliances and optimize the use of resources.
- ◆ Reflect on science and technology development and its relevance in terms of ownership and sustainability for the country.
- ◆ Analyze the existing conditions and strategies applied to engineering education for innovation and entrepreneurship.
- ◆ Study the needs of the productive sector in contrast with engineering education at the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- ◆ Identify technology management models that show the link between university and external sector.

## Invited countries

The United States, France, India and Sweden.

## Advantages of participating in the 2009 ACOFI National Meeting and Engineering Expo

- ◆ Interact with high level and nationally and internationally recognized experts, who will share experiences and perspectives regarding science, technology and innovation in engineering, in an academic environment.
- ◆ Generate trust and credibility between engineering schools and the productive sector, with a view to improving the country's competitiveness.
- ◆ Strengthen exchanges and mechanisms for cross-institutional cooperation between research groups.
- ◆ Get to know the advances, developments and innovations in science and technology within the world of engineering.
- ◆ Generate new contacts and share experiences and information on science and technology in engineering.
- ◆ Promote engineering-related projects, services and products.
- ◆ Experience technical, social and cultural activities in one of the oldest cities in Colombia, where the country's industrial and tourist development converge.
- ◆ Participate in the most important and traditional meeting between Colombian engineering faculties, schools and programs.

# Thematic Axes

1. Science, technology and innovation generation at engineering schools.
2. Science, technology and innovation in engineering education.
3. Technological and scientific knowledge management for innovation, competitiveness and social commitment.

## Thematic axes objectives

### 1. Science, technology and innovation generation at engineering schools.

- Present research groups experiences in generation and transfer of S+T+I for the industry and society.
- To get to know successful international models in generation and transfer of S+T+I for the industry and society.
- Identify the difficulties and possible solutions in the process of generation and transfer of S+T+I.

### 2. Science, technology and innovation in engineering education

- Present successful experiences of research ownership in the classroom.
- Present design, checking and curriculum updating processes that specify, encourage and foster education in science, technology and innovation.
- Introduce experiences that ICT has used and that have had an impact on science, technology and innovation processes.

### 3. Technological and scientific knowledge management for innovation, competitiveness and social commitment

- Recommend advances in research, development and innovation (RDI) in the country's engineering schools, for innovation in processes, products, services and social development.
- Illustrate the forms of management and organization required in college for knowledge transfer. In particular, aspects of intellectual property and negotiation strategies will be considered.
- Promote university policy related to the dissemination of knowledge.

## Activities and exhibitions

- Keynote speeches from experts
- Breakout sessions and discussion groups
- Thematic panels conducted by experts
- Parallels presentations by thematic axes
- Poster presentation
- Hall for alliances and cooperation between institutions of higher education and entrepreneurial sector
- **Science and technology exhibit.** Groups and lines of research from faculties of engineering, established centers or institutes, including successful research projects that are developed or in progress, that are aimed at solving the problems of the business and manufacturing sectors of the country.
- **Entrepreneurship exhibit.** Business initiatives, originating from faculties of engineering, research institutes, companies or state institutions.
- **Commercial and editorial exhibit.** This exhibition pretends integrate the industrial, academic, gremial, government sectors into a single exhibition venue, through the participation of commercial enterprises, publishing houses and institutions of higher education, leaders in process, product and service innovation that involve or are geared towards engineering and demonstrate their contribution to the country's progress.

## Official languages

Spanish and English are the official languages of the 2009 ACOFI National Meeting and Engineering Expo.

**Santa Marta and the Colombian Caribbean cordially welcome you to the 2009 ACOFI National Meeting and Engineering Expo**

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.

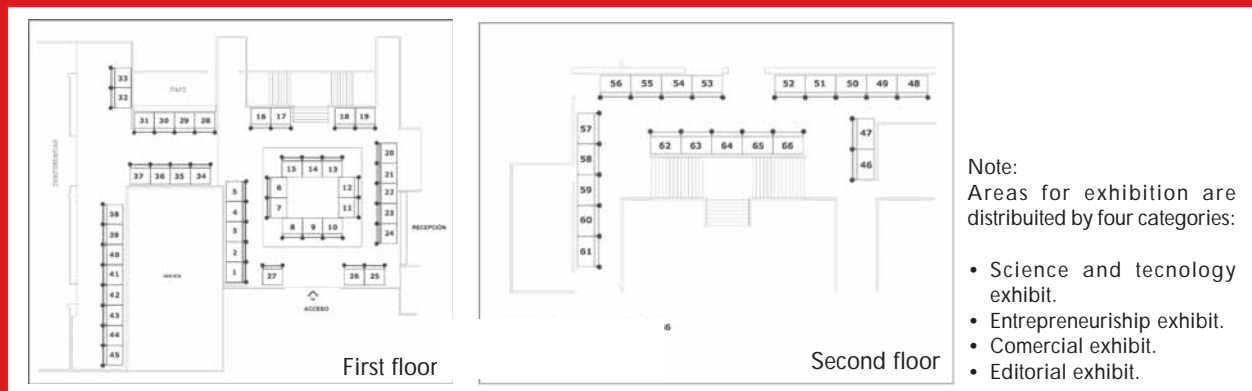
The influence of the Tayrona culture is evident in the Pueblito Chairama which corresponds to a pre-Colombian city made up of a complex of terraces with quite a creative and innovative aquifer system for its time; distinguishing the capabilities of this culture.

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.



**Exhibitions areas. Santamar Convention Center, Santa Marta (Colombia)**



**More information**

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