

UT-ITAM Partnership for Mexico Energy Sector Advancement

*The Training, Internships, Exchanges, and Scholarships (TIES) Initiative
Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development
through Higher Education for Development (HED)*

One of the primary challenges for development of the energy sector in Mexico is the need for enhanced public education on and awareness of the basic economic principles inherent in the energy value chains and associated technology and public interest issues. Educational attainment will further energy sector development in two ways: improving education and skills for the energy work force and improving capacity for critical public administration institutions engaged in developing and implementing energy sector policies and regulations.

In June 2007, the Center for Energy Economics (CEE), based in the Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG), in cooperation with the Center for Energy & Environmental Policy (CIEEP) and the interdisciplinary Energy & Earth Resources (EER) program, all part of the Jackson School of Geosciences (JSG) at the University of Texas as Austin (UT-Austin), and the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), were awarded a two-year grant for a TIES US–Mexico University Partnership with a focus in energy.

The objective of this partnership is to educate and train skilled professionals for the energy industry and contribute to better informed decision makers and citizens. Key components of the partnership will include the following.

- A pilot international student exchange for up to four ITAM students to pursue two-year (four-semester) master degrees from the JSG's EER program.
- Expansion of ITAM's faculty capacity with respect to energy development through CEE's international program *New Era in Oil, Gas & Power Value Creation*.
- Collaboration among CEE, CIEEP and ITAM team members on targeted research topics.
- Targeted outreach activities. These may include a Texas study tour for Mexican energy specialists incorporating in-class lectures by UT-Austin faculty and Houston-based international industry experts as well as field visits to Texas regulatory agencies, energy companies and other organizations of interest. Also planned is an intensive training program on energy alternatives held in Mexico for members of Mexico's Congress, political parties, media and academia.
- Establishment of a Mexico-US Energy Policy Network through joint CEE-CIEEP-ITAM events, publications, and study tours, as described above, to ensure long term sustainability of the capacity-building efforts for ITAM for long-term. A

supporting network is critical for ITAM to play a leading role as an education and research institution for Mexico's energy sector.

Center for Energy Economics

For many years, the CEE has served as a center of excellence for research, outreach and training on commercial frameworks for energy development in the US and elsewhere, including Mexico. The CEE team was engaged in technical assistance and capacity-building of energy sector professionals and energy sector stakeholders as a USAID subcontractor in Central Asia and Ukraine. CEE holds a USAID cooperative agreement currently implemented in West Africa through a partnership created by CEE. With an Association Liaison Office (ALO) grant, CEE successfully implemented a partnership with the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) to enhance professional energy education and public outreach.

For more information visit www.beg.utexas.edu/energyecon

Jackson School of Geosciences

JSG is one of the largest earth science research and academic organizations in the US. CIEEP was created to provide an academic center of excellence for energy and environmental policy research. A specific goal for CIEEP and the EER program is to expand outreach to Mexico. A long-term goal for UT-Austin is to build a strong, long-term, sustainable partnership with Mexican institutions to work towards building human capacity in the energy sector.

For more information visit www.jsg.utexas.edu

Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México

Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) has for many decades been a leading institution in public policy training, forming some of the most important decision-makers of the last years in subjects such as economics, law and international relations, both in undergraduate and graduate levels. ITAM is considered as an outstanding center for research of the most important political events and needs of the country and several of its studies have been pointed as crucial to political decisions. Lately, focusing on the importance of reforming the Mexican energy sector, ITAM has been looking to educate key groups of decision makers such as members of Congress in order to bring awareness to the needs of the energy sector.

For more information please visit <http://www.itam.mx/es/index.php>

The Training, Internships, Exchanges and Scholarships (TIES) initiative is an important component of the Partnership for Prosperity, which is a public-private alliance that focuses on promoting economic growth and higher living standards. TIES higher education partnerships consist of fully collaborative relationships between Mexican and U.S. higher education institutions and their public and private sector partners on both sides of the border. TIES enhances the capacity of higher education institutions of both nations to examine mutual development opportunities and challenges, work in strategic alliances to develop appropriate plans and solutions, and assist Mexico in benefiting more broadly from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

TIES supports the implementation of USAID/Mexico's 2003-2008 strategy, which encompasses a college and university partnership component, which this RFA addresses, and a scholarship component for individual Mexicans at the community college level. "TIES Partnerships in Higher Education for International Development" focuses on establishing institutional partnerships between U.S. and Mexican colleges and universities in support of the Partnership for Prosperity and NAFTA opportunities.

<http://www.hedprogram.org/>



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