



CONICYT

Ministerio de
Educación

Gobierno de Chile

international relations

CONICYT

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The year 2012 has been quite a hectic year for the International Relations Department. We started in the early days of January with the conference of the Director of the National Science Foundation, Dr. Subra Suresh, and ended in December with “Extreme Science”, a three-day event that brought an unprecedented effort to explore the possibilities for international and interdisciplinary cooperation in the crossroads of Particles Physics and Astronomy, together with a massive conference aimed at the general public, in fine tuning with one of CONICYT main objectives: bring science to the people through fascinating examples of it.

In between we made the best out of the considerable increase of our budget through our different funding instruments, reflecting on CONICYT’s strategic pillar of Globalisation and achieving great advances towards its goals.

As an example, we widened the access of Chilean scientists to international networks of excellence with a coverage that far overpassed that of last year, multiplying by 4 the amount of projects we funded in our call for cooperation between research centres. We also awarded nearly US\$2 million for 5 projects from the first Chile-USA call for proposals this last November. This call was also a clear illustration of our efforts to bring intentions to concrete actions as it was the culmination of an effort that started with the visit of Dr. Suresh in January, continued

with the signing a Memorandum of Understanding between NSF and CONICYT in May and ended with the first call for projects of cooperation between Chilean and American researchers.

We also further intensified our efforts to open new cooperation with Asia. The CONICYT mission to India and China was an occasion of important agreements with both countries, which serve as a prelude for next year’s priority focus on bringing scientific missions and joint initiatives to life with these two countries and opening new cooperation possibilities with Japan and Korea.

Next year will be framed by the increasing importance of international projections for Chilean science in order to position its potential and ensure its quality. The focus will be to create more opportunities for Chilean scientists of excellence – especially young scientists – to maintain their networks and create new ones; to access the best facilities in the world; to collaborate with their peers in countries with top scientific performance; and to contribute to global knowledge.

This has been a fruitful year and our Department holds a great responsibility and a self-claimed commitment for 2013 to be even more efficient and productive in order to make international cooperation in S&T effectively contribute towards top-level science that will really make a difference in improving the lives of people around the world.

María Teresa Ramírez

Director
Department of International Relations
CONICYT

Chile-Massachusetts meeting



Members of the Chile-Massachusetts Council at the meeting.

In Boston, during the 10th, 11th and 12th of October, a Chile-Massachusetts meeting was held, starting with the first Council headed by the Chilean Ambassador to the United States, Felipe Bulnes, and the Governor of Massachusetts, Deval Patrick. José Miguel Aguilera, President of CONICYT, who also took part of the meeting, expressed his satisfaction on the occasion of this gathering, for it enables the setting off of the agreements stipulated by Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2011.

For next year, CONICYT is preparing two initiatives which will allow it to reach the aims expressed both by the State of Massachusetts and the Chilean Government: a mission in Biotechnology, which will bring American researchers to Chile; and a Chile-Massachusetts Call for Proposals, to be launched in 2013, and meant to boost research in Biotechnology and co-operation between both States.

Read original news piece:

<http://www.conicyt.cl/blog/2012/10/consejo-alianza-chile-massachusetts/>

AMERICAS Master Class & ICT Proposer's Day

The Master Class "Opportunities for the internationalization of ICT" was held in Santiago on the 24th of September as part of the activities of the FP7 project AMERICAS, dedicated to the fostering of scientific cooperation on ICT between Europe and Latin-America.

During the session, the attendants had access to first-hand information about the main elements to be considered to achieve a successful proposal to the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union (FP7), through the intervention of speakers with a thorough experience in this kind of projects.

A central element of the activity was the opportunity given to the participants to be represented by the European Union Programme at the ICT Proposer's Day, international meeting held in Warsaw,

Poland, and focusing in the articulation of consortiums for the submission of proposals to the FP7 - thereby, academic/business profiles of all the attendants were collected to be presented to potential partners from around the world.

ICT Proposer's Day

The European Union Programme at the International Relations Department of CONICYT, being a partner of the AMERICAS project, supported the participation of one Chilean ICT researcher in the most important European ICT event in 2012: "ICT Proposers' Day". Out of a letter of intentions procedure, the favoured Chilean researcher, Mr. Juan Pablo Viñuela, had the opportunity to meet his European partners willing to make up a consortium of researchers. This latter set them thus ready to submit an ap-



plication to the currently open ICT call for proposals of the European Union's FP7 funds (7th Framework Programme for Research).

Read original news piece:

<http://www.chiep.cl/index.php/es/noticias/noticias/1-noticias/302-master-class-oportunidades-de-internacionalizacion-para-las-tics>

CONICYT took part of ExpoBiotech

The audience at the Infoday on internationalisation opportunities for Biotechnology research.



In Antofagasta, Chile, on the 15th and 16th of October, the I Biotechnology Fair ExpoBiotech was held. The aim of the Fair was to create opportunities for new businesses, knowledge transfer, and regional and international cooperation. In this context,

the European Union Programme Executive Catalina Undurraga, made a presentation about the opportunities for cooperation in the field of Biotechnology offered by CONICYT through its different funding instruments.

This initiative came to life thanks to the joint effort of a group of senior Biotechnology students from the University of Antofagasta and an academic advisory board. It was also supported by the Explora-CONICYT Programme and the Regional Government's International Affairs Unit, in charge of ZICOSUR (South American Central-Western Integration Zone).

Read original news piece:

<http://www.conicyt.cl/blog/2012/09/conicyt-expobiotech-antofagasta/>

ECOS-CONICYT Programme 20th anniversary

On the 16th of November the ECOS-CONICYT Programme for Franco-Chilean scientific cooperation celebrated its 20th anniversary with a scientific seminar held in the Chilean Academy of Sciences.

ECOS-CONICYT is currently the main Franco-Chilean cooperation programme in terms of exchange, scientific productivity and associated resources, among all those managed by the International Relations Department at CONICYT.

The ECOS-CONICYT Programme supports scientific cooperation without distinction of disciplinary areas, through the funding of short-length missions and training visits, aimed at the promotion of exchange and



cooperation between French and Chilean research teams.

Read original news piece:

<http://www.conicyt.cl/dri/2012/11/16/programa-ecos-conicyt-celebra-su-xx-aniversario-con-seminario-que-reune-a-destacados-investigadores/>

From left to right: Alejandro Maass (President of the ECOS-CONICYT committee); Marc Giacomini (French Ambassador to Chile); Juan Asenjo (President of the Chilean Academy of Science); and Patrick Bosdure (Cooperation and Cultural Initiatives Advisor for the French Embassy in Chile).

Workshop on international cooperation opportunities

From the 19th to the 21st of November in the city of Pucón, Chile, took place the "III Latin-American Congress on Biorefineries - Ideas for a sustainable world", with a programme including 56 oral presentations, 3 plenary sessions and around 50 posters, all in the context of 8 thematic sessions arranged around 6 topics of the most relevance to this realm. The activity, sponsored by CONICYT and organised by research centres based at the Universities of Concepción and of La Frontera, will count with the participation of speakers coming from 13 different countries.

Thematic Workshop

During the last afternoon of the Congress, a workshop organised



by CONICYT's European Union Programme was held, focusing in the exploration of cooperation opportunities between Chilean, Latin-American, and European researchers, thus bringing about a space to make the most of the convergence of ideas and advances in the area provided by Congress.

The Congress had a massive attendance of researchers from all over the world.

Read original news piece:

<http://www.conicyt.cl/dri/2012/11/14/iii-congreso-latinoamericano-de-biorrefinerias/>

Research and Innovation Funding Agencies Meeting

In the context of the EU-LAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation, a meeting of senior representatives of research funding agencies of countries in the European Union, Latin American and Caribbean regions was held on the 26th and 27th of November at the German Permanent Representation in Brussels.

The aim of this meeting was to gather the senior representatives in a high level meeting to familiarise them with the priority objectives and actions identified so far under the Joint Initiative, to foster exchange, share good practices and discuss concrete funding arrangements building on existing instruments to support bi-regional STI initiatives.

This was an important step toward the implementation of the joint roadmap and will reflect in the input to - and possibly the conclusions of - the next Summit of Heads of State and Government, to be held in Santiago on the 26-27 January 2013. It will also be discussed at the Third Senior Officials Meeting on Research and Innovation in April 2013.

In addition, a half-day workshop on the links between research and innovation took place immediately afterwards. The workshop was a useful opportunity to further exchange views and experience among participants from the two regions addressing such questions as how to assess and enhance the impact of research, and what we can learn from each other.

Results of first call for Chile-USA research projects

From the signing of the MoU between the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the President of CONICYT, the Department of International Relations at CONICYT gave the first step towards active cooperation by calling Chilean and foreign resident researchers to present project proposals in the areas of Seismology, Oceanography, TICs (Big Data), Ecology/Biodiversity, and Glaciology, to be developed jointly with research groups in the United States which have been awarded an NSF grant.

After a rigorous evaluation process of the 19 projects received were selected. Of the awarded projects two were in the area of Seismology, two in the area of Ecology/Biodiversity, one in the area of Oceanography, and 1 in the combined areas of Oceanography and Ecology/Biodiversity.



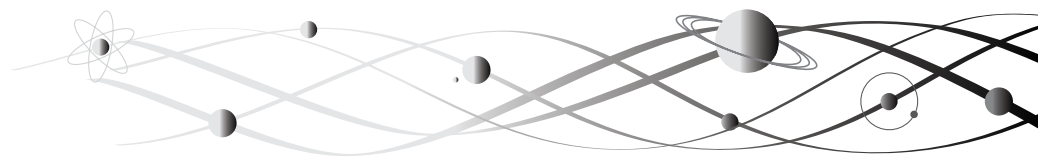
The duration of the awarded projects will be three years, counting from December 2012. The maximum amount of funding for each project was US\$66,890 to be spent in researcher's incentives, internships, equipment, infrastructure implementation, operational costs, and administrative costs.

A S&T visit from Canada



Representatives from the Canadian organization IDRC (International Development Research Centre) visited CONICYT in order to share some insights regarding the national policies on S&T and hence explore the feasibility of joint initiatives in the future. On the 26th of October the IDRC mission met with the Director of CONICYT's International Relations Department,

Mrs. Maria Teresa Ramirez, for an open discussion about the Chilean national system for innovation and CONICYT's funding schemes. This delegation was headed by Dr. Jean Lebel, Vice-President of the Programmes and Partnerships Branch, who was also escorted by Dr. Federico Burone, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, both at IDRC.



Extreme Science

Elementary Particles and the Universe



The event was hosted by Massimo Tarenghi (ESO Representative in Chile) and María Teresa Ramírez (Director of the IR Department at CONICYT).

Held on the 6th, 7th, and 8th of December 2012, "Extreme Science: Elementary Particles and the Universe" brought six renowned scientists to Chile so as to shed light on how these two branches of physics connect towards the understanding of Universe, its origin and its destiny.

Activities began on Thursday morning with a Conference open to the general audience where around 100 participants had the chance to get some closer leading-edge enlightenment about particle physics and astrono-

my. Ensuing this conference, a scientific workshop took place on Friday, aiming to explore the feasibility for international co-operation joint actions among physicists and astronomers, both nationals and foreigners.

The programme included also a working visit to the Astronomical Observatory Paranal, on the 8th of December, where these prominent researchers met their peers, plus four high school students in order to encourage them to undertake scientific studies in the future. These four teenagers were favoured out of a call for letters of intent through which they expressed their motivation to visit Paranal and get to know the foreign experts.

Read original news piece:
<http://www.conicyt.cl/dri/2012/12/13/conicyt-y-eso-realizan-encuentros-ciencia-de-los-extremos/>



The American astronomer Mark Phillips spoke about Supernovae in front of a highly engaged audience of 100 people.

Visit to Paranal. From left to right: María Teresa Ramírez (CONICYT), José Valle (SCIC, Spain), Marco Aurelio Díaz (Pontificia Universidad Católica of Chile), Andreas Reisenegger (Pontificia Universidad Católica of Chile), Leonorato Guzmán and Robinson Tobar (high school students from Antofagasta, Chile), Julio Ledezma (the group's driver), and David Berge (CERN, Switzerland).



2013 Calls for Proposals

The first calls for proposals of the year will open between March and April 2013. The details on the calls and their deadlines, will be available then on:

www.conicyt.cl/dri

agenda

december ★

january ★

february ★

march ★

No events scheduled for this period

Steering Committee Chile-EU

Kick off meeting of the Liaison Office's new projects CEST-I and ALCUE NET

IR milestones 2012

151 projects awarded during the year.

234 Chilean and **133** foreign researchers participated in those projects.

21 projects were awarded within the framework of the joint programme between CONICYT and the Ministry of Energy – **7** for networks between research centres, and **14** for internships abroad.

US\$1,127,338 were awarded to **21** projects in the field of Astronomy by the ALMA and GEMINI funds.

In the context of Chile's presidency of CELAC-UE, the Department organised its annual Senior Officers Meeting (**SOM**) in the city of Concepción, Chile.

It also participated in **5** international meetings: 2 of the Pacific Alliance, one in Chile and one in Colombia; the Ibero-American States Organisation meeting in Argentina; the Chile-Argentina Ministerial Bilateral meeting, also in Argentina; and the Funding Agencies meeting, and International Learning Network meeting in Brussels, Belgium.

US\$903,964 were awarded to **28** Networking Projects between research centres from Chile and USA, Brasil, England, Japan, Germany, China, and Mexico.

USA: Subra Suresh, Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), visited Chile in January and delivered a public lecture to over **100** people.

A **MoU** was signed between CONICYT and NSF in May.

US\$1,678,531 were awarded to **5** projects from the first Chile-USA call for proposals in November.

Donald Dingwell, General Secretary of the **European Research Council**, visited Chile in May as part of a world tour aimed at attracting scientific talent towards Europe.

During the year CONICYT received the visit of delegations from **Canada, Colombia, Botswana, Vietnam, Finland, and the Andrés Bello Agreement**.

2 international conferences were organised with the participation of the Department: "Extreme Science: Particle Physics and the Universe" and "III Latin American Congress on Bio-refinery" [logo de ambas].

2 scientific missions took **10** European researchers to visit an array of facilities dedicated to research in the realms of Aquaculture and Algae Bio-refinery along Chile.

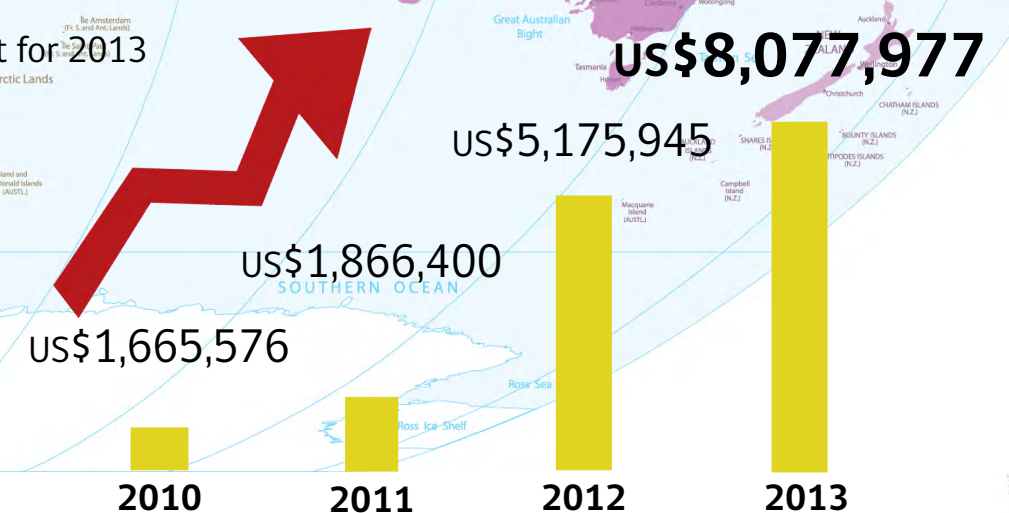
369 people attended the **8** **infodays** organised by the European Union Programme in the cities of Arica, Antofagasta, Santiago, Temuco, Valdivia, and Puerto Montt.

9 foreign researchers were invited to support scientific workshops and conferences in Chile.

5 thematic workshops were organised by the European Union Programme during the year, **4** in **Chile** in the fields of ICT, Bio-refinery, and Particles Physics and Astronomy, and **1** in **China** in the field of Astronomy.

12 researchers received complementary support from the IR Department to participate in research, training and networking activities abroad.

36% increase of budget for 2013





Twigs, clay and pigments were the main means of reconstructing the bodies for mummification.

Understanding the technologies of our ancestors

Physical-chemical characterisation of nano-cosmetics employed on the Chinchorro mummies from the extreme north of Chile is the name of the project in which framework Chilean and French scientists collaborated thanks to the support of the ECOS-CONICYT programme.

The development of scientific archaeology during the last forty years has brought along a revision of both the theoretical setting and the analytical methodologies accompanying the processing and interpretation of the vestiges of the past. One of the main changes within the methodological realm has been the fostering of interdisciplinary research, with the consequent contribution of techniques and methods from other disciplines towards solving archaeological problems. Over the past few decades in Chile, the use of physical-chemical techniques for the characterisation of archaeological materials has notoriously contrib-

uted to the understanding of technologies developed and employed by pre-Hispanic populations.

Following this trend, the ECOS-CONICYT project "Physical-chemical characterisation of nano-cosmetics employed on the Chinchorro mummies from the extreme north of Chile" has sought to contribute to the study of the Chinchorro culture - a fisher-hunter-gatherer society inhabiting the south of Perú and the north of Chile during the archaic period (5.000-2.000 BC). These groups developed a lifestyle specialised in the exploitation of marine resources, with the introduction of significant technological innovations.

In addition to these developments, the Chinchorro culture had very particular funerary practices involving complex mummification techniques considered today as the oldest in the world. These techniques are particularly complex and varied, but they all stem from a common element: fleshless bodies "reassembled" through the use of twigs, clay and pigments. After the reassembly process, the bodies are meticulously remodelled, emphasizing the features of the face and some of the organs, adding wigs, and painting the body using mainly black and red pigments. A whole categorisation of mummies springs from the variety of techniques applied to the

above process and, taking interest in this variety, our project has sought to contribute to the identification of the different elements and compounds used within the context of these techniques. We have specifically sought to define and characterise the presence of complex preparations of the mummies, and to specify the factors and agents influencing their conservation, particularly the preservation and alteration processes applied to the skin and hair.

In order to achieve the characterisation of the elements of these compounds, we established an analytical protocol considering the use and combination of different physical-chemical techniques for inorganic as well as organic components. In this process, we chose to perform non-destructive method of analysis for the reproduction of results and exposure of a single sample to all the different analyses involved.

The collection of samples from mummified bodies took place in the labs at the San Miguel de Azapa Museum of the University of Tarapacá (Arica, Chile). These samples were then packed and taken to the laboratories of LAMS in France where each of them were observed in turn under a binocular magnifying glass at different degrees, and a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM). Afterwards, their basic elements were analysed through an Energy Dispersion Spectrometer (EDS) coupled to the SEM. Finally, we used a portable X-Ray micro-diffraction portable, contributing to the structural characterisation of the minerals employed during the mummification process.

The results obtained until now contribute highly in confirming the complexity of the Chinchorro mummification techniques due to the presence of a whole array of materials in the production process: materials both inorganic (clay and pigments) and organic (skin), visible to the bare eye and arranged in several layers covering the bone structure were differentiated from one another according to their microscopic composition. However, additional to the elemental characterisation of the clays and pigments employed, we also analyse into their structural analysis. With all the analytic techniques used, we were able to specify the kind of minerals used to achieve the red (iron-based minerals) and black (manganese-based minerals) colouring of the mummies, and, in some cases, we identified the use of certain copper-based minerals, which is a particularly interesting find in such ancient records. Overall, the recurrent identification of these materials indicates a deliberate choice, a specialised knowledge of raw materials and their localisation, extraction and preparation, as well as the production and achievement of particu-

"THE CHINCHORRO CULTURE HAD VERY PARTICULAR FUNERARY PRACTICES INVOLVING COMPLEX MUMMIFICATION TECHNIQUES CONSIDERED TODAY AS THE OLDEST IN THE WORLD"





Detail of one of the mummies kept at the San Miguel de Azapa Museum.

lar colours. Likewise, we identified the superposition of several layers of differently composed paints, accounting for retouching or repainting of the bodies.

As one of the aims of the project was to contribute to the understanding of the particular damage affecting some of the mummies and its connection with the higher level of humidity in the region of their discovery, we carried out a skin analysis with different techniques such as solubility tests, confocal microscopy observation, infrared spectrometry, and secondary ion mass spectrometry. However, before we could start on any of these analyses, one of the main challenges was to achieve the required thinness of the cuts on samples previously embedded in resin – a process named ultramicrotomy. The results obtained indicate a degradation of the dermis layer, particularly when it comes to the amino acids and protein fragments. However, we are now in the process of identifying the causes of this so that we may confirm whether they originate from

chemical or microbiologic factors.

Consequently, at a methodological level, this project has allowed us to define and share analysis protocols specifically for particularly fragile archaeological samples. At an interpretative level and from an interdisciplinary approach, the development of this project contributes to a greater understanding of the knowledge and technol-

ogy developed by these remote coastal societies in the mummification of their deceased. Finally, the results obtained will provide grounds for better conservation of the Chinchorro mummies kept at the San Miguel de Azapa Museum at Universidad de Tarapacá.

the researchers

Lead researchers:

- Chile: Dr. Marcela Sepúlveda, Anthropology Department, University of Tarapacá.
- France: Dr. Philippe Walter, LAMS (Laboratoire d'Archéologie Moléculaire et Structurale), Université Pierre et Marie Curie.

Co- researchers:

- Chile: Dr. Vivien Standen, Anthropology Department, University of Tarapacá; Dr. Bernardo Arriaza, IAI, University of Tarapacá; Dr. Calogero Santoro, IAI, University of Tarapacá - CIHDE.
- France: Ms Elsa Van Elslande, LAMS, Université Pierre et Marie Curie.



Expedition to glacier Gray

12 researchers took part of an environmental monitoring expedition within the framework of a Chile-Switzerland joint research project.

The 24th of October saw the beginning of a 10-day Torres del Paine National Park expedition in Chilean Patagonia, included within the framework of a CONICYT-SER joint research project. The expedition, named "Glacier Grey Nunatak", in which participated members of the Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland, was part of an environmental monitoring campaign undertaken jointly by the Environmental Technologies Centre (CETAM) of the University Federico Santa María and the Direction of Antarctic Programmes (DPA) of the University of Magallanes.

The 12 members of the expedition team were based at Refugio Grey, offered up by CONAF to act as a hub for scientific purposes. The team was included 2 Antarctic Sciences MA students, researchers from DPA Pedro Cid-Agüero, Erling Johnson, Alfredo Soto, and Carlos Cárdenas (Director), researchers from CETAM Francisco Cereceda (Director), Fabián Guerrero, and Víctor Vidal. Margit Schwikowski also came along from the Paul Scherrer Institute accompanied by a PhD student.

In general terms, the aim of this Chilean-Swiss expedition was to establish a short term monitoring of the physical and chemical features of a representative sector of the Grey glacier in order to research current pollution conditions in the Andes and make a comparison of this with other locations of similar characteristics in Chile.

The following activities were carried out in order to reach these goals:

- Sampling of snow, ice, soil, water and atmospheric aerosols
- Monitoring of the concentration and distribution of atmospheric particle matter around the glacier
- Permanent installation of a meteorological and glacier ablation monitoring system, enabling the collection of real-time information on different glaciological parameters to then be correlated with data coming from other glaciers around the country where similar systems are to be installed – all these facilities together are set to establish a national glacier ablation monitoring network.
- Audio-visual recording of the expedition for the future making of a documentary about the project, with the help of the Journalist José Rivas of the University Federico Santa María Communications Department.

This campaign represented a kick-start in joint operationstobecarrriedoutattheglacierbetweentheUniversity of Magallanes and the University Federico Santa.





Parker at his office at the Institute for Advanced Studies (IDEA for its Spanish acronym) of the University of Santiago de Chile.

Cristián Parker

PhD in Sociology, Researcher at the IDEA Institute of the University of Santiago de Chile – Member of the FP7 Project **ENGOV**

How did you get to become a part of this consortium?

IDEA is part of a network of research centres named CLACSO (Latin American and Caribbean Conference on Social Sciences). CLACSO invited us to be part of this consortium. This is important, because it is very difficult to participate in international projects if you have no previous connections. I want to highlight the fact that several Chilean universities as well as CONICYT, support scientific and cultural exchanges with other countries, because it results in the generation of networks – research today must be framed within a global context and the production of international knowledge.

Tell us about ENGOV...

The main objective of the project is to analyse how what we call “Environmental Governance in

Latin America” is shaping up – how are we managing environmental issues, chiefly at the public policy level, and how to more rigorously, comprehensively and comparatively develop an analytical framework for better studying the issue within the region. The project focuses on formal and informal practices in the management of renewable and non-renewable natural resources and how these management practices – public or private, with and without the participation of society – are being perceived, supported, rejected or reshaped by different social actors within the context of the rapid socio-political, economic and environmental change society is experiencing on a local, national and global level.

The issue itself stems from two major concerns. On the one hand it generates climate change, raising the critical issue of carbon emissions and therefore produc-

“WE ARE WITNESSING A GROWING SCARCITY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, RESOURCES AS IMPORTANT AS FRESHWATER”

tion methods and consumption. The second challenge, closely linked to this, is that we are witnessing a growing scarcity of natural resources, resources as important as freshwater. There are a number of factors indicating that the problem of natural resources must be faced head on, but according to what is globally recognized as environmental equity. We live in a world of development models that generate a lot of inequality and asymmetry and it is very clear that it is the poor that are much more affected by environmental problems – this is where the problem of distribution and access to resources comes into play, because the poorest, precisely because of their poverty and destitution, are sometimes subjected to unsustainable practices and even resource degradation.

As Parker explains, this study emerges within the context of a trend in the international market towards an increase in demand for mineral resources, particularly exhibited in countries undergoing significant economic development, such as China and India, thereby generating enormous pressure and expectation for large-scale mining projects in Latin America also demanding greater stringency in terms of environmental governance. This is especially relevant to our country, whose economy is sustained largely on the exploitation of mineral resources.

What impact do you expect this research will have in Chile?

In the most ideal of cases, it would firstly create greater awareness of the scope of mining projects and their impact on the environment, thus possibly generating – beyond environmental awareness – precautionary practices, both on a civil-society level and a private and government level, which could lead to a more rigorous approach in the application of environmental standards and in the conduct of studies on environmental impact, allowing for a decline in that impact in future.

The second impact we would expect would be clarity – or at least



deeper discussion – at a technical and political level on the need for appropriate measures for sustainable consumption of water and energy, and even the redefinition of many projects to be made and avoidance in investing in clearly non-viable situations from the environmental standpoint.

The third would be to generate theoretical- analytical frameworks for the research community to step up its knowledge and analysis tools for this purpose. In our country, despite there being much talk on Environment, and although one could say that the issue is taken into consideration in all areas and all political agendas, little is being done in socio-environmental

studies – we want to make a contribution within this field.

What has participating in this project meant for IDEA as a research centre?

Firstly, the ENGOV project has come to strengthen a study area and enabled a synergy between people with independent lines of research in different converging areas, thereby consolidating research teams that manage to tackle energy, socio-technical, technological and environmental issues from the social and human sciences, with an inter and multi-disciplinary approach.

Secondly, international integration has strengthened the institute in terms of contribution to research on a Latin American and European level. In Chile there are only two institutions in the field of Social Sciences participating in FP7 projects, so it is a great responsibility of ours to represent the country.

So, could it be said that this line of socio-environmental research is something that you will be continuing with?

Of course, we are putting together a team within this line of work that will hopefully carry on for many years to come.

the IR team

Director

María Teresa Ramírez Pandolfo

Director's Secretary

Ingrid Tapia

Deputy Director

Gonzalo Arenas

International Cooperation Unit Coordinator

Rodrigo Monsalve

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Marlene Vargas Neira

International Cooperation Programmes Coordinator

Catalina Palma

International Cooperation Programmes Coordinator

Loreto Izquierdo

International Cooperation Junior Coordinator

Angela Viola-Glapinska

Head of Budgeting and Management for International Cooperation

Ricardo Contador

Projects Monitoring Coordinator

Adrien Quisefit

European Union Programme Coordinator

María Mesonero Kromand

European Union Programme Projects Executive

Catalina Undurraga Nadeau

European Union Programme Projects Executive

Ivar Vargas Rivas

European Union Programme Projects Executive

Pedro Figueroa

Dissemination and Events Executive

Leonora López Chávez

Delegate from the French Embassy

Angéline Bourgoin

Assistant

Marcos Arduengo

visit

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