

Dr. José A. Zaglul

Costa Rican presides over international organization of agricultural education

- **GCHERA gathers more than 300 academics**
- **Costa Rica will be the site of the next world congress**

November. Recently, Dr. Jose Zaglul, President of EARTH University was elected president of the Global Consortium for Higher Education and Research in Agriculture (GCHERA).

The IV meeting of GCHERA titled, "Strengthening the Mission of Service of Universities and Research Centers through Global Sustainable Development," occurred in Hangzhou, China and gathered more than 300 presidents of agricultural universities with the goal of promoting an exchange of experiences to improve higher education in agriculture.

"In China, I received the honor of assuming the presidency of this important organization. For EARTH, this represents a show of support, a great responsibility and the opportunity to share our educational system with hundreds of academic institutions throughout the world," said Dr. José Zaglul.

From March 5-8, 2007, Costa Rica will host the next GCHERA world congress, an academic activity without precedent in the country, and where, for the first time, a Latin American country will have the responsibility of organizing and hosting the members of this international organization.

EARTH prepares for international meeting

The EARTH educational model is founded on four pillars: entrepreneurial mentality, positive values, social and environmental commitment and technical and scientific knowledge; this model and the success of the 12 generations of EARTH graduates, were the reasons that Dr. Jose Zaglul and the institution received this international recognition.

Since the beginning, EARTH has looked for ways to transmit to its students and to other academic and social sectors, its educational philosophy and vision on the importance of forming leaders who generate new knowledge and promote real change in their countries.

One example of this effort was the experience gained with SEMCIT, a series of international seminars conducted to promote change in agricultural education in Africa, Asia and Latin America. During these sessions, the EARTH model was used as an example to analyze the urgent need for educational transformation in agriculture and natural resources in order to meet current needs.

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During 2006, EARTH will make a special effort so that the 2007 meeting, focused on the theme of “Innovation and Leadership for Promoting Relevant Change in Agriculture,” offers an arena for countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa to be the protagonists of this activity.

“Education is one of the most effective ways for developing countries to reach dignified living conditions for their populations. While the goal is of great dimensions, there are cases of educational innovation and academic practices that are generating important changes. Without a doubt, the GCHERA meeting will be an appropriate space to share these experiences and explorer their potential,” concluded Dr. Zaglul.

About EARTH University

EARTH University, located in Guácimo, in the Limon province of Costa Rica, is a private, non-profit university dedicated to education in the agricultural sciences and natural resources to contribute to the development of the tropics by achieving harmony between agricultural production and the preservation of the environment.

Currently, the EARTH student population is comprised of 420 young men and women from 23 countries from around the world. Of this total, 50 percent receive full scholarship, 30 percent partial scholarship and 20 percent pay full tuition.

The University has graduated 994 professionals from 19 countries in Latin America, Europe and Africa. The faculty is comprised of 42 professors from 20 countries around the globe.