

ACTIVITIES OF INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY CAREER, TECHNOLOGY FACULTY UNIVERSIDAD MAYOR DE SAN ANDRÉS, ECTN MEMBER

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Industrial Chemistry Career - Faculty of Technology of UMSA, is a member of ECTN since June 2016 to date.

It is our objective to improve the chemical education of students in our universities and it has been of great benefit to find that the EChemTest program, through its test in chemistry subjects, would allow us to evaluate the level of knowledge of our students and the quality of the education we impart.

Thanks to the determined support of Prof. Antonio Laganà, to whom we convey our gratitude for his generosity and valuable support, on November 16, 2017 the International Agreement was signed between ECTN, represented by the Chair of the ECTN VEC Committee, Prof. Laganà, and the Industrial Chemistry Career-UMSA, represented by the rector Prof. Waldo Albarracín and the dean of the Faculty of Technology, Prof. Víctor Hugo Herrera. Since that date our career is an Accredited Test Site (ATS), the first one in Bolivia, of the EChemTest program.

Because chemistry exams will be taken in Spanish, Prof. Osvaldo Gervasi provided by internet, the Spanish and English question and answer libraries of 5 subjects to verify their translation and resolution, and contribute to validation of these libraries, under the parameters defined by the VEC.

Prof. Gervasi, to whom thanks are due for his valuable technical support, assisted us with the LibreEOL software manuals, the review of libraries and the administration of the running of EChemTest® Self-Evaluation Sessions (SES), by providing online training to perform both activities.

A computer room with 20 computers with internet connection has been prepared and SES were run, initially to 20 students interested in the EChemTest tests, starting with the General Chemistry (GC1 and GC2) subjects.

It has been agreed with the VEC that our ATS status shall change into that of National Test Center (NTC) and a work plan has been defined in which 20 university careers delivering chemistry courses have been identified (Chemical Engineering, Biochemistry and Pharmacy, Chemistry Industrial and Chemical) to work with the EChemTest and other ECTN programs.

For this, several activities have been proposed in the Activity Report of our ATS for the year 2019. During that year we have completed the review of the libraries of GC1 and GC2 while that of Analytical Chemistry 3 (AC3) is still being completed. Due to political problems in Bolivia, universities have been closed for approximately 2 months (October to December), which is why the dissemination of the ECTN project has been partially delayed and no examinations of the EChemTest program have been taken.

We understand the need and importance of having libraries of questions and answers validated in Spanish to promote the SES of chemical subjects in countries of the

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region, so we want to coordinate with the VEC all the work that should be done with the team of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, for the validation of the libraries of EChemTest program.

The UMSA has an accreditation plan for all academic areas. The Industrial Chemistry Career will have the accreditation audit until April 2020 and has proposed the improvement of the academic level with the adoption of the EChemTest SES program, gradually as of this year.

Therefore, the year 2020 is presented with the possibility of having a lot of work with the EChemTest program, for which it will be proposed to the VEC to include in our Activity Report for this year, the following activities: SES for UMSA (at least 100), SES for external institutions (number to be defined), correction of libraries of Organic Chemistry (OC3), Physical Chemistry (PC3) and Inorganic Chemistry (IC3), with the support of professors from each area, and dissemination of ECTN-EChemTest activities (number of hours to be defined).

We wish to disseminate especially the activities of EChemTest and contribute to the sustainability of this program with economic income from SES to external institutions and the sale of official approval SES certificates.

We are determined to work with the EChemTest⁺ Project, based on the Prosumer model, considering the benefits of such model (see the paper ON THE SUSTAINABILITY OF ECHEMTEST®: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED? published in the present issue of VIRT&L-COMM), for which we are committed to follow all the instructions that will be determined at the ECTN General Assembly.