

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

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At UMSA we have concluded the activities of the first semester with virtual classes. The second academic semester began in August and we also continue with virtual classes since we are emerging from the third wave of the pandemic and the student population has not been fully vaccinated.

In the subjects of laboratories and workshops, it has been determined that better use is necessarily obtained with face-to-face classes, so depending on the control of the pandemic, it is being considered to gradually return to laboratories and workshops with small groups of students and implementing all the measures of biosecurity.

In May and June, the Rector and Vice-Rector of the UMSA, and the Director of the Industrial Chemistry Career in which I work, were elected. The new rector is a friend that I have known for several years and, the vice-rector is a woman chemical colleague who I also know and, I am confident to carry out the ECTN program with their support and to disseminate it in the UMSA and other public universities in the country.

The director of the career is Prof. Patricia Duchén, a colleague with whom we have worked for several years in common activities, in her work plan she has proposed as one of the axes of her management the improvement of the teaching of chemistry subjects in our unit and wants to implement EChemTest starting with GQ1 and GQ2 and other ECTN programs that benefit our community of teachers and students. On the occasion of the General Assembly, she sends the following message:

« Distinguished members of the ECTN Network:

The Industrial Chemistry Career - Faculty of Technology of the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, UMSA, La Paz, Bolivia, feels very pleased to be part of such a select group of universities and institutions interested and committed to improving the teaching of Chemistry in Europe and now in Bolivia.

I am convinced of the need to improve the higher university academic level and now also the school level of Bolivia and, I am sure that the meetings of the Working Groups of the ECTN projects and the General Assembly that will take place in September will serve to ensure the participation of our University in this important and necessary process to update and accredit our teaching-learning system of the various chemistry subjects

As Director of the Career, you receive the certainty of the fulfillment of the commitments acquired with ECTN, I ratify my confidence in receiving your determined support to achieve our objectives and, I send you my best wishes so that the September event will be a success. »

We have the obligation to improve the teaching of theoretical and laboratory subjects and the virtual assessment system. The UMSA has an accreditation program for careers through audits, our career has an unfinished process that we are going to reactivate until we achieve this accreditation. The new director has proposed to increase our activities with ECTN to get this objective.

The pandemic has seriously affected the education system in secondary schools and universities in Bolivia, not all students have computers and they have problems accessing the internet through cell phones. This

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situation is an opportunity for UMSA to contact secondary schools and make an agreement to train teachers who teach chemistry so that students can take the GQ1 and GQ2 tests. The new director is aware of this situation and seeks the impact and contribution of the university towards secondary education, in addition to the fact that UMSA opens the doors to students inclined towards professions related to chemistry subjects. We need to have updated information on the contents and bibliography of these subjects, to disseminate it in schools and we can prepare refresher classes for secondary school teachers and students.

In the April 2021 Bulletin of the ECTN it is mentioned in section 3 RE - BUILDING THE ECHEMTEST LIBRARIES, the work that is being done in the updating and translation of the libraries of the different chemistry subjects, which will help to spread this program. I have solved and translated the GQ1 and GQ2 libraries that Prof. Gervasi sent me, we want to participate in the updating and translation of these libraries, for which we require instructions to join this work group.

Work with EChemTest tests, contribute to the updating and translation of chemistry subject libraries; and participating in the meetings of the Work Groups and the ECTN General Assembly will help us to comply with the UMSA ATS work plan, approved by the VEC for this year 2021.