



RECTORADO

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

UNIVERSITY OF LOS ANDES

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AND

ALBERT-LUDWIGS-UNIVERSITY OF FREIBURG
FACULTY OF FOREST AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Vegetationskunde, Waldbau-Institut
Fakultät fuer Forst- und Umweltwissenschaften
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R E C T O R A D O

This MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT outlines a programme of cooperation between the Faculty Forest and Environmental Sciences at the Universidad de los Andes of Mérida (hereinafter referred to as the ULA) and the Faculty of Forest and Environmental Sciences at the University of Freiburg (hereinafter referred to as ALUF)

WHEREAS the ULA and the ALUF recognize the value of educational cooperation and exchanges for the purpose of deepening the understanding of scientific, technological, historical, social, economic and political issues, as well as the traditions of each of the respective cultures; and

WHEREAS the ULA and the ALUF affirm the desirability of strengthening the bonds between the two academic communities through the development of curricula, exchange and secondment of faculty, staff and students and research at both institutions.

IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

In order to promote international co-operation and understanding and to foster institutional development, the two institutions agree to co-operate in the areas of curriculum development; faculty, staff and students exchange; research and materials exchange.

1. CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

ULA and the ALUF agree to develop and upgrade curricula and qualifications with the objective of offering quality programmes and qualifications subject to the approval by the respective Senates.

The initial focus of the activities at the ULA will be on building institutional capacity in Land Use Planning, Management, and Protection of Natural Resources and Forests, aiming at offering an academic education at the Doctoral level at the ULA.

2. FACULTY/STAFF EXCHANGE

In order to promote professional development at their respective institutions, the institutions agree to establish an exchange programme for faculty and professional staff. The host institution agrees to provide hospitality in the form of office space, library privileges, access to technology and resources and other local privileges customarily afforded to faculty in residence.

The host institution will also assist in the finding of suitable accommodation and assist with compliance with immigration regulations of the host country. Faculty exchanges will be mutually agreed upon between the institutions and will be based on a work plan



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covering the full period of the exchange. The visiting scholar will prepare a final report upon completion of the exchange period.

3. STUDENT EXCHANGE

The two institutions will develop and conduct a student exchange programme offering coursework, internships, joint projects, and research which are directed at the preparation of highly qualified and internationally competent graduates in Environmental Governance (M.Sc.), Forest Ecology and Management (M.Sc.), Geography (M.Sc.), Hydrology (M.Sc.) at the University of Freiburg, and Forest Management (M.Sc.), Watershed Management (M.Sc.), Wood Products technology (M.Sc.) and Land Management and Environment (M.Sc.) at the Universidad de los Andes in Mérida. Participants will be registered students, selected by their respective institutions to participate in the programme on the terms agreed between the institutions.

English and German will serve as the language of instruction in the German institutions in Freiburg, and Spanish in the Venezuelan institutions in Mérida during exchange periods. However, language programmes will be offered for a fee by the Sprachlehrinstitut (foreign language institute) of the University of Freiburg in the official language of the Federal Republic of Germany to help students cope with language demands while on exchange.

4. RESEARCH AND MATERIALS EXCHANGE

The ULA and the ALUF will encourage and promote collaborative research activities between the faculties, staff and students of the two institutions to promote the generation of knowledge and development of the institutions and their respective societies. This will include improvement and strengthening of the support facilities and laboratories, as well as the assemblage of special equipment for the laboratories, when necessary.

5. FORMAL FACULTY AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

To further develop human capacity in **Forestry, Environmental Sciences, Land Management** at the ULA, the ALUF will offer nominated faculty and students opportunities to obtain formal qualifications at Masters and Doctorate levels within its Masters and PhD Programmes. Admission to these Programmes is subject to admission regulations of the University of Freiburg. The specific terms and conditions will be agreed upon in an addendum that will form part of this agreement.



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6. FUNDING

The ULA and the ALUF agree to investigate opportunities to raise funds to support the different activities in the partnership. ULA and the ALUF agree to facilitate activities with Venezuelan non-governmental institutions (NGO), business and industry when appropriate, and *vice versa*. Student tuition and registration fees for students who are part of the student exchange programme (outlined under Section 3) will be waived by both institutions.

7. PROGRAMME COORDINATORS

As specific and mutual areas of interest are identified and agreed upon, each institution will appoint a programme coordinator to assure the implementation of the various planned activities.

8. IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENTS

Supplemental agreements will be entered into to establish details for the operation and implementation of specific programmes and will become attachments to this Memorandum of Agreement.

9. DURATION OF AGREEMENT

This Memorandum of Agreement will be effective upon signature by duly authorised representatives and will be effective for a period of five (5) years, with automatic extension if not terminated by either party.

10. AMENDMENT OF AGREEMENT

This Memorandum of Agreement may be amended by mutual consent, in writing, as appropriate from time to time.



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11. TERMINATION

This Memorandum of Agreement may be terminated by either party following a 90-day written notice. However, the effective date of cancellation shall not take place prior to the completion of an on-going activity.

Signed at Freiburg, GERMANY, Date: _____

Signed at Mérida, VENEZUELA, on May 23, 2008.

FOR UNIVERSITY OF FREIBURG

FOR UNIVERSITY OF LOS ANDES

Hans-Jochen Schiewer
Rector

Léster Rodríguez Herrera
Rector

For Faculty of Forest and Environmental Science

Heinz Renneberg
Dean