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Number 2, September 2002

Newsletter

Editorial

This second edition of our Newsletter published shortly before the follow-up meeting in Monterrey/Mexico is part of the Latin-America-Germany Inter-Alumni Net Programme, supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and established in close co-operation with the Centre for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry (CeTSAF)/University of Göttingen, the Institute for Socio-cultural Studies (ISOS)/ University of Kassel - Witzenhausen and the Institute for Co-operation in Developing Countries (ICDC)/ Philipps-University Marburg.

The NEWSLETTER intends to establish an intensive communication between German Universities, Universities in Latin America and between the members of the scientific community in agricultural and forestry sciences in the Region.

The second edition focuses mainly on particular issues concerning the follow-up meeting in Monterrey offering general information for university graduates. We hope to discuss Alumni contributions to our NEWSLETTER in our net-working groups in Monterrey and decide upon it's importance in sharing experiences in the region.

(Editors)

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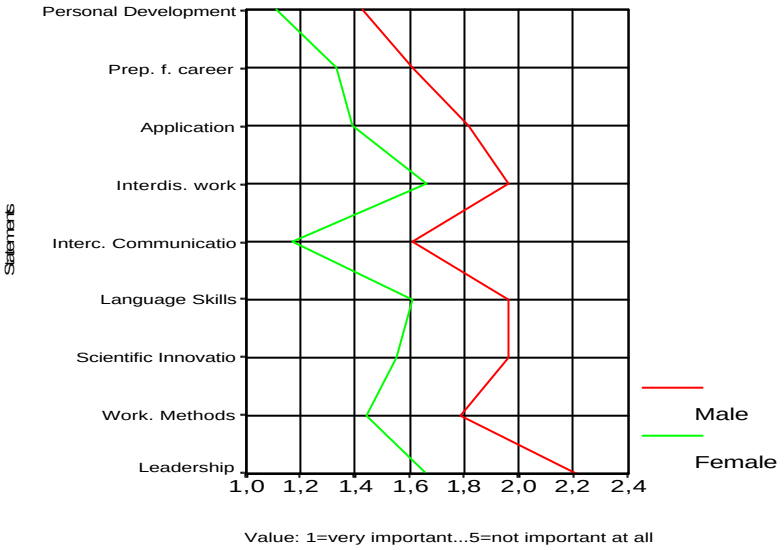
Evaluation of Study in Germany: Alumni's Viewpoint

We had asked you in Peru to evaluate your study in Germany in terms of personal development, preparation for career etc. (s. diagramme below). Evaluation results are given in the following profile by aggregating your statements and averages on a scale from very important=1 to not important=5. As can be seen from the diagramme, the Recall-Alumni have rated the study in Germany very highly. Values lie between very important and important (between 1.0 and 1.6 by women and between 1.0 and 2.2 by men). Slight differences are recognized between men and women. However, the women rate their study in Germany in all aspects higher than men.

Personal development and intercultural communication are particularly high on the scale. The alumni, especially the men are missing manegerial abilities in their German education. The results with slight differences are similar to our findings in South-East-Asia and Egypt-Arab-Region.

Furthermore, we asked you to evaluate certain aspects of your study in Germany. The results are shown in the next profile diagramme on p. 2, right.

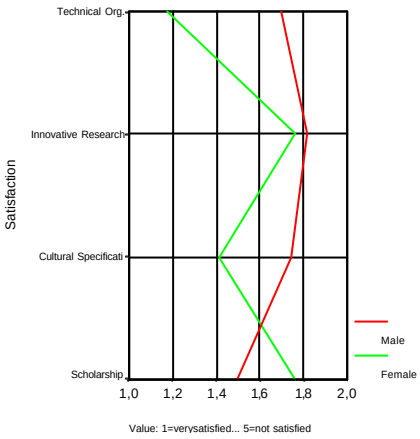
As we can see from the diagramme, alumni rate the three first mentioned aspects slightly lower than the excellent results of the other criteria. It shows very clearly that the educational system in Germany may still be improved in supervising students in organizing a course plan and theses. Women also criticize course contents. *continued p. 2*



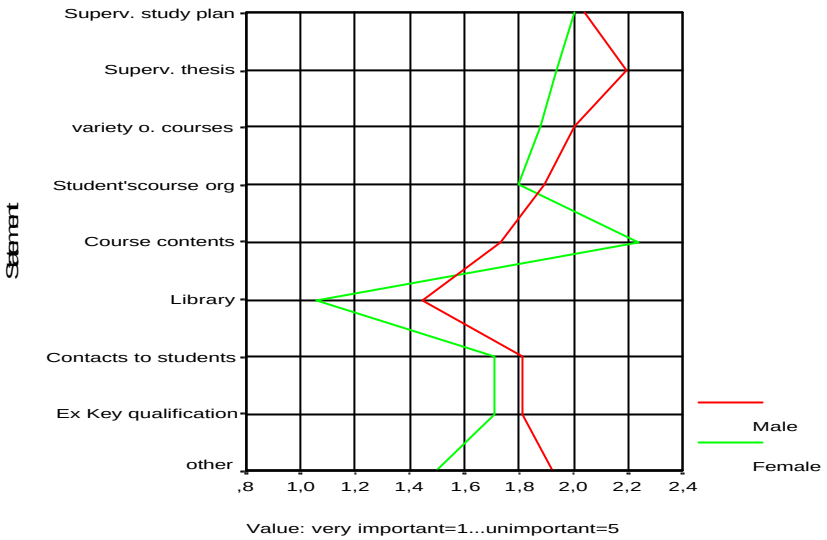
Do you want to contribute to Newsletter?

- **contributions should not exceed 1,5 pages**
- **information should be of general interest**
- **the editorial team reserves its right to select or condense contributions for publication**
- **contributions which relate to a particular topic of the previous newsletter are particularly welcome**
- **please add full name and address**

The academic and technical facilities in German Unversities seem to be sufficient and the contacts to students are rated as important experiences.
Another aspect of the questionnaire concerning your study time in Germany was to know your satisfaction with your study in terms



of technical organization, relevant and new research approaches, cultural specifications and finally your scholarship. Results are shown in the above diagramme.



When we introduced the results of the evaluation of the German education from the alumni's viewpoint to a group of respresentative colleagues in „Akademische Auslandsämter" (Academic Students' affair in German Universities), they were very surprised about the very encouraging results. They shared the experience that foreign students are very much concerned about their educational position during their study in Germany and suffer from isolation, they miss relevant supervision, a clear study plan and many other things. How do they come to judge so positively about German education after returning back home? Is this part of a different perception of students and graduates about the same thing. Further research should make this more transparent.

(Sia. Amini, ISOS)

About our Host University in Monterrey

Educación Media Superior

Bachillerato Propedéutico
Fase de la educación de carácter eminentemente formativo e integral, cuya finalidad básica es generar en el joven el desarrollo de una primera síntesis personal y social que le permita acceso tanto a la educación superior como a la comprensión de su sociedad y de su tiempo.
Uno de los aspectos sobresalientes de este nivel educativo constituye su estructura curricular, que organizada bajo un sistema modular de enseñanza permite desarrollar el proceso de enseñanza-aprendizaje de una manera intensiva; en secciones congruentes y con un número reducido de materias por módulo.
La duración de cada módulo es de nueve semanas de instrucción, en donde se incluye la aplicación de examenes extraordinarios. En este sistema el estudiante tiene una carga académica menor o igual a cinco asignaturas.

BachilleratoTécnico
Modelo educativo cuyas asignaturas y contenidos se organizan en doce modulos de nueve semanas cada uno. Sus programas enfatizan el aprendizaje de las matemáticas y la computación; las materias tecnológicas identifican el campo de trabajo.
El estudiante de esta modalidad tiene la opción de continuar estudios de licenciatura.

- Becas
- Cuotas
- Escuelas Preparatorias

Educación Superior
En este nivel se incluyen las carreras de Técnico Superior, Profesional Asociado, Licenciatura y el Posgrado, con sus programas de Maestría, Especialización y Doctorado.

Técnico Superior y Profesional Asociado
Corresponden al sector terciario de la UNESCO (educación superior), otorgados a quienes cursan una especialización técnica post-bachillerato de dos años en una Preparatoria Técnica de la UANL, o aprueban el plan de estudios correspondiente a una formación profesional terminal que equivale a cuatro semestres en una de sus Facultades.

Licenciatura
Es un grado académico posterior al bachillerato, obtenido después de aprobar el número de créditos correspondientes, que generalmente equivalen a nueve semestres o cuatro y más años de estudios universitarios. Tiene como finalidad formar profesionales que, en el desempeño de su ocupación, participen integralmente en el devenir de la comunidad, influyendo en todos los ámbitos como factor de unificación, de creación y de cambio.

- Concurso de ingreso
- Becas
- Cuotas
- Carrera de Licenciatura

Posgrado
Constituye un ciclo de alta formación académica y se realiza después de haber terminado la licenciatura. Incluye la Especialización, la Maestría y el Doctorado.

- Programas de posgrado
- Concurso de ingreso
- Becas
- Posgrados de excelencia

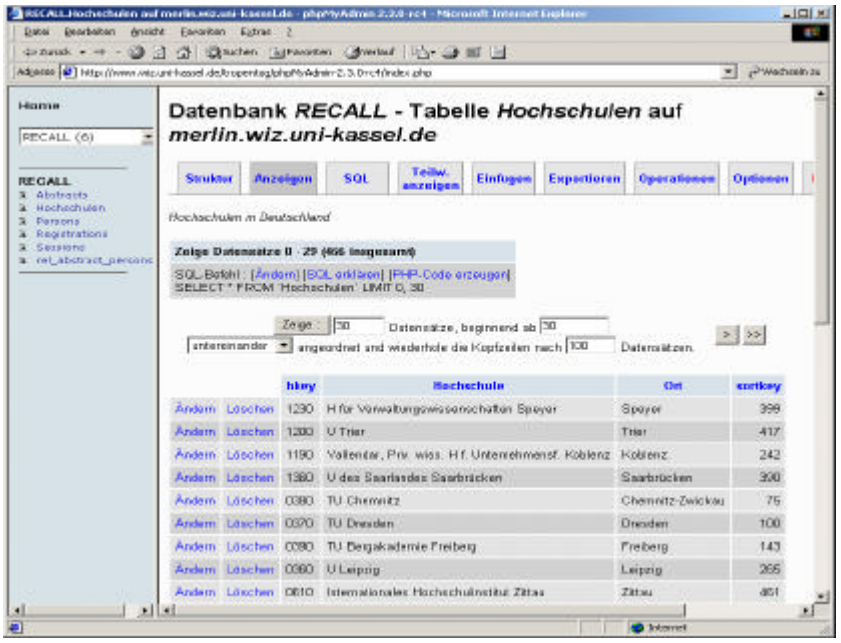
Escuelas y Facultades
Programa de Estudios Generales para los estudiantes de licenciatura de la UANL

Proceedings Recall Lima 2001

All symposium papers, at the moment presented in the Internet under recall/symposium2001/presentations.html, the programme and the evaluation will be printed on a CD Rom. The idea, to produce a printed version had to be discarded, as we do not have the financial means. We therefore decided to press a CD Rom with the articles, presented at the conference „Medio Ambiente y Uso Sustentable de Recursos Naturales en América Latina: Desafíos para la Cooperación Interdisciplinaria“ 15 - 19 November 2001 in Lima, Perú. *(Hans Hemann, ISOS)*

Alumni Online Database

Since the members of the alumni-networks initiated by our alumni-consortium are spread all over the world, Internet based services can facilitate the information exchange within and between these networks tremendously. After the implementation of a homepage for each of the networks as a first step, an online database for common use within the networking projects was installed recently. The advantages of such a database are obvious: There is only one single location, where information will be stored, and - of course given you have the privileges - these data can be accessed and altered from any place in the world where you have access to the Internet. This opens a new dimension in the management of all kind of data related to our alumni networks, hopefully resulting in an even closer and more successful cooperation within and between the networks.
The database management system chosen for this purpose is MySQL, one of the most popular Open Source SQL databases. The SQL part of “MySQL” stands for “Structured Query Language” —the most common standardised language used to access databases. For further technical information, you may refer to the website www.mysql.com.
The central part of MySQL is a database server which is installed and maintained at the University of Kassel-Witzenhausen, its name is merlin.wiz.uni-kassel.de (IP: 141.51.230.81).
Of course, in order to use phpMyAdmin, you should be entitled to use our online database. Access can be granted either to an already exiting database (e.g. personal information about our alumni) or you may get access to a new, empty database which you may design according to your needs. If you would like to be added to the list of users, please refer to the author and specify the purpose for which you would like to use the new database within our network.
In order to access the data stored on our database server, each user should use a client-program, which retrieves the information from the server and allows him to view, change or add data to the database. The most universal client is of course a client which can be accessed via your web-browser. For this purpose, the



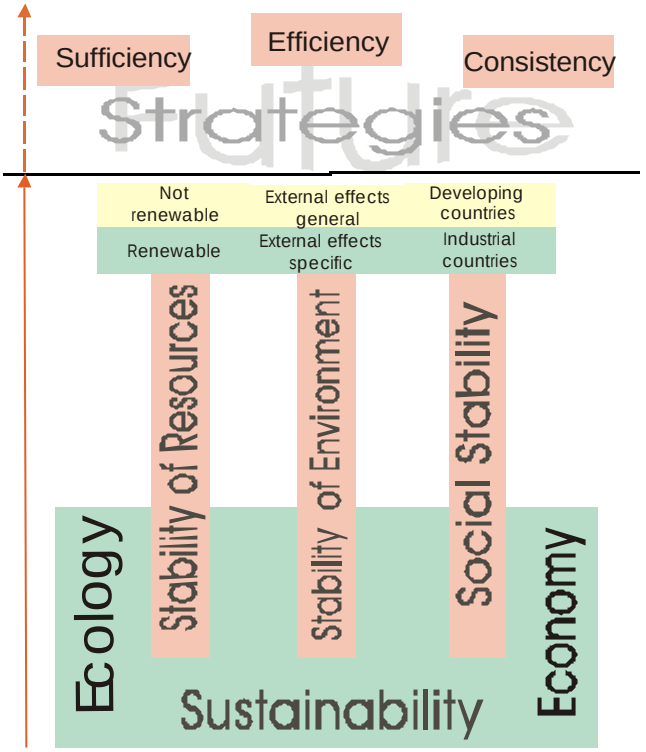
user-interface phpMyAdmin was installed. With phpMyAdmin you can create, copy, drop and alter tables, delete, edit and add the according fields. phpMyAdmin is designed to communicate in more than 40 different languages and can be accessed via the URL: http://phpmyadmin.recall-alumni.de. Besides the Web-Interface there are several other, platform specific clients, e.g. the products MySQLFront (http://www.anse.de/mysqlfront/) or DBTools (http://www.dbtools. com.br/) for the Windows-platform or the Gnome MySQL Client (Gmyclient, (http://gmyclient.sourceforge.net) for Linux platforms, which offer additional features not found within phpMyAdmin.
One of the most exciting options of the MySQL-Database is the possibility to retrieve the stored data via a webserver and deliver the contents of the database on your own web-pages. This procedure allows you to create truly dynamic web-pages and can facilitate the maintenance of websites tremendously, since with any update of your database, the according web-page is automatically updated, too. One example of a dynamically created web page is the page containing the presentations and posters of the forthcoming symposium. This is also the reason why the submission to your contribution to the symposium should be made via our online submission form: any input from this form is automatically stored in our database. Handling the submissions this way, there is no need for us any more to manually update the presentation web page. All necessary data (pdf-version of your abstract, web-version) are automatically created from a Perl-script which is being executed —fed with the data from your input— immediately after you press the Submit–Button. Furthermore, an e-mail message is automatically created and sent to the submitter, allowing him to check his input data immediately after his submission.
Furthermore, another script has been written which retrieves all the abstract data from the online database and compiles them to a small booklet of abstracts which will be delivered at the beginning of the forthcoming conference.
As you can see, the concept of the online database offers a lot of opportunities to facilitate the communication process within our network. Hopefully we are able to identify local members who are willing to keep the data of our alumni-database up to date and who are able to introduce and to make use to these new technique within our alumni-network!

(Andreas Deininger, RECALL)

Tentative Programme of the next Workshop

Sun 17.11.2002	
Arrival	
Mo 18.11.2002	
8.30	Registration
9.30	Opening
11.30	Break
12.00	Keynotes I
13.30	Lunch
15.30	Keynotes II
Tue 19.11.2002	
9.00	Plenary Presentation of Papers in working groups
13.00	Lunch
14.30	Preparation of Presentation
Wed 20.11.2002	
9.00	Presentation of Results
13.00	Lunch
14.30	Group Work Networking
Thu 21.11.2002	
9.00	Presentation of Results
13.00	Lunch
14.30	Recommendations Evaluation
Fr 22.11.2002	Excursion
Sa 23.11.2002	Steering Committee, Departure

(Ingrid. Howe, CeTSAF)



Amini, 2001

Thisdiagramme above focuses on the main issues of the topic of our scientific symposium in terms of sustainability. Three different levels can be recognized in international discussion of resource utilization:

1. The general debate on contradictions between the economy and ecology.
2. The debate on stabilities of the resources, the environment and the social situation.
3. The debate upon the possible solutions and concerning strategies.

In our discussion in Monterrey, we shall focus mainly on „Resource Utilization“ in close relation to globalization and local structures.

Resources are discussed mainly as animals, plants, forest (biological) and physical resources (soil, infrastructure etc.).

Furthermore, we focus on stabilities in terms of environment and in terms of social stabilities as well as the role of sciences and technology.

We may focus in our discussion on the question of the requirements of the globalization strategies and their impacts on local cultures and structures and the corresponding strategies.

The different discussion groups that we have announced in call for papers are due to the different topics that we recognize in the main topic. However, the groups can be rearranged according to the abstracts and papers that are introduced to our symposium-cum workshop.

(S. Amini, ISOS)

Deutscher Tropentag 2002: Challenges to organic Farming and sustainable Land Use in the Tropics and subtropics

Conference on Agricultural and Natural Resource Management, Research for Development

October 9 – 11, 2002 University of Kassel, in Witzenhausen

The annual Conference on Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural and Natural Resource Management is jointly organized by the universities of Berlin, Bonn, Göttingen, Hohenheim, and Kassel-Witzenhausen, as well as by the Council for Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural Research (ATSAF e.V.), in cooperation with BEAF/GTZ.

DTT2002 will be held in Witzenhausen. It will be combined with a ceremony due to the centenary of the Tropical Greenhouse in Witzenhausen, an exhibition devoted to cucurbits (October, 11) and the Day of the Cultivated Plant (October, 12-13).

The objectives of the conference are meetings, exchange of knowledge and experience and interdisciplinary, scientific discussions on global challenges - to balance the production of sufficient, high quality food for an ever increasing world population and an improved livelihood, health and education of the rural population as well as reduced environment pressure caused by agricultural production. Furthermore, the conference deals with information exchange on new approaches to optimise the utilization of scarce resources like soil, energy and water. In more than 80 oral presentations and over 150 posters the definition, role and potential of organic and low input farming will be analysed. Further information is available under www.tropentag.de.

(Hans Hemann, CIRD)

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