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Think of America: Development, Integration and Solidarity

During the first forum, "Think of America: Development, Integration and Solidarity", held last month in the city of Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil, the first thing to emerge was a pan-American engineering collaboration and integration network, where the intention is to collaborate on solutions to our countries' problems.

Speeches were given on different topics of interest – mobility, energy, transportation or food – that would serve as a frame of reference for the region's problems.

One of the achievements of this first forum is the expectation of a quick response from the member engineer organizations of UPADI for launching, in their countries, the process of analysis and reflection on each country's problems and generating medium- and long-term planning proposals.

Engineer Irene Campos-Gomez, President of UPADI, explained the importance of encouraging integration, planning and professional mobility in the development of each country and, specifically, of engineering professionals.

"Think of America is a project for organized American engineers to participate more actively in society, contributing to the development of our countries," she concluded.

Analysis and discussion of each project can take place through forums open to the general public or with a group of experts who could evaluate and affirm the diagnostic. Consideration should be given to technical, social and environmental (climate change) variables. Based on the diagnostic, local governments will be presented with development strategies and policies designed to generate medium and long-term country projects.

The strategies should consider basic elements such as regional or, eventually, continental integration; a review of successful cases in other countries; transfer of knowledge and technologies; a vision of the future with citizen prioritization and integration; necessary training and necessary public policies.

UPADI will act as project advisor in this process, and will provide support for disseminating each country's results to engineering organizations.

Instruments are also expected to be generated for integrating and transferring technology among the countries of the Americas.





Opening Ceremony. From left to right: Enzo Betancourt, President of the Venezuela Professional Association of Engineers; Marco Tullio de Melo, President of CONFEA; Jose Mario de Araujo Cavalcanti, President of CREA-Pernambuco; Irene Campos, President of UPADI; and José Tadeu da Silva, President of FEBRAE.



José Mario de Araujo Cavalcanti, President of CREA-Pernambuco; Enzo Betancourt, President of the Venezuela Professional Association of Engineers; Irene Campos, President of UPADI; the thirtieth speaker from Brazil; Alexandre Santos, President of the Pernambuco Institute of Engineers; and Olman Vargas, Treasurer of UPADI and Executive Director of CFIA.