

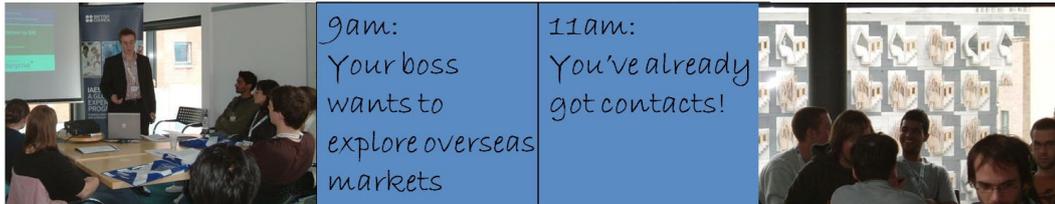


Friends

Alumni Network

The IAESTE Alumni Network

Newsletter, December 2010



Be one step ahead with the IAESTE Alumni Network

Join us online in January 2011 at alumni.iaeste.org

IAESTE Germany celebrates 60 years

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the latest edition of our Alumni newsletter, which as usual, is filled with updates in the IAESTE world as well as anecdotes from current IAESTE trainees and Alumni. However, that is not all; this issue marks the beginning of a new era- **the IAESTE Alumni Network**.

Back in 1996, the Friends of IAESTE Network (FoIN) was established in Denmark to allow anyone who had an association with IAESTE to keep in contact. Over the past 14 years, over 15,000 'Friends' have made use of the network, which is a testament to the strong IAESTE spirit.

However, in a world where technology develops at breakneck-speed, we are the first to admit that FoIN has been struggling to keep up. That is about to change.

In partnership with IntraWorlds GmbH, our new online community will allow you not only to keep in touch with old friends, but also form new contacts, develop your career, share your knowledge and much more. Furthermore, each country will have a local coordinator, making it even easier to get involved.

The new community will be officially launched at the Annual IAESTE conference in Bangkok, Thailand, in January 2011, however, in this newsletter we're providing you with a sneak preview.

To summarize, it is an exciting time to be an IAESTE Alumnus and I look forward to meeting you all online in January.

Best Wishes from the IAESTE Alumni Network Team!

Diane Gill
IAESTE Alumni Relations Manager

Upcoming Events:

January 21st- 28th: 64th Annual IAESTE Conference, Bangkok, Thailand.

Annual
Conference

April 7th - 10th: 26th Annual Seminar of IAESTE Development (SID), Valencia, Spain

Seminar on
IAESTE
Development

April 29th - May 1st: 25th Central European Convention (CEC), Orahovica, Croatia

Central
European
Convention

Sept. 28th - Oct. 2nd: 16th Training and Motivation Seminar, JUMP, Winterthur, Switzerland

JUMP
by IAESTE

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IAESTE Germany - 60 successful years!

A lot can change in 60 years. Governments change hands, new laws are passed, new technology is developed, trends come and go, whether it is for better or for worse is a personal opinion. What can be universally agreed, is that sustainability is a very difficult thing to achieve. Try telling that to IAESTE Germany!

2010 marked sixty successful years of participation in IAESTE and the most amazing fact about their long participation is the continual high standards of service, since their foundation in August 1950. Already in the late fifties, Germany was the country with the highest exchange numbers within the IAESTE family, an accolade that they still hold today. Amazingly, 20% of all students sent through IAESTE have gone to Germany, which is astounding when one considers that more than eighty countries participate. So what is their secret?

"I went to Germany and took a placement in Dortmund, all of this thanks to IAESTE. It was a life changing experience!!"
 Juan Carlos Gomez

From the very beginning, IAESTE in Germany was closely connected with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). This DAAD connection helped the Organization to flourish, because under quite specific environmental conditions, IAESTE Germany was able to set up a system of Local Committees, to recruit excellent personnel, to gain sufficient financial support from the Government and to obtain easy access to visas for foreign students, who wanted to come for work placements into German Companies and Research Institutions.

"I've been two times for traineeship in Germany. First one - 2003 in Chemnitz, and second - 2004 in Braunschweig. A lot of fun, travelling, an extreme international experience! Congratulations to IAESTE Germany!"
 Olga Legacka

Personal continuity has also been an important factor in IAESTE Germany's success. On 1st January 1951, Klaus Wyneken took over as National Secretary, a position he held for 18 years. Heinz Hessberger then followed for 14 years. Günter Müller-Graetschel, the present National Secretary has now been serving for 15 years and the turnover rate of staff in the National Office is also very small. Combine this with 120 local contacts and it is easy to see that IAESTE Germany is happy and proud to be part of the IAESTE family.



A true international dinner



The current IAESTE Germany team at the 2010 annual conference in Berlin

"I was on practical training in Ilmenau, 2005. To spend a very interesting summer in a town with a population of only around 20,000 is possible only if everything is well organized, which it was. I met there my current wife, Magdalena from Poland and we are expecting our first child."
 Bojan Stojanovic

"I did my internship last summer in Magdeburg, Germany. It was an extraordinary experience both practically and socially thanks to the IAESTE LCs. They really did an amazing job!"
 Amina Fellan

"In 2004 I was part of the committee of IAESTE/ AIESEC in Braunschweig when this nice IAESTE intern from Israel came along. Well, we got married in 2008 and last week our son Ilan was born. Many thanks go to IAESTE!"
 Anita Yehudai



A new IAESTE Family - Anita, Oren and Ilan Yehudai

"I had an internship in Bochum, Germany in 2003. IAESTE Germany holds true spirit of the organization. Starting from the local LC to all the way at the top, every single personnel I have come across contribute well beyond their designated responsibilities. Ah, I wish I can visit Bochum sometime soon."

Anjan Contractor

The IAESTE Alumni Network

by Diane Gill, Alumni Relations Manager

The IAESTE Alumni Network

Back in 1996, the Friends of IAESTE Network (FoIN) was established to allow anyone who had an association with IAESTE to keep in contact. Of course, such communication had in reality been occurring for years, the aim of the new network was simply to use modern technology to make it easier. Over the past 14 years, over 15,000 'Friends of IAESTE' have been able to keep up to date with progress in the association and contact friends they may have lost touch with.

What's Changing and Why?

In an age where the employment market is getting more and more competitive, a degree is not enough. Clear demonstration of so called 'soft skills' along with relevant practical experience is becoming a necessity and IAESTE is proud to be an organization that can provide such attributes. In order to ensure this continues, we need to build a global reputation for ourselves – IAESTE should be a name recognized by all major industries and academics in Science, Engineering and Applied Arts. Therefore, we are creating an unique community where current and former members, trainees and employers can work together to build IAESTE's image and give it the recognition it deserves. This community is also a place to network - professionally and socially - whether you are advertising a job in your company, or reminiscing about a crazy night nobody can really remember!

When?

The planned launch of the network is during the annual IAESTE conference, to be held from 21st- 28th January 2011, in Bangkok, Thailand. **You will be sent details through the FoIN network and information will also be published on our social networking pages.**

How?

The IAESTE Alumni Network is delighted to be working with IntraWorlds GmbH. The company was founded by a team of four students at WHU – Otto Beisheim Graduate School of Management in 2001 – initially to create a network for the students of the university. Prior to their graduation in 2004, Jens, Benjamin, Martin and Stephan ran the company in conjunction with their studies, therefore, a logical first application of the technology was the use of the software by German universities for Alumni Relations.

After graduation, it was clear that the idea was a good one and once the guys were able to devote all their time to the business, the number of both clients and employees began to climb rapidly.

Jens Bender, a Founder and Managing Director attributes the success of the venture to hard work and a sensible rate of progression:



"In the end it boils down to a lot of hardwork and very close interaction with our clients. We tried to go one step after the other. In the beginning our community software solution focussed on alumni relations alone, then in 2007, we started to target it to other organisations (associations, publishers, companies etc.) and also internationally in Europe."

Today, the four man team has developed into a group of more than 35 full-time employees in Munich, Madrid, London and Pilsen. They have more than 100 clients from large enterprises (BMW, KMPG) to renowned educational institutions (ESCPEurope, Universidad Navarra) in eight European countries.



Diane Gill, IAESTE Alumni Relations Manager with Filip Rut, IAESTE Implementation Manager for IntraWorlds at the IntraWorlds Headquarters

IAESTE is definitely their most international client, with Jens commenting:

"While most of our current clients have a clear "home base" (their respective university, association or employer) IAESTE is a truly international organisation. That is amazing."

IntraWorlds use the LAMP-technology, standard web technology, as the underlying system structure for the community software. LAMP-technology summarizes the combination of Linux, Apache, MySQL and php as system components.

The IAESTE Alumni Network

How is it different to other networking sites?

Many of you may be wondering, why IAESTE has not just created a big Alumni group on facebook or other networking sites. These already exist and you can join them using the links on [p2](#). However, we wanted to offer our Alumni something more than just a place to reminisce and share photos. We wanted to create a community just for IAESTE, structured in the way we want it. The table opposite summarises the major features. Each IAESTE country has their own area within the community, allowing you to quickly find information and people relevant to you. Areas can also be created for industries, allowing knowledge sharing across all professional fields and of course there is also space for social groups, where you can keep your IAESTE experience alive. The key point is that it is managed by **IAESTE Alumni for IAESTE Alumni**. And as a bonus, you do not have to worry about the general public seeing pictures you rather would not! However, we are not naive. We know that a network is only as good as its members and IAESTE is lucky to be an organisation, which attracts friendly, open-minded individuals. Therefore, we want you to have as much input as you can. We are looking for people to manage discussion groups, provide content, act as Alumni contacts in their area and generally be involved. If you are willing to do this, [please get in touch](#) - you can help as much or as little as you wish. I look forward to seeing you all online soon!

Organisational Features	 Facebook	 LinkedIn	 Alumni Network
Network Access: only for people with an affiliation to IAESTE	x	x	✓
Data Ownership: All data kept within IAESTE	x	x	✓
Control: All rights and roles are managed by IAESTE staff/volunteers	x	x	✓
Communities: The network is divided geographically and by profession and can be further divided (e.g traineeship year etc.)	x	x	✓
Content: photos, documents, articles, videos, discussions etc.	✓	x	✓
Event Management: create, registration, reminders etc.	✓	✓	✓
Design: In line with other IAESTE designs	x	x	✓
Profile: education, employment, CV, personal details – you choose what you show	x	✓	✓
Search: find and contact people	✓	✓	✓
Additional features: extra modules for payments, partners and careers	x	✓	✓

Major features of the new online community compared to normal networking sites

How You Can Stay Involved in



In Your Country:

- Become an IAESTE Employer and thus provide an opportunity for at least two students to gain invaluable international experience.
- Attend reunion events in your area.
- Assist with the reception of foreign trainees in your area e.g offering accommodation, acting as a contact person etc.
- Promote the IAESTE programme to any undergraduate students that you know.

Internationally:

- Help IAESTE grow and develop by donating to the association.
- Make your company a Global Sponsor and gain access to a worldwide network of Scientists, Engineers and Architects.

In the Alumni Network:

- Write an article for the Alumni Newsletter
- Provide content/manage discussions and forums on the new online community
- Be a local Alumni contact and organise events in your region

For further information on any of the above please [contact us](#)

An Argentinean Adventure

by Ljupka Najcheska, IAESTE Vienna, in San Juan, Argentina

Already last year in Autumn 2009 I started to think about this year's IAESTE exchange programme in my current city in Vienna, Austria. My name is Ljupka Najcheska from Skopje, Macedonia, a student at the Technical University of Vienna, department of Architecture and Regional Planning.

As I knew about the quality of this student organization from back home in Macedonia, I did not want to finish my university, without taking the opportunity to be an IAESTE trainee. The best way I can describe this programme, which offered me the possibility to work and live in another country and continent, is to say that it was a deeply real, profound, and incredibly human experience of my life "packed" in three months in the city of San Juan, Argentina.



San Juan, Argentina



Spanish class with Prof. Belen Guzman – National University of San Juan.

„Two months of student training at the National University in San Juan, Argentina left incredible and unforgettable memories in my life. If you ever have the opportunity to go to Argentina be sure you will definitely fall in love with this country.“
Dagmara Glowacka,
Poland

The Academic Part

“Researching and studying the seismic risk at the building and urban scale in San Juan - Argentina” was the main area of work at the Faculty of Architecture, Planning and Design (FAUD) at the National University of San Juan (UNSJ).

The opportunity to work with highly motivated professors and the pleasant working atmosphere made it a great pleasure for me to be there. The comfort for simultaneous work, research and exchange of knowledge between the trainee students and the professors played a huge role in extending our technical experience.

Social Activities

Around 30 participants from five continents were together “under one roof”. Our dear coordinators from IAESTE, the professors’ from the National University of San Juan, local Argentinean friends, and the citizens of San Juan, made this life changing experience happen! Social, sport and language activities were part of our everyday life supported by the University IAESTE San Juan.

Furthermore, there were amazing weekend trips to the lake-side Ullum, the Triassic Basin of the National Park Ischigualasto and the Moon Valley. Also not be forgotten was the Astronomy center in Barreal, Pampa of Leoncito and the wide perspective surface of the dry lake, as well as other interesting short trips.

„One of the many excursions was the trip to the observatory in Pampa de Leoncito...watching the stars through a telescope was the only thing that draws attention to the sky above. My admiration is infinite...“

Joanna Wac, Poland

Joanna (Asha) at the Astronomy center in Barreal and Pampa of Leoncito.



Pablo holding Ljupka and Asha from left and Juan-Carlo and Kristell from right at the dry lake bed of Leoncito.

An Argentinean Adventure cont.

Add to this the many events and parties in the hotel, in particular the new concept of a 3-in-1 party - International Evening, Halloween and a birthday party for three students on the same day.

A Final Thought

From my personal experience, all I can say is that joining IAESTE only made my life grow better and better. It teaches you that even if you are thousands of kilometers away from your home country or continent, you can still live, work and have more fun than at home. One can make great friendships within a few days or months and miss those people forever.

It is always nice to have the feeling that you are welcomed in a foreign country by people you have never actually met before and who try their best to make you feel at home.

That is how in Argentina new lifelong friendships were born as well as educational and technical experience shared, opening up a lot of possibilities for the future.

Thank you IAESTE for making it happen. We are eager to have more experiences of this kind and we are looking forward to other IAESTE events.



Simon and Anja at "The end of the World" in Ushuaia, Argentina.

„Spending almost whole month travelling through Argentina, from San Juan all the way to the southernmost city in the world – Ushuaia - was the best trip ever!“

Anja Trivic, Bosnia and Herzegovina

“The alfajores, dulce de leche and a bitter mate are the traditional things that I like the most and brought with me to Romania!“

Anamaria Spulber, Romania

„I can only say that what I have learned through my time surpassed all my expectations. The amazing opportunity I was offered changed and marked me for the rest of my life. „

Nathalia Andrade, Ecuador



IAESTE and Argentinean friends having Asado (Argentinean BBQ) at lake Ullum, San Juan, Argentina

„All of this was a massive eye opener and I will never forget. I hope for the 2010 IAESTE group we can meet at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil!“

“Thank you all for being part of this program! I will never forget this experience and all the good moments.“

Kristell Elizondo, Mexico

News from Around the World

Growing up, but not apart....IAESTE friendships don't end at the airport!

by Yulia Shcherbakova

26th June 2006 definitely seemed to be one of the longest days in my life. It was also the beginning of a wonderful three months being a member of a huge IAESTE family which united more than seventy people from about forty countries. Most of us were staying together in Queen's Elms Village, Belfast, Northern Ireland. We were all so different and at the same time we had so much in common. People from different parts of the world, with different traditions, habits, religions but sharing the same values. Whilst talking, playing, traveling, partying, cooking, joking together etc. we gave away a lot about ourselves and we learned even more about the others. Each of us became richer by at least several dozens of friends from all over the world and left with the promise of reuniting in the future.



Trainees from the summer of 2006 in Northern Ireland

It has been four years now and time moves on. Most of us have already graduated and made our first steps in a real adult life, such as getting a job or starting PhD project. Some of us have already got married and started a family. Yet, still many of us keep in touch through facebook or e-mails, even our yahoo group is alive from time to time. However, no amount of letters, e-mails, photos, films or social networks are enough to fulfil that promise we made to reunite. So we've gone one better.

There have been already two winter skiing reunions and a summer hike in the Swiss Alps. Having been unable to attend up until now, I have taken the initiative to plan the next one myself and the date is set for this winter. Of course not everyone can join, but we expect about 10 people getting together and remembering the "Good old times in Northern Ireland". If your reading this and were part of that wonderful summer, get in touch and bring yourself along!

Does your IAESTE group have regular reunions? If you do, please [email us](#) with details and photos.

Traditional customs, Local festivals, Culinary fairs....Trainees Experience it all in Colombia!

from IAESTE Colombia, Local Committee Ibague

This year, the local committee (LC) of Ibague has hosted a wide cultural programme for both IAESTE trainees and LC members. This has included traditional customs, local festivals, bonfires, culinary fairs, exhibitions and much more. Some highlights:

March: An IAESTE Camp for current and former members of IAESTE Colombia and also foreigners.

August: Local trips to mountains and waterfalls around Tolima and longer ones to the historically significant Boyaca. Boyaca is known as "The Land of Freedom" because this region was the scene of a series of battles, which led to Colombia's independence from Spain.

September: The Culinary Fair. Trainees from the USA, Britain, Germany, Finland, Sweden, Jamaica, China, France, Germany, Slovenia and of course Colombia prepared typical food from their countries making a true international dinner!

October: IAESTE expo. LC members presented different IAESTE countries showing an overview of each of them and the cultural aspects of each country including traditions, music, natural and architectural wonders, costumes etc.

As you can see, 2010 was a great year to visit Colombia, learn about cultures, make friends and have fun. We hope 2011 will be just as good, if not better!



Viva IAESTE Colombia

News from Around the World

Celebrations for Belfast student as he takes first prize at award ceremony for his work in Japan! from IAESTE UK

Every year IAESTE Northern Ireland holds a Trainee of the Year award ceremony for students who have recently returned from their placements. All trainees are asked to write an essay entitled 'How I Benefited from my International Training' and the top eight essays are chosen by a panel of judges. These top eight finalists then go on to give presentations at the awards ceremony where they are in with a chance to win £500, £350 and £100 respectively.

This year the title of the IAESTE Northern Ireland Trainee of the Year 2010 has been awarded to Gareth Robinson, an Electrical Engineering student at Queen's University Belfast. At the awards final on 17th November, Gareth told the assembled audience about his summer placement with the University of Tokyo in Japan. During his placement, Gareth was working on experiments using new skills and equipment in the areas of surface activated bonding of bulk Aluminium and thin film capacitor formation. Gareth describes his placement in Japan as:

"...nothing short of amazing. It's certainly made me reflect on my own culture and attitudes. Without a doubt, it has been one of my greatest experiences to date and one that I feel will be almost impossible to improve upon."

Second prize was awarded to Physics and Astrophysics student Colin Hill. His IAESTE placement took place in Slovenia. Third prize went to Emma Dalzell, an Electrical Engineering student, who spent her placement in the Colorado State

Judging took place by four external guests, one of whom is very well known in the IAESTE world, the former General Secretary (2004-2010) Pauline Ferguson. Other judges included Brian Hanna, Chair of the British Council Northern Ireland Advisory Committee, Philip Maguire, Director of Finance for the Northern Ireland Science Park and last years Trainee of the Year winner Paul McNulty.



Winner, Gareth Robinson with IAESTE UK National Secretary Wendy Waring

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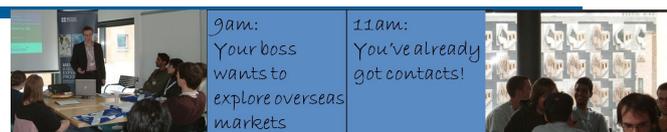
More than 2000 engineers, policy-makers and representatives of research and industry from all over the world will meet at the World Engineers' Convention (WEC) 2011 in September 2011 in Geneva. Through innovative engineering solutions, WEC 2011 seeks to encourage a globally sustainable use of energy.

WEC 2011 invites professionals from all over the world to submit their papers in order to share their successful research, experience and knowledge.

Be part of WEC 2011. Subscribe to the newsletter and register now. For students WEC 2011 offers a quota of reduced fees.

www.wec2011.org

The IAESTE Alumni Network
alumni.iaeste.org



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Roger Kaspar – former ABB trainee, now a telecommunication system engineer

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