



I . A . E . S . T . E

the international association
for the exchange of students
for technical experience
annual report 2002



IAESTE

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS FOR TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

An independent non-governmental organisation (NGO) with 86 members in 80 countries in operational relations with UNESCO. The IAESTE name and logo are the registered properties of IAESTE, the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience.

Founded in 1948 on the initiative of James Newby (1893 – 1978)



IAESTE ANNUAL REPORT 2002

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WELCOME



Dear IAESTE Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to the IAESTE Annual Report for 2002.

This Annual Report shows its readers an Association concerned with its performance in the service of students and employers. The Report summarises the performance of the members during the past exchange year and compares that progress with previous years. The details confirm IAESTE as an Association going forward with our individual members and co-operating institutions, managing the exchange with concern for the economic and social changes being faced in their countries.

The IAESTE aims are clear. They are to provide work experience to students and to contribute positively to their professional development. They also promote understanding of other cultures and develop participants' sensitivities to other ways of life. Employers receive a similar quality experience, while getting a job well done.

2001 was a year of modest growth for IAESTE. Our exchange between members was 5,548. The increase does continue the upward trend, but only just. I believe that we can all share a sense of satisfaction in achieving this exchange and in bringing the benefits of IAESTE to over 4,000 employers and 1,300 educational institutions.

IAESTE membership continues to grow. IAESTE currently has 86 active members in 80 countries. The new Co-operating Institutions joining IAESTE during 2001 were from Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, New Zealand, Oman and Peru; to date in 2002 we have welcomed newcomers from Botswana, Georgia, Tanzania, and Latvia.

In examining the performance of IAESTE in the past year, it is important to understand that the IAESTE influence spreads well beyond the existing membership. In 2001 members exchanged with organisations in 21 non-member countries. The exchange with non-members is important to IAESTE and in 2001, eight of our new members were from this group.

Employers are the cornerstone of IAESTE activity. We are pleased to be able to offer employers of IAESTE students the opportunity to air their views on the exchange in our Annual Report. Readers are encouraged to consider the work-focused views presented in this Report from employers in Colombia, Japan and Ireland. We also have contributions from our student organised bodies in Latvia, Malta and Sierra Leone, together with an article outlining an Australian architecture student's experiences in Uzbekistan.

I would like to thank all the contributors to the 2002 IAESTE Annual Report.

IAESTE look forward to continuing our partnership with industry, the universities and their students in the preparation and development of young engineers, scientists and other professionals during 2002.

JAMES E. REID, *General Secretary, IAESTE*



OUR ORGANISATION

The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) is a confederation of National Committees representing academic, industrial and student interests. Each National Committee is responsible for the administration of the exchange in its own country.

The Association was founded in January 1948 at Imperial College, London, on the initiative of the Imperial College Vacation Work Committee. National organisations of ten European countries represented at this meeting became members and Mr. James Newby was elected General Secretary. The geographical coverage was soon to spread to most of Europe and beyond, as new countries were admitted to membership.

The international body of IAESTE is a non-political, independent, non-governmental organisation, in operational relationship with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organisation (UNESCO) and maintaining consultative relationships with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the International Labour Office (ILO).

IAESTE is also in contact with the United Nations Economic Council for Africa (ECA), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the European Union (EU), as well as with other educational non-governmental organisations.

National secretariats and committees make up the membership of the Association. Each year the Annual

Conference brings together the representatives of these bodies to decide issues of general policy and to carry out the exchange of offers for training. Prior to the conference, each member country collects offers from employers willing to receive students from abroad for a temporary training period relevant to the students area of study, as a supplement to their university or college education. The offering companies or organisations are expected to pay students a wage sufficient to cover their cost of living during the actual work period.

The offers of training are exchanged with other members on a reciprocal basis. Through their affiliated universities and colleges, national secretariats select qualified students to meet employers' requirements as outlined on the training offer. Details of the selected candidates are sent to the companies for approval.

Participation in the IAESTE exchange is open to bona fide students attending courses at universities, institutes of technology and similar institutions of high education.

Readers are invited to learn more about IAESTE and the IAESTE members by visiting our website at www.iaeste.org.

The aims of IAESTE

The Association is an organisation for the exchange of students at institutions of higher education wishing to obtain technical experience abroad relative to their studies in the broadest sense.

It shall promote international understanding and good will amongst the students of all nations irrespective of race, colour, sex or creed.

The Association operates an exchange programme for the benefit of students, academic institutions, industrial and other organisations offering traineeships.

IAESTE international structure

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2002

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2001-2004

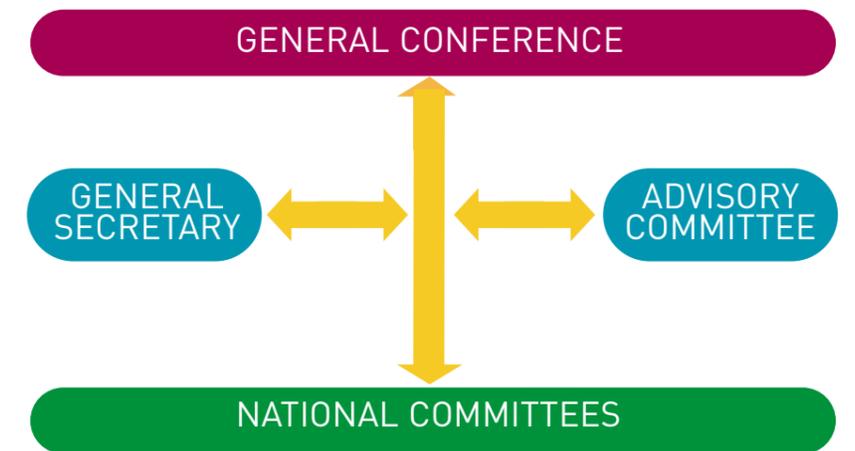
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<p>General Conference The General Conference has full power to take formal decisions for the fulfilment of the aims and regulations of the Association. It is composed of one delegate from each member country. It meets every year in January.</p>	<p>General Secretary The General Secretary is elected by the members to co-ordinate the daily administration of the Association and is responsible to the General Conference for all financial matters.</p>
<p>Advisory Committee An elected body that prepares the work of the General Conference and advises the General Secretary on all matters of interest to the Association. It is composed of three elected members and the General Secretary.</p>	<p>National Committee National Committees represent the member countries and are composed of persons representing academic, industrial and student interests.</p>

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REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

This report is a summary of the exchange activities between IAESTE members and co-operating institutions during 2001. The details of these exchanges are presented in the 2001 IAESTE Activity Report published in November 2001. The exchange took place between the 77 members and co-operating Institutions from 74 countries and 21 non-member countries.

The 2001 IAESTE Activity Report contains the detail on the bilateral exchanges, study fields of trainees sent and received by each member, the number of participating employers and institutions, training periods, age, nationality and gender of the trainees and other useful comparative information. It includes detail on the exchange with non-member countries. The report also contains a summary of the administrative procedures, reports from each member on activity as well as the names of the staff handling the exchange and the addresses of the national secretariats. Readers interested in this report may order a copy from the IAESTE national secretariat in their own country or from the General Secretary.

Exchange Development in 2001

The total number of trainees exchanged shows a small increase



Table 1: 2002 Annual Report: Total trainees sent and average trainee months

and continues the upward trend established in the mid-1990s. The total number of trainees exchanged in 2001 was 5781 of which 5548 were nationals of, or studying in, a member country. 233 trainees were exchanged with non-member countries. The average increase over the last five years remains positive at just under 2% per annum. This reflects the continued good work being done by members in spite of economic difficulties and conflicts and also the early contributions of the new members who have joined IAESTE in recent years. The European member countries continue to be the major contributors to IAESTE.

The number of trainees to benefit from long-term placements represents just over 28% of total placements, a reduction of just over 1% on the 2000 figure. 29 member countries increased their number of training places in 2001, based on the number of trainees received. Excluded from these figures are the new

Table 1 shows the number of trainees sent in 2001 and compares this with placements for the previous four years and the total average trainee months. The 'total average trainee months' figures were measured in 1999 using trainee placement times from less than 4 weeks to greater than 52 weeks and are not exactly comparable to the earlier figures(*).

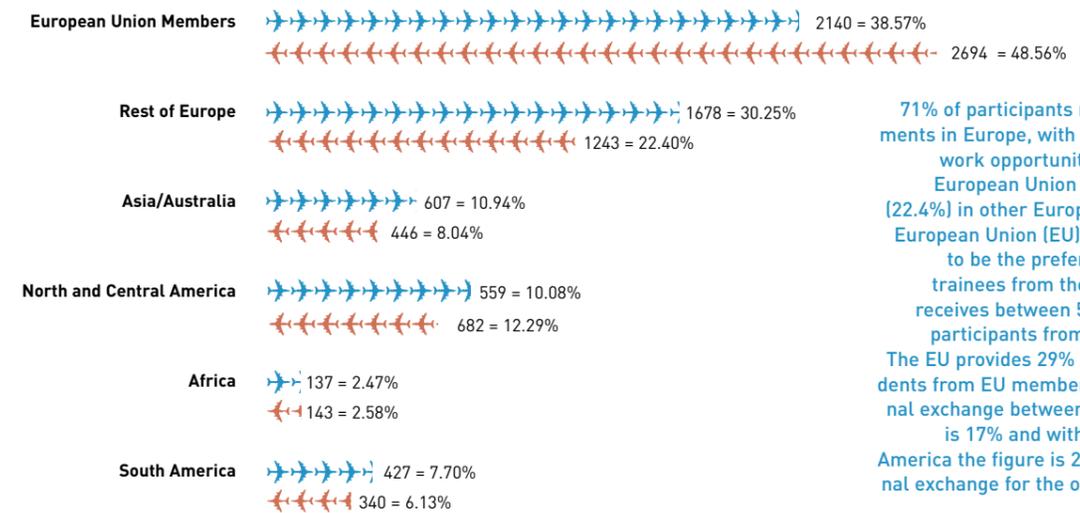


Table 2: Trainees sent and received by continent 2001

71% of participants receive their placements in Europe, with 2694 (48.6%) of the work opportunities provided within European Union countries and 1243 (22.4%) in other European countries. The European Union (EU) countries continue to be the preferred destination for trainees from the other regions and receives between 50% and 70% of the participants from the all continents. The EU provides 29% of its places to students from EU member states. This internal exchange between the rest of Europe is 17% and with North and Central America the figure is 24% while the internal exchange for the other regions is less than 5%.

members exchanging for the first time in 2001.

Regional Exchange

The open international exchange is clearly illustrated by the number of countries that exchange with each member. In 2001 each member exchanged, on average, with 17 other members and co-operating institutions. Some 24-member countries exchanged with 25 or more members and of these 10 exchanged with 35 or more member countries. 5 members exchanged with more than 45 countries.

The number of traineeship exchanges outside Europe now accounts for almost 30% of the total and makes a significant contribution to long-term placements. During 2001, 1011 students received placements of 3-6 months duration, 290 placements of between 6-12 months and 121 placements 12-18 months. The comparative figures for 2000 are 1058, 302 and 138. Long-term placements in South America, North and Central America, Africa and Asia/ Australia are more common and are attractive to students, particularly when travel costs are a consideration.

IAESTE continues to be focused on expansion, increasing the number of member and co-operating institutions and also the number of training places available. Since the 2001 Annual Report, IAESTE welcomed co-operating institutions from Belarus, Botswana, Georgia (2), Indonesia, Italy (2), Latvia (2) and Tanzania to the Association. The IAESTE membership in January 2001 was 86 members in 80 Countries.

The future development and expansion of the Association depends on these new co-operating Institutions. It is impor-

tant that they are allowed time to establish the exchange in their countries and this will take some years. The growth of the Association is now outside Europe with 19 of the present 29 co-operating institutions being from other continents. The expansion of the IAESTE exchange programme in Africa and Asia still requires attention and additional members in South and Central America would also benefit the exchange. An increased intercontinental exchange depends on increasing the membership of the Association in these continents and remains a priority for IAESTE.

Reciprocity of the Exchange

The IAESTE exchange programme is based on a bilateral balanced exchange between members. Most member countries attempt to maintain a balance between outgoing and incoming students but an exact bilateral balance is rarely possible within any given year. Only long-term balance is sought and this is often worked out on a trainee-month basis. This flexibility is needed to support the proper allocation of training places and the selection of the appropriate students.

In 2001, 23 countries received more students than they sent abroad. This benefited 51 members and co-operating institutions who sent more students than they received. This imbalance was between 1 and 5 students for 19 members. In total 1151 training places were involved, 21% of the total exchange.

In this context, it has been established and is within the tradition of IAESTE that members with higher GNP receive more trainees than they send. In general the newer members, members in developing countries and members from the smaller countries benefit. Countries in this Gross National



Income (GNI) bracket provided almost all of these places (97%) in 2001.

Profile of the student trainee

Age and gender balance: Average age and gender balance of trainees varies little from year to year but differs appreciably from country to country. In 2001, 36 % of the trainees were women. This is a 2% increase over the 2000 figure. The figures for 2000 and 1999 were 34% having risen from 26% in 1992. This percentage for individual members varies from 5% to 60%. The gender balance relates to the cultural and educational traditions in the member countries. In Europe and North America the figures reflect the available information on the enrollment of women in engineering and technical studies.

The age of trainees in 2001 ranged from 20 to 30 years with the majority being 21 to 23 years old. This detail is indicative of the educational systems and the study level at which practical training is usually required.

Study fields: As usual, the majority of trainees (63%) are students in engineering and related technologies. The remaining 37% are divided between the sciences, 17%; applied arts, 8%; agriculture, 4% and other fields of study, 9%. These figures are quite stable and change only by a few percentage points from one year to the next.

Sub-division of the engineering group shows mechanical engineers accounting for 20% of the trainees, 14% are civil engineers, 17% are computers disciplines, 16% are electrical engineers, 7% chemical engineers and 7% electronic and telecommunications. The remaining 19% represent other engineering disciplines. (See tables 5a and 5b) The demand for computer students in 2001 rose to 17% from the 15% reported in 2000. The figure for 1999 was 16% and compares

with 14% in 1998 and 12% in 1997. Electronic and telecommunications shows a 3% decrease, back to the 1999 figure. Mechanical engineering has dropped a further 0.5% to add to the 2% drop in 2000 and chemical engineering is unchanged from the 2000 figure at 7%.

These proportions vary from country to country. In the developed areas, computer, electronics, telecommunication, electrical, mechanical engineering represent a good proportion of the traineeships while in the less industrial countries disciplines such as civil, electrical and mechanical engineering are important. These different requirements bring an additional difficulty to the exchange. The offer and demand between countries of different industrialisation levels may be difficult to match. Student training needs may often not be matched by the availability of offers in the desired discipline.

Nationality: The majority of students participating in the IAESTE exchange programme are citizens of the member countries. Some are from non-member countries and are studying abroad at educational institutions co-operating with IAESTE.

In 2001, a total of 236 students with different nationalities to the sending member received places on the programme. Of these 35 were from the following non-member countries: Albania, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Honduras, Iran, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Palestine, Panama, Singapore, Surinam, Taiwan, Venezuela, Zambia.

Eight IAESTE member countries exchanged 233 trainees directly from the non-members countries, including: Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Libya, Malaysia, Palestine, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Uganda, Venezuela,

	EU	Rest of Europe	Asia/Australia	Africa	North and Central America	South America
EU	22.7	49.4	57.1	60.6	51.2	66.7
Rest of Europe	37.9	23.1	29.4	26.1	18.5	22.1
Asia/Australia	14.3	10.8	6.5	7.7	5.7	2.7
Africa	3.6	2.3	0.9	1.4	0.4	0.3
North and Central America	11.0	7.6	3.4	1.4	20.0	4.7
South America	10.6	6.8	2.7	2.8	4.1	3.5

Table 3: Receiving Continent, % Received

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Engineering	70	61	65	67	67	63
Sciences	15	16	15	15	16	17
Applied Arts	5	6	6	7	8	8
Agriculture	5	4	4	5	4	4
Others	5	13	10	6	6	9

Table 4: Training Specialties (%), based on trainees received 1996-2001
Source: IAESTE Activity Reports 1996-2001

Participating Institutions

Employers: In 2001 a total of 4195 employers participated in the exchange programme. This is an increase of 646 over 2000 and likely reflects the growth in IAESTE membership. We are grateful for this essential level of support from those employers who continue to work with the IAESTE national secretariats in their countries each year. We welcome the new employers who have joined our exchange programme in 2001. On average employers offer 2 training opportunities to students. Some take more than 10 trainees but in most cases the figure is between 1 and 3.

Educational Institutions: The number of participating institutions in member countries increased by 143 to 1301. This increase is also to be expected considering the membership growth. The average number of students from each institution is a measure of the spread of IAESTE activity within a country. The 2001 figures indicate about 4 students per institution. Individual countries report figures in the range 1 to 50. This large scatter relates to structural differences from country to country. Some have a small number of institutions, for example technological Universities with a large enrollment while other a greater number of engineering schools with limited enrollment. IAESTE is pleased to acknowledge the continued support of these Institutions.

Training Offers

Training periods: Based on members' returns, a small number of IAESTE placements, 7.7%, were for less than 4 weeks. 64.0% of students exchanged between member countries received placements for up to 12 weeks, 20.2% received 3-6 month placements and 8.2% placements for periods of 6-12 months or longer.

Most of the training takes place in the period May to September and coincides with the Northern Hemisphere vacation period. In the Southern Hemisphere, opportunities are available between October and April. More than 43 of the member countries are now in a position to offer long term

training opportunities and 26 members offer training throughout the year. The growth in long term and year round training in recent years demonstrates that IAESTE is in position to accommodate exchanges at any time of the year. The development of an exchange facility through the IAESTE IntraWeb ensures that the members can accommodate placement opportunities as they arise.

Technical Speciality: Traditionally, most training places exchanged through IAESTE are in the fields of engineering and technology and in 2001 this represented 63% of the places available, (see table 4.)

The average breakdown of training by speciality follows closely, but not exactly, the breakdown of students by study

Categories of Offers

IAESTE classifies traineeships into the following categories:

- Research and Development (D) – laboratory type work
- Professional (P) – professional activities, practical design work and similar
- Working environment (W) – work in the industrial area relevant for the student's background
- Category (X) – covers non-specific offers, including general office jobs, language offer and similar. The receiving national office making (X) category offers must ensure that the working conditions are acceptable, beneficial to the student and in line with the standards expected of all IAESTE offers.

2001 Training places

Places available (Total 8188)	Places used
D 3352 (41%)	D 69%
P 4211 (51%)	P 69%
W 396 (5%)	W 79%
X 229 (3%)	X 42%

The bulk of the offers are in the Research and Development and Professional areas and students favour these training places which are more in line with academic requirements. In many instances such training is a required part of the curriculum. The Working Environment (W) offers are valued for higher pay and the opportunities they provide to experience working conditions in industry in other countries. Though the total numbers of (W) offers available are small, the take-up by the students is the highest at 79%. The non-specific offers (X) have the lowest take-up at 42%.

field. Whereas IAESTE national secretariats generally attempt to find training places to fit student requests, the present difficulty in raising offers often results in a reverse process. This results in students being selected from those disciplines for which the training places are available. In other cases, students in a given field are able to qualify for offers in another field. This matching across disciplines occurs most often between engineering and physics, and between engineering and computer disciplines.



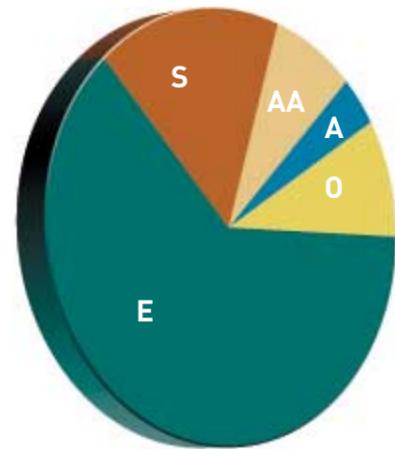


Table 5a
Training specialties (%) based on trainees received 2001

Engineering	62.85
Science	16.76
Applied Arts	7.60
Agriculture	3.77
Others	9.02

Returned offers and cancellations

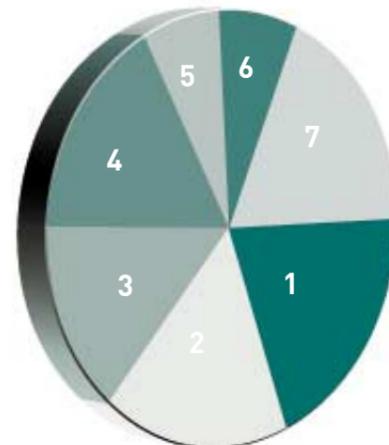
This continues to be one of our major problems. Despite the efforts made to date to minimize losses, the number of training places lost or unused remains uncomfortably high. Lost and unused training offers in 2001 amounted to 2187, about 28% of all offers available at the time of the exchange conference. Under half of the offers, 991 (12.8% of total offers) were withdrawn by the employers. Student withdrawals accounted for 476 (6.1% of total offers) and the balance were unaccounted for or unused. Cancellation of offers by students show a small but encouraging reduction from the 6.8% reported in 2000. Individual figures show that 13 member countries manage to maintain their overall losses below 20%.

IAESTE members must continue to make every effort to minimize these losses, particularly the offers that remain unused. Improvements here would result in the release of additional available places. This should encourage members to seek improvements to their existing practices and to examine their communication arrangements. Accurate and timely communications

should help reduce student and employer withdrawals and accurate matching of the student skills with those required by the employer would further contribute to minimising the withdrawal of offers. The year round exchange facilitated by IAESTE IntraWeb now provides the platform for the quick and accurate exchange of jobs between members for new and unused offers and also nominations for these places. This must contribute to the effective use of all offers both new and unused, as they become available throughout the year.

Table 5b
% Engineering trainees received 2001

1. Mechanical	19.55
2. Computers	17.06
3. Civil	14.18
4. Electrical	16.32
5. Electronic & Telecommunications	6.96
6. Chemical	7.34
7. Others	18.58



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2002

The 54th IAESTE Annual Conference took place in Trondheim, Norway, between 19 and 25 January 2002. Some 219 delegates, observers, accompanying persons and guests attended the conference from 72 countries.

Mr. Hans Breder, a founding member of IAESTE, was nominated to be the Honorary President of the Conference. Professor Jacki O'Connor, National Secretary, IAESTE Australia, chaired the conference working sessions.

The conference hotel, the Radisson SAS Hotel, Trondheim, was the venue for the opening ceremony on Saturday, 19 January. Ms. Ann Iren Glimsdal, National Secretary, IAESTE Norway, was master of ceremonies.

In his opening address the Honorary President expressed his great pleasure to be back in Trondheim, his hometown. "I am most honoured and grateful by being asked to act as Honorary President for this General Conference. I also appreciate this opportunity to renew the contact with IAESTE, more than 50 years after the first General Conference in London in 1948," Mr Breder said. "Looking at IAESTE today, one could easily get the impression that the idea of exchanging students with the purpose of getting technical experience originated with foundation of IAESTE in 1948. That however is not so. According to my sources a Nordic students meeting in Reykjavik in 1930 discussed the possibility of organising exchanges among the Nordic countries that was fairly well established at NTH, now NTNU, by the end of the 1930s.

"This means that the international exchange of students was well under way when the Imperial College Union Vacation Work Committee, headed by Professor H. Levy, invited nine other European countries to a conference to be held in London in January 1948. This first General Conference turned out to be a success, and in the course of a week the new organisation IAESTE was established and operative. The establishment of IAESTE meant a new and more efficient systematic approach to the work and greatly extended the vol-

ume of the exchange.

"Since being appointed to the position I have here today, I have had the chance to read a couple of IAESTE annual reports, and it is amazing to see what has become of the organisation we founded half a century ago – now exchanging 5000 students every year from 60 countries."

The Honorary President mentioned the three different aspects of IAESTE that he personally found important and has experienced.

"The *raison d'être* for IAESTE is to make it possible for students in an organised way to go abroad to get practical, technical experience related to, and part of their subject of study.

"My own two months as a trainee in Finland during the summer of 1947 has given me a lifelong affection to Finland and the Finns, and what I then learned about Finnish history



Mr Hans Breder, Honorary President of the IAESTE Annual Conference 2002, pictured with Magna Breder



Annual Conference 2002

and culture has also been useful as a background for my business contacts with Finland many years later.

“The second aspect is the work within the IAESTE organisation, to be understood as voluntary, unpaid work by the students, for the students.

“My third aspect, the employer side, is perhaps not so obvious as the other two. The role of the employer is of course important, because without employers there would be no jobs to exchange. And the way IAESTE handles the relations to the industry is decisive for the number and quality of job opportunities. There is, however, a benefit on the employer side too. Usually you will have a dedicated worker eager to benefit from the opportunity he or she has got, and with luck able to contribute a little to increased international understanding among his fellow workers in the host country.

“The purpose of this General Conference is to ensure that IAESTE reaches its goals, both for this year’s exchange and for the future, and I wish all participants good luck with the important work ahead in the coming week.”

Mr. Per Ivar Maudal, Managing Director of the Student Services Organisation of Trondheim, addressed the conference and spoke of the important role played by IAESTE within Student Services and the supports available to students for the organisation and management of the IAESTE exchange within NTNU.

The Conference Chairperson thanked the Honorary President and Mr. Maudal for their contributions to the work of IAESTE and their appreciation of the Association. The General Secretary presented his annual report on the performance of the organisation and developments during 2001. This was based on the detail available in the 2001 IAESTE Activity Report. The opening ceremony was concluded by Ms. Ann Iren Glimsdal, National Secretary, IAESTE Norway, who welcomed the delegates and visitors and wishing them every success in the Conference sessions and with the exchange. The “Strindens Promenadeorkester” provided music during the opening ceremony. The soloist was Lise Grande Berg from the Music Conservatory.

The conference was excellently organised by IAESTE Norway. The facilities provided were perfect and allowed for effective exchange of the 6,676 exchange positions that were brought to the conference. The conference sessions ran smoothly and time was provided for the introductory administrative seminar for new members. The members discussed and adopted the new Statutes and By-laws, to come into operation on 1 February 2002.

The web services group continued the training initiative, introduced in 2001, at this conference. The conference elected Nicholas Leonard to be the IAESTE Ombudsman for a trial period of three years (2002, 2003 and 2004). The service is to



More than 200 delegates gathered at the 2002 Annual Conference in Trondheim



The way it was...Mr Breder reminded the 2002 Annual Conference of his early contacts with IAESTE, when 27 people attended the 1949 Annual Conference in Copenhagen

be established and operational as soon as possible after the conference.

The General Conference voted in favour of accepting IAESTE Estonia and IAESTE Ukraine as Full Members of the Association, and Romania as an Associate Member.

The SID Co-ordinator, Ms Christina Vakomies reported on the work of the Seminar of IAESTE Development (SID) at the 16th SID held in Malmö, Sweden in April 2001. Christina Vakomies, the out-going Co-ordinator, did not seek re-election. Ms. Elsa van der Kooi, National Secretary, IAESTE Netherlands, was elected to the vacant position of SID Co-ordinator for 2002. The General Conference agreed that Mr. Tobias Wittmann should continue as co-ordinator of the ‘Friends of IAESTE’ network.

The General Conference elected Ms. Elsa van der Kooi, National Secretary, IAESTE Netherlands and Ms. Dawn Long, National Secretary, IAESTE UK to audit the IAESTE accounts. They reported on the correctness of the Accounts and recommended the discharge of the General Secretary and complimented him on his management of the IAESTE resources during 2000 and 2001.

The outgoing General Secretary, James E. Reid, was re-elected by the General Conference to serve a third and final term as General Secretary for 2002 and 2003. Ms Pauline Ferguson, IAESTE UK, was elected General Secretary for the

period 2004, 2005.

As required under the IAESTE statutes, Mr. Javier Yarza, National Secretary, IAESTE Mexico, retires from the Advisory Committee. The conference elected Mr. Günter Müller-Graetschel, National Secretary, IAESTE Germany, to the vacant position for the period 2002-2005. Mr. Henning Huuse, IAESTE Norway, was elected to the new one year Advisory Committee position for 2002.

Professor Nabil Al Batal, National Secretary, IAESTE Syria, was elected as chairperson of the 55th Annual Conference to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, 18-24 January 2003. Professor Bernard Baeyens, National Secretary, IAESTE Colombia, was elected as reserve chairperson.

The conference accepted the proposal of IAESTE Austria to host the 56th Annual Conference in Vienna, from 17-23 January 2004.

The Welcome Dinner on Saturday night was an additional event this year. It was held at the NTNU and was hosted by Ms. Suzette Paasche, Head of the Student Services. Entertainment was provided by the folkdance-group, Gammeldans, from NTNU with traditional folklore song by architecture student Ingvild Saeboe-Vatn.

The Farewell Dinner & Dance was arranged at the hotel. Ann Iren Glimsdal, National Secretary of IAESTE Norway, acted as toastmaster. She spoke about the support she received



from her sponsors and fellow students and acknowledged the record number of members attending the 54th Annual Conference.

During the dinner, Mr. Hans Breder, the Honorary Conference President reflected on the changes he had noticed since his first conference in 1948 and the conference in 2002: "I have in my possession a photograph taken at the opening session of the second IAESTE General Conference in Copenhagen in January 1949. 27 persons are present, a little less than half of the audience is delegates, which can be seen from the nameplates on the tables. It was a different IAESTE, and the late 1940s were in many ways a different world". He congratulated IAESTE for a well planned and excellently carried out General Conference 2002: "There is no doubt that IAESTE of today is defending its position as one of the most important organisations in the field of exchange, and this conference will help to maintain that position".

Ms. Suzette Paasche, Head of the Student Services, spoke about her admiration for the excellent work done by the students in organising the conference. She thanked the IAESTE members for travelling from so many destinations to make the conference not only business-like and productive but also a cultural experience for them all.



Pauline Ferguson, IAESTE UK, elected IAESTE General Secretary for the period 2004-2005, pictured at the Trondheim Annual Conference with Professor Ahmed El-Sheikh, National Secretary, IAESTE Egypt

The S. Moeller Storband provided the music for the dance. During the Farewell dinner, Prof. Ahmed El-Sheikh, National Secretary, IAESTE Egypt, on behalf of the delegates and participants at the Conference, thanked the organising committee for providing such excellent facilities for the members. He thanked Ms. Suzette Paasche, Head of the Student Services for her commitment to the conference organisation and to the student organisers of the event.

Other members mentioned for their contributions to IAESTE were Javier Yarza, out-going Advisory Committee member, Mirielle Suter, retired Advisory Committee member, Jacki O'Connor, Conference Chairperson and Christina Vakomies, outgoing SID Co-ordinator. A welcome was given to the incoming Advisory Committee members, to Pauline Ferguson, incoming General Secretary, Elsa van der Kooi, incoming SID Co-ordinator, and to the representatives from new co-operating institutions attending their first conference. Finally, on behalf of the members, the hotel management and staff were thanked for their courtesy, friendliness and support during the conference.

The General Conference acknowledged the excellent job done by Ms. Jacki O'Connor, National Secretary, IAESTE Australia as chairperson of the 54th Annual IAESTE Conference.

The 55th Annual Conference of IAESTE will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, hosted by IAESTE Thailand from 18-24 January 2003.

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS FOR TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE (IAESTE) (FOUNDED 1948)

Founding Members:—
 Belgium—Confédération des Étudiants de l'Université de Liège
 Denmark—Danmarks Tekniske Højskole
 France—Faculté des Sciences de l'Université de Grenoble
 Germany—Vereinigung der internationalen Fachhochschulabsolventen
 Greece—Ελληνική Εταιρεία Μεταπτυχιακών Σπουδών
 India—Indian Institute of Technology
 Italy—Associazione Nazionale Ingegneri Italiani
 Japan—International Association of Technical Universities
 Korea—Korea Technical Education Association
 Norway—Norsk Teknisk Høgskoleforbundet
 Sweden—Svenska Ingenjörskårens Förening
 Switzerland—Schweizerischer Studentenrat
 U.S.A.—S.S.A. Committee, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

General Secretary of the Association:—
 Mr. J. Newby,
 Imperial College, South Kensington,
 London, S.W.7. (Kensington 1981)

26th October, 1950

To whom it may concern.

This is to certify that I have known Sivilingeniør Hans Breder for several years. When a conference was called in London in 1948 to discuss the interchange of students for practical experience during the summer vacations, Mr. Hans Breder represented Norway. For some time after that he was responsible for organising the Norwegian end of the above Association which was formed at the conference referred to above. The official language of the Association is English and I can without hesitation certify that Mr. Breder has a very good understanding of the English language, both spoken and written.

From time to time since 1948 I have on several occasions met Mr. Breder and I feel quite sure that he would be well able to profit by a period of training with an engineering company in the United States of America.

General Secretary

A letter of recommendation by IAESTE founder James Newby for Hans Breder, Honorary Chairman of the 2002 Annual Conference

EXCHANGE PROFILES

The profiles on the following pages offer a sample of the exchange experience from the viewpoints of IAESTE member organisations, students and employers. From Latvia to Sierra Leone, Colombia to Ireland and Australia to Uzbekistan, this selection provides a brief overview of the truly global IAESTE experience.

14 Colombia
 Been there, made the T-shirt

Argentine IAESTE exchange student spent his traineeship in Tolima, Colombia working for textile manufacturer Faxetol.

14 Ireland
 Life begins at 40

IAESTE Ireland celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. This profile of Frank Conlan IAESTE Ireland National Committee Chairman, whose involvement in the exchange programme stretches back to the 1960s and his days as a trainee in Germany.

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 An employer's view

Tadashi Yamada of OMRON Corporation offers an employer's view of the IAESTE internship

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 Student power drives co-operation

Students at one of IAESTE's newest co-operating institutions – the Riga Technical University (RTU) – prepare to provide hands-on training for students and to offer new opportunities for employer and students

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 High achievers

Students run many IAESTE National Committees (NCs) around the world doing a great deal of voluntary work and offering a professional service to employers, students, their universities and other member countries. The National Committee with the highest exchange rate relative to its population and also relative to its GNI is IAESTE Malta.

18 Sierra Leone
 Back and rebuilding

Sellu Mawandu reports on the activities of IAESTE Sierra Leone, a revived member organisation in a country recovering from civil war

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 Discovering unknown treasures

Tim Fleetwood, writing from Tashkent, offers an Australian IAESTE trainee's perspective on Uzbekistan



Exchange Profiles

COLUMBIA

Been there, made the T-shirt

Patricio Martin, an Argentine IAESTE exchange student, spent his placement at Faxetol, a medium-sized textile company in Tolima, Colombia, which produces T-shirts. Faxetol works with fibre thread which is weaved on a circular machine. The material is then dyed, before being cut and made into the finished garment. Faxetol also owns satellite clothes maker companies.

Bernardo Forero, Faxetol's general manager and himself an engineer, is quick to praise the contribution of his IAESTE exchange student. Patricio's main project was to carry out a survey of waterways, vapour, condensation, compressed air, rain water and water treatment plants. Mr Forero was impressed with the quality and professionalism of Patricio's work. Beyond the specific project, Mr Forero believes that the exchange experience is a great opportunity for learning – both for the students who learn a lot about other countries, and for the companies who benefit from the student's knowledge and international perspective on their industry.



The view from a hill overlooking the Colombian city of Ibagué with the Central mountain chain and the Nevado del Tolima in the background

IRELAND

Life begins at 40

From his student days working on an exchange programme in Germany in the 1960s to today where he is the chairman of the National Committee in Ireland, Frank Conlan's involvement with IAESTE has been all-encompassing. Profile by Noel Twomey

With IAESTE Ireland celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, Conlan is ideally placed to assess its impact in his native country. And he retains the positive impression of the exchange programme he first gained on traineeships in Germany in 1963 and 1964 on his way to a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

"My experience in Germany was very influential on my



whole attitude towards Europe and it gave me a valuable insight into the German mindset which has influenced me in many ways since then," he says.

"I lived in a hostel with other foreign students who were trainees in the same company. We worked near Cologne for Union Kraftstoff AG in Wesseling, a company set up during the war to produce oil from lignite. Each year I got valuable workshop practice experience and also spent a period in their metallurgy and material testing laboratory. It was of great practical benefit.

"The Germans had a very well organised programme for the foreign students which included an organised visit to Berlin, at that time, not long after the Wall went up." There was a full programme of social and cultural activities.

Conlan got involved with IAESTE again when working in Germany in the 1980s. He was on secondment with the IDA (Ireland's Industrial Development Authority) and was invited to come on board by FAS (the national employment training authority) who were administering the IAESTE programme in Ireland at the time.

In the 1990s, he became a National Committee member and he has also been an employer on the programme through his work with Údarás na Gaeltachta, the body responsible for promoting development in Ireland's Gaelic-speaking regions.

Through Conlan's efforts, Údarás takes on two exchange students every summer. Last year, Údarás entertained students from Colombia and Switzerland; this year, Údarás na Gaeltachta will continue to take part in the programme with students from Switzerland and Norway working in their headquarters in the

Frank Conlan (bearded, 8th from right) pictured on a study trip to Bayer in Leverkusen during his IAESTE traineeship, 1963-64

Connemara Gaeltacht on Ireland's west coast.

Once the students are placed in accommodation, either with families or on their own if they prefer, they are put to work on projects in Údarás's Engineering Services Division that should be completed during the trainees' sojourn in Ireland. So how do the overseas students cope with working in an environment where Irish is the principal language?

Very well, according to Frank Conlan. "Our day-to-day office work is carried out in Irish so it's difficult if students arrive with broken English which has seldom happened! However, we have had a number of instances where students expressed an interest in learning Irish. One student, from Colombia, wanted to learn Irish before coming to us and set about trying to learn Irish on the web. He integrated very well and his efforts went down extremely well with colleagues, even though he was in no way fluent in Irish when he left. We also learned more about Colombia that you read in the headlines of the newspapers.

"We do offer students an intensive language course if they wish, but that takes time out of placement period typically lasting eight to twelve weeks, so it isn't always practical."

Since his student days, the main changes to the IAESTE programme in Ireland are, according to Conlan, the increase in the number of third level institutions in the country and the fact that the co-operative education model, pioneered by the University of Limerick, is now quite commonplace.

"Students are also more mobile through programmes like ERASMUS," he says. "Students are therefore more adventurous in their choice of destination. The fact that they get some practical experience related to their future career is an added bonus."

According to Conlan, the recent involvement of Leargas (the national agency for the management of European and international co-operation programmes) in the Irish IAESTE programme has been a massive plus. "This is one of our biggest achievements in the last few years. They run a suite of exchange programmes mainly with a European focus. Therefore, finding a home for the IAESTE programme in Leargas alongside other exchange and training programmes has been a major boost."

While progress had been made, Conlan believes there is always room for improvement.

"North-South co-operation (in Ireland) has been enhanced and there is scope for more development. The Northern Ireland IAESTE programme has been represented on our National Committee for a number of years and there are many joint activities for in-coming and out-going students.

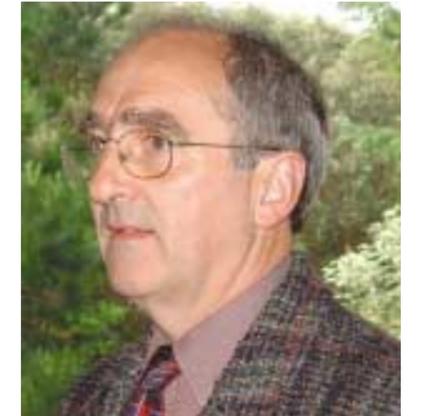
"Also, the multiplier effect of career entrants spending a period getting to know Ireland, both north and south, should

not be underestimated. Many graduates (including myself) develop an understanding of countries and individual companies which have a lasting and positive benefit as a result of spending a traineeship period in the country."

And just to show how life has evolved since Conlan first took part in an IAESTE exchange programme, a class reunion in the former IAESTE office in Dublin gave the students direct access to the Taoiseach Bertie Ahern's office.

The reason? The Irish Prime Minister's new department is located on the site of the former College of Science where IAESTE Ireland was first started.

Forty years a-growing and still opening the right doors – that's IAESTE in Ireland.



Frank Conlan,
National
Committee
Chairman of
IAESTE Ireland

JAPAN

An employer's perspective

Tadashi Yamada of OMRON Corporation offers an employer's view of the IAESTE internship

In 1959 OMRON adopted the corporate motto "At work for a better life, a better world for all". Since that time OMRON has committed itself to meeting the needs of society through the products and services it offers, and also by being a responsible corporate citizen that participates in the local communities where it does business. OMRON focuses its efforts on such activities as social welfare, culture and the arts, science and technology, and international exchange.

The IAESTE internship is one of our social activities that promote mutual understanding and broaden personal views. We believe that through our internship IAESTE trainees have



Exchange Profiles



Mr Noriaki Itano (left), Mr Yu Nakajima (centre) and Mr Tadashi Yamada (right) of OMRON

a chance to experience typical Japanese business style, traditional culture, and contemporary life. Our members also get a deeper understanding and business awareness by discussing with IAESTE trainees.

In fact, IAESTE trainees play an active role in our product research and development process. They often point out operational or functional problems in various products from a different angle. The Japanese island is isolated from other countries. So we have a very Japanese way of thinking and are not used to heated discussions with persons whose backgrounds are completely different. In other words, the internship gives the trainees and our members many useful opportunities to experience and learn from each other's values.

In my view, a key factor in a successful internship is that both the trainee and the company exchange opinions frankly about training details (training purpose, period, contents, trainees request, ability etc.) before the training begins. Information from "Form 0", of course, is quite important and essential, but it is not perfect. So trainees and the employer

Social events bring together IAESTE students and members of the OMRON family. Pictured (right to left): Mr Kamata, OMRON worker, Ms Myriam, IAESTE trainee (France), and Ms Ogihara, an OMRON worker's wife



should make every effort to get more concrete information. We always try to communicate pro-actively with each trainee. Advances in IT have made it much easier to communicate with and respond quickly to trainees.

The transitions in today's fast-paced world are comprised of many issues and concerns that are strongly interconnected. As a result, we consistently find ourselves in unpredictable situations. To respond effectively, we must continue to reform and evolve. This requires establishing a powerful enough structure that can quickly and effectively accommodate ongoing changes. To make this transformation successful, an organization's employees must have a global perspective. Working and communicating with IAESTE trainees helps our employees to develop this perspective.

For OMRON, sponsoring IAESTE internships is valuable as both a social contribution and as part of our strategy to develop employees for global business. We hope more firms will participate in this programme and promote globalization of their personnel.

LATVIA

Student power drives co-operation

Students at one of IAESTE's newest co-operating institutions – the Riga Technical University (RTU) – prepare to provide hands-on training for students and to offer new opportunities for employer and students

Very often the beginning of big things is weak and uncertain. The beginning of IAESTE in Latvia was a desire of some students of Riga Technical University (RTU) to find an opportunity for traineeship abroad. It was hard to imagine that it would result in writing this report now.

However, it is really the truth and we are proud to be a part of the IAESTE Association now. We are happy to introduce you to our country and our University as a member of the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience. It was a hard beginning indeed, but thanks to the support of the students, the International Relations Office of the RTU and last but not least to the support of the IAESTE Germany Local Committee in Lübeck, the newest IAESTE co-operating institution was established in January 2002.

One of the problems frequently faced by Latvian students is the difficulty of gaining practical experience. Thus they are deprived of an opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge acquired during their studies. Employers want to see prepared specialists ready to solve important tasks.

Unfortunately the universities offering technical study programs cannot fully provide a practice-oriented education that would satisfy the demands and requirements of the employer. This problem is concerned first of all with the lack of modern laboratory facilities and secondly with a weak link between employers and educational institutions.

So the development of IAESTE in Latvia has an extremely important role, and not only students understand this, but also representatives from the industry. We were lucky to get the first support from the Latvian main electricity company "Latvenergo". We believe that hands-on training combined with international experience will open new opportunities and definitely bring new vision of the future career. One of our goals is to ensure that everyone would be able to use this outstanding possibility. At present more and more students from Latvia take part in different exchange programmes. However, there is a lack of appropriate proposals for the technical students who wish to get a practical experience in their study field. We are sure that IAESTE will attract attention and become an integral part of our student life.

We hope that the establishment of IAESTE in Latvia will help to solve particularly the above-mentioned problems. We see it as a possibility for our students to participate in mobility, increase exchange of knowledge, experience, and innovative ideas, and get insight in the current developments.

At the moment there are eight persons working for IAESTE in Latvia and I would like to emphasize that IAESTE at RTU is fully run by students of Riga Technical University, and is com-



Student founders of IAESTE Latvia: (front row, from left) Aleksandr Borisogljebkis; Irina Prjadeha (second row from left) Anna Poljakova, Sergejs Gaidukovs, Alina Grinberga, Janis Kazakov

pletely voluntary. We have neither paid members nor employees.

We expect some of the students to get traineeship placements in Germany already this year, but our main activities are

aimed at providing our IAESTE co-operating institution with a stable development, thus ensuring the potential for its future. This includes a lot of difficult but undoubtedly interesting projects. We all are young, enthusiastic and firm of purpose, we are ready to face challenging work and hope to be worthy members of IAESTE. Apart from developing the exchange with Germany that is taking place now, we are also planning to co-operate with our closest neighbours in Estonia and Lithuania with the aim of providing experience for our youngest co-workers, as well as actively co-operating with other student organizations such as AIESEC and BEST. Of course, we will be happy to receive incoming students one day.

We would like to thank Mr. Jim Reid, Mr. Ivars Knets, Rector of Riga Technical University who helped us so much and of course IAESTE Germany and the Local Office in Lübeck, who were our primary advisors and guides. Thanks also to Lithuania and Estonia for sharing their knowledge, information support and patience answering all our questions.

MALTA

High achievers

Students run many IAESTE National Committees (NCs) around the world – doing a great deal of voluntary work and offering a professional service to employers, students, their universities and other member countries. The National Committee with the highest exchange rate relative to its population and also relative to its GNP is IAESTE Malta.

Edited by Pamela Hansen

Derrick Pisani, National Secretary of IAESTE Malta, a Computer Science undergraduate at the University of Malta (UoM) has been a member of the NC since 1999, occupying the role of Exchange Officer and now National Secretary. "The greatest thing about IAESTE Malta is that it is such a great setting to learn and to be appreciated for what you do, simply because it is wholly student-run", he says. He is proud to be Maltese but, most importantly, he calls people who embrace the IAESTE culture 'Citizens of the World'.

Derrick's vision, as National Secretary, is to change IAESTE Malta's role on the UoM campus: "The organisation deserves a role which goes beyond solely providing students with an



Exchange Profiles

exchange programme, to one providing educational, social and cultural added value to the whole student population and all year round," he said. This model has been put into action and the National Secretary together with another 16 students kicked off a revamped IAESTE Malta last November.

When asked to express his views of IAESTE, Nikolai Sultana (MIS Support at IAESTE Malta) replied: "It gives students the opportunity to have a go at doing the work they do best while making potentially lasting ties for their future careers."

Bernard Mifsud heads the job raising. He is a natural at handling companies and at training the new members. Phone sales techniques were introduced to the team and the NC now is concentrated on getting a record number of job offers. A full-colour informative leaflet was designed and sent to prospective employers.

The organisation uses all the exposure it can get. Mario Farrugia is the co-ordinator, and Michelle Azzopardi heads the Public Relations and Image Building Dept. The annual



Officers and staff of IAESTE Malta, the the National Committee with the highest exchange rate relative to its population and GNP

IAESTE Malta Treasure Hunt, sponsored by Vivaldi Golden Tulip Hotel and Vodafone Malta, is a major fund raising event for the organisation with US\$1500 in prizes for the winning teams. After her two-month traineeship in the Czech Republic, Michelle is now also responsible for setting up the IAESTE Malta Alumni to be launched in September. Mario organised a twinning arrangement with the IAESTE Norway Local Committee in Bergen. The department also takes care of publishing a fortnightly email newsletter eNews, to maintain a regular contact with students and the world outside of the university campus.

Robert Cordina and David Ellul are new to IAESTE Malta and head the Outgoing and Incoming departments of the Exchange. With their organised and methodical approach, they have integrated well within IAESTE's exchange world!

IAESTE Malta provides the largest exchange programme at the University of Malta, from within which it operates.

Audrey Sultana together with Antonella Caruana and new recruit, Malcolm Azzopardi, make up the new Partnership Relations Department. Marthese Farrugia had undertaken this role during the last years and negotiated some rewarding arrangements. Partner companies are offered a direct link and exposure to the technical students at the University of Malta.

The partner companies also offer invaluable financial assistance, without which it will be hard for the organisation to exist. Antonella introduced Roderick Galea to IAESTE Malta, and apart from his vital help during the summer events for trainees, he has also been an asset in organising finance.

IAESTE Malta has expressed its interest to host the annual IAESTE Conference 2005 and will present its proposal during the 2003 IAESTE Annual Conference in Thailand. The organising committee consists of members from within the current NC and preparations are already underway. IAESTE Malta greatly looks forward to this event and to hopefully having the rest of the IAESTE world in Malta in January 2005.

For more information on IAESTE Malta, visit <http://www.iaeste.org.mt>

SIERRA LEONE

Back and rebuilding

Sellu Mawandu reports on the activities of IAESTE Sierra Leone, a member organisation in a country recovering from civil war

The decade of war in our country has caused us, and our IAESTE friends throughout the world, great concern. It has been for that reason we suspended our exchange. But IAESTE Sierra Leone is back and more committed than ever to the IAESTE aims and to re-building our exchange with our IAESTE friends throughout the world.

Our commitment and dedication resulted in a breakthrough in 2001. IAESTE Sierra Leone was proud to be represented at the IAESTE Annual Conferences in South Africa in 2001 and also this year in Norway. This would not have been possible without the support from the IAESTE members in the UK, Norway and Austria. The welcome we received in Durban and Norway and the practical support we received from the other members was the kind of motivation we needed to re-establish the IAESTE exchange in Sierra Leone for



Sierra Leone on the west coast of Africa

the benefit of our students and to provide reciprocal opportunities to the students from other members.

During this re-settlement period and our re-establishment we did not receive any students in exchange for the offers we received from Austria, Brazil, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Jordan, Macedonia, Norway, Turkey, and the UK.

The IAESTE office in Freetown was destroyed during the civil war and for now we operate without a well-structured secretariat. IAESTE Sierra Leone is currently in negotiation with UNESCO for material support to facilitate our re-building of the IAESTE exchange for the benefit of our students, employers and educational institutions in Sierra Leone.

IAESTE Sierra Leone is grateful to the University of Sierra Leone, Sam-king services enterprise, Sierra Leone Telecommunications services and Professor Redwood Sawyer for their support of our re-establishment and towards our contribution to the development and expansion of the IAESTE exchange.

UZBEKISTAN

Discovering unknown treasures

Tim Fleetwood, writing from Tashkent, offers an Australian IAESTE trainee's perspective on Uzbekistan

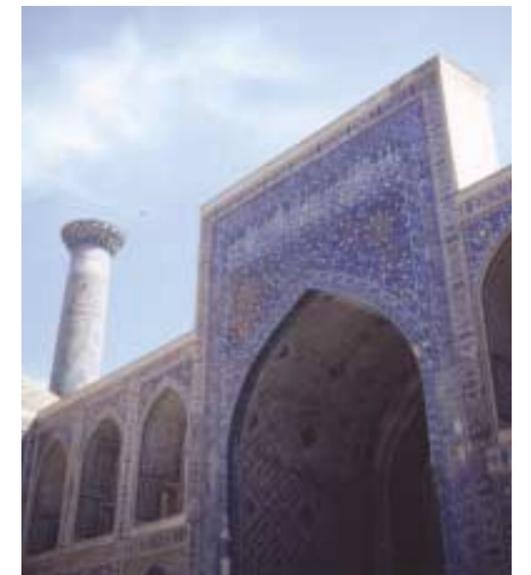
Mention 'Uzbekistan' to an Australian and you're likely to draw a blank stare in return. Mention 'Australia' to an Uzbek and you're more than likely to entertain questions pertaining to kangaroos and koalas. Both countries are considered exotic and remote to the outside world – but at least Australia can rely on its furry crea-

tures to elicit some kind of recognition. Uzbekistan on the other hand still remains largely unknown, particularly to those in the West. For a land with such a rich cultural heritage this is a crying shame as some of the world's most dazzling architecture lies within her borders. As such, for an Australian IAESTE architectural trainee like myself, Uzbekistan remains one of the world's best kept secrets.

Located in the heart of Eurasia, this former Soviet republic straddles the old trade routes more popularly known as the 'Silk Road'. Its strategic position at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East and Asia ensured that successive swathes of conquerors from Tamerlane to the Russians fought for control of the region, all leaving their mark on the land be it an imposing architectural heritage or an equally imposing bureaucracy.

As the first Australian IAESTE trainee to Uzbekistan, among the relatively few foreign trainees who have ventured to this corner of the world, my stay has been as much an educative experience as an exercise in dispelling some of the stereotypes held by my Uzbek hosts and myself alike: no, Australian towns are not overrun by kangaroos and crocodiles and no, Uzbekistan is not 'another one of those hot-headed –stan countries', as one of my colleagues back in Australia so eloquently put it before my departure.

Being assigned to Tashkent State Technical University has allowed me the opportunity to attend regular classes in the Design department, a thoroughly enjoyable experience despite



A detail of the Registan, Samarkand



Exchange Profiles



Tim Fleetwood (second from left) with colleagues at the Tashkent State Technical University

the language barrier. Students and teachers alike have been very intrigued about teaching practices in Australia and were pleasantly surprised to learn (myself included) that there is actually very little difference between the two countries' teaching styles: students arriving late cop the wrath of the lecturer no matter the excuse!

My traineeship began in earnest when I was dispatched to the historic cities of Samarkand and Bukhara to document some of the country's architectural monuments firsthand – a dream assignment for a budding architect considering the staggering array of magnificent buildings at every turn. The name 'Samarkand' alone conjures all the aura and mystique of the exotic East, its beauty cemented in popular imagination for centuries by countless adventurers and writers who have all been cast under its spell. Today, Samarkand still works its



Bukhara

magic on visitors presenting a veritable fairytale landscape of soaring minarets and iridescent domes rising above a city of bustling bazaars and winding labyrinthine streets.

No account of Uzbekistan can be complete without mention of the hospitality one inevitably receives as a guest. Hospitality is a serious business here and can be quite overwhelming if not overbearing at times. Copious quantities of carefully prepared food will be offered to the guest, all washed down with endless cups of the local brew: delicious choi (green or black tea) if you're lucky, vodka if you're not. To refuse to drink is considered a grave offence so, as an abiding guest, you will sheepishly accept that umpteenth toast to international goodwill as your host proffers yet another plate of horsemeat your way.

At the end of my three-month sojourn, I have begun to understand some of the ins and outs of this country, some amusing (the elaborate greeting rituals made between acquaintances), some frustrating (Tashkent's overenthusiastic police) and some downright perplexing (sheep fat considered as a delicacy). I must admit, life is not all rosy here and for many, an uphill struggle yet, for all the difficulties faced by locals, visitors will experience nothing but a warm and hearty reception.

I would sincerely like to thank IAESTE for allowing me the opportunity to travel to a part of the world that I would perhaps never have considered visiting and a sincere thank you must be extended to my selfless Uzbek hosts who have made my stay one that I will cherish for many years to come. Thank you, rahmat and spasiba!



Medressa (Islamic School) in Bukhara



www.iaeste.org

IAESTE Members and Co-operating Institutions, January

Full Members

1. Argentina

Comite Argentino del IAESTE (1961)

2. Australia

IAESTE Australia (1996)

3. Austria

IAESTE Austria (1949)

4. Belgium

IAESTE Belgium (1948, Founding Member)

5. Brazil

CI-Central de Intercambio, IAESTE Brasil (1982)

6. Canada

IAESTE Canada (1953)

7. Colombia

IAESTE Colombia (1995)

8. Croatia

IAESTE Croatia (1993)

9. Cyprus

IAESTE Cyprus (1980)

10. Czech Republic

Czech National Committee of IAESTE (1965)

11. Denmark

IAESTE Denmark, Polyteknisk Forening (1948, Founding Member)

12. Egypt

Egypt's IAESTE Committee (1961)

13. Estonia

IAESTE Estonia (1993)

14. F.Y.R. Macedonia

IAESTE (FYR) Macedonia – Makedonisi Odbor Za Razmena Na Studenti Od Tehnickite Fakulteti (1994)

15. Finland

IAESTE Finland (1948, Founding Member)

16. France

IAESTE France (1948, Founding Member)

17. Germany

Deutsches Komitee der IAESTE im Deutschen Akademischer Austauschdienst (1950)

18. Ghana

IAESTE Ghana (1970)

19. Greece

Greek National Committee, Athens Technical University (1958)

20. Hungary

National Committee of IAESTE Hungary (1983)

21. Iceland

IAESTE Iceland (1951)

22. Ireland

IAESTE Ireland (1962)

23. Israel

Israel IAESTE Committee (1951)

24. Japan

IAESTE Japan (1964)

25. Jordan

IAESTE Jordan (1978)

26. Lebanon

IAESTE Lebanon (1966)

27. Lithuania

IAESTE Lithuania (1990)

28. Luxembourg

Comité Luxembourgeois pour l'Organisation de Stages Industriels CLOSI (1961)

29. Malta

IAESTE Malta (1984)

30. Mexico

AMIPP, AC / IAESTE Mexico (1985)

31. Netherlands

IAESTE Nederland (1948 Founding Member)

32. Norway

IAESTE Norway (1948 Founding Member)

33. Pakistan

IAESTE Pakistan (1990)

34. Poland

IAESTE Polski Komitet (1959)

35. Portugal

Comissao Portuguesa da IAESTE (1954)

36. Russia

Russian Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience – IAESTE Russia (1991)

37. Slovakia

National Committee of IAESTE Slovakia (1965)

38. Slovenia

IAESTE Slovenia – Slovenski Nacionalni Odbor IAESTE (1993)

39. South Africa

The National IAESTE Committee of South Africa (1956)

40. Spain

Comité Espanol para Intercambio de Estudiantes Técnicos (1951)

41. Sweden

Svenska IAESTE Komittén (1948, Founding Member)

42. Switzerland

Schweizerisches Nationalkomitee der IAESTE (1948, Founding Member)

43. Syria

Syrian IAESTE National Committee (1965)

44. Tajikistan

Tajik IAESTE National Committee (1992)

45. Thailand

IAESTE Thailand, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, North Bangkok (1978)

46. Tunisia

The Tunisian Committee of IAESTE (1959)

47. Turkey

IAESTE Türkiye (1955)

48. Ukraine

IAESTE Ukraine (1994)

49. United Kingdom

IAESTE UK (1948, Founding Member)

50. Uruguay

IAESTE Uruguay (1988)

51. USA

IAESTE / United States of America (1950)

52. Yugoslavia

Jugoslovenski odbor za medjunarodnu ramenu studenata za strucnu praksu IAESTE (1952)

Associate Members

1. Armenia

IAESTE Armenia (1998)

2. Kazakhstan

IAESTE Kazakhstan (1995)

3. Romania

IAESTE Romania (1998)

4. Sierra Leone

IAESTE Sierra Leone (1991)

5. Uzbekistan

IAESTE Uzbekistan (1997)

Co-operating Institutions

1. Azerbaijan

DAAD Alumni of Azerbaijan (1999)

2. Belarus

Belarussian State University

BSU (2001)

3. Belarussian State Polytechnical Academy

BSPA (2001)

4. Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno

(YKSUG) (2001)

5. Bosnia and Herzegovina

CEDUBAL-IAESTE (2000)

6. Botswana

University of Botswana (2002)

7. Bulgaria

'Dynamic Market, Plovdiv (2001)

8. China

Council for Practical Training and Exchange – CAST (CPTE/CAST) (2000)

9. Ecuador

Universidad San Francisco (1999)

10. Georgia

Georgian Association of Youth International Co-operation (2001)

11. Association For Farmers Rights Defense

(2002)

12. Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (1997)

13. India

Kayunya Institute of Technology (2001)

14. Indonesia

Organisasi Sosial Konsultasi Studi Jabotabek (2001)

15. Italy

ALFAI, Associazione Laureati Facoltà di Ingegneria Ancona (2001)

16. Italy

Politecnico di Milano (2001)

17. Kyrgyzstan

Kyzyl-Kiva Institute of Technology, Economy and Law (2000)

18. Kyrgyz Technical University

(2001)

19. Latvia

International Exchange Centre Ltd (2002)

20. Rigas Tehniskas Universitates

(2002)

21. Moldova

The Technical University of Moldova (2000)

22. Mongolia

Mongolian Technical University (2001)

23. New Zealand

UNITEC Institute of Technology (2001)

24. Oman

Sultan Qaboos University (2001)

25. Peru

Universidad de Piura (2001)

26. Sri Lanka

University of Moratuwa (2000)

27. Sudan

Newton Educational Centre, Khartoum (1999)

28. Tanzania

Tanzania Education Fellowship (2002)

29. United Arab Emirates

University of Sharjah (2001)