

Transforming Higher Education in Agriculture: The Experience of EARTH University and Best Practices Across GCHERA's Global Network

**Workshop held at EARTH University
Transforming Higher Education Project
February 4-6, 2019**

The world is changing in a very fast way and our leadership challenged to feed an ever growing population that is estimated to reach 10 billion in the year 2050. We need to produce more food but not at the expense of the environment. We need to transform our educational systems so that the social, environmental and financial vision is conducive to a sustainable world, a world of harmony, with opportunities for all with peace, justice and dignity.

Higher educational institutions have the unique capacity and responsibility to rapidly produce the changes required to form the leaders the world needs. To achieve this vision, universities should make a change in their educational paradigms. This reality has been recognized by the Kellogg Foundation which is partnering with the American University of Beirut, The Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences (GCHERA) and EARTH University on this project aimed at university transformation.

The Primary Goal of this workshop is to share and learn from innovative experiences from EARTH University and from across the GCHERA network as a means of stimulating university transformation processes.

The Secondary Goal is for interested GCHERA participating universities to make firm commitments to the project's goals of university change.

The Objectives of the Seminar are the following:

1. Each Institution will leave the workshop with a commitment to changing their own educational systems.
2. Learn and assimilate the Project's goals and expected outcomes.
3. Gain greater understanding of the Key Elements of Success.
4. Learn from other educational innovations congruent with project goals and the Key Elements of Success.
5. Identify transformation experiences which can be incorporated or adapted to each institution's own conditions.
6. Discover and understand EARTH's academic model.
7. Create a sense of partnership among the participants around the project's vision of university transformation.

Workshop Methodology

The workshop methodology will employ participatory learning to enhance participation, sharing and learning by the participants. It is expected that all of the participants in the workshop will actively share what they are doing at their own institutions, will seek greater understanding and clarifications from colleagues from other universities by questioning and intervening when appropriate and when the opportunity arises.

The workshop is designed in such a way as to balance activities between the theoretical and the practical. EARTH University students and professors will participate actively in experiential learning activities across the three days. We invite all participants to interact with EARTH University students, faculty and staff at any time the opportunity presents itself.

Working Groups

Working groups will be formed and tasked with addressing a series of questions during the three days of the workshop to stimulate thinking and reflection on what the participants see, hear and experience. The questions are designed to stimulate thinking around the Key Elements of Success and the concept of transforming higher education to create leaders better prepared to address the issues confronting society today.

Time will be allocated for the working groups to meet to discuss the questions at the end of each day. The participants should be thinking about the questions as the day and week progresses as they listen and learn from other universities and reflect on their own university situations. Time will be provided for each working group to present the answers they have discovered as part of the learning process at the end of the week as conclusions.

There will be three to four groups created. For each day, each group will select a facilitator for the day, and a reporter. Each day will focus on particular questions which will be handed out at the beginning of the day and will define the focus for that day. However, as the workshop progresses the discussions should progressively build on the reflections of the previous days.

We ask that all participants reflect on what they are experiencing during the workshop and to identify potential ideas for the transformation of your own educational systems based on these experiences. One representative from each institution will be asked to share their vision for change at the end of the workshop based on their experiences and the workgroup discussions. The last work group meeting will focus on the vision for change and how to achieve this at your own institutions.

It is clear that every institution is different and faces diverse challenges and opportunities that will mold their own transformation processes. The vision and agenda for change has to fit around each institutional environment according to the possibilities, potential and needs of each community including students, faculty, outside community and institutional norms. Therefore, the vision for change will be as diverse as the institutions represented at the workshop.

Every institution should leave the workshop with a vision for change, whether great or small, but something that they commit to developing further and implementing once they return home.

Dress

Due to the active nature of the learning environment at EARTH, all participants are invited to dress casually at all times during the workshop. The climate and learning environment do not lend themselves to formal dress. Since many of the activities will take place outside, closed comfortable shoes are advisable. The first morning will include an ice-breaking activity and therefore tennis shoes, work boots or other comfortable shoes are recommended.

Bring your own sunscreen if needed, insect repellent will be provided.

Language of the Workshop

The primary languages of the workshop will be in English and Spanish and simultaneous translation will be provided as needed.

Day 1, Monday, February 4th, 2019

TIME	ACTIVITIES
7:30	Meet at PEP Reception - travel to leadership amphitheater
Opening 8:00 to 8:30	<p>Welcome Yanine Chan, Dean and Academic Vice-President, EARTH University John Kennelly, President of Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agriculture and Life Sciences (GCHERA) Rabi Mohtar, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences, AUB</p>
8:30 to 10:00	<p>Ice-Breaking Exercise – Participant Introductions EARTH Professor Junior Acosta</p>
10:00 to 10:15	<p>Overview of Project and Workshop Jim French, Project Director</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Creation of work groups and task assignments</p>
10:15 to 10:45	<p>Return to Conference Facility</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Coffee Available</p>
10:45 to 11:15	<p>Project Vision: “Transformation of Higher Education” Jose Zaglul S, President Emeritus, EARTH University John Kennelly, President of GCHERA La June Montgomery Tabron, President of W.K. Kellogg Foundation (video)</p>
University Change 11:45 To 13:00	<p>Introduction to EARTH University Academic Model Yanine Chan, Dean and Academic Vice-President, EARTH University</p> <p>Panel: University Vision of Educational Change Moderator: John Kennelly</p> <p>Panelist 1: Rabi Mohtar, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture & Food Sciences, American University of Beirut, Lebanon Panelist 2: Gael Pressoir, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Science, University of Quisqueya, Haiti Panelist 3: Marcos Fernandez, Associate Dean for Agricultural Programs, Purdue University, USA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Note: each panelist will have 15 minutes to share</p>

14:00	Overview of Five Key Elements of Success Jim French, Project Director
14:15 to 14:45:	Key Elements of Success: Ethical and Value Based Leadership & Dialogue and Resolution of Conflicts Overview: Irmino Perera Diaz, Professor of Ethics and Values, Director of Student Affairs, EARTH University
14:45 to 15:45	Panel: Educating for Ethical and Value Based Leadership Moderator: Luis Latournerie, Director, Conkal Technological Institute Panelist 1, Jose Zaglul, President Emeritus, EARTH University Panelist 2, Abdul Madi, Dean of Students, Asehi University Panelist 3, Jose Maria Tun Suarez, Associate Director for Academics, Conkal Technological Institute Short discussion Note: each panelist will have 15 minutes to share Coffee Available
15:45 to 17:00	Working Groups Meet to Discuss Vision of Educational Change and the Importance of Ethics, Value and Conflict Resolution
	END OF PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES
18:30	DINNER Ranchón de PEP

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Day 2, Tuesday, February 5 th	
TIME	ACTIVITIES
8:00 to 10:00	<p>Key Element of Success: Experiential/Participatory Learning Overview: Daniel Sherrard, Ex-Provost, EARTH University</p> <p>Experiential Learning Visits: 1. Natural Science Laboratory with Prof. Alex Gilman; 2. Food Processing Laboratory with Prof. Adriany Amorim; 3. Mechanization field practice with Prof. Gustavo Castro.</p>
10:00 to 11:00	<p>Commentaries on Field Visits</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Coffee Available</p>
11:00 to 12:00	<p>Panel Cases of Experiential / participatory learning Moderator: David Acker</p> <p>Panelist 1: Jeff Lansdale, President, EAP-Zamorano University Panelist 2: Mario Ben Hur Chuc Armendariz, Technological Institute of Calkiní Panelist 3: Robert Dyball, The Australia National University</p> <p>Short discussion</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Note: each panelist will have 15 minutes to share</p>
12:00	LUNCH
13:00 to 15:00	<p>Key Elements of Success: Learning to become entrepreneurs Overview, Irene Alvarado, Professor, EARTH University</p> <p>Students share their Entrepreneurial Projects</p>

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	<p>Panel: Learning Entrepreneurship Moderator: Miguel Angel Cohuo Avila</p> <p>Panelist 1: Tiny van Boekel, Wageningen University Panelist 2: Juan de Dios MAIRENA, Universidad de Centros Comerciales, EARTH Graduate Panelist 3: Carlos Mesa, Entrepreneur, EAP Zamorano Graduate (1967)</p> <p>Short Discussion</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Coffee Available</p>
16:00 to 17:00	Working groups meet to discuss experiential learning and entrepreneurship.
	END OF PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES DAY 2
19:00	DINNER: BARBECUE AT THE STABLES



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Day 3, Wednesday, February 6th, 2019

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:00 7:00 to 11:30	<p>7:00 Key Element of Success: University Engagement with the Community Overview: Julieta Mazzola, Technical Coordinator of Community Development Program and Professor of Community Scenario course, EARTH University</p> <p>Visit to Experiential Learning and Community Learning sites</p> <p>7:30-8:30 Visit to Work Experience – 1. Forestry and Agroforestry; 2. Organic farm; 3. Crop production</p> <p>8:30-11:30 Visit to community farms</p>
11:30 to 12:30	<p>Panel on Community Engagement and Student Learning Moderator: Saouma BouJaoude, Faculty Professional Development specialist, AUB</p> <p>Panelist 1: Anthony Egeru, Ag. Deputy Executive Secretary, Program Development and Implementation and Program Manager-Training and Community Development, Ruforum</p> <p>Panelist 2: Huda Abu-Saad Huijer, Dean of Hariri School of Nursing, AUB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Short Discussion</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Note: each panelist will have 15 minutes to share Coffee Available</p>
12:30	LUNCH
13:30 to 14:30:	<p>Working Groups meet to discuss Community Engagement and Challenges to Change</p>
14:30 to 15:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Working Group Reports “Overcoming challenges to Change” Facilitator: Jim French, Project Director</p>
15:00 to 16:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Closing Session Commitment to Change Facilitator José Zaglul</p>
End of Event - Travel to Hotel in San Jose or Dinner	