

INTRODUCING SPEECH TO THE VICTOR DE SOLA AWARD

Mr. President of the Board of Directors, Lic. Julio Valdivieso, and the rest of the Board members, special guests, colleagues of LAGEO and subsidiaries.

On behalf of all of us, I would like to give a cordial and warm welcome to Mr. Ingimar Haraldsson, UNU-GTP Representative, to this great event in which we recognize the person or institution who has given a substantial support to the geothermal development of the country, specially to those programs which promote the technical and scientific capabilities to the human factor of this company.

When we talk about the UNU-GTP of Iceland, some of the LaGeo's staffs remember with nostalgia their younger life, when with great enthusiasm at this time of their lives, they were trained in different specialties offered by the geothermal environment; this nostalgia dates back in the 70's, the time when most of the international geothermal schools were opened and offered scholarships, such as Kyushu in Japan; Pisa in Italy; Auckland in New Zealand and Reykjavík in Iceland, however, due to lack of funds and financial cutback, they were discontinued and closed during the first years of the 21st century, nevertheless, with all the aforementioned schools, the only available, still open to training and continuous growth for professionals in geothermal is the UNU-GTP.

This Program in its second year of operation in 1980, received the first participant from ES, and since then, it has accepted and trained 36 of our colleagues, of which we take pride in having 30 of them working at LaGeo as part of our team of specialists in the field of geology, geophysics, geochemistry, reservoir engineering, power plant design and environmental.

Since 2007, some of our colleagues had the opportunity to avail of a scholarship to take the Masters of Science degree at the University of

Iceland, where five have been graduated and another one who is still on the way. Furthermore, in 2006, LAGEO had the honor to be selected by the UNU-GTP to be the regional venue to impart the specialized short courses in geothermal during which an average of 25 – 30 Salvadorans has participated, motivated to learn about science and technology on clean and renewable resources like geothermal; and all of the transfer of knowledge have been possible with the support of those colleagues who were trained during their younger years in a land of fire and water which inspire the development of geothermal energy in harmony with the environment. It is overwhelming as the source of knowledge of a very important resource is gathering fruits and is spreading not only to Salvadoran youths but also to our friends in other Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Based on the facts mentioned previously, the United Nations University and the Geothermal Training Programme in Iceland has contributed to the development of our geothermal fields through its support to research and specially through its geothermal training programme to the technical staff, a factor that has strengthened the capacity of LaGeo and allowed this human capital be distinguished worldwide, it is an honor and a great privilege for LAGEO and for me to present the winner of the special award “Victor de Sola” for this year to the University of the United Nations and the Geothermal Training Programme in Iceland, which will be accepted by Mr. Ingimar Haraldsson, on behalf of UNU-GTP for which I would like to request a round of applause and invite him to come up on stage.