

REPORT

The following report is destined to describe the activities and achievements obtained between April 15th and May 15th of the current year during the interactive workshop sponsored by the International Foundation for Gardener Exchange, which was held in the Biology Department of the Biocentrum, University of Hamburg (Germany), along with other institutions and places of forestal and geobotanical interest.

PART I

Greenhouses and Botanic Garden (15/04 – 30/04).

- Exchange of information and ideas for interinstitutional cooperation.
- Planification of activities.

Dr. Hans-Helmut Poppendieck and Dr. Carsten Schirarend.

- Excursion through the different areas of the Botanic Garden. Installation of watering systems, substrate composition and landscaping of each garden.
- Greenhouse visits to analyze the type of weather, humidity and watering according to the type of plants.

Instructors: Bernd Lohse, Niels Kielsen.

- Analysis and culture practices in the subtropical plant breeding ground.
- Application of biological control techniques with “useful insects”.
- Visit to the East Natural Park and the Mittle Moor National Park. Debate concerning the legal norms and their cumplimiento in the well-being of natural resources.
- Visit to private mass production breeding grounds for plants for commercialization.

Instructor: Tobias Brose.

- Lecture for the directive council of the International Foundation for Gardener Exchange and other members of the scientific and technical personnel to promote the Instituto de Investigaciones para el Desarrollo Forestal (INDEFOR), present its experimental stations and some of its current activities, as well as to expose some of the inherent aspects of its progress such as environmental issues, law issues and others in Mérida and its surroundings.

Lecturer: Juan C. Quevedo R.

- Interview with Dr. Manfred Finckh, Director of the Biota-Maroc project, who contributed with suggestions, ideas and basic information on an excursión to the Atlas Mountains (Morroco).
- Interactive lectura on knowledge and cultuea of tropical plants in Dammtor (old Institute downtown), which consisted of forming part of the team of horticulturists and developing cleaning labors, maintenance, reproduction, substrate composition, greenhouse acclimatization systems and general contact with the activities of the greenhouses. Guided visit through the subtropical plant, xerofitic plant and fern (helechos) greenhouses.

Instructors: Bernd Lohse, Jurgén Scöttler.

PART II

Berlín y Göttingen (01/05-06/05-15/05 de 2009)

Berlín

- Guided visit through the Dahlen garden and Botanic Museum to recognize a scientific colection of plants from all over the world in different greenhouses. Excursion throughout the external areas to observe the arquitecture.vegetation relationship.

Guides: Architects: Julia Adamet (landscaper), Humberto Corredor (former professor ULA-Mérida).

Göttingen

- Guided visit to the Albrecht - von Haller Institute to study the Botanic of the Georg- August University (old Institute). Excursion through the different greenhouses, written and photographic registry of the botanic aspects and visit to the library and other cultural spaces. Visit to the faculty of Forestry to observe the geological themed gardens. Visit to the forests outside of the city managed by the faculty and explanation of the forestry aspects.

Instructors: Hidrogeologist Andrea Hanf, Msc. Biologist Alexander Berg.

PART III

Excursion to the Atlas Mountain Range, Morroco (07/05-12/05 de 2009)

- Excursion from the Toubkal National Park (approximately 3000 m above sea level) to the city of Agadir in the Atlantic Coast.

Photographic registry of the vegetation in different heights, taking into consideration geographic characteristics such as latitud, climate, soils and cultural aspects.

Advisor: Dr. Manfred Finckh, Local guide: Ibrahim

PART IV

Achievements and Conclusions:

A compendium of knowledge was acquired, thanks to individuals from different cultures and to direct contact with nature which allowed a comprehension of the composition and significance of the vegetation of distinct areas of the world. A variety of materiales were obtaines, such as greenhouse thermometers, tags for plant identification, hygrometer, wathc, gloves, graft knives, brochures and horticulture manuals. An equally important achievement of this workshop was the formulation of proposals to reactivate de

interinstitutional agreement signed in 1993 between the Faculty of Science of the University of Los Andes, Mérida, and the Institute of General Botany of the University of Hamburg, and its possible extension to the Faculty of Environmental and Forest Sciences.

With this interrelation, the vision of environmental measures, better management, understanding and profit of the available resources, formulation of simple and viable plans to improve the areas of environmental interest under INDEFOR'S management and other public and private entities in and around Merida, is broadened. The practical position of this Exchange will allow, among other things, to officially open a greenhouse for xerofitic plants within INDEFOR, in honor of its 47th anniversary. A visit from professionals from Hamburg to cooperate in the development of experimental stations and other green areas, is expected.

Upon the return to Merida, a lecture was given in INDEFOR to inform of the general experience and its possible repercussion in the caring of the natural resources. The directors, professors, technicians attended the lecture.

A CD with a compilation of photographs from the Exchange is included.

Write by :

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