

*Discurso Rector Dr. Víctor Cubillos G.
Firma de Convenio Universidad de Montana, USA
Junio de 2007*

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you today at the University of Montana to sign an important agreement of collaboration.

First, I would like to express to you, on behalf of the faculty members and students from the Universidad Austral de Chile, my warmest wishes.

Our university was founded fifty two years ago in Valdivia, a city located eight hundred and thirty (830) kilometres to the south of Santiago, the Capital of our country, with the purpose of contributing to the progress of the southern part of our country. Thus, during all these years, more than twenty five thousand students have become professionals after completing their undergraduate programs as well as their MA and doctorate programs; all these programs have had a strong emphasis in research.

I would like to emphasize the important academic relationship we have with other higher education institutions not only in our country but also abroad, through collaborative agreements and exchange programs which have allowed us to strengthen our work.

The agreement we are going to sign today will certainly enable us to fulfil our expectations in the sense of successfully performing our university mission in society.

I would also like to point out that Regional Research Centers have been restructured only in the last two years in Chile. At present, there are fourteen institutions of this kind that gather universities, local governmental offices and the State through the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT)

The Center of Research in Patagonic Ecosystem (CIEP) that we have made up together with Universidad de Concepción is a good example of a joint effort that should exist among universities in order to encourage applied research in regional development.

Finally, I sincerely appreciate the invitation to participate in this event, and to express my heartfelt thanks to the President of the University of Montana, to the Rectors and representatives of the University of Sienna, of the University of Cordoba, and of the University of Concepcion for the realization of this agreement. I think it is really important to work together in specific fields of academic and scientific collaboration, through the development of joint projects putting into cooperation our individual capabilities.

Thank you