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Materials World Modules meeting with delegations from Shaanxi Normal University (P. R. China) and the State of Nuevo Leon

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Introduction

On Saturday June 23 CIMAV-Chihuahua was pleased to receive the visit of a Chinese delegation, formed by leaders of the Shaanxi Normal University. This academic group first traveled to Northwestern University (Illinois) for a meeting with Prof. R. P. H. Chang, founder of the Materials World Modules (MWM) program.

In order to learn about the introduction of the MWM methodology in another country, Chinese teachers traveled to Chihuahua and visited CIMAV, the headquarters of MWM-Mexico program.

The occasion was propitious to bring together leaders of the MWM-Chihuahua and MWM-Nuevo Leon projects. It was a profitable weekend, in which joint actions for new stages of MWM-Mexico program were coordinated and the deserved attention to the distinguished delegation from Asia was given.

Chinese Delegation:

Prof. Zhao Bin	Vice president, Shaanxi Normal University
Prof. Zhang Jufan	Dean of the School of Distance Education
Prof. Yuan Fenguang	Dean of the School of Teacher Cadre Education
Prof. Hu Weiping	Director of Center for Teacher Professional Ability Development
Prof. Wang Wen	Dean of the School of Foreign Language
Prof. Shi Yun	Director of Teacher's Education Office

Mexican Participants:

Dr. Héctor García	Director of the Chihuahua Science and Technology Council
Dr. Alfredo Aguilar	CIMAV Academic Director
Dr. Luis Fuentes	Coordinator of the MWM-Mexico Program
Prof. Salomón Maloof	Chihuahua Coordinator of Inter-High-Schools Systems
M.Sc. Dagoberto Silva	Nuevo-Leon University, Vice-Director of High-School System
M.Sc. Martha Téllez	Nuevo-Leon Secretariat of Education, Director of Open High School System
M.Sc. Consuelo Flores	Nuevo-Leon University, Director of Strategic Projects
Ing. David Duarte	CONALEP Nuevo León
M.Sc. Adriana Martínez	CECYTE Nuevo León

CIMAV researchers, members of the MWM-Mexico Staff.

Representative teachers and students from Chihuahua and Nuevo León participating in the MWM-Mexico Program.

Development of the Meeting

- Welcome by Dr. Alfredo Aguilar, CIMAV Academic Director. Brief description of CIMAV.
- Brief description of the Shaanxi Normal University, by the Chinese Delegation.
- Presentation by S. Maloof and L. Fuentes about the MWM-Chihuahua Program.
- The MWM-Nuevo León experience, by Dagoberto Silva and Consuelo Flores.
- Comments about MWM experiences in Chihuahua and in Nuevo León, by high-school teachers and students.
- Open exchange of impressions.
- Visit to CIMAV experimental facilities. Description of work on the *Biosensors* Module

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Comments and Conclusions

The exchange of experiences and opinions was enriching for all the participants. The Chinese visitors showed major interest in our work for adapting the modules to Spanish Language and to Mexican culture. The always-present issue of motivating students and teachers towards science and technology was analyzed in detail and the advantages of using the MWM methodology was acknowledged.

The idea of exchanging Mexican and Chinese students was considered as a real and positive possibility.

Contacts between Mexican MWM leaders and Shaanxi Normal University will continue. Most probably, next meeting will take place next September, during the [“Forum on Materials Education Strategies for a Rapidly Changing World”](#), Yokohama (Japan).

A mystic Chinese touch

A curious coincidence, pointed-out by our new Chinese friends, really touched us. After having enjoyed a typical Mexican lunch (spicy tacos), during a relaxed table-talk, our friend Salomón Maloof (who is an experienced History professor) helped our international group to answer several questions related to the role of people from China in the history of Chihuahua. In a few words, plenty of Chinese people crossed the Pacific Ocean at the time of the “California Golden Rush” (XIX Century). Many of them remained in the Western USA and founded the today-famous China Towns. And many others were pushed to the East and South-East of the Mexico-USA region. Chinese who came to these lands of Real de Minas de San Francisco de Cuéllar (later San Felipe el Real), worked hard and introduced some of today's usual practices here. Herbal food and medicine are examples of this. Legend says that young Chinese in California were sent to our province with the indication that they should dig for gold and silver.

The following point is just a coincidence, but really it is a curious one.

Suggestion: Connect to Google translator (<http://translate.google.com.mx/>). Select translation from English to Traditional Chinese and write “go dig dig” (In Spanish: “ve a cavar cavar”). Google will write: 去挖挖. Turn the speakers “ON” and ask Google to pronounce the shown Chinese expression (command “”).



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