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# CURSO INTERNACIONAL SOBRE BIOTECNOLOGIA AMBIENTAL

(Teórico-Experimental)  
17-28 de Febrero de 1992

Sede Instituto de Biotecnología, UNAM  
Cuernavaca, Morelos, MEXICO

Organizan:

- \* International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, UNIDO
- \* Instituto de Biotecnología, UNAM

# **INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON ENVIRONMENTAL BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**February 17-28, 1992  
Cuernavaca, Morelos  
MEXICO**

## **FINAL REPORT**

**Instituto de Biotecnología  
Universidad Nacional Autónoma  
de México (UNAM)**

**Course Coordinator:  
Gloria Soberón-Chavez, Ph.D.  
Rodolfo Quintero-Ramírez, Ph.D.**

**April 1, 1992  
Cuernavaca, Morelos, MEXICO**

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(professors and students)**

# **TECHNICAL REPORT**

The ICGEB Course on "Environmental Biotechnology" was held in Cuernavaca, February 17-28, 1992. For that purpose the Instituto de Biotecnología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (IBT/UNAM) and UNIDO signed a contract (No. 92/044/CW) for the execution of the mentioned course.

The course's organizers were Dr. Gloria Soberón-Chávez and Dr. Rodolfo Quintero both from the IBT/UNAM with the advise of Dr. Ananda M. Chakrabarty (University of Illinois). Most of the activities (lectures and laboratory work) were carried out in the installations of IBT/UNAM located in Cuernavaca, Morelos.

The financial support for the course came from different sources with a total cost of 54,000 US dollars:

* ICGEB/UNIDO	30,000
* IBT/UNAM	10,000
* Academic institutions from Latin America (air tickets)	10,000
* Academic institutions of Mexico (travel expenses)	4,000
	-----
	54,000

This report refers to the academic activities of the course as well as their evaluation. In the annexes the most relevant information is presented in detailed form. The original documents that back up this report are deposited in the IBT/UNAM.

#### **Course Program**

The course covered a wide range of topics all related to Environmental Biotechnology; during two weeks the students attended 36 hours of theoretical lectures, 32 hours of laboratory

work, 4 hours visiting waste-water treatment plants and 3 hours of discussion in a round table on Environmental Microbiology in Mexico. The details of the program are in Annex I.

#### **Academic staff**

The lectures of the course were given by invited professors from abroad and Mexico, and by the researchers of the IBT/UNAM:

* Invited Professors (Spain, Norway, USA, Austria)	7
* Invited Professors from mexican universities	2
* IBT/UNAM researchers	9

In the Annex II the name and address of each of them is given.

#### **Participating students**

We received 55 applications to the course coming from:

* Argentina	1
* Austria	1
* Bolivia	1
* Colombia	5
* Costa Rica	1
* Chile	1
* Ecuador	1
* India	3
* Mexico	34
* Tunisia	2
* Venezuela	3

The students from Argentina, Chile and Ecuador were accepted but did not attend the course because they were unable to find complementary support. The applications coming from countries outside the region (Austria, India, Tunisia) were not accepted.

The origin of the participating students were:

*	Bolivia	1
*	Colombia	5
*	Costa Rica	1
*	Mexico	25
*	Venezuela	3

The mexican students came from the following academic institutions:

*	IBT/UNAM	7
*	UNAM	2
*	UAM	4
*	UANL	2
*	UACh	1
*	UGto	1
*	ITSon	1
*	ITVer	1
*	ITCel	1

also from research centers associated with mexican companies:

*	IMP	3
*	CIATEJ	1
*	LANFI	1

The academic level of the participants and their background varied as follows:

*	Ph.D.	8
*	M. Sc.	12
*	B. Sc.	15

their origin was:

*	Companies	9
*	Universities	26

#### **Experimental work**

Once we received the curricula of the participants, it was clear that very few had knowledge or training in molecular biology.

In most cases they were interested in the field of Environmental Biotechnology as a new area of research and work. For these reasons we had to change our initial plans concerning the experimental work of the course.

We decided that it was better to present many laboratory techniques, one every afternoon, give plenty of written material to the students and time for discussion with researchers who had plenty of experience on the specific methods. Eight laboratory sessions were held with a duration of 32 hours.

#### Evaluation

At the end of the course evaluation were given to each students in order to evaluate the course and receive suggestions and comments (Annex IV). We received 27 answers out of 35, the main results are:

- the course was rated 86/100
- the load of topics covered 90/100
- laboratory work 69/100
- interaction with researchers and lecturers 82/100
- most of the students agreed that all topics were important and interesting
- the relationship between theory and experimental work 85/100
- the efficacy of laboratory work as teaching tool 65/100
- quality of lectures 95/100
- quality of notes and handout material 85/100
- several lectures were mentioned as outstanding:
  - Dr. Ramos 24/ 27
  - Dr. Kamely 21/ 27
  - Dr. Cervantes 20/ 27
  - Dr. Chakrabarty 19/ 27
  - Dr. Finnerty 14/ 27
- all students recommended to repeat the course, covering the same topics at the same level

- most critics were on the design of the experimental work, but recognizing that in a group of such differences in background, laboratory demonstrations are suitable.

#### **Documents**

All lecturers and students received a diploma of attending the course (Annex V).

The original documents of the filled evaluations forms are in our files. The receipts and copies of documents covering the expenses of the course are in the Adminsitratative Section of the IBT/UNAM.

# **FINANCIAL REPORT**

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

<b>C C N C E P T</b>	<b>A M O U N T (PESOS)</b>
A. Financial support for students	35'700,000.00
B. Financial support for course's professors	34'594,455.00
C. Course expenses	20'230,000.00
<b>T O T A L</b>	<b>90'574,455.00</b>

### **ICGEB/UNIDO Support:**

First payment 24,000 USD  
(3,018.8 pesos x 1 UDS) \$ 72'451,200.00

Second payment 6,000 USD  
(still pending) \$ 18'112,800.00

-----  
\$ 90'564,000.00

#### A. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTES

##### - Living expenses

NAME	COUNTRY	AMOUNT (PESOS)
Edgar Gómez Aguirre	Colombia	2'100,000.00
Carmen Medialdea	Venezuela	2'100,000.00
Marianela Arias de Flores	Venezuela	2'100,000.00
Manuel Loza Murguía	Bolivia	2'100,000.00
Fabio Augusto Roldán García	Colombia	2'100,000.00
Sandra Baena Garzón	Colombia	2'100,000.00
Hernán Camacho Seto	Costa Rica	2'100,000.00
José Durán	Venezuela	2'100,000.00
Oscar Alberto Cámara Durán	Son., México	900,000.00
Joel Espinoza de los Monteros	Guad., México	900,000.00
Maricela Aguado Gutiérrez	Mich., México	900,000.00
José Luis Ibáve	Chih., México	900,000.00
Hugo Alberto Luna Olvera	Mty., México	900,000.00
José Antonio Rocha	Gto., México	900,000.00
Roberto Zazueta Sandoval	Gto., México	900,000.00
Juan José Gutiérrez	Mty., México	900,000.00
Gloria Florez Calderón	Colombia	2'100,000.00
Carlos Ramón Barrera López	Colombia	2'100,000.00
T O T A L		28'200,000.00

During two weeks breakfast and lunch was offered for students and professors attending the course:

* breakfast	3'300,000.00
* lunch	4'200,000.00
	-----
	7'500,000.00

T O T A L	\$ 35'700,000.00
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**B. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR COURSE'S PROFESSORS**

- Air tickets

NAME	COUNTRY	AMOUNT (PESOS)
Dr. Carlos Cervantes Vega	Michoacán, Mex	120,000.00
Dr. William Finnerty	E.U.A.	1'974,088.00
Dr. Irwing C. Gunsalus	E.U.A.	3'055,950.00
Dr. Juan Luis Ramos	Granada, España	4'268,584.00
Dr. Svein Valla	Noruega	3'139,552.00
Dr. Ananda Chakrabarty	E.U.A.	1'225,633.00
Dra. Daphne Kamely	E.U.A.	1'439,968.00
Dr. George Tzotzos	Viena	3'320,680.00
T O T A L		18'544,455.00

- Living expenses (375,000 pesos/day)

NAME	COUNTRY	AMOUNT (PESOS)
Dr. Carlos Cervantes Vega	Mich., México	1'125,000.00
Dr. William Finnerty	E.U.A.	1'125,000.00
Dr. Irwin C. Gunsalus	E.U.A.	1'500,000.00
Dr. Svein Valla	Noruega	1'500,000.00
Dr. Juan Luis Ramos	Granda, España	1'500,000.00
Dr. Ananda Chakrabarty	E.U.A.	1'500,000.00
Dra. Daphne Kamely	E.U.A.	1'500,000.00
T O T A L		9'750,000.00

- Professor's compensation

Each professor received 90,000 pesos/hour of lecture, this was only for local personnel:

\* 70 hours 6'300,000.00

**T O T A L \$ 34'594,455.00**

**C. COURSE EXPENSES**

<b>C O N C E P T</b>	<b>AMOUNT (PESOS)</b>
Reagents and lab material	8'200,000.00
Course notes and handout material	6'780,000.00
Transportation (Cuernavaca-Mexico) and to industrial site visits	3'300,000.00
Administrative and secretarial support	2'000,000.00
<b>T O T A L</b>	<b>20'280,000.00</b>

## **ANNEX I**

### **DETAILED COURSE PROGRAM**

**INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON ENVIRONMENTAL BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**INSTITUTO DE BIOTECNOLOGIA, UNAM  
CUERNAVACA, MORELOS, MEXICO  
February 17-28, 1992**

**Organizers:** **Gloria Soberón-Chávez, Rodolfo Quintero and Ananda M. Chakrabarty**

**COURSE PROGRAM**

**Monday 17:**

- 9:00 - 11:00 Prof. I. C. Gunsalus  
Historic panorama of the research in biodegradation
- 11:30 - 13:30 Dr. C. Cervantes  
Biochemistry and genetics of bacterial resistance to heavy metals
- 15:00 - 19:00 Experimental work: Megaplasmid visualization  
Dr. G. Soberón-Chávez

**Tuesday 18:**

- 9:00 - 11:00 Prof. I. C. Gunsalus  
Biochemistry and molecular biology of biodegradation Part I.
- 11:30 - 13:30 Prof. I. C. Gunsalus  
Biochemistry and molecular biology of biodegradation Part II.
- 15:00 - 19:00 Experimental work: DNA cloning  
Dr. G. Soberón-Chávez

**Wednesday 19:**

- 9:00 - 11:00 Dr. W. Finnerty  
Biochemistry of surfactants
- 11:30 - 13:30 Dr. C. Cervantes  
Perspectives of the use of bacteria resistant to heavy metals in bioremediation
- 15:00 - 19:00 Experimental work: Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)  
Dr. X. Soberón

**Thursday 20:**

- 9:00 - 10:00 Dra. G. Soberón-Chávez  
Methods used to evaluate gene transfer in natural environments
- 10:00 - 11:15 Dr. R. Quintero  
New problems and perspectives in risk assessment
- 11:30 - 13:30 Dr. W. Finnerty  
Uses of surfactants in bioremediation
- 15:00 - 19:00 Experimental work: Site directed mutagenesis  
Dr. X. Soberón

**Friday 21:**

- 9:00 - 10:00 Visit to Waste-water treatment plant
- 10:30 - 11:30 Visit to Instituto Mexicano de la Tecnología del Agua (IMTA)
- 12:00 - Environmental Microbiology in Mexico  
Round Table with the participation of researchers from Mexican Petroleum Institute, Chemistry Faculty/UNAM, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (UAM), Biological Sciences of the Instituto Politécnico Nacional (IPN)

**Monday 24:**

- 9:00 - 11:00 Dr. S. Valla  
Uses of exopolysaccharides in bioremediation
- 11:30 - 13:30 Dr. J. L. Ramos  
Molecular genetics of TOL plasmids
- 15:00 - 19:00 Experimental work: DNA-sequencing  
Dr. M. Zurita

**Tuesday 25:**

- 9:00 - 11:00 Dr. S. Valla  
Alginate: biochemistry, molecular genetics and applications
- 11:30 - 13:30 Dr. J. L. Ramos  
Genetic manipulation of bacteria to select strains with better catabolic abilities
- 15:00 - 19:00 Experimental work: Protein isolation, purification and characterization (I)  
M. Sc. L. Guereca

**Wednesday 26:**

- 9:00 - 11:00 Prof. A. M. Chakrabarty  
Short term evolution of bacteria with novel catabolic potentials
- 11:30 - 13:30 Dr. J. L. Ramos  
Problems of the environmental release of genetically engineered microorganisms and genetic strategies to avoid them
- 13:00 - 19:00 Experimental work: Chemostat studies  
Dr. T. Ramirez

**Thursday 27:**

- 9:00 - 10:00 Prof. A. M. Chakrabarty  
Screening, characterization of bacteria producing surfactants
- 10:15 - 11:15 Dr. D. Kamely  
Perspectives on risk assessment and government policy in environmental regulation
- 11:30 - 13:30 Prof. A. M. Chakrabarty  
Future trends in bioremediation
- 15:00 - 19:00 Experimental work: Protein isolation, purification and characterization (II)  
M. Sc. L. Guereca

**Friday 28:**

- 9:00 - 11:45 Dr. G. Tzotzos  
Risk assessment methodologies for the release of genetically modified organisms to the environment
- 12:00 - 13:00 Dr. D. Kamely  
Novel biotechnological approaches to environmental pollution
- 13:00 - 13:30 Dr. F. Bolivar  
Concluding remarks  
Entrega de diplomas

**ANNEX II**

**LIST OF INVITED PROFESSORS**

**LIST OF INVITED PROFESSORS**

**DR. GEORGE TZOTZOS**

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**ANNEX III**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

## **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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**18. JOSE LUIS IBAVE GONZALEZ**

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**ANNEX IV**

**EVALUATION FORM**

**CURSO INTERNACIONAL SOBRE BIOTECNOLOGIA AMBIENTAL**  
**Febrero 17-28, 1992**

**E V A L U A C I O N**

**1. SOBRE EL CURSO:**

**Evalúe el curso en la escala del 0 al 100**

100 \_\_\_\_\_ 75 \_\_\_\_\_ 50 \_\_\_\_\_ 25 \_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_

**Cuáles características le impactaron más (evalúe del 0 al 100)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. La cantidad de temas tratados
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. Las prácticas de laboratorio
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. La interacción con los profesores

**Cite algunos otros (si lo considera conveniente)**

- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. \_\_\_\_\_

**Por favor liste en orden de prioridad las principales deficiencias que usted detectó en el curso:**

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

**Cuáles fueron los logros más importantes que usted alcanzó durante el curso:**

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Piensa usted que algunos temas específicos de gran interés no se trataron en el programa:

SI \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

Si su respuesta es afirmativa, indique cuáles:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. SOBRE LA METODOLOGIA DE ENSEÑANZA

Evalué la efectividad de las prácticas como elemento de consolidación de la parte teórica:

100 \_\_\_\_\_ 75 \_\_\_\_\_ 50 \_\_\_\_\_ 25 \_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_

Sugiera algunas mejoras:

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Evalué el balance entre teoría y práctica:

100 \_\_\_\_\_ 75 \_\_\_\_\_ 50 \_\_\_\_\_ 25 \_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_

Evalué la calidad de las conferencias (de 0 a 100) \_\_\_\_\_

Evalué la calidad de las notas:

Deficiente \_\_\_\_\_ Aceptable \_\_\_\_\_ Muy bueno \_\_\_\_\_

Evalué la calidad del material audiovisual:

Deficiente \_\_\_\_\_ Aceptable \_\_\_\_\_ Muy bueno \_\_\_\_\_

Evalué el número de conferencias:

Adecuado \_\_\_\_\_

Demasiadas \_\_\_\_\_

Recomienda para cursos futuros un número de conferencias aceptable (estime 2 horas por conferencia):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 3. SOBRE LOS EXPOSITORES

Indique las conferencias que más le agradaron:

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Señale el nombre de los expositores con los cuales usted volvería a tomar otro curso:

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### 4. ASPECTOS GENERALES

SI

NO

Recomendaría este curso:

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Demasiado trabajo:

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Usaré las notas frecuentemente en mi lugar de trabajo:

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Aprendí muchos nuevos conceptos

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Le gustaría que se repitiera el curso:

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5. SUGERENCIAS PARA MEJORAR EL CURSO Y SU ORGANIZACION

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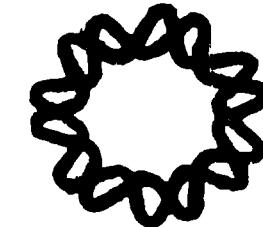
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## **ANNEX V**

# **CERTIFICATE OF ASSISTANCE AND PARTICIPATION TO THE COURSE**

**(Professors and students)**



El Centro Internacional de Ingeniería Genética y  
Biotecnología, ONUDI y el Instituto de Biotecnología de la  
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México  
Otorgan el Presente

# RECONOCIMIENTO

A:

Por su asistencia al "Curso Internacional de Biotecnología Ambiental" llevado a cabo en la ciudad de Cuernavaca,  
Mor., del 17 al 28 de Febrero de 1992

Dr. George Tzotzos  
ICGEB UNIDO

Dr. Francisco Bolívar Zapata  
IBT UNAM