



Letter of Cartagena

The global economy and of the countries of the region are experiencing a concerning scenario. While the Latin American governments are preparing to find out ways of overcoming the crisis and avoid its effects to hit strongly our sensitive economies, the rescue in sight appears to be the infrastructure and civil works.

During this FEPAC meeting in Cartagena we reiterate that the public and private investment in infrastructure should be a priority of the governments not only when there is optimism due to economic development but also when local, regional and world crashes bring uncertainty and skepticism.

Today, the capacity of response of the governments and institutions will be evaluated. Based in investment in infrastructure, it will be possible to enhance job generation, keep the demand and avoid the investment to be annulled. We need to know to what extent we are prepared to face the crisis.

Unquestionably, the countries with well chosen projects supported by good quality studies and optimum designs, based in consistent consulting studies, will be equipped at best to respond appropriately to this scenario.

Consulting engineering is the better support for this goal. Not to demand from governments the anticipated contracting of studies and designs for unscheduled and hurried implementation of projects that may move the economy through the present financial crisis. For this, what has been done as pre-investment in the recent past is what allows us to say whether each of our countries is or not prepared.

Having the future in sight, this is the opportunity for a new call to different instances of the governments to produce long term vision public policies in relation to the practices of contracting consulting engineering services. The goal is to contract studies and designs that bear relevant investments in the future.

The countries of the region should face a new economic cycle based in the certainty that sound investments in infrastructure are the best engine of the economies. The response capacity to recession-like blows is essential for a sustainable development.

Engineering consulting is once more a key tool for the development of the economies of the Latin American countries.

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