

Centro Federal de Educação Tecnológica Celso Suckow da Fonseca

Departamento de Engenharia de Produção Grupo de Gerencia e Engenharia de Operações e Sistemas

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Mr. Rector, Mario Bonucci Universidad de los Andes Venezuela

I have recently been informed about the decree issued by Venezuela's government imposing restrictions on public spending regarding the network infrastructure used by Universities, which has been deemed to be a luxury.

In the past few years I have been deeply involved in several collaborative e-Science initiatives involving many countries in Latin America, including Venezuela, which have been crucial for the increase in the reach and impact of the Science, Technology and Innovation developed in each of these countries and in the region as a whole. Needless to say that good Internet connection is a primary requirement for these benefits to become reality.

Therefore, it is with great preoccupation that I hear the news from Venezuela regarding the funding of the networking access of its Universities. As the Coordinator of the Network and Grid Innovation Programme (NGIP) of the Centro de Educação Tecnológica Celso Suckow da Fonseca, Brazil, I would like to offer my unconditional support for any action that your University may take in the quest to revert this situation, which may severely impair the world's scientific, economic and social growth.

Yours sincerely,

Diego Carvalho NGIP Coordinator