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To:
Prof. Luciano Maiani
HELEN Coordinator
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Geneva, 05 October, 2006

Dear Prof. Maiani,

Having concluded the first year of HELEN, it is my pleasure to summarize the impact of the program as seen by the ALICE collaboration. As you know, ALICE is a very large collaboration of over 100 scientific institutions, many of which are in Latin America. We have been very active in the past in seeking ways to promote and help the scientific cooperation between CERN and Latin America, both for the benefit of our own scientific program and to improve science there, particularly through the training of junior scientist.

I can say without hesitation that the advent of HELEN has represented a major step forward in this respect, a real change of gear! The involvement of Latin American scientists in ALICE has progressed substantially in terms of number of scientist (especially students and junior researchers), in the ability of each individual scientist to be actively involved in the project, in the number of countries and institutions involved, and, last but not least, in the presence of European professors and students in Latin America. Some examples of this significant progress:

- the Mexican groups already very active in ALICE through the V0 and ACORDE projects have been able to be significantly increase their presence at CERN to commission their detectors, and in particular to have PhD students present at CERN for long periods, thus profiting of the scientific environment and training opportunities here
- the Nuclear Physics group in USP, Brazil, has been able to send several students to get involved in the preparation for Physics analysis, thus laying the ground for the progressive involvement of the group in the experiment Based on the improved interaction with ALICE, the group has now applied to officially join the experiment.
- the Nuclear Physics group at INSTEC in Cuba has grown substantially, and through HELEN has been able to offer state-of-the-art courses in experimental High-Energy Physics to the students in its own Master program.
- In Peru, the combined action of courses taught at PUC by CERN scientists and training of students at CERN has been paving the way to the creation of a Nuclear Physics group there.

Overall, the impact of HELEN has been impressive, and completely positive. We hope to further improve our ability to integrate the benefits of the program into the overall life of the experiment, now that it is evident that it can play such a relevant role.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the HELEN management for its dedication and efficiency, which have made it possible for such a complex and vast machine to operate successfully from its very start,

With best regards,

Jorgen Schukraft
Spokesperson

The ALICE Collaboration