

UPEACE Organizes International Observation Mission for Costa Rican Election

San José, Costa Rica. 4 February 2010. UPEACE postgraduate students and faculty from 35 countries, representing the continents of Africa, America, Asia, and Europe, will participate as the most numerous mission of international observers accredited by the Tribunal Supremo de Elecciones (TSE) in the next presidential election. In total, UPEACE accredited 78 observers.

The mission is composed of students from the programmes of International Peace Studies and Media, and Peace and Conflict Studies as part of a training exercise for their studies.

“This will be a valuable educational experience in which young professionals will have the opportunity to observe democratic elections in action, some from countries which yearn to hold democratic elections”, commented Dr. Victor Valle, Director of the UPEACE Department of Peace and Conflict Studies and Director of the Mission.

Students will observe the different stages of the electoral process, and they will have access to the voting receptors with the authorization of the President of the table, in order to effectively observe the voting procedure.

“For us, to participate in an event like this is a unique opportunity. The Costa Rican people can expect a neutral and impartial observation on the part of the UPEACE mission as well as an exhaustive and systematic analysis of all the electoral processes. We are thankful to Costa Rica for opening their doors and letting us be witness to the Costa Rican democracy in action”, commented Carlos Iglesias, a Colombian student from the International Peace Studies Programme.

The agenda for the observers is very intense; they will cover 20 voting centres, most in the Central Valley, from Tres Ríos and Curridabat to Alajuela and San Pablo de Heredia, from 6am to 5pm.

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