



THE CONNECT INTERVIEW:

LUZ MIRIAM DÍAZ PATIGÑO



Pictures
Left and Right;
Luz Miriam Díaz Patigño, CEO of RENATA

Luz Miriam Díaz Patigño was recently appointed CEO of RENATA, the Colombian NREN. In conjunction with the celebrations of RENATA's 11th anniversary, CONNECT caught up with Luz Miriam to talk about her plans for the NREN in the coming years and its role within the global Research & Education community.

Miriam can you tell us what excites you about leading RENATA?

Today RENATA is a powerful mix of knowledge, experience and advanced technology for the country's scientific and academic community. I believe that our network is an important source of progress for Colombia. We are excited about the challenges ahead and are confident that our infrastructure and its technology will enable us to face them. RENATA offers the ideal setting for the development of multidisciplinary projects that will contribute to the growth and development of our country.

I believe that at RENATA we have all the necessary tools and services to address the needs of universities and research institutions in Colombia and need to ensure that industry, academia and government organisations in our country use our network effectively for national and international collaborations.

We are also thrilled that our Government – particularly the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications, the Ministry of National Education and the Administrative Department of Science, Technology and Innovation - Colciencias, jointly with other local academic networks such as RADAR, RIESCAR, RUTA Caribe and UNIREN, support RENATA's management and appreciate that our NREN can be one of the driving forces of Colombia's digital economy.

This year has marked the celebration of RENATA's success in the past 11 years, what are your plans for the future?

A couple of years ago, RENATA's Board of Directors, in line with the principle that "only countries that invest in science and education move forward", decided to reinvent RENATA: this implied strengthening both its infrastructure and systems. Today, our NREN offers advanced connectivity and new services and hopes to create a setting conducive to knowledge growth and stimulation.

We have two milestone objectives. Firstly, to connect to our network, research and education institutions in Colombia, as we hope they will become our network evangelists. By 2020 we aim to bring to over 500 (from today's 120)



the number of organisations connected to our network

Secondly, to strengthen our ability to coordinate the implementation of collaborative research and education projects with national and international remit, focussing on innovation, productivity and the environment.

What does it mean for RENATA to be part of RedCLARA and the global R&E community?

Being part of RedCLARA is one of our main strengths; thanks to this alliance we can connect with the global academic network and more than its 18,700 affiliated institutions around the world.

Our slogan is "RENATA connects you to the global academic network!". Connection with the scientific world is undoubtedly one of the main advantages RENATA offers to Colombia as it opens for our researchers, international collaboration areas where it's possible to utilise all the resources of the extended global R&E network, which is indeed our main source of inspiration and motivation.

Jointly with RedCLARA and the other NRENs in Latin America we will be strengthening the collaborative work within each country, the region and the rest of the world. It is our priority to reinforce ties with Europe and the United States: our country and region's 'natural' strategic partners.

Working with RedCLARA in high-impact intercontinental projects is directly linked to priority and importance we give to services such as eduGAIN and eduroam; in fact we are aware that our country's academic community could not enjoy such exclusive services, if it wasn't for this fruitful collaboration.

What is the involvement of RENATA in the forthcoming TICAL conference due to take place in Cartagena de Indias next November, what does it mean to RENATA?

For the second time, RENATA, in partnership with RedCLARA, will host TICAL, the most important conference in Latin America for senior and IT management from academia. Our organisations make up TICAL's programme and organising committee.

For Colombia, and for RENATA, this will be a wonderful opportunity to promote a space for knowledge and collaboration between the strategic ICT actors from academia and all the other NRENs

In 2013, more than 400 ICT leaders from Latin American institutions attended TICAL. This year we hope to achieve the participation of 600 ICT leaders in the region, and increased participation of ICT leaders from Europe and the United States.

We look forward to welcoming you in Cartagena, Colombia, in September!

To find out more about TICAL, visit <http://tical2018.redclara.net/index.php/en/>