

**Friday, September 24th 2004**

**Sr. André Carvalho**

*Closure Message*

Now that we are getting near to closing this meeting, I'd like to grant some acknowledgements. You've come here to officially launch your network, you have done that, now you have the challenge to move from here to making this network a reality. Working as you have the past two days I have no doubt that you'll do that.

This has been made possible by the work of many, in particular in this University, the University of Colima. Dr. Salazar, let me first tell you that your conviction in taking the responsibility for coordinating this initiative is the base of the success that you have and you'll continue to have.

It is time to grant some *Cum Laudes*; a *Cum Laude* to you Dr. Salazar for your commitment from the beginning to making this happen, providing your university as a focal point, coordinating efforts for this network to become a reality.

You strongly inspired this initiative with our late executive coordinator Sharon Capeling-Alakija, but this wouldn't have been possible if it were not for the work of the team around you: Genoveva Amador Fierros, Lourdes Feria Basurto, Karel Ochoa Reyes, and all the others supporting the net, yes, you deserve a *Cum Laude*.

This meeting was very well prepared, the proceedings were very well rapped, and we now have today all the principles in the Declaration of Colima, this is not because of the three hours we spent yesterday together, but because the people behind the curtain have been preparing it. To all those faceless contributors we say at the end thank you.

But also this declaration was the product of the share, so the *Cum Laude* goes to all of you, all the members of this net, you've all invested in coming here, and I'm almost convinced that you had already have returns on your investment. So thank you very much for contributing, for participating. I've seen you working, yesterday, even though I pretending not to I was observing everyone of you, and I'll

go back from here very optimistic about the future of this network, this network is grounded on the work of volunteers and in the work of students volunteers. Yes, because as some of you suggested yesterday, those volunteers can serve in more fields than IT, we will be not only sending this volunteers to these other countries, we'll have them also working in their own countries, and in that context I talked on inspiration today, and I guess that's because the University of Colima has been an inspiration for all of us today.

In all the places I've been, I have never ever seen an University integrating so many groups, from infants to adults, so very thank to all of you for having me here, thank you all for being here. Thank you for believing in this network, thank you all of you for believing in UNITEs. You have in your hands an instrument for success, transforme it into success. Thank you.