It's been more than 50 days since the change of President at INCAE. Time is relative and although nearly two months have gone by, for Enrique Bolaños, INCAE's new President it seems like yesterday. Nevertheless, aside from living on a plane between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, Enrique Bolaños has put the pieces in place to start his presidency with a strong focus on excellence in INCAE.

When you speak to Enrique, you realize that he has a clear intention to listen to the ideas and needs of all INCAE stakeholders. In his first 50 days he has visited more than 20 companies from the region and beyond. He has also started the initiative "Dialogs with the President", interaction spaces with different internal groups: professors, directors, staff and students. The first "Dialogs with the President" took place on June 12 and 15 in Costa Rica and Nicaragua respectively. Yet it hasn't all been about listening, but also about taking action.
When Enrique took over the leadership of INCAE he mentioned the key projects he would focus on in his first 100 days. He specifically commented on the need to implement strategies to improve the areas of Alumni and Career Services, Communication and Corporate Relations. Even though there are still another 50 days to go, he has already made changes in these areas.

In Alumni and Career Services, Enrique has contracted a new Director of Alumni and Career Services who will lead the change needed in this area. The new Director has over 10 years of experience in international corporate relations and is a graduate of the INCAE MBA. Similarly, Enrique has formed a new Institutional Communication and Brand Department, focused on internal and external communication and led by an international specialist in communication for business schools.

From an academic perspective, the President, together with the Dean of Faculty and Research, Dr. Alberto Trejos has promoted the formation of a special commission for the redesign of the fulltime MBA. As it concerns one of the most important programs the school offers, the process will take a few months to complete. This working group builds on the success of the Pedagogical Innovation and Design Committee that has redesigned and launched INCAE’s executive education programs and is led by the President along with the Dean of Executive Education, Dr. Camelia Ilie.

Among these programs, the highlight is the Global EMBA program, the content of which has been updated to give a greater focus on international strategy, innovation and entrepreneurship, in addition to the development of management competencies. Similarly, agreements with new more prestigious partner schools were made and the number of countries where program takes place was increased to include Nicaragua, Peru, Colombia, Spain, USA and China. Thanks to these changes, a second edition of the program was launched on July 22 with 67 participants from 14 countries.

Aside from all the new initiatives, Enrique Bolaños continues to lead existing ones, in particular, the renovation of the two campuses and the implementation of a new ERP system. The construction of both the Executive Residence in the Walter Kissling Gam campus in Costa Rica and the Recreation Centre in the Francisco de Sola campus in Nicaragua are progressing as planned. In terms of the new ERP system, thanks to the support of all departments, it is becoming not only a widely adopted management tool, but also an excellent example of a trans departmental project.
President Bolaños commented, "It seems like yesterday that I took over the presidency of INCAE, but when you stop to think you realize the number of projects that we have been able to start in these few weeks. Thank you all for your support and commitment to the INCAE Project."