Brief Biography
Dr. Francklin Rivas-Echeverría

Doctor Francklin Rivas-Echeverría graduated in Systems Engineering in 1993 from the Universidad de los Andes (ULA), Mérida, Venezuela. He obtained a Master's degree in Control Engineering (1996) and a Doctorate in Applied Sciences in 2000. He also holds Diplomas in Administrative Law and in Strategic Management. Presently, he is a full tenured professor in the Department of Control Systems at the School of Systems Engineering at the Universidad de Los Andes as was General Coordinator for the Consulting Unit for Technology and Innovation Projects belonging to the Universidad de Los Andes (UAPIT-ULA) from 2005 to 2012. He has been President of the Board of Directors of several national and international consortiums. Currently, he is Administrative Coordinator for the ULA's Intelligent Systems Laboratory (LabSIULA) for which he was also creator and founding member and General Coordinator of Rector´s bureau of ULA. His past administrative positions include: Coordinator of the Graduate Program in Control and Automation Engineering, Coordinator of Internships for the School of Systems Engineering, Coordinator of the Artificial Intelligence Applied to Medicine and Engineering Research Group and Coordinator of the Business Job Fairs carried out at the College of Engineering of the Universidad de Los Andes. He has published more than 200 scientific articles in journals, books, and international conference proceedings. He is coauthor of the books, "Introducción a las Técnicas de Computación Inteligente" and "Control de Sistemas No lineales", the latter published by Pearson Education of Spain. He is part of various editorial committees for journals and conferences. He has been a member of the jury of several scientific awards, master's and doctoral works at the national and international level. He has chaired several symposiums, workshops and has been invited to give master conferences and tutorials in various parts of the world. He has created, taught, and participated in national and international training courses and has received several international and national awards. He has been recognized by the Research Promotion Program and Direct Support to Groups at the Universidad de Los Andes. In addition, he is a level II researcher for the Research Promotion Program of the Venezuelan Foundation for the Promotion of Research and the National Science and Level C (highest level) from the Technology and Innovation Observatory in the National Program for Promotion of Innovation and Research.

Halliburton awarded him a recognition for "contributions and dedication to the development of petroleum technology."

Currently he coordinates the Venezuelan component of the Binational Project with France, "Doctoral Cooperation Program" in the area supervision and maintenance and previously he carried out the same work in the area of Automation.

Dr. Rivas-Echeverría has been visiting professor and researcher in several national and international universities and laboratories. In addition, he has coordinated and participated in a number of research and/or development projects financed by public as well as private entities. He is the representative of the Universidad de Los Andes in various cooperative agreements, strategic alliances and national and international contracts.

He has been a consultant to the Venezuelan petroleum industry (PDVSA), the steel industry (SIDOR), the national aluminum industry (VENALUM), the mass transit system (TROLMERIDA), the Health and Social Development Ministry, The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) of the United Nations, different Venezuelan ministries and universities among others. He has been the advisor for more than 70 undergraduate, masters and doctoral thesis.

As General Coordinator of the Consulting Unit for Technology and Innovation Projects at the Universidad de Los Andes (UAPIT-ULA) he promoted the creation of important agreements, contracts, strategic allegiances with public and private national and international organizations, which makes UAPIT the office within the university which generates the most financial resources. He also promoted work between the university and industrial sectors as well as attention to important projects of local, regional, national and international interest.

His main area of research is related to artificial intelligence and its applications. He has participated in the development of several Expert Systems, Neuronal Networks and hybrid applications in the academic, industrial and organizational environments.

From April to July 2012 he was working for Halliburton and Kuwait Oil Company in a project concerning the intelligent systems application in oil production.

Recognition awarded by "Revista Gerente" as one of the 100 most successful Managers in Venezuela. September 2012.