



EDITORIAL

Paul Burrows
Secretary General, WAITRO
Vice President, Jiangsu Industrial Technology Research Institute



Dear WAITRO members and friends,

I am delighted to be offered this space to share with you the latest developments and opportunities that WAITRO has to offer. As the Secretary General of WAITRO, I am committed to ensuring that our members are well-informed and engaged in our mission to promote sustainable development through innovation.

The structure of WAITRO as a family of research and technology organizations (RTOs) gives our members deep insights into the problems of sustainable growth and solutions to those problems built around local innovation. We know that the major problems facing humanity in the 21st century do not respect national borders. Examples include changing climate, viral pandemics, and aging societies. Solutions, however, are often developed by RTOs in response to local challenges.

Just like a kernel of irritation introduced into the shell of an oyster goads the animal into creating a pearl, so the local challenges of sustainable growth give rise to pearls of innovation, seen all around the WAITRO Global Innovation Family. A single pearl has some value, but WAITRO's global network can be the string that connects complimentary pearls together into something of much greater beauty and importance.

Why? Because innovation requires a market in which to take root and grow. It is difficult for innovation to achieve impact without a market to innovate into. Each node on the WAITRO network represents a potential market with unique characteristics, different from yours. New markets around the globe may enable a member's innovation to flourish far beyond the scale that could be achieved locally. Local solutions, global impact!

As just one example, the Chinese market offers a unique structure and potential for sustainable growth solutions. At the home of the WAITRO Secretariat here in Nanjing, I was particularly happy to see our strengthening relationships lead to a new MOU between JITRI and CTA signed by Jaime A. Arboleda Palacio at JITRI's 10th birthday celebration in January 2024.

Now the downside of WAITRO's structure is that organizations don't really innovate or solve problems at all. People do. Too many individuals at the heart of WAITRO members are not aware of their organization's WAITRO membership. One of the key ways that individuals can engage with WAITRO is by participating in our various networking activities. If you have a key result applicable to one of the SDGs, particularly if it involves partnering across borders, please consider writing a summary of it for the "SDG Impact" section of the WAITRO website. We are always willing to help with editing and we will promote your accomplishments throughout our network and help you establish your worldwide research "brand," so that when partnership opportunities arise around the world, you will be front-of-mind as a leader in your research field.

Beyond that, follow us on LinkedIn and engage by commenting on other members' news; we embrace a diversity of opinion! Sign up for (and use) SAIRA! We offer capacity-building workshops, training programs, and networking events that are advertised throughout the year, some on a regional scale by the RFPs and some global, in partnership with the Secretariat. These are designed to help our members develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. Usually, the events schedule is driven by what the RFPs tell us their members want, so make your voice heard!

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the importance of engagement and collaboration in achieving our shared goals. By working together and sharing our knowledge and expertise, we can develop innovative solutions that have a real impact on people's lives. I encourage all of our members to get involved and to contribute their own unique perspectives and insights to our publications and projects.

Thank you for your continued support of WAITRO, and I look forward to working with you all in the days ahead.

Program for capacity building for Latin America and the Caribbean

ABOUT US

Throughout 2024, we will continue working to strengthen the Waitro network through webinars on relevant topics that assist our members in addressing global challenges through collaborative efforts. To kick off this year's webinar series, we are honored to host Karina Pombo, former National Director of Science Policy Promotion and with extensive experience in international relations. She will be speaking to us about scientific diplomacy to enhance the capacities of our institutions.



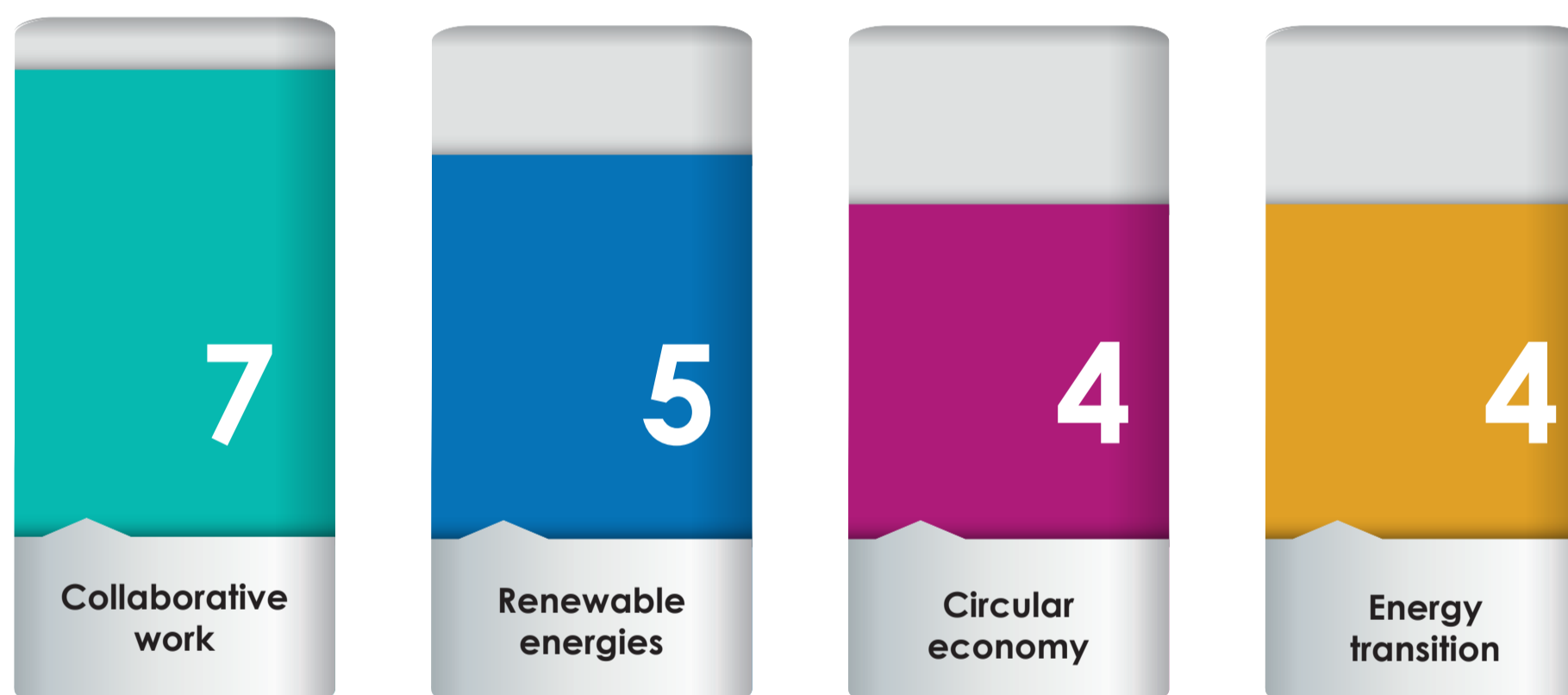
Scientific Diplomacy
Karina Pombo

14
FEBRUARY

09:00 a.m. Costa Rica, Guatemala, México
10:00 a.m. Colombia, Perú, Ecuador, Panamá
11:00 a.m. República Dominicana, Bolivia
12:00 a.m. Argentina: Chile, Uruguay, Brasil

Areas of interest

In the work plans carried out last year, some recurring areas of interest were identified among our members. These highlighted topics not only reflect their main areas of work but also serve as a guide for planning future joint working spaces. Below, we present the most mentioned topics:



In 2024, we will continue joining forces for an innovative future

With the aim of consolidating our community, we will focus on **strengthening and developing capacities**. This initiative includes the organization of **6 webinars, 3 panel type**, providing an enriching space for knowledge exchange.

We will promote collaboration through the **formulation of proposals in four matching sessions**, stimulating joint work. We will also finish building the web directory with the description and offerings of the organizations that are part of WAITRO LAC.

A central goal for the year 2024 will be the **expansion of our network**.

For this reason, it is essential that we all commit to actively promoting the Network and its benefits. This action aims to attract new organizations, thus consolidating the diversity of perspectives and capabilities within the Network.

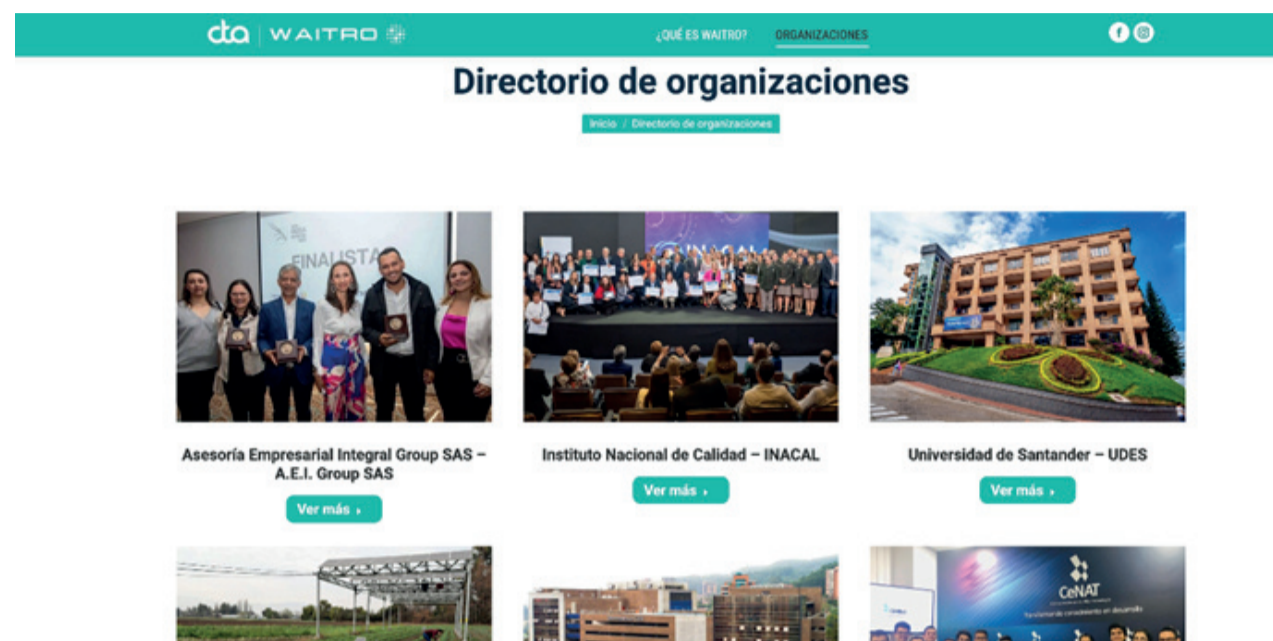
Together, we will continue to identify needs and opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean that can **connect with interests and solutions** from other organizations worldwide, strengthening mutually beneficial connections.

Regular meetings with members will be maintained, conducting six group sessions to share relevant information about WAITRO and foster collaboration. Additionally, we will share 6 regional newsletters with news, achievements, and important events within our community.

These goals reflect our ongoing commitment to the improvement and strengthening of WAITRO LAC. **Together, we will build an innovative and collaborative future!**

NETWORK

WAITRO LAC members directory



The first version of the WAITRO LAC members directory is now available. We invite all members to visit it and submit any information that needs to be updated:

<https://cta.org.co/waitro-rfp-web/organizaciones-directorio/>

CTA and JITRI Sign Historic Agreement for International Cooperation

Thanks to the management of the WAITRO Network, which highlights the effort to strengthen international collaboration, the CTA has established valuable links with institutions, highlighting the strategic alliance with the Jiangsu Industrial Technology Research Institute-JITRI.

In January 2024, CTA and JITRI formalized a memorandum of understanding that lays the foundation for mutual cooperation. This pact aims to promote collaboration between JITRI and Latin America, working hand in hand to address global challenges and contribute to the construction of a more sustainable world.

This alliance will not only strengthen the ties between CTA and JITRI but also contribute to the advancement of research, technology transfer, and the creation of a positive impact at the regional level.

With the signing of this agreement, doors are opened to exciting opportunities and the belief in the power of international collaboration to strengthen the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean is reinforced.



CARIRI and UTT present innovative project to address environmental and economic challenges

San Fernando, Trinidad y Tobago - The Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI) and the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) have launched a pioneering project aimed at addressing environmental and economic challenges through the recycling of used tires. The Rubber Granulate Plant, located at UTT's Tarouba Campus in San Fernando, has become a hub of innovation for the production of value-added rubber products, highlighting asphalt pavement material as one of its standout applications.

In collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI), a distinctive rubber-asphalt mix design has been formulated, making the most of the rubber granules generated by the plant. As part of this project, CARIRI has paved a test strip using the rubber-asphalt mix, comparing it with a test strip of standard asphalt material.

During the paving process, CARIRI's Civil Team from the Industrial Materials Unit has obtained bulk samples of both mixes to determine Marshall Properties and establish a baseline for the materials. CARIRI is scheduled to conduct quarterly visual inspections and core samplings at 6 and 12 months post-paving to monitor ongoing performance.

This project, funded by the Public Sector Investment Program (PSIP) and supported by the Ministry of Planning and Development, represents a transformative collaboration between the public sector and academic institutions to promote sustainability and innovation in Trinidad and Tobago.



WAITRO Secretariat

211800, No.7 Huafu Road, R&D Park, Jiangbei New District
Nanjing, Jiangsu, China
info@waitro.org

