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Vale and government of Pará lay ITV center foundation stone in Belém

Vale and the government of Pará today (May 16) laid the foundation stone of the Vale Technology Institute (ITV) center in Belém, which will be dedicated to medium- and long-term research into sustainable development. The facility will have around 300 in-house and visiting professionals, including Brazilian researchers and professors, and foreign academics with doctorates and post-doctorates. Approximately R\$162 million will be invested to build the center.

The facility, which is scheduled to be inaugurated in 2013, will cover 140,000 square meters in the Guamá Science and Technology Park. In October of this year, ITV will set up temporarily in a 2,100 meter square building, also in Belém.

The Belém center is one of three that ITV is building in Brazil. The others will be in Ouro Preto (Minas Gerais) and São José dos Campos (São Paulo), and will specialize in mining and low-carbon energy, respectively.

“The ITV facility in Belém will be a world-class center of excellence, projecting Belém’s image as a major hub for Brazilian science and technology,” says the ITV’s director-president, Luiz Mello.

The director of the ITV unit in Pará is Professor Luiz Carlos Silveira, who has a medical degree from the Federal University of Pará (UFPA), a doctorate in biophysics from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) and a post-doctorate in neuroscience from Oxford University. Silveira is an associate professor at UFPA, where he founded the Postgraduate Program in Neuroscience and Cellular Biology and ran the Tropical Medicine Center. He has extensive experience in the science and technology community as a member of CNPq’s Advisory Committee and the Advisory Group of the International Cooperation Department of CAPES. “Luiz Carlos exemplifies one of ITV’s objectives, which is to invest in local talent, alongside another strategy, which is to bring Brazilian researchers back from abroad and attract international talent to the country,” adds Mello.

The ITV center in Belém was designed by architect Paulo Mendes da Rocha, the winner of the 2006 Pritzker Prize, the most prestigious architectural award in the world. Completely sustainable, enabling water to be reused and cutting energy consumption, the design is inspired by the traditional riverside buildings of Brazil’s Amazon region.

“The entire design was subject to the important phenomenon of waters that rise and flood areas, including dense jungle. The steel structures will be suspended in a ‘dry’ building, and may be transported along the highway in clearly configured, manufactured pieces, without the need for traditional building techniques involving the use of water, stone and cement. Suspended over the Guamá River, the center will have a minimal impact on the local environment, respecting the flow of waters. Once the center is implemented, the whole area will become a unique museum of environmental preservation,” explains the architect.

ITV

The Vale Technology Institute is a nonprofit institution conceived by Vale. Its mission is to create future options through scientific research and the development of technologies in order to expand Vale’s knowledge and business frontiers in a sustainable manner.

Through this initiative, Vale aims to expand scientific research output and technology-based economic development in Brazil, as well as generating and spreading knowledge to spur socioeconomic, environmental and mining industry-related development in the country.

Since it was launched in 2009, ITV has distributed more than 100 MA and PhD scholarships. Recently, the Institute made an agreement with the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) to offer postgraduate scholarships to Mozambicans at Brazilian universities, and also has agreements with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland.

More information



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