

ECOSOUTH

EXPERTS ENJOY SHARING KNOWLEDGE



Martin Melendez, Civil Engineer, MSc.
Spanish, English.

As director of Grupo Sofonias in Nicaragua, he is currently guiding an educational program for construction apprentices, designing a housing project for the working poor, operative management of another housing project, as well as applied research about vertical shaft brick kilns fired with alternative fuels. In the past he has evaluated projects in Ghana and Namibia and is engaged in technology transfer in Central America in an ongoing manner. He was a Tech Award Laureate for 2003 in the category of economic development.



Jose Fernando Martirena, Prof. Dr. Engineering.
Spanish, English, German.

Investigating the use of biomass to produce ecomaterials as part of post-doctorate work with the University of Kassel, directing a post-hurricane housing project, and tutoring doctoral candidates round out the palette of ongoing activities of CIDEM's vice-director. He is currently preparing the Ecomaterials Conference 2005. Past engagements in Ecuador and Central America (feasibility studies), Namibia (project evaluation), as well as numerous international conference presentations from Morocco to India to Vienna have brought his wide knowledge to more people.



Pedro Nolasco Ruiz, Prof. Civil Engineering.
Spanish, English.

For this well-travelled expert, giving classes and tutoring graduate students, accompany designing activities and investigation about pre-stressed beams. He has recently returned from Bangladesh where he designed an immense metal industrial roof. Project direction in Namibia, technology transfer in Mozambique and post-hurricane settlement design in Nicaragua are among his past international engagements.

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Orlando Espinosa, Mechanical Engineer.
Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, English.

Coordinating the Cuban MCR network and supervising the quality of hundreds of workshops in Cuba occupies much of his time. This innovative investigator is currently focusing upon the use of concrete in support structures. He is preparing for a mission to Mozambique. His past engagements include project set-up and technology transfer in Tajikistan, as well as technology transfer in Central America and Vietnam.

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Maytee Campos, Chartered Accountant.
Spanish, English, Portuguese.

Running a successful MCR business in Harare provides a firm basis for her management consulting to NGOs. She is preparing for a mission to Mozambique.



Kurt Rhyner, Prof. Dr. Architect.
English, Spanish, German, French

The international CEO of Grupo Sofonias is coordinating the ecomaterials movement, linking projects of the EcoSouth Network, and designing future projects, as well as lecturing in various Latin American countries. Numerous past engagements throughout Central and South America focusing on project conception, and in Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Namibia, and Zimbabwe focusing on project conception and backstopping, have brought his wide experience to a larger public.

Peter Dunckley, Architect, MSc.
English, Afrikaans

A busy schedule of consultancies throughout Southern Africa keeps this dynamic architect in contact with current realities. He is coordinating a dissemination program for MCR in Southern Africa, and has had provided technology transfer in Zimbabwe and Zambia.



Peter Arndt, Social worker & Mechanical technician.
German, English, Spanish.



Directing a squatter upgrading program occupies most of his time, but he also carries out applied research in home improvements. He has recently returned from Bangladesh where he guided construction of a large industrial roof.