



Alejandro Cruz
Minister of Science and Technology
Costa Rica

Alejandro Cruz was appointed Minister of Science and Technology of Costa Rica on February 15th, 2011. Previously, he has been involved in various positions with the Costa Rica Institute of Technology, a public university that started in 1973. He served as a President of the University from 1995 to 2003.

During his term in the Costa Rica Institute of Technology this University acquired a strategic position in the development of Costa Rica by introducing new technology programs and building strong ties with the attraction of foreign direct investment and the support to small and medium enterprises.

Mr. Cruz has also been associated with the National Rectors Council (CONARE) and the National Center of High Technology (CENAT), both supported by the State Universities. Another important academic challenge for Mr. Cruz, has been the creation and initial operation of the Central American Council for Accreditation of Higher Education (CCA) where he has been Founder and Vice President.

In the area of planning and development a country vision for Costa Rica, Mr. Cruz has been coordinator for the initiative called "Estrategia Siglo XXI", which is a long-term strategy based on science, technology and innovation. This effort was supported by an ample number of professionals from academia, industry and government.

Mr. Cruz also worked for the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) from 1983 to 1987. He has also served, both as advisor and consultant of various government agencies, academic institutions and private companies.

Since his retirement in 2009, Mr. Cruz was dedicated to his family farm and business until President Laura Chinchilla designated him Minister of Science and Technology.

Mr. Cruz has a degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Costa Rica and a Master of Science from the State University of New York (SUNY) and Syracuse University.