It was a pleasant surprise the very formal level in which the Visiting International Fellowship (VIF) Reception and Ice-Breaker were developed, particularly when the Visiting International Fellowships diplomas were handed over by Mr. David G. Mongan, ASCE President, at the Hawaii Convention Center on May 12, 2008.

I was one of the recipients of the 2008 EWRI Visiting International Fellowship award at the World Environmental and Water Resources Congress that was held at Honolulu, HI on May 12-16, 2008 at the Hawaii Convention Center. The selection of the final winners of the 2008 VIF awards was made by the International Committee’s VIF task committee members.

The efforts made by Cristiane Queiroz Surbeck, co-chairman, Stacey Langsdale, co-chairman, Andy Kropf, Special Projects coordinator, were extremely important to make my participation in such congress a very fruitful and unforgettable experience. Professor Jose D. Salas, my sponsor, was always advising me on how to get the maximum benefit of the VIF experience.

After my participation at the EWRI-2008 Congress, on Sunday May 18, 2008, I flew to Denver and I spent a Sunday afternoon at Denver’s downtown and I had the opportunity to visit a few sites that gave me an insight of Denver’s cultural life. On Monday May 19, 2008, I had several meetings at the Denver area with Don Frevert and John England, from the US Bureau of Reclamation and with Professor Jose D. Salas, Reagan Wascom III and Faith Sternlieb of Colorado State University. On May 20, 2008, I had a meeting and a short field trip with Mr. Andy Pineda from the Northern Colorado Water Conservation District. Many topics were discussed in such meetings and many plans for future collaborations were made, one of them is now in full development. On Tuesday
May 22, 2008, I flew to San Francisco and the following day I took the airplane back to Mexico City, and from there to Cholula, Mexico, my town of residence.

I strongly believe that the ASCE’s VIF program it is of paramount importance for professionals, researchers and educators coming from developing countries, it helps to understand and get immerse in the technical, cultural and social aspects of the United States of America for a week or so, without this program this experience would not be possible. This immersion within the EWRI congress is also a very joyful experience, too.

I would like to express my appreciation to Cristiane Queiroz Surbeck, Stacey Langsdale, Andy Kropf and Professor Jose D. Salas, for allowing me to enjoy such a wonderful experience at the EWRI-2008 World Environmental and Water Resources Congress under the umbrella of the VIF program. Their hospitality and their willingness to provide help when it was needed are deeply appreciated.