

Elevator Day 2006: Technology & Entertainment

by Carmen Maldacena, EW Correspondent

Elevator Day celebrations have become a tradition in Argentina. The seventh edition took place on September 22-23 in La Plata city, capital of the province of Buenos Aires. Many elevator people participated in the two-day event organized, as usual, by the Federación de Asociaciones y Cámara de Ascensores de la República Argentina (FACARA). This time, the local Association Cámara Empresaria de Ascensores de La Plata (CEALP) was in charge of the ceremonies. The program started with presentations of products and technological advances, followed by a social and awards reunion held on the second day at the Jockey Club of La Plata.



Juan C. Leis, president of FACARA



Omar A. Anglioni,
president of CEALP

Workshop on Elevator Technological Update

The lecture hall of the Universidad Tecnológica Nacional, Facultad Regional La Plata (UTN) was the meeting place of more than 120 attendees who were anxious to listen to the elevator manufacturers report on the latest technological achievements available in the local elevator marketplace. The workshop was also attended by La Plata municipal authorities responsible for elevator inspections, and elevator people from Buenos Aires and several inland cities. The interest of the audience did not decline during the 10-hour session. Questions and discussions with the lecturers indicated the participants' need for information. Ing. Daniel Arnaiz (UTN) opened the session with Omar Aglioni, president of CEALP, who urged the sector to unite and participate. Ing. Héctor Salvatore discussed the new education courses started this year at the UTN-dependent technical school Juan B. Alberdi. Lessons focus on the preparation of specialized labor, which is so necessary in the industry.

Participating Companies

JYE SRL: This company started the manufacture of electronic elevator components in 1996. Efforts were concentrated in the electronic boards for elevator controllers with the development of an innovative electronic control based on a serial control area network. Position indicators, safety edges and intercommunicators complete the production line.

(l-r) Omar Aglioni, Daniel Arnaiz and Héctor Salvatore open the workshop.



Ascensores, Comité Permanente de Seguridad

After the product presentation, members of Ascensores, Comité Permanente de Seguridad (Elevators, Permanent Safety Committee) reported on the committee's activities. Eduardo Padulo illustrated the main causes of elevator accidents, both of field employees who always think "this will not happen to me" and riders who are victims of defective maintenance, misinformation or risky actions when trapped in a cab. Carlos Sapienza asked for accident information to start a statistical record and work toward prevention. It was agreed that the main cause for casualties is failure in the landing-door locks. Finally, Raúl Razzini spoke about the Safety Commitment Act that should be signed by all companies truly engaged in safety and standard compliance. To acknowledge this commitment, Ing. Juan C. Leis, president of FACARA, awarded the companies members of CEALP with a certificate.

Laboratorio de Ensayos para Elementos de Ascensores (LEEA)

At La Plata Technological University, there is a laboratory specially designed to test some of the elevator safety devices to meet the requirements of Resolution No. 897/99 EN 81-1/98, EN 81-2/98, IRAM 3681-1, 3681-5 and MERCOSUR Elevator Standards (NM 207/99, NM 267/01) (ELEVATOR WORLD, December 2002). Before a tour of the lab, Arnaiz explained that these legal bodies rule on product uniformity and quality tests to certify marks of elevator safety components for new and existing installations. However, as norms are still pending enforcement, the lab is not working as it should, even though it is prepared to test door locks and governors. Salvatore urged the industry to work toward standardization and certification as ways to improve the activity, regardless of the authorities' lack of control and disinterest, because the people's safety is at stake.

A Team-Spirited Luncheon

Elevator Day celebrations reached a climax with a luncheon served in the elegant Jockey Club. This is an annual occasion where many industry colleagues can meet and socialize. This year, the host association (CEALP) organized a delicious luncheon with several amenities: professional singing, dancing and humor that added to the generally relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Ing. Juan C. Leis, president of FACARA, welcomed the 170 guests and urged unity, commitment and active participation to achieve common goals. He pointed out that the booming period the industry is experiencing has made evident "the need for new or renewed ordinances in every city to better organize our activity and to increase safety in the use of the vertical transportation." He remarked that the many courses organized by the associations are a fine example of the good results that can be obtained if "we leave aside commercial rivalries and line up after common objectives, new ideas and projects that make possible a promising future."

In the same line of thought, Omar Aglioni, president of CEALP, humbly asked for participation because everybody's effort is extremely useful to improve the sector. He added: "Individualism does not solve the problems. Instead, all of us united can help avoid arbitrary conditions imposed by those who are in office and directly influence our industry, but know nothing about our métier."

The Awards

As a moving grand finale, FACARA recognized those who contribute to the industry. The awards were presented to José I. Ibarra, on his retirement, for his dedicated work as FACARA's manager; Carmen Maldacena for her journalistic efforts; and Oscar Palópoli for his dedication to develop CEALP and FACARA. All of them, caught completely unaware, were presented with commemorative plaques. Emotions mingled with congratulations and champagne. At sunset, the group left satisfied and happy to have benefited both professionally and socially at the meetings with colleagues and friends. 🌐



(l-r) José I. Ibarra, Carmen Maldacena and Oscar Palópoli receiving awards



(l-r) Elevator Safety Committee: Raúl Razzini, Carlos Sapienza and Eduardo Padulo



(l-r) LEEA members: Salvatore, Arnaiz and G. Mijalovsky