

# TYPSA Foundation for Development wins the Rafael Izquierdo Solidarity Award

*TYPSA Group newsletter - November 2016*

TYPSA was the winner of the 2016 Rafael Izquierdo Solidarity Award, presented by the Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos, Spain's official professional association for civil engineers, and the Fundación Caminos Foundation. The annual prize, awarded to national and international organisations, companies, or individuals, recognises outstanding solidarity or social commitment in the fields of civil engineering, transport, water, and the environment.

TYPSA's Honorary Chairman, Pablo Bueno Sainz, collected the award from the Minister of Public Works, Iñigo de la Serna, in the presence of the President of the Colegio, Juan Santamera, at a ceremony that took place in November 2016 at the Colegio's headquarters.

The award acknowledges TYPSA's work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where it has built a university school of civil engineering in Mahagi, a town in the east of the country near the border with Uganda.

TYPSA has always supported development in low income countries, helping to improve local economies with the altruistic participation of staff in contributions to different NGOs in various countries.

The TYPSA Foundation for Development was created in 2012. Since then, it has served as a vehicle to channel, manage and control aid and interventions, knowing it can rely on an annual contribution of 0.7% per cent of the Group companies' profits.



Pablo Bueno Sainz, TYPSA Group Honorary Chairman, speaking at the award ceremony

## TYPSA FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Premio Rafael Izquierdo a la Solidaridad  
3ª Edición

Candidatura de TYPSA  
"Construyendo Capacidad"  
Formando Ingenieros Civiles en la República Democrática del Congo



to be one of the Foundation's outstanding projects. Now, the Fundación Caminos has recognised the project's value.

Mahagi is in Ituri province, near Uganda, in an area that has suffered the impact of guerrilla wars. Recently, however, it has become remarkably stable and incident-free, a situation reinforced by the presence of one of the Congo's international United Nations military bases.

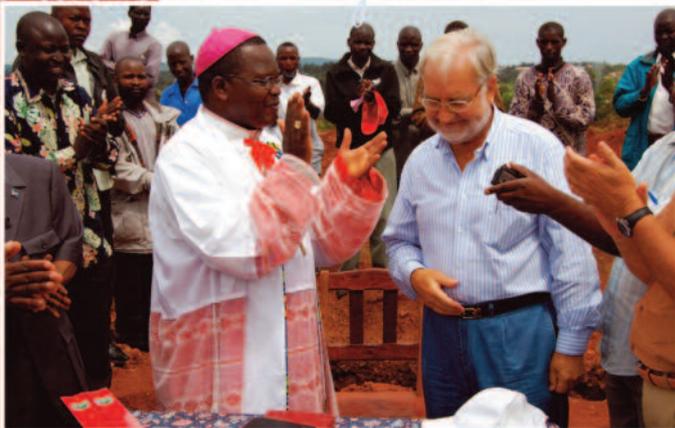
Past instability and the virtual absence of investment and economic activity,

Requests for support arrived as soon as the Foundation was set up, but attention focused at once on a school of civil engineering in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The school was part of what was then known as the Mahagi Centre for University Studies (CEUMA), later known as Lake Albert University. The project was selected and launched in collaboration with the Diocese of Mahagi and the Order of the White Fathers, present in the area for many years, fighting the consequences of poverty, disease, division and wars, and it continues

*Un proyecto de vida...*



*Con un claro objetivo...*



both in the town and its surroundings, have led to a serious shortage of all kinds of infrastructure, especially for secondary and higher education, which is the potential driver of any possible development. In fact, there were no training centres of this kind for hundreds of kilometres.

This shortfall, together with general poverty, the fact that the area could be considered to be stable and the potential to reconcile future generations of ethnic groups and tribes previously involved in the guerrilla movement through an institution of this type, prompted the

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Pablo Bueno Sainz  
receiving the Award from  
Iñigo de la Serna, Minister  
of Public Works

TYPSA Foundation for Development to select this project and make it a priority.

TYPSA's engineers and architects developed the designs for the infrastructure and buildings to house the university, working at the same time with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to approve the curriculum so that courses could begin as soon as possible. After completing the designs, in August 2009, construction began and is now in its final phase.

The ultimate goal however, beyond construction and development of the University Institution - in itself a remarkable achievement - is for the University School of Engineering to give the region's people an education and a practical approach that will enable future generations to contribute effectively to local, regional and national development, and to development in Sub-Saharan Africa in general. Indeed, basic sectors such as transport infrastructure, water supply and sanitation, and agricultural development are the foundation stones of development.

From the beginning, the approach has focused on integrating technical civil engineering studies in education, just as the CEUMA did on a limited and incipient basis in precarious facilities. Technical studies have become essential in an environment lacking infrastructure and with no feasible productive activity in the short term other than the existing agro-livestock based activity.

The curriculum that was finally introduced includes a foundation course and three further years of study. The second year is now running with a total of 21 students, two of them women. The first civil engineers from this university will finish at the end of next year (2020).

We still have many more challenges to address. As is usual with actions of this type and of a certain size, there is always a short supply of the funds needed to complete construction and tackle the growing teaching needs and consequent increase in requirements. TYPSA will continue to supply support, and seek the support of others, to ensure that an institution offering technical education is a reality in this almost forgotten area in Africa. ■