

November 5, 2010 – George Oprea, President AREC

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests.

We thank you all for coming here tonight, to our Gala, where the AREC (Association of Romanian Engineers in Canada), ACRUPO (Association of Canadian - Romanian University Professors in Ontario) and LSRS (The League of Romanian Students Abroad) have joined hands and organized the event.

As you all know, the activity of the Association of Romanian Engineers in Canada is based on volunteer work.

Started in 2003, with a small number of members, AREC grew a lot in the last 2 years. Right now we have approximately 260 registered members, and more than 600 supporters.

Our Association's goal is to help Romanian trained Engineers integrate into the Canadian working environment.

At AREC, we do the following things:

- We promote networking among peer Engineers, who could benefit from the experience and expertise of other AREC members
- AREC helps Romanian Engineers with their careers,
- we facilitate a better understanding of PEO's admitting procedure.
- and our website, which has 300 – 600 hits a day, offers access to online career services, to a job bank and other resources that can help you find a job and advance in your career. We are even posting Cultural Events with special discounts.
- As an AREC member you will also have the chance to participate for free to all of our meetings.
- As well, you will benefit from TD Meloche Monnex's preferred group rates for all your car and house insurance needs. I just want to mention that in 2010, the fourth year since AREC become a partner of Meloche Monnex, the number of insured AREC members with Monnex continued to increase at a rate of 150%, compared to the previous year, which demonstrates how beneficial it is to be a member of our association, so please pay your AREC membership fee for 2011 ASAP.

Since the last 2009 Gala, we've had a number of very successful events / seminars with at least 25 – 50 participants per session. Here are the titles to a few of our seminars:

- "How to get a job and advance your career" combined with "Cross-Cultural Training" for job seekers or existing employees,
- The Role of Engineers in Modeling the Professional Work Environment, and their Position within the Canadian Society - A Managerial Perspective.
- Intellectual property in Canada
- Understanding Project Management
- Steps in obtaining PEO licensing, which took place in Kitchener, being organized by our South Ontario Chapter.

A very important event for our organization took place on June 13, this year, when AREC's first chapter, for South Ontario, was started in Kitchener. We are very glad to welcome here a number of the chapter's members, including Ilie Pasca, the President, and Professor Stelian George Cosh, who is the VicePresident. While we wish them luck, we also promise them to help with everything we can,

so that our first Chapter will continue to be a success. Then we hope other chapters will open in Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary or any other place where Romanian Engineers are settled.

As for next year, we are planning the following activities:

- a seminar about how to become a PEO member in January
- a meeting with a Canadian / Romanian VIP in April
- in June we plan to organize a seminar about "How to start your own business"
- Mentoring seminars will probably be offered in the second half of 2011
- In October 2011 we will have the 6th annual AREC Gala.

We are very proud to acknowledge that in 2010, 31 Engineers educated in Romania become PEO members. This is a great achievement, and we want to take this time to congratulate them. Some of the new PEO members are among us. Please give them a round of applause. (sa aplaude lumea)

To conclude, now, I have a long list of people to which I would like to address our thanks for being great supporters of our association. Our thanks are going to:

- our guest speakers for attending and sharing their thoughts with us.
- all the volunteers involved in organizing this special event, especially to AREC's Vice-President, Daniel Cheoreanu and our Treasurer, Miki Peres.
- I should not forget to also thank their wives, Mona and Gabriela, but also my wife, Sorina, for their support and understanding, as they allowed us a lot of free time so we could volunteer for AREC.
- Our sponsors - you can find all their names on the Program on your table. Please give them your business so next year they will be even more generous - we need it ! As for the sponsors I want to especially thank:
- Cornelia Monaru of Monaco Flowers for the beautiful floral arrangements they created for this event, as always.
- Constantin Olos of Visualhawk Solutions for printing our Gala Programme
- Carto Wines Collection for partially sponsoring the supply of the wines on your tables.
- Narcis Blidaru of TeoEx Ltd for providing free of charge some of the items for our Tombola draw, here tonight.
- George KELK Corporation for its generous support in providing a modern facility where we hold all our meetings, for free.
- all the Romanian newspapers, which were always helpful in promoting and supporting AREC; and I would especially like to mention ACASA, Faptu' Divers, Observatorul, Agenda Romaneasca, Zig-zag, Actualitatea, and Jurnalul Romanesc.
- and not last, I want to thank the supporters that have donated money to help us with this Gala.
- We cannot forget to thank Marla and Norman, the owners of The Avenue Banquet Hall, and the restaurant's personnel for their support in organizing this great dinner.
- However, nothing could have happened here tonight without your participation, so most importantly, we thank you very much for being here with us.

As I do every year, I would like to end my speech by asking you to please keep AREC alive, by promoting our association to other Romanian Engineers, especially newcomers to Canada and, if you can, offer your support in our activities as well.

Thank you again, and please enjoy the rest of this evening.