Organization of American States

PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
March 2014 - February 2015

http://www.ipgh.org
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The Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) was founded on February 7, 1928 at the Sixth International Conference of the Americas held in Havana, Cuba. In 1930, the government of Mexico offered the use of the building located on Ex Arzobispado #29 in Mexico City, which is the permanent headquarters of the organization. In January 1949, the PAIGH became the first agency of the inter-American system when it signed the agreement between the Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Institute. Afterwards, in May 1974, within the framework of the Buenos Aires Protocol a new agreement was formalized, which currently guides the relationship between the OAS and the PAIGH.

PURPOSES

The purposes of the PAIGH, stipulated in article 1 of its Organic Statutes, are:

- To encourage, coordinate and publicize cartographic, geographic, historical and geophysical studies, as well as studies on related sciences, which are of interest to the Americas.
- To promote and coordinate scientific and technical development, research, relationships amongst institutions and specialists, work and training in the fields of cartography, geography, geophysics and history.
- To foster and further cooperation amongst the institutions specializing in the four fields in the Americas, as well as international organizations.

STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

The Institute’s organizational structure is as follows:

- The General Assembly
- The Directing Council
- The Meeting of Officers
- The General Secretariat
- The Commissions on Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics
- The National Sections

The General Assembly: This is the supreme organ of the PAIGH and its mission is to set the scientific, administrative and financial policies of the Institute. It meets every four years and elects the officers of the Institute. The General Assembly consists of the delegations from the Member States, the Officers of the PAIGH and invited Observers. Each delegation from the Member States has the right to a vote.
The Directing Council: This is the Pan American organ of the PAIGH, which is responsible for performing the duties of the General Assembly during the intervals between its meetings. It meets once a year and consists of representatives from all the Member States and the Officers of the PAIGH.

The Meeting of Officers: This is the governing organ and coordinates the activities of the Institute between the Meetings of the Directing Council. It meets twice a year and consists of the President, Vice President, Commission Chairs and the Secretary General.

The General Secretariat: This is the core and permanent organ of the PAIGH and is responsible for its management, coordination of activities, providing the necessary assistance so they can be carried out properly, implementation of tasks it is entrusted with and ensuring agreements reached for the adequate performance of the PAIGH are complied with. The Secretary General is the representative of the PAIGH and holds the post for four years.

The Commissions: These are the organs entrusted with promoting the scientific and technical development of their respective fields in the Member States, as well as coordinating, fostering and overseeing the projects and other research agreements approved by the General Assembly or Directing Council. There are four commissions: Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics, which are in turn subdivided into Committees and Work Groups. The Commissions meet every two years.

National Sections: These are the bodies established by each Member State to carry out the purposes of the PAIGH in their own countries and have the financial assistance of their governments. The National Sections consist of the people named by the governments of the Member States as representatives before PAIGH organs.

MEMBER STATES

Only the states of the American continent can be members of the PAIGH. Countries in other continents may be Permanent Observers. The 21 countries that are currently Member States of the PAIGH are:

Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, the United States of America, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela

The Permanent Observer countries are: Spain, France, Israel and Jamaica.
2013-2017 PAIGH Officers

From left to right: Rigoberto Magaña, President (El Salvador); Roberto Aguiar, Vice President (Ecuador); Rodrigo Barriga, Secretary General (Chile); Carlos López-Vázquez, Chairperson of the Commission on Cartography (Uruguay); Jean Parcher, Chairperson of the Commission on Geography (United States of America); Walter Fernández, Chairperson of the Commission on Geophysics (Costa Rica) and Patricia Galeana, Chairperson of the Commission on History (Mexico)

* The President was elected at the 81st Meeting of Officers (Mexico, 2014) and the Vice President at the 45th Meeting of the Directing Council (Chile, 2014).
1. Introduction

This document highlights the PAIGH’s most relevant activities, such as its financial and administrative facets and underlines the fact that the Institute effectively executes its resources to back the Technical Assistance and Publications Programs. It also reports on the progress achieved in implementing the Pan American Agenda and the activities of interest carried out during this period of time.

2. Financial Status

The Institute’s 2014 budget was executed within the constraints of the available resources and as planned. No issues came up that could have affected the Technical Assistance or Publications Programs or the operational or administrative tasks of the Institute.

In general, the payment of the quotas of the majority of the Member States is current up until December 31, 2014. As to the countries with the most quotas in arrears, letters and endeavors have been undertaken and the Institute is waiting for the earnest efforts of the corresponding authorities to resolve the issue this year.

As to the situation which was affecting Nicaragua and in accordance with said Member State’s official request, the 45th Meeting of the Directing Council (Chile, 2014) approved Resolution N° 15 “Proposal to pay the quotas of the Member State Nicaragua”. It authorizes said country’s PAIGH National Section to submit Technical Assistance Projects as long as it complies with the agreed upon payment plan.

The resources the PAIGH gets from the quotas have a multiplier effect as they are added to the contributions made by other institutions as evidenced in Table N° 1. Said table shows that over the past few years Technical Assistance Projects worth more than US$6,300,000 (Six million three hundred thousand US Dollars) have been executed. The Institute has contributed 30% and the remaining 70% have been provided by other organizations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>PAIGH Contribution</th>
<th>Other institutions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>162,613</td>
<td>211,710</td>
<td>374,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>170,745</td>
<td>516,323</td>
<td>687,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>163,580</td>
<td>444,853</td>
<td>608,433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>184,560</td>
<td>528,160</td>
<td>712,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>168,510</td>
<td>394,620</td>
<td>563,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>186,860</td>
<td>281,360</td>
<td>468,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>164,000</td>
<td>470,580</td>
<td>634,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>182,760</td>
<td>229,655</td>
<td>412,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>174,580</td>
<td>511,661</td>
<td>686,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>178,860</td>
<td>516,773</td>
<td>695,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>151,964</td>
<td>317,189</td>
<td>469,153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,889,032</td>
<td>4,422,884</td>
<td>6,311,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table N° 1. Multiplier effect of the resources contributed by the Institute (Source: PAIGH)

Since the current scale of quotas contributed by the Member States was set in 1996, and bearing in mind the variation in the cost of living over the past 18 years (refer to Graph No. 1 and Table No. 2), we must analyze the feasibility of reassessing them in order to improve the Technical Assistance and Publications Programs of the Institute. Graph No. 1 shows how, based on the total budget for the Institute, purchasing power decreased between 1996 and 2013.

Graph N° 1. Change in purchasing power (Source: PAIGH with data from the Central Bank of Mexico and the United States Dept. of Labor)
Table N° 2. Inflation in Mexico, the United States of America and foreign exchange rates
(Source: Central Bank of Mexico and the United States Dept. of Labor)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NCPI Mexico</th>
<th>Inflation USA</th>
<th>Foreign exchange rate (MX Pesos x US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>27.70</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>8.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>15.72</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>8.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>18.61</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>9.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>12.32</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td>9.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>8.96</td>
<td>3.40</td>
<td>9.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>4.40</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>9.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>5.70</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>10.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>3.98</td>
<td>1.90</td>
<td>12.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>5.19</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>11.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>3.40</td>
<td>10.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>4.05</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>10.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>3.76</td>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>10.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>6.53</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>13.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td>13.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>4.40</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>12.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>3.82</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>13.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>12.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>3.97</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>13.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In this regard, in Resolution N° 16 the 45th Directing Council (Chile, 2014) entrusted the PAIGH General Secretariat to conduct a financial study to have the basis to request possible additional resources to help with the work of the Institute.

3. 2014 Technical Assistance Program

As part of the 2014 budget of the Regular Fund, during the 20th General Assembly (Uruguay, 2013) a Technical Assistance Program was approved consisting of 19 projects in the four Commissions. Five 2013 projects must be added to these as, for duly justified reasons, they requested the corresponding funds be reserved for them this year for a final total of US$151,964. The program went ahead as scheduled and under conditions similar to those of the previous period. The total 2014 funds for Technical Assistance projects and Publications was US$529,593, including the contributions made by the PAIGH and other institutions. Details can be found in the corresponding chart. Below is a summary of the 2014 projects:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project number</th>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Submitting country</th>
<th>USD assigned amount</th>
<th>Contribution other institutions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SIRGAS 2014: Technical and scientific capacity-building to accelerate the development of the spatial data infrastructure of the Americas (All PAIGH member countries)</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>10,500</td>
<td>18,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Proposal to standardize tactile symbology for Latin America: Tourism cartography application (2014-2016) – (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru)</td>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>7,360</td>
<td>12,300</td>
<td>19,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Proposal to map the environmental fragility index for the hydrogeomorphological basins of Lake Peñuelas and Lake Amatitlán (Chile, Guatemala)</td>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The cartography of everyday mobility, subjective spaces and urban problems (Costa Rica, Chile) 2013</td>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>1,624</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Scenarios to analyze new SDI trends in Latin America: Challenges and opportunities (Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay)</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>14,300</td>
<td>22,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Integration of geospatial data for Central America (Panama, Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Belize, Honduras, USA)</td>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>10,480</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>20,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Training course on updating nautical charts using CARIS-GIS software (Guatemala, Uruguay)</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>3,700</td>
<td>11,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Cartography</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>51,464</strong></td>
<td><strong>60,800</strong></td>
<td><strong>112,264</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table No. 3. 2014 Technical Assistance Projects - Commission on Cartography*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project number</th>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Submitting country</th>
<th>USD assigned amount</th>
<th>Contribution other institutions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Course - Workshop: “Teaching geography through tactile maps and didactic materials”. For the professors of special needs students in Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru) 2013</td>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The impact of globalization on the rural landscape of Argentina, Chile and Uruguay: Incidence on rural tourism (2012-2013)</td>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>A comparative analysis of the FAO Land Cover Classification System (LCCS) and European Union CORINE methodologies to map land cover through geospatial technologies for Colombia and Argentina</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>41st International course on applied geography: Geomorphology and risk management of landslides in Latin America. Virtual on-line course (All PAIGH member countries)</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>19,000</td>
<td>27,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Integration of geospatial data for Central America (Panama, Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Belize, Honduras, USA)</td>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>5,360</td>
<td>Together with Cartography</td>
<td>5,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Workshop to integrate geospatial information on the Paz River Basin between Guatemala and El Salvador</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>8,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Geological study of deposits of pyroclastic, tephra and lahar flows and waves and debris flows in the western zone of the Santa Ana Volcano (Ilanmatepec) (United States of America, El Salvador) 2013</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Geography**       | 35,860 | 25,500 | 61,360

*Table No. 4. 2014 Technical Assistance Projects - Commission on Geography*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project number</th>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Submitting country</th>
<th>USD assigned amount</th>
<th>Contribution other institutions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Functional patterns of Inca ceremonial architecture. Second stage (Ecuador, Peru)</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>A comparative history of the Americas (Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru)</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Climate change and social reactions: Towards a comparative history of environmental risks as the basis for developing prevention policies in Peru and Chile (1879-2013)</td>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total History</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>18,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>31,500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table Nº 5. 2014 Technical Assistance Projects - Commission on History*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project number</th>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Submitting country</th>
<th>USD assigned amount</th>
<th>Contribution other institutions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tsunami risk on the coasts of Pedernales, Dominican Republic and the Southeast Department of Haiti</td>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Adapting Argentinean and Columbian experiences to find seismic spectra in central and southern Quito (Argentina, Ecuador)</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>7,940</td>
<td>13,300</td>
<td>21,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Monitoring the geoid for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean (Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, United States of America, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Dominican Republic, Venezuela)</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>6,300</td>
<td>14,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>A comparative study of recent bimodal volcanism in the eastern region of the Mexican Volcanic Belt and the Puna Austral, Argentina: Genesis and volcanic risk implications (Argentina, Mexico)</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>9,760</td>
<td>17,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Climate change and social reactions: Towards a comparative history of environmental risks as the basis for developing prevention policies in Peru and Chile (1879-2013)</td>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>Together with History</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>“Advanced Degrees in Geoscience” scholarship (to study at the National Autonomous University of Mexico; for all PAIGH member countries. The current beneficiary is a Columbian student)</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>8,200</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>11,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Geological study of deposits of pyroclastic, tephra and lahar flows and waves and debris flows in the western zone of the Santa Ana Volcano (Iłmamepec) (United States of America, El Salvador) 2013</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Geophysics</td>
<td></td>
<td>46,640</td>
<td>32,360</td>
<td>79,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table N° 6. 2014 Technical Assistance Projects - Commission on Geophysics
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>USD assigned amount</th>
<th>Contribution, other institutions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 Technical Assistance Projects</td>
<td>151,964</td>
<td>132,160</td>
<td>284,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodic Publications</td>
<td>60,440</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>60,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andean Development Bank</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>68,000</td>
<td>68,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Geographic Institute of Spain</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17,029</td>
<td>17,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
<td><strong>212,404</strong></td>
<td><strong>317,189</strong></td>
<td><strong>529,593</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table No. 7. Summary assigned amounts and contributions from other institutions, 2014*

4. **Periodic and Occasional Publications Program**

During this period of time efforts have continued to bring the publications of the Institute up to speed and to optimize their scientific quality. To that end, a special work group was set up consisting of the editors of the periodic journals of the PAIGH and guided by the General Secretariat so as to adapt them to international scientific journal standards and foster their inclusion in renowned international indexes.

*Figure No. 1. Periodic and Occasional Publications*

The Spanish and English versions of the 2013-2017 Organic Statutes, Rules of Procedure and Agreements were distributed at the 45th Meeting of the Directing Council (Chile, 2014).
Currently, the following titles are being distributed:

- “Revista Cartográfica” issue 89 (2013)
- “Revista Geográfica” issue 152 (July-December 2012)
- “Revista de Historia de América” issues 147 y 148 (July-December 2012 and January-June 2013, respectively)
- “Revista de Arqueología Americana” issue 31 (2013)
- “Migración latinoamericana: experiencias regionales (siglo XXI)” (Latin American Migration: Regional Experiences (Twenty - First Century)), coordinated by Adalberto Santana, Ricardo Domínguez and Teodoro Aguilar
- “América: La Consolidación de las Naciones” (The Americas: The Consolidation of Nations), edited by Maria Cristina Mineiro and Francisco Enríquez, printed with the backing of the National Geographic Institute of Spain
- “Retos y logros de una década. Memoria de una gestión panamericana” (Challenges and Accomplishments of a Decade: A Pan American Memoir), by Santiago Borrero Mutis
- “El patrimonio cultural en América, tomo II. Conservación y uso social” (Cultural Heritage in the Americas, Volume II: Preservation and Social Uses), coordinated by Arturo Soberón, Mario A. Rivera and Maria Cristina Mineiro
- The winner of the 2013 “Wallace W. Atwood” Award (granted by the Institute), entitled “Arte y Letras o la construcción del imaginario social de la élite porfiriana, 1904-1912” (Art and Literature: Creating the Social Imaginary of the Porfiriato Elite, 1904-1912) by Imelda Paola Ugalde

The following are in the process of being printed:

- “Revista Cartográfica” issue 90 (2014)

The following periodic publications are in the process of being edited:

- “Revista Geográfica” issues 153 and 154, corresponding to January-June and July-December 2013
- “Revista Geofísica” issue 64 (2012)
- “Boletín de Antropología Americana” issue 48 (2013)
- “Revista de Arqueología Americana” issue 32 (2014)

Below is the breakdown of the amounts allocated to the periodic publications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Periodic publication</th>
<th>USD Assigned amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revista Cartográfica issue 90 (January-December 2014)</td>
<td>3,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revista Geográfica issues 153, 154, 155 and 156 (January-June and July-December 2014)</td>
<td>15,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revista de Historia de América issues 148, 149 y 150 (January-June 2013 and January-June 2014)</td>
<td>7,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revista de Arqueología Americana issue 32 (January-December 2014)</td>
<td>3,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boletín de Antropología Americana issue 48 (January-December 2013)</td>
<td>2,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications Fund, Commission on History</td>
<td>21,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revista Geofísica issues 64 y 65 (January-December 2013)</td>
<td>6,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total assigned to periodic publications **60,440**

Table Nº 8. Summary of amounts assigned to periodic publications, 2014
Since the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI) suspended financing, in April 2014 the Institute published the last “Spatial Data Infrastructure - Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter (SDI-LAC)”. Between 2005 and April 2014, 106 newsletters in Spanish and English and 49 in Portuguese were published.

In light of the experience acquired with the aforementioned newsletter, from July through December, the PAIGH published the “PAIGH - GeoSUR” newsletter. It includes articles of interest for the community connected to the CAF-Development Bank of Latin America and the PAIGH, which together make up the GeoSUR Program. The newsletter is published in Spanish, English and Portuguese.

As to the exchange, the process continues to be carried out through the National School of Anthropology and History (ENAH, in Spanish). The General Secretariat’s facilities routinely get new titles in this regard. As of February 13, 2015 the PAIGH “José Toribio Medina” Bibliographic fund had 231,628 titles.

4.1 Pan American Network of Professionals

As to the Pan American Network of Professionals (RPP, in Spanish), which currently has 1,962 members, it has implemented a new means to report on events of interest by means of a bimonthly “NotiRPP” Newsletter. It is the result of a survey that was conducted in which a significant percentage (42%) of the respondents indicated they would prefer to access it through the PAIGH webpage so readers are sent the link in an email.
Graph N° 2. Members of the Pan American Network of Professionals, according to field of interest
February 16, 2015

Graph N° 3. Members of the Pan American Network of Professionals, according to Commission
February 16, 2015

Figure N° 3. NotiRPP Newsletter, second half January 2015
4.2  Digitization of the PAIGH Bibliographic Fund

In coordination with the Commission on History and through the National School of Anthropology and History – National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH, in Spanish) and the National Library of Chile an effort was made to request financing for a project to digitize the PAIGH “José Toribio Medina” (JTM) Reserved Fund, the general collection and the complete collections of the “Revista Cartográfica” and “Revista Geofísica”. Digitized material would be placed in the multimedia library of the National Library of Anthropology and History with free access and a joint PAIGH/INAH/National Library of Chile publication would be issued on the JTM Bibliographic Fund. In Mexico, the project would report on the experiences, good practices and features of the JTM American Library (Chile) and in Chile the same would be done on the JTM Bibliographic Fund (Mexico). An itinerant exhibition would be organized in Mexico and Chile with the most relevant material of the José Toribio Medina Fund. The PAIGH is currently waiting for the results of the assessment to get the corresponding funds.

5.  PAIGH Pan American Agenda

The PAIGH Pan American Agenda is an exercise for the future which prioritizes institutional actions on adapting to climate change, natural risks and spatial planning and guides the relationship the Institute has with the Inter-American system, coordinated by the OAS. At the same time, the execution of the Pan American Agenda is instrumental to the institutional development of the PAIGH because it fosters:

- The modernization of National Sections and creates a heightened sense of co-responsibility with the Institute
- Contributions to the institutional development of organizations connected to the production of continental geographic information
- The renewal and projection of a new form of regional leadership
- Increased regional participation from a multi-disciplinary perspective
- Expanded membership as well as active specialists
- More effective connections between the PAIGH and similar international organizations
- The consolidation of a network which will integrate the Pan American community in a streamlined manner, especially the younger generations of the Member States

The Agenda has progressed thanks to the 2014 projects but the Commissions on Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics must propose the changes they feel are appropriate so they can be analyzed at the Technical Meeting of the Commissions to be held in 2015 in Mexico City. This must be done in coordination with their respective work plans, in order to include new guidance for Technical Assistance Projects, training programs, periodic publications and specialized reference texts such as manuals and handbooks in the fields of expertise of the Institute. Based on these, the General Secretariat will propose the pertinent improvements be made to the Pan American Agenda during the 2015 46th Meeting of the Directing Council (Colombia).

To achieve these results, a sustained effort must be made to improve project quality. To that end, in 2015 the PAIGH now has a new, on-line proposal system which uses the latest IT.
It would be relevant to establish more networks of specialists to create authentically Pan American projects. This is the case of the implementation of the “2013-2015 PAIGH/SIRGAS/UN-GGIM:A/GeoSUR Joint Action Plan to Accelerate the Development of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas”, which will translate into a larger support network for the Commissions, and the preparation of projects more in keeping with the priorities of the PAIGH Pan American Agenda.

6. Joint Action Plan to Accelerate the Development of the SDI of the Americas

In the framework of the 44th Meeting of the Directing Council of the PAIGH held in Argentina (2012), the PAIGH, SIRGAS, CP-IDEA (now known as UN-GGIM:A) and GeoSUR signed a document which aims to strengthen, harmonize and accelerate the development of spatial data infrastructure of the Americas in a coordinated and effective manner.

At the 45th Meeting of the Directing Council (Chile, 2014) a meeting was held with the leaders of all said agencies to review the progress of the Joint Action Plan. There they signed a new document with an updated and integrated vision regarding the role of each entity thus confirming the goal of continuing to contribute to this objective. Thus the PAIGH will facilitate cooperation processes to improve coordination and collaboration in order to develop spatial information globally, especially in developing countries requiring technical assistance. The UN-GGIM: A (United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management Americas) and its Expert Group will contribute to propose policies for developing regional geospatial data infrastructure for the Americas, as well as to cooperate on linking information and alphanumeric data (censuses, statistics, etc.) with geospatial data so as to help with the creation of indicators and information that aids the sustainable development of the region. SIRGAS will cement its role as the sole Geospatial Reference System for the region and the CAF-PAIGH GeoSUR Program as the instrument to develop applications. In addition, it suggested the consolidation of the geospatial information network that encourages the integration of North, South and Central America and the Caribbean.

These objectives must be incorporated into the work plans of the PAIGH Commissions, as per the Pan American Agenda.

6.1 UN-GGIM: Americas

The Institute participated at the 4th Session of the UN Expert Group for Global Geospatial Information Management and the UN Global Forum on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information held in New York (USA) from August 4-8, 2014. Important agreements were reached, for example, to continue with the definition of a global geodetic reference framework, to find mechanisms to integrate statistical and geospatial information, as well as to create a global cartographic model to help with comprehensive sustainable development. A recommendation was also made to effectively share geospatial information, all of which is clearly aligned with the objectives of the PAIGH.

The PAIGH also participated at the United Nations Conference on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, organized by the Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI, in Spanish) held in Mexico City in September 2014.
On both occasions there was an exchange of opinions and mutual cooperation between the UN-GGIM: Americas and the PAIGH was encouraged.

6.2 Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS)

The PAIGH continues to back this project which is scheduled to hold its next meeting in November in La Paz (Bolivia). The necessary steps will be taken to consolidate a sole geodetic system for the entire continent.

As requested by the General Secretariat of the OAS, and in keeping with the permanent collaboration between SIRGAS and the PAIGH as regards border difference clarifications among Member States of the Inter-American System, the exact distance of four points with regard to the adjacency line in the Adjacency Zone between Belize-Guatemala was opportunely established, as required, in May 2014.

6.3 CAF-PAIGH GeoSUR Program

In 2014 we signed the fourth cooperation agreement with the CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, as well as a new contract. The latter regarding the initiative for an Integrated Map of the Northern Andes (MIAN, in Spanish). This once again highlights the importance the Bank places on the GeoSUR initiative that aims to continue to provide services to build capacity to develop geospatial data infrastructure in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Program set up a geoportal which provides free access to national maps published on the Internet by more than 110 institutions in the Americas and the Caribbean. They have all implemented an interactive map service, as well as a mechanism to access their maps and other geographic data.

The 7th Meeting of the GeoSUR Program was held during the 45th Meeting of the Directing Council (Chile, 2014). At the event the 2014 GeoSUR Award, granted by CAF and PAIGH, was handed to the initiative submitted by the National Institute for Space Research (INPE, in Portuguese) of Brazil entitled “Plataforma computacional para desenvolvimento de sistemas de monitoramento, análise e alerta a extremos ambientais” (Computer platform to develop monitoring, analysis and warning systems for environmental extremes). Honorary mention was given to the following projects: “Plataforma digital ciudadano emprendedor: herramientas de apoyo a la modernización y..."
optimización de la gestión pública” (Digital platform for entrepreneurial citizens: Tools to assist with the modernization and optimization of public management) from Chile and the “Inventario Nacional de Energías Renovables (INERE)” (National Inventory of Renewable Energy, INERE) from Mexico.

Award ceremony for the 2014 GeoSUR Award which was given to the INPE (Brazil).
Honorable mention went to the CEDIZ (Chile) and INERE (Mexico) initiatives
(Photographies by: IGM Chile and SENER-INERE)

7. Relevant Technical Assistance Activities

7.1 Integrated Map of America

The initiative to have an integrated continental map has begun with the development of specific subregional projects, such as the “Integrated Map of Mesoamerica” and the “Integrated Map of the Northern Andes”. Together, they will enable the cartographic harmonization and standardization of 12 countries in the medium-term. The PAIGH believes this will contribute to having territorial information to approach projects, studies and analyses of multinational interest from a regional perspective, this would include those related to sustainable development, adaptation to climate change and management of natural risks, for which geographic information is relevant. Said projects will complement other initiatives so as to ensure there is continental cartographic coverage in keeping with the efforts being made in this sense by regional and global organizations.

7.2 Integrated Map of Mesoamerica

Within the framework of the agreement signed by the PAIGH and CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, the geographic institutes of the member countries of the PAIGH in the Mesoamerican region decided to adopt practical work plans to harmonize national information at the regional level. They organized a series of regional workshops which have been held in Costa Rica and El Salvador between 2011-2014. The purpose was to enable each country’s experts to harmonize information connected to their respective maps. The result was the first Integrated Map of Mesoamerica. The Project has had the support and financial backing of three institutions: The CAF-Development Bank of Latin America’s GeoSUR Program, the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS).
From left to right, members of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of El Salvador, the Assistant Director of the NGI of El Salvador the President and Secretary General of the PAIGH and the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador (Photograph by: PAIGH)

The President and Secretary General of the PAIGH at the “4th Central American Workshop on Data Integration and Technical Capacity - Building”. Right: Attendees of the workshop which was held in Sonsonate, El Salvador between September 29-October 3 (Photographies by: PAIGH)

7.3 Integrated Map of the Northern Andes (MIAN, in Spanish)

The GeoSUR Program and the PAIGH will be allocating the corresponding funds of the CAF-Development Bank of Latin America to this project, which aims to integrate the 1:250,000 digital cartography of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru. The National Center for Geographic Information-National Geographic Institute (CNIG-IGN, in Spanish) of Spain and the Department of the Interior of the USA (U.S. DOI) will be cooperating with the project. The first workshop was held in February 2015 at the Agustín Codazzi Geographic Institute in Bogota, Colombia’s facilities. During the event, important technical agreements were reached on the subject. The next workshops will be held in Ecuador (July 2015) and Panama (November 2015).
7.4  Assistance with Cloud Map Services

The PAIGH has continued to back the National Geographic Institute (NGI) of El Salvador which in 2013 became the first geographic institute in the region to develop a cloud map service. The service was developed with the assistance of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the GeoSUR Program and the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) in a cooperation effort in which the NGI was the first beneficiary. The GeoSUR Program and PAIGH will cover the expenses of the second year and the NGI will cover expenses as of the third year. This cooperation process will be expanded to other countries.

7.5  24th Edition of the “José Joaquín Hungría Morell” Course on Geographic Names

The 24th course on “Geographic Names” was held in the city of Aguascalientes, Mexico on August 18-22 at the INEGI’s facilities. Twenty-seven regional professionals in this field attended. The instructors were: Roger Payne, George Troop (both from the United States of America) and Ramón Rivera (from Honduras). The Secretary General attended the course graduation ceremony.

7.6  Monitoring the Geoid for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean

A work meeting was held at the INEGI facilities in Aguascalientes from August 18-26 for the approved Commission on Geophysics Project entitled “Monitoring the Geoid for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean”. The person responsible for the project, who also presided the meeting, was David Ávalos Naranjo. The Secretary General also participated at this event for one day.

7.7  Cooperation with the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi

A virtual training workshop on the technological and methodological facets of environmental indicators and development of web map services was held. The workshop was backed by the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI), the CAF-Development Bank of Latin America and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) in the framework of the implementation of the GeoSUR Program and as a result of the association with the National
Geographic Institute (NGI) and National Center for Geographic Information (CNIG, in Spanish), both from Spain, and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The 40-hour online course, was given by the CNIG from May 5-June 20, 2014. Some of the subjects covered were: introduction to creating environmental information indicators with geographic reference information, spatial data infrastructure, publishing cloud web map services (WMS), visualization and metadata clients, among others. After the call was made to all the PAIGH National Sections, 74 students from specialized organizations from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela enrolled.

Graphs 4 and 5 list the applicants who were accepted, as well as the nominating countries. At the conclusion of the virtual workshop, the students took a survey. As an example, Graph No. 5 indicates the high rating given to expectations met.

Follow up visits were conducted to the following:

- Department of Statistics and Census for the province of Córdoba, Argentina
- SNIT (Executive Secretary for SDI) - Chile
- IGN (National Geographic Institute) - Guatemala
- CNIGS (National Center for Geospatial Information) - Haiti
- MINAM (Ministry of the Environment) - Peru
- DINAMA (National Environment Department) - Uruguay


The second edition of the “ISO/TC 211 Standards Guide” was presented at the 22nd Meeting of Consultation of the Commission on Cartography in Montevideo, Uruguay. The publication was made in collaboration and with the invaluable backing of the Spanish NGI. The online version is available on the Institute’s webpage and will also soon be available on that of the NGI-CNIG of Spain.
7.9 Technical Cooperation with the CNIG - NGI, Spain

We have continued with the technical cooperation process between the National Center for Geographic Information (CNIG, in Spanish) - National Geographic Institute (NGI) of Spain and the PAIGH. In the context of the agreement with the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi the CNIG held a virtual workshop on environmental indicators between May 5 and June 20, 2014.

In 2014, a specific, noteworthy document was signed between the PAIGH and the NGI - CNIG in order to carry out a series of institution-building activities between 2014 and 2015. As part of the aforementioned document, the following virtual courses were organized:

- Remote sensing, photogrammetry, LIDAR and soil occupation
- Geographic information systems
- Spatial data infrastructure

The main purpose of these six-week, Spanish-language courses given between October and November 2014 was to train specialists from those Latin American and Caribbean institutions which create geospatial information. Spain’s CNIG is in charge of operating the courses, providing the online training platform, organizing the theoretical-practical content and supplying the coordinators and tutors required to be successful. Applicants were selected jointly by the CNIG and PAIGH (Refer to Graphs 6 and 7).

A classroom-setting workshop is being scheduled for 2015 to build organizational leadership skills and teach management of national institutions responsible for geographic information data and services and spatial data infrastructures.
Graph No. 4. Workshop results, in graphs
Graph N° 5. Results of satisfaction survey given to participants

Graph N° 6. Countries that proposed applicants to the “Remote sensing, photogrammetry, LIDAR and soil occupation”, “GIS” and “SDI” virtual courses

Graph N° 7. Number of applicants per course given
7.10 A Comparative History of the Americas

This project was coordinated by the now chairperson of the Commission on History, Patricia Galeana, PhD, who has also organized several events and published books on the subject.

The fourth volume of the series entitled “Historia Comparada de las Migraciones en las Américas” (A Comparative History of Migration in the Americas) was launched in October in the “William Bowie” meeting hall of the General Secretariat. Its 27 articles, written by 30 authors from the Member States of the Institute, analyze population movements of the past 5,000 years, migration from other continents to the Americas and their effect on every facet of the life of humans.

During the first week of December, the PAIGH held an international seminar entitled “Historia Comparada de las Migraciones en las Américas” (A Comparative History of Migration in the Americas) at the Research Center for Latin America and the Caribbean of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. The event was coordinated by the PAIGH Cultural History Committee. The topics covered were: analyzing integration, universities as a meeting space; science, technology and production of knowledge; education, culture and integration processes in North America; cultural industries: film, cultural spaces and integration projects, and journals, publishing houses and intellectual networks.

7.11 The Way of the Inca

The idea for the project entitled “The Way of the Inca” was launched during the first week of February 2015 by Patricia Castillo Peña, PhD, from the National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico. The project would make one of the most important works of engineering of Latin America a reality, highlighting the need to preserve the heritage of humanity and ensuring the sustainability of the communities that inhabit it. Georeferenced information would be used to study the way of the Inca and specialists from the member countries that make it up would be invited to participate: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

The work meeting coordinated by the General Secretariat was also attended by staff from the Embassy of Chile in Mexico, a specialist from Chile and representatives from the Commission on History. The idea is to prepare a draft project in order to obtain the corresponding resources.
8. Inter-Institutional Relationships

8.1 Relationship with the OAS

As to our relationship with the OAS, in March 2014 the Institute had a work meeting with the Secretary General of the OAS and they analyzed the inter-American agenda both agencies share, especially as regards climate change, spatial planning and management of natural risks.

The PAIGH has held conversations to buttress links with the organization’s Executive Secretariat for Integral Development on the issues of climate change, spatial planning and management of natural risks, specifically with the Integrated Water Resources Management and Management of Natural Disasters departments. They analyzed matters pertaining to the implementation of protocols to exchange geographic information.

The PAIGH coordinated efforts with the General Secretariat of the OAS in the border adjacency zone between Belize and Guatemala, in which SIRGAS adequately resolved the technical requirements set by said General Secretariat.

The Institute has been in contact with agencies directly connected to the OAS, such as the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), to analyze separate cooperation opportunities between these and the PAIGH.
The PAIGH participated at the 44th General Assembly of the OAS held in June 2014 in Asunción (Paraguay) where the importance the Member States place on continuing to implement the commitments made on sustainable development, climate change and integrated management of disaster risks in order to improve standards of living was made evident. This was affirmed in the “Declaration of Asunción” which was signed as a result of said General Assembly’s deliberations. It is worth noting that these topics coincide with the objectives and proposals of the PAIGH Pan American Agenda.

The Chairperson of the National Section of Guatemala and General Director of the National Geographic Institute, Edwin Guillermo Santos Mansilla, represented the PAIGH at the Special General Assembly on the World Drug Problem in the Americas held on September 19 in said country.

The Secretary General attended the keynote conference “Challenges to Democracy in Latin America” given by the Secretary General of the OAS, José Miguel Insulza, which was made within the framework of the Latin American Democracy Forum “Governability of Democracy: Civic Responsibility, Economy and Politics” held on October 9 in the Colegio de Mexico. In January 2015 the PAIGH also participated at the book launching of “Estrategias y procesos de política exterior de Estados Unidos 1981-1991” (*U.S. Foreign Policy Strategies and Policies, 1981-1991*).

The PAIGH also participated at the work sessions called by the OAS during the Third Hemispheric Encounter of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation in November 2014.

A relationship was struck with the OAS Inter-American Cadastre Initiative, in order to establish mutual cooperation mechanisms for these matters.

### 8.2 Relationship with the Embassies of the Member States of the PAIGH Accredited in Mexico

Once the Secretary General officially took office, the required dignitary greetings took place and the Secretary later paid a visit to each of the ambassadors of the Member States of the Institute accredited in Mexico during which he discussed matters of mutual cooperation.
8.3 National Sections of the PAIGH

Changes have taken place in the following National Sections: Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Paraguay and Peru.

The PAIGH has had the opportunity of participating in some National Section meetings, such as those of Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, El Salvador, United States of America, Uruguay and the Ministry of the Interior of Brazil. In all, the PAIGH was able to report on the main activities underway at the Institute, with special emphasis on the Pan American Agenda and the Joint PAIGH/SIRGAS/UN-GGIM:A/GeoSUR Action Plan to develop SDI in the Americas.
In the specific case of Paraguay, in addition to the meeting with the Chairperson and main members of the National Section, the PAIGH toured the digital cartography department of said country’s Military Geographic Service and the Seismology Laboratory at the National University of Asuncion (UNA, in Spanish), and participated in an academic event at said University’s School of Geographic Engineering. The event concluded with the inauguration of the geomatics hall at the university, revealing the extraordinary interest in encouraging all the fields of specialization of the PAIGH.

While attending the “4th Central American Workshop on Data Integration and Technical Capacity - Building” (Sonsonate, El Salvador, September 29-October 3), the PAIGH had the opportunity of meeting with the members of the Geographic Association of El Salvador where they analyzed matters of mutual cooperation. They especially spoke about formally accrediting, via university validation, the acquired knowledge and experience of the specialists who work at said country’s National Geographic Institute.

8.4 Status of Cooperation with Haiti

Within the framework of Resolution 4 “Cooperation of the PAIGH with Haiti” (Peru, 2010) the Institute continued assisting with the recovery of the National Section of the PAIGH in Haiti. Specifically, in May 2014 the PAIGH sent bibliographic material to aid in a meeting at said National Section and to advance the activities of the PAIGH.

The PAIGH participated in the keynote class given by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Haiti, H.E. Duly Brutus, entitled “85 years of Friendship between Haiti and Mexico: Challenges and Outlook” in October 2014 in Mexico City.

8.5 Meeting of Officers

The new 2013-2017 PAIGH Officers attended their first statutory meeting, the 81st Meeting of Officers, which was held at the facilities of the General Secretariat in Mexico City from July 9-11, 2014. The General Secretariat also invited the ambassadors and diplomatic representatives in Mexico of the Member States of the Institute to a presentation on the PAIGH’s achievements and outlook.

81st Meeting of Officers and presentation of the Pan American Agenda to the diplomatic corps accredited in Mexico
(Photographies by: PAIGH)
8.6 Offices of the Commission on History

Since the Commission on History is located in Mexico City, the PAIGH visited the recently inaugurated facilities and loaned them a painting of Lucas Alamán by José Clemente Orozco (renowned Mexican muralist and lithograph artist) which is part of the Institute’s “Art Gallery of Historians” collection.

8.7 Maintenance of the PAIGH building

The first phase of major preservation work to the building that houses the offices of the General Secretariat of the PAIGH was the result of a coordinated effort with the National Meteorological Service of Mexico, charged to the Service’s budget. All the restoration work has been supervised by the National Institute of Anthropology and History. In the second phase, said Institute issued a technical report on the current status of the area occupied by the General Secretariat as a result of which, and in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the feasibility of a major overhaul to the PAIGH offices is being explored.
8.8 Manual for Cost-Benefit Studies

As requested by the Commission on Cartography, efforts are underway to finance a manual to conduct cost-benefit studies (CBS) to assess the benefits and drawbacks occasioned by the implementation of spatial data infrastructure (SDI) as there is considerable interest in the region in the matter and several agencies have actively participated on this subject (PAIGH, UN-GGIM:A, SIRGAS, GeoSUR, among others). The fact it is intangible infrastructure does not mean its implementation does not entail significant costs and its mere existence, or even certain technical-political decisions regarding its operation (free/expensive data, free/limited access, closed/open formats, etc.) may have an appreciable economic impact.
8.9  Participation at the Sixth Summit of the Association of Caribbean States

The PAIGH participated at the 6th Summit of the Association of Caribbean States held in Merida (Mexico) between April 28-30, 2014. The respective heads of state placed significant weight on sharing experiences to integrate systems that will enable them to progress towards the implementation of a Territorial Information Platform for the Greater Caribbean to prevent disasters and contribute to efforts for integrated risk management. They also stressed the importance of implementing a geospatial information and infrastructure system that responds to regional needs and permits the region’s peoples to benefit from the use of geospatial information. The Greater Caribbean region would thus join the endeavors of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management Initiative.

8.10  24th Ibero - American Conference of Ministers of Education

On August 28, the Secretary General participated at the conference as an observer. The main goal of said event was to develop plans in the Ibero - American countries to implement the academic mobility project for students of university programs for professor training. This could serve as the basis to implement something similar in the areas of interest of the Commissions of the Institute.

8.11  Draft Agreement with the Regional Cooperation Center for Adult Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (CREFAL)

The Institute has initiated talks to set the bases and joint lines of work for CREFAL, OAS and PAIGH. As a result of the negotiations, a “letter of intent” is scheduled to be signed to undertake actions or activities of exchange and cooperation of common interest in the fields of community and territorial development, as well as to encourage measures aimed at fostering the development and use of ICT in Latin America and the Caribbean. Special emphasis was given to institution capacity - building, publications and training in subjects such as spatial planning, adaptation to climate change and management of natural risks, aimed mostly at local governments (municipalities or towns).
8.12 Meteorology, Climatology and Natural Risks Training Center

Preparations continue underway at the PAIGH and the National Meteorological Service of Mexico (SMN, in Spanish) to implement a “Pan American Training Center on Meteorology, Climatology and Natural Risk Matters”, as well as the National Hurricane and Severe Storm Agency. The PAIGH drew up a draft agreement to implement said Center which would be located in the Institute’s facilities.

Visit paid by the PAIGH Officers and Ambassadors of the Member States to the facilities of the National Meteorological Service of Mexico
(Photographies by: SMN)

8.13 Annex to the “Manuel Orozco y Berra” Map Library

The “Manuel Orozco y Berra” Map Library, part of the Agrifood and Fisheries Information Service of Mexico (SIAP, in Spanish) located near the PAIGH houses, as per agreement signed in 1977, the cartographic collection of the Institute. A proposal has been made to sign a letter of understanding for the SIAP to use an area of the PAIGH facilities which would accommodate an annex to the map library so as to promote the collections of both agencies. The two organizations have met on several occasions to get to know each other and explore other opportunities of mutual cooperation.

Visit by the Head Director of the SIAP, Patricia Ornelas Ruiz (middle) and a delegation from said agency to the PAIGH
(Photograph by: PAIGH)

Visit by the Secretary General of the PAIGH to the Satellite Receiving Station, Mexico (ERMEX) part of the SIAP
(Photograph by: PAIGH)
8.14 Geomatics Seminar

The Secretary participated at the Geomatics Seminar organized by the SIAP which was held at the facilities of the “Vidal Castañeda y Nájera” High School #4 of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, which is next door to the General Secretariat of the PAIGH. The seminar’s main objective was to train SIAP professionals and establish common criteria to enhance their activities.

![Geomatics Seminar organized by the SIAP, Mexico City](Photograph by: PAIGH)


On February 25, a posthumous ceremony was held at the facilities of the PAIGH General Secretariat in honor of Doctor Silvio Zavala. The Secretary General, Rodrigo Barriga, and the Chair of the Commission on History, Patricia Galeana, said some moving words when recalling the notable Mexican historian and his career at the Institute. Doctor Zavala was the editor of the “Revista de Historia de América” from 1938 (the year in which the first issue was published) to 1965. In 1946 he was named Chair of the Commission on History, which was created that year at the Fourth General Assembly, and held that position until 1963.

As a token of the gratitude of the Pan American community, the PAIGH officers gave a commemorative plaque to María Eugenia Zavala y Castelo, Doctor Zavala’s daughter. The Colegio de México presented a copy of the book entitled “Conversaciones sobre historia: Silvio Zavala” (Conversations on History: Silvio Zavala) which was published to commemorate 106 years since the birth of the famous historian.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, María Eugenia Zavala PhD, thanked those present and reminisced about relevant facets of the invaluable bibliographic wealth of Doctor Silvia Zavala, saying it continues to be an important source of research. Efforts are underway for the books to be given to the Library of the Institute for Juridical Research of the National Autonomous University of Mexico and for his personal files to be added to the material in the National Library of Anthropology and History of the Mexican National Institute of Anthropology and History.
10. Implementation of the resolutions of the 45th Meeting of the Directing Council (Chile, 2014)

The 45th Meeting of the Directing Council (Chile, 2014) approved 28 resolutions. The General Secretariat has ensured strict compliance with all of them and they have been executed or are in the process of being executed.

- **Resolution No. 1** “Pan American Institute of Geography and History”. A letter has been sent to all the Member States requesting their backing so this Resolution may be ratified by the 45th General Assembly of the OAS (Haiti, 2015). Institutional backing is essential in order to continue conducting studies on the history of the American continent so as to contribute to the knowledge and preservation of the heritage of the peoples of the continent and encourage continental integration. It is also required to facilitate the creation of an integrated, continental digital map to advance sustainable development, the prevention and comprehensive management of natural threats, climate change and climate change adaptation studies, among others.

- **Resolution No. 2** “Rules for the Award for the Master’s or Doctoral Thesis on Cartography, Geodesy or Geographical Information”. The call is in the process of being drafted and the award is expected to be handed out at the next Meeting of the Directing Council.

- **Resolution No. 4** “Minimum Requirements for National Section Annual Reports”. A template is being drafted to be sent to all the National Sections indicating all the information they must include.
• **Resolution No. 5** “Invitation to Member States of the OAS that are not Currently Members of the Institute to Become Observers or Full Members of the PAIGH”. The necessary arrangements are underway to invite non-member states to join the Institute.

• **Resolution No. 6** “Environmentally - Friendly Meetings”. The 45th Meeting of the Directing Council held in Santiago de Chile in November 2014 was the first meeting that was held following the recommendations of the Eco-Guide: Guide to Holding Eco-Friendly Conferences and Meetings” published in 2011 by the Department of Conferences and Meetings Management (DCMM) of the OAS.

• **Resolution No. 7** “Strengthening of Institutions in the Americas in the Specialty Fields of the PAIGH”. At the conclusion of the Third Joint Technical Meeting of the Commissions to be held in Mexico in June, the Officers will be instructed to, based on the proposals made, submit to the 46th Meeting of the Directing Council (Colombia, 2015) the corresponding improvements to the Pan American Agenda and the 2013-2015 Joint Action Plan.

• **Resolution No. 8** “System to Request Technical Assistance Projects”. As of 2015, the PAIGH will implement a new system to submit and evaluate requests for PAIGH Technical Assistance Projects. Adjustments are currently being made.

• **Resolution No. 9** “PAIGH Pan American Network of Professionals”. A letter is being drafted to encourage the members of the National Sections of the Member States to become members of the Pan American Network of Professionals, as well as academicians, researchers and professionals connected to National Sections. Now, one of the requirements to submit Technical Assistance Projects is that the National Sections be members of the Pan American Network of Professionals.

• **Resolution No. 10** “Representation of the PAIGH”. The Commissions of the Institute have been asked to designate technical delegates before specialized organizations so they can directly advise the Secretary General on pertinent technical matters to aid with reaching institutional goals.

• **Resolution No. 11** “Creation of the PAIGH Editors Work Group”. The group is comprised of the periodic publications editors and coordinated by the Publications Department of the General Secretariat. A letter will soon be sent to its members to submit a work plan, in coordination with the Chairpersons of the Commissions, to the 83rd Meeting of Officers (2015). The idea behind the work plan is to be included in the “Latindex” ideally by December 2015 and subsequently in other higher-level indexes within a timeline to be determined.

• **Resolution No. 12** “Updation of the National Maps of Member States”. The Commission on Cartography has been asked, in coordination with the Commission on Geography, to conduct a workshop on technical updating procedures to optimize cartographic processes using the latest geoinformation technologies, within the context of the Joint Meetings of Consultation to be held in 2015.

• **Resolution No. 13** “Memorandum of Understanding between the PAIGH and the Uruguayan International Cooperation Agency”. The signing of the Memorandum was ratified at this past Meeting of the Directing Council.

• **Resolution No. 14** “Ratification of the Letter of Intent Signed by EuroGeographics, CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, PSMA Australia and the PAIGH”.

• **Resolution No. 15** “Proposed Payment of Quotas by the Member State Nicaragua”. A letter was sent to the government of Nicaragua accepting the payment proposal officially submitted to the General Secretariat of the PAIGH and ratifying the negotiations conducted for such purpose. The National Section of the PAIGH of said country has been informed that it may submit Technical Assistance Projects as long as it complies with the recently stipulated proposed payment of quotas.
Resolution No. 16 “2015 Scale of Quotas”. The General Secretariat is taking steps to conduct a financial study so as to back its request for resources before the pertinent authorities. The results will be submitted to the 83rd Meeting of Officers (2015) and later at the 46th Meeting of the Directing Council.

Resolution No. 17 “Modification to Article 28 of the Financial Rules of Procedure Regarding the Submission of Nominations”. The latest version of the Organic Statutes includes the referred to modification so that when Member States submit nominations they be current or be pending payment of just one quota to have the right for their countrymen/women to be elected to positions of authority.

Resolution No. 18 “Honorary Associates”. The corresponding National Sections of the PAIGH have been informed that María Elena Rodríguez Ozán (Mexico) and Óscar Aguilar Bulgarelli, Ph. D. (Costa Rica), have been designated Honorary Associates.

Resolution No. 19 “Venue for the 47th Meeting of the Directing Council”. A letter has been sent to Paraguay thanking the government for its offering and interest in backing the activities of the PAIGH.

Resolution No. 20 “Back ing for the Caribbean Project Submitted by the Member State Mexico”. A letter is being drafted to express backing for the project.

Resolution No. 21 “2015 International Cartographic Conference”. The Institute is using all the means available to it to publicize the event.

Resolution No. 23 “2013 Audit Report”. The General Secretariat of the PAIGH is considering several proposals to hire audit services for 2014.

Resolution No. 24 “Presentation of the Reports of the National Sections”. A letter has been sent to those National Sections that have not submitted their reports to remind them that the deadline to do so is April 15.

Resolution No. 27 “Expressions of Gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Chile”. A letter was sent, attaching a copy of the Resolution.

Resolution No. 28 “Recognition to the Military Geographic Institute of Chile, the National Section of the PAIGH in Chile and the organizing committee”. The corresponding letters were sent to the parties, attaching a copy of the Resolution.

11. 2015 Outlook

For 2015 the PAIGH intends to continue to advance the “Pan American Agenda” and the “Joint Action Plan to Accelerate the Development of the SDI of the Americas”. In 2015 the PAIGH will encourage research connected to its Pan American Agenda, especially as pertains to studies and the edition of publications on the history of the Americas so as to contribute to the knowledge and preservation of the heritage of the peoples of the Americas and encourage integration and Pan Americanism. It will also focus on those studies related to the development of the spatial data infrastructure of the Americas. The Institute will facilitate the creation of an integrated, continental digital map to advance sustainable development, the prevention and comprehensive management of natural threats, climate change and climate change adaptation studies, among others.

The PAIGH will organize the following Statutory Meetings scheduled for 2015:

- 83rd Meeting of Officers, June 14-15 (Mexico City)
- Third Joint Technical Meeting of the Commissions, June 16-19 (Mexico City)
- 84rd Meeting of Officers, October 26 (Cartagena, Colombia)
- 46rd Meeting of the Directing Council, October 27-30 (Cartagena, Colombia)
The Institute will keep encouraging the optimization of the scientific quality of its periodic publications, backing the work of the Editors Work Group.

The PAIGH will continue to strengthen ties with international agencies specializing in the fields of action of the PAIGH.

The Institute will carry on with efforts to find additional administrative resources.

The PAIGH will continue to improve the physical infrastructure of the offices of the General Secretariat, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico.