In 2007, the Pan America Institute of Geography and History established a new model in which technical meetings were held jointly, essentially, to promote interdisciplinary projects within the Institute. The first Joint Technical Meeting was held in Itú, Sao Paulo, Brazil. This year, the Second Joint Technical Meeting was held in Panama City, Panama, jointly hosted by Panama and the United States. With more than 120 delegates, 70 scientific and technical presentations, three parallel scientific events and superb hospitality, the event was a success and consolidated the joint technical meeting model.

For further details on the meeting, please visit our website: http://www.ipgh.org.

United States National Section Participants Included:

Mark DeMulder, President, USNS of PAIGH
Maria O’Brien, Executive Secretary, USNS of PAIGH
Patricia Solis, USNS Geography Commission Chair
Erick Langer, USNS History Commission Chair
Leslie Armstrong, USNS Cartography Commission Chair
Christopher Castro, USNS Geophysics Commission Chair
Bradley Coleman, USNS History Commission Alternate
John Gates, USNS Cartography Commission Alternate
Gilberto Concepcion, USNS Cartography Commission
Timothy Tranior, USNS Geography Commission
History Commission Summary

The Panamerican History Commission, which was attended by U.S. delegates Erick D. Langer and Bradley Coleman, had a long and fruitful meeting. The Commission President, Cristina Mineiro, provided a summary of activities by the Commission. Jen-Luc Pilon (Canada) and Francisco Enriquez (Costa Rica), the editors of the journals Arqueología Americana and Revista de Historia respectively, provided a short overview of activities. Both journals are close to being up to date.

The following portion of the meeting was dedicated to the cultural patrimony of the Americas, in which members of the History Commission, including the President, argued forcefully that this was an aspect that PAIGH did not pay enough attention to. Delegates from Ecuador, Brazil and Chile reported on various projects regarding the preservation of cultural patrimony.

Francisco Enriquez provided information on a new book, to be sponsored by the History Commission, *Después de la independencia: la consolidación de las naciones*, as a follow-up to the *América: contacto e independencia*. He solicited chapters from Commission members and, among others, U.S. delegate Erick D. Langer promised to contribute an essay. After that, delegates from Mexico, Haiti, Peru, Venezuela, Chile, and Brazil provided updates on their projects. U.S. Delegate Langer provided a brief overview of the new project; a one-volume book titled *Historia de las Americas*, and solicited comments and called for authors. A discussion ensued on the organization and scope of the project. Mario Rivera (Chile) provided a summary of his project on the role of civil society in the preservation of archaeological patrimony.

The History Commission called for two resolutions. One was to assert that the emphasis on climate change and disasters could not go forward without a consideration on the impact on the historical and archaeological patrimony of the region. Secondly, the Commission passed a resolution with a unanimous vote that asked the Secretary General to request that the Organization of American States call a summit to discuss and regulate the illegal traffic of cultural artifacts.

The Cartographic Commission was attended by U.S. delegates Leslie Armstrong, John Gates and Gilberto Concepcion. Alejandra Coll, President of the subject commission conducted the Technical Reunion of the Cartographic Commission with a variety of presentations related to the Pan American Agenda 2010-2020, in addition to the regular overview of current working group and committee activities and projects. Academic principal investigators provided results from studies on seismic warning applications, urban geography, environmental risk, and geospatial infrastructure and data co-production models. President Coll encouraged members to integrate future activities with other commissions in order to achieve success and more complete collaboration in achieving the goal of the Pan American Agenda.

The following are highlights of the committee and work group updates:

Ingeniera Geógrafa, Susana Arciniegas, Ecuador gave an update on Global Map of the Americas. She is the new contact for this effort.

The National Center of Geographic Information, Madrid, Spain has provided many capacity building classes for PAIGH members in Spain this past year and will continue this coming year as well as part of the R31GEO collaboration with PAIGH.

Gustavo Saavedra, Chile briefed on the reactivation and possible priorities for the Hydrographic Committee which will go forward at the Directing Council meetings in November 2011.

Cartographic Analyst, Gilberto Concepcion, provided an overview of the Geospatial Workshop to support Humanitarian and Disaster Relief. This briefing opened the door for more collaboration in Latin America as well as to foster common business processes. Also, it included some information on NGA products such as the Haiti Multi-Purpose Atlas used for the Operation Unified Response. He’s also the NGA point of contact for High Resolution Vector Data training courses in the region.

**Geography Commission Summary**

The Panamerican Geography Commission convened and heard reports presented from numerous projects from across the region that had been or are being supported by PAIGH, considering both the merits and the interdisciplinary nature of each. The new editor of the *Revista Geografica*, Dr. Nicole Bernex (Peru) presented an overview of the status and trajectory of the journal and shared current and ongoing plans for improving number and quality of submissions. The technical meetings also marked the installation of a new committee structure, and chairs presented their visions for the respective and collective activity of the commission committees: Committee on Geographic Research, Dr. Patricia Solis (USA); Committee on Geographic Education, Dr. Irasema Alcantara (Mexico); Committee on Institutional Strengthening, Isis Tejada (Panama). From the various discussions emerged plans to develop and contribute to the production of a comprehensive directory of Geography for the Americas, building upon and expanding existing resources and sources of information, in order to serve as the basis for collaborative research, educational activities, institutional networking, and authors / reviewers for publications.


Isis Tejada, Dr. Nicole Bernex, Hector Pena, Dr. Patricia Solis, Dr. Irasema Alcantara
The Pan American Institute for Geography and History Geophysics commission convened and heard presentations regarding ongoing and proposed projects. These presentations generally reported on: seismic and volcanic hazard risks in Latin America, with particular focus to Central America and northern South America, gravimetric measurements in South America, climate and climate change in Central America and the Caribbean, applied geophysics, and atmospheric and water pollution, and physical oceanography. Following the presentations, a revised committee structure was proposed with member contacts: 1) Natural Disasters (Jose Luis Macias, Mexico), 2) Climate Change (Christopher L. Castro, USA), 3) Applied Geophysics (Maria Ines Pastorino, Argentina), and 4) Special studies (Manuel Araneda, Chile). The Geophysics commission also discussed ways to increase multidisciplinary cooperation, facilitate scientific exchange (in the form of scholarly visits), how to increase the visibility of Revista Geofisca, and creation of a Pan American Center for Observation of Natural Disasters. A complete summary in Spanish is available at www.ipgh.org/Reuniones-Tecnicas-Conjuntas/Seguda-Reunion/Files/GEOF-Informe.pdf
Dr. Irasema Alcantara, Participant, Mark DeMulder, Participant, Dr. Patricia Solis, Santiago Borrero, Dr. Bradley Coleman, Participant

Gilberto Concepcion, John Gates, Timothy Trainor, Leslie Armstrong, Chris Castro, Erick Langer, Patricia Solis, Brad Coleman, Maria O'Brien