

**AAG Newsletter
of the
Association of American
Geographers**

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PAIGH and AAG Cooperation

As part of the AAG's continuing international outreach focused on Latin America as well as other regions (see Richardson, "Reaching out to Latin American Geographers," July/August 2005, *AAG Newsletter*), the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and the Association of American Geographers signed a Memorandum of Understanding at a special signing ceremony during the March 2006 Annual Meeting of the AAG in Chicago.

In the memorandum, both organizations agreed to increase cooperation in numerous ways, including: establishing regular contact on topics of common interest; referring each other to commissions, committees, or working groups where appropriate; informing each other of programs of conferences, seminars, and workshops to enable participation; identifying opportunities to jointly organize seminars, workshops, or conferences; working together to advance international projects of mutual interest such as initiatives for joint research, educational exchanges, adoption and creation of national mapping programs, etc; and each inviting a representative from the other's

organization to attend respective general assemblies and conferences.

The AAG and PAIGH have several cooperative activities already planned for the coming months. The AAG and PAIGH will co-sponsor a workshop on natural hazards research, tentatively scheduled for December 2006, in Panama. Participants will include experts in natural hazards and vulnerability from throughout the Americas, and the workshop will help set the direction for some of PAIGH's future activities. Six months later, the two organizations will present the results of the December workshop at an international conference on geographic collaboration in education and research that will be held in La Serena, Chile, May 23-25, 2007, which the AAG will co-sponsor with the Universidad de La Serena and Texas State University. Also, at the 2007 AAG Annual Meeting in San Francisco, PAIGH and the AAG will co-sponsor another session highlighting regional cooperation.

In addition to its activities with PAIGH, the AAG continues to pursue

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John Kelmelis and Patricia Solís look on as AAG Executive Director Douglas Richardson and PAIGH Secretary General Santiago Borrero sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations. From left to right: Kelmelis, Borrero, Richardson, and Solís.

outreach to Latin America in a variety of ways. This year, the AAG published the *Guide to Geography Programs in the Americas*, which for the first time included listings for thirteen Latin American and Caribbean programs. The *Guide* will continue to grow in the coming years to include more geography programs in the Americas. The AAG-administered "My Community, Our Earth: Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development (MyCOE) program continues to support university student projects on local sustainable development issues in the

Caribbean, Central America, and U.S. Gulf states. Finally, at next year's Annual Meeting in San Francisco, the AAG will build on the success of its first-ever Spanish-only session that took place at the Chicago Meeting of the AAG in March.

PAIGH is an inter-governmental organization of a consultative and technical nature, comprising over twenty-one member states represented by their respective officers. PAIGH objectives are to encourage, coordinate, and publicize cartographic, geographic, geophysical, and historical studies as well as related

sciences of interest to the Americas; to promote and carry out studies, projects, and training in these disciplines; and to promote cooperation among the institutes of these disciplines in the Americas, as well as with related organizations.

We look forward to working together with PAIGH in the future and to developing similar collaborative relationships with other international organizations around the world. ■

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