



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



**Between the  
PANAMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY (PAIGH)  
and the  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS (AAG)**

### **1. Parties**

This document constitutes a Memorandum of Understanding between the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and the Association of American Geographers (AAG).

### **2. Background**

The PAIGH and the AAG each recognizes that the other is an international organization with many complementary activities serving similar constituencies.

PAIGH is an Inter Governmental Organization of consultative and technical nature comprising over 21 member states represented by their respective officers. PAIGH objectives include 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.


The AAG is one of the leading geography organizations in the world comprised of more than 9,500 individual members from the public, private, and academic sectors. The AAG seeks to promote and support a broad array of geographic activity for the benefit of the scientific, educational, and professional communities and for the benefit of society. It conducts substantive activities and comprises an active membership engaged in a wide set of specializations that encompass cartography and GIScience; historical, cultural, economic, and social geography; regional geography and planning; physical geography, including geophysical and geomorphologic processes; as well as interdisciplinary approaches to complex phenomenon such as natural disasters. The AAG conducts educational, research, and outreach projects that advance understanding, literacy and learning in geographic and related fields; advances professional studies and encourages its application in education, government and business contexts; cultivates and promotes discussion among its members and with scholars in related fields in part through scientific publications, meetings, seminars, international conferences, and the activities of its specialty groups; works with national and international governmental, academic, and commercial entities to contribute to the understanding and solution of world-wide problems and scientific problems through the use of geography, cartography, GIScience, and related fields; and provides a global forum for discussion of the role and state of these knowledge domains.

### **3. Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a framework for a continuing liaison between the two organizations. This will be achieved by maintaining and increasing the opportunities of scientific, technical, professional, academic and educational exchange between their members, through a continuing program of cooperation leading to mutual sharing of knowledge and expertise to the advantage of both organizations.

### **4. Program of Activities**

In accordance with the background and purpose described above, both organizations agree to endeavor to intensify their cooperation for mutual benefit. The following steps will be taken, among others:

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- a. Establish regular contact between the two organizations in order to institute and maintain a continuing liaison to address matters of common interest;
  - b. Inform each other of academic, scientific or operational established bodies such as commissions, committees or working groups that have been or are established and invite representation from the other where it is agreed that it would be appropriate;
  - c. Inform each other of programs of proposed scientific, academic or professional activities such as conferences, seminars, and workshops to enable joint participation should it be of mutual benefit and inform members of these events as appropriate;
  - d. Identify opportunities to organize specialized seminars, workshops or conferences under joint sponsorship;
  - e. Endeavor to work in collaboration to advance international projects of mutual interest, for example, initiatives for joint research, educational exchanges, technology transfer, adoption and creation of national mapping programs, and/or innovative approaches to address immediate and ongoing issues such as natural disasters;
  - f. Improve dissemination of scientific and other scholarly information by supporting national spatial data infrastructures and other means to share information electronically;
  - g. Enhance the visibility of each others' organizations by providing links to each others' World Wide Web sites and by other means; and
  - h. Invite a representative from the other organization to attend respective General Assemblies/Conferences.

The AAG as an organization will become an invited observer organization of PAIGH. PAIGH encourages its constituents to become individual members of the AAG as appropriate.

### **5. Financial Commitment**

It is understood that neither organization can commit the other to any expenditure, save that from administering this MoU, without the specific written consent of both organizations.

## 6. Legal Status

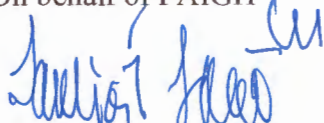
This Memorandum does not create a legal link between the two organizations who will maintain their mutual independence.

This Memorandum of Understanding is valid until PAIGH or AAG proposes changes to it. Each organization has the right to propose changes to this Memorandum at any time. Any changes shall be subject to the consent of both organizations.

This Memorandum of Understanding can be terminated at any time for any reason by one party writing to the other party, signifying its intention to withdraw from the terms of the MoU.

Signed: March 10, 2006 in Chicago, Illinois, on the occasion of the AAG Annual Meeting.

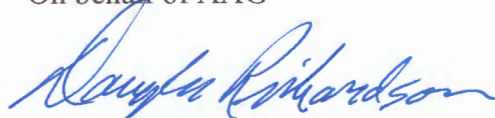
On behalf of PAIGH



Dr. Santiago Borrero  
PAIGH Secretary General



On behalf of AAG



Dr. Douglas Richardson  
AAG Executive Director

