



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



**Between the  
PANAMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY (PAIGH)  
and the  
AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY (AGS)**

### **1. Parties**

This document constitutes a Memorandum of Understanding between the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and the American Geographical Society (AGS).

### **2. Background**

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

PAIGH, a specialized organization of the Organization of American States, is an Inter Governmental Organization of consultative and technical nature comprising more than 21 member states represented by their respective officers. PAIGH objectives include to encourage, coordinate and publicize cartographic, geographic, geophysical, and historical studies and 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.

Established in 1851, the American Geographical Society is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States. It is recognized world-wide as a pioneer in geographical research and education. The mission of the American Geographical Society is to link business, professional, and scholarly worlds in the creation and application of geographical knowledge and techniques to address economic, social, and environmental problems. The Society's work serves to increase geographical knowledge and the recognition of its importance in the contemporary world. AGS has provided leadership in national and international scientific, exploration, and scholarly pursuits related to physical and cultural geography, cartography, exploration, and the development of international agreements and policy. The AGS has been noted for its excellent publications; for pioneering work in exploration and cartography; for amassing the foremost geographical research library in the Western Hemisphere; and for research, mapping, and consulting services for government and business at the highest levels.

### **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:

- 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;
- h. Provide reviews and endorsements of each other's projects as appropriate; and
- i. Invite a representative from the other organization to attend respective General Assemblies/Conferences.

#### **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

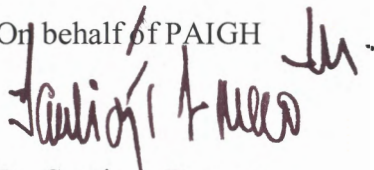
This Memorandum does not create a legal link between the two organizations who will maintain their mutual independence.

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: July 13, 2006 in Mexico City

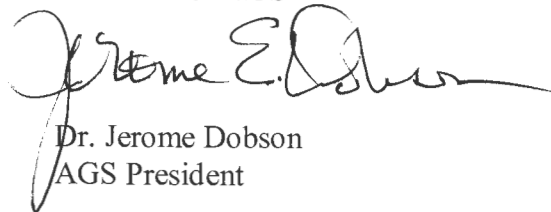
On behalf of PAIGH



Dr. Santiago Borrero  
PAIGH Secretary General



On behalf of AGS



Dr. Jerome Dobson  
AGS President



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