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Background

The Pan American Institute of Geography and History was created February 7, 1928, during the VI International American Conference at the Ministerial Level held in Havana, Cuba.

At the request of the delegation of the Government of Mexico, headquarters were established in Mexico City, where President Pascual Ortiz Rubio, by decree dated May 3, 1930, placed a building located in Ex Arzobispado 29, Colonia Observatorio, at the disposition of the American nations for the installation of the offices of the General Secretariat. In 1949, one year after the signing of the Charter of the OAS in Bogotá, Colombia, the Institute signed an agreement with the Council of the Organization of American States and became its first Specialized Organization. The agreement was modified and signed in Washington, D.C., on May 6, 1974.

Objectives

- To encourage, coordinate, and publicize cartographical, geographical, geophysical and historical studies as well as other related scientific studies of interest to the Americas.
- To promote and carry out studies, work and training in the aforementioned fields of activity.
- To promote cooperation among organizations interested in these fields of activity in the Americas, and with related international organizations.

Organization

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the supreme organ of PAIGH and determines the scientific, administrative and financial policies of the organization. It elects the officers of the Institute. The General Assembly consists of the delegations appointed by the Member States, the officers of PAIGH and the invited observers. Each one of the delegations of the Member States is entitled to one vote. The General Assembly ordinarily meets every four years.

DIRECTING COUNCIL

The Directing Council is the permanent Pan American organ of PAIGH, which is entrusted with functions of the General Assembly during the intervals between the meetings of the latter. The Directing Council is composed of the representatives of the Member States, and the officers of PAIGH. The Directing Council ordinarily meets once a year.

COMMISSIONS

The Commissions are the organs responsible for developing and executing the scientific and technical programs of PAIGH, approved by the General Assembly or the Directing Council. Likewise, they promote and coordinate the scientific and technical development in their respective fields in the Member States. There are four Commissions: *Cartography*, *Geography*, *History* and *Geophysics*. They are subdivided into Committees and Working Groups. The Commissions ordinarily meet every two years.

MEETING OF OFFICERS

The Meeting of Officers is the principal and coordinating organ of the activities of the Institute between the Meetings of the Directing

Council. The Officers are the President, the Vice-President, the Chairmen of Commissions and the Secretary General. They ordinarily meet biannually.

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

The General Secretariat is the central and permanent organ of PAIGH and its purpose is to perform the administrative functions necessary for the successful operation of the Institute; to coordinate the activities of the other organs, to lend the necessary assistance for their operation; to carry out such other functions as may be assigned to it, and to see to compliance with decisions taken.

NATIONAL SECTIONS

The National Section is the body established by each Member State for the accomplishment of the aims of PAIGH, on the national level, and relies upon the financial support of its Government for that purpose. The National Sections are composed of the persons appointed by the Governments of the Member States as representatives to the various bodies of PAIGH.

Finances

The Pan American Institute of Geography and History is a non-profit organization which supports itself through the quotas that are contributed by the Member States. The scale of contributions is established by the PAIGH General Assembly every four years.

Publications

PAIGH publishes the following journals which are distributed from Mexico. These are:

- **Revista Cartográfica**
- **Revista Geográfica**
- **Revista de Historia de América**
- **Boletín de Antropología Americana**
- **Revista de Arqueología Americana**
- **Revista Geofísica**

Furthermore, the editorial production of the Institute includes a diversity of occasional publications (atlases, guides, handbooks, charts, glossaries, etc.) which contribute to broaden the intellectual patrimony of the nationals of the Americas. There are now more than 500 occasional publications, and the corresponding catalogue is available at:

http://www.ipgh.org/Publicaciones/Files/Catalogo_Pubs_2010_Web.pdf

Awards

PAIGH grants various awards in its different disciplines.

PAN AMERICAN MEDAL OF THE PAIGH

The prize is awarded every four years, to a scientist of a Member State of the PAIGH who is outstanding for his/her trajectory in one of the fields of interest of the PAIGH: Cartography, Geography, History, and Geophysics. A medal may be awarded for each of the four Commissions.

"WALLACE W. ATWOOD" PRIZE

The prize is awarded biennially to an author of a Member State of the PAIGH under the age of 35 at the time of presenting an unpublished work in any of the four basic areas of the PAIGH: Cartography, Geography, History, and Geophysics and related sciences. The prize consists of a diploma, the publication of the work and publicity via the different media of the PAIGH.

"CARLOS A. CARVALLO YAÑEZ" PRIZE

The prize is awarded every four years for the original work recognized by the jury as of great value and importance for the development of the Cartography of America, that constitutes a relevant contribution to scientific development, always and when it deals with the disciplines covered by the Cartography Commission. The prize consists of a diploma, recognition in cash and publicity via the different media of the PAIGH.

"ARCH C. GERLACH" PRIZE

The prize is awarded every four years for the original work recognized by the jury as of great value and importance for the development of the Geography in America. The prize consists of a diploma, recognition in cash and news of the prize, announced via the different media of the PAIGH.

COLONIAL HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS "SILVIO ZAVALA" PRIZE

The prize is awarded biennially to the work on the Colonial History of America published in one of the Member States, in one of PAIGH's official languages (Spanish, English, French or Portuguese). The prize consists of a diploma, recognition in cash and news of the prize, announced via the different media of the PAIGH.

"LEOPOLDO ZEA" THOUGHT OF THE AMERICAS PRIZE

The prize is awarded biennially to the work on the Thought of America published in one of the Member States, in one of PAIGH's official languages (Spanish, English, French or Portuguese). The prize consists of a diploma, recognition in cash and news of the prize, announced via the different media of the PAIGH.

"LUIZ MUNIZ BARETO" PRIZE

The prize is awarded every four years to the original work that constitutes a contribution relevant to scientific development without identifying the theme confronted, anytime it relates to the disciplines covered by the Geophysics Commission. The prize consists of a diploma, recognition in cash and news of the prize, announced via the different media of the PAIGH.

Training and fellowships

Through its Commissions, PAIGH offers a wide range of courses, workshops and conferences, directed to specialists and professionals in the areas of interest of the Institute, and in general to other professionals interested in those fields.

Scientific and Technical Program

PAIGH supports projects that contribute to:

- Consolidate the Institute as a **Pan American regional forum** to advance geographic information for the integral development of the Member States by strengthening necessary infrastructure, scientific networks and institutional ties. It must also undertake cartographic, geographic, history and geophysics studies and analyses which are key for the understanding and development of the peoples of the Americas.
- Identify actions that articulate and pinpoint institutional competencies that contribute to **regional integration** in specific fields such as climate change, territorial organization and natural disasters.
- Foster development of spatial data bases, including information obtained from the systematic observation of Earth from space in order to assist with decision making processes and especially to make **warning systems more efficient and improve disaster response systems**.
- In order to improve the **rationality behind the sustainable use of natural resources**, assist with the development of quality information required to analyze processes connected to specific fields such as soil degradation, impacts on biodiversity, occupancy of coastal lands, contamination, forest fires, identification and occupancy of risk zones (including adjacent international areas).
- **Promote innovative variants for the study of Pan American history**, in fields such as environmental history, historiography, regional integration processes, advancement and conservation of cultural heritage, preservation of historic archives and institutional commemoration of significant regional historic events.

**"AN INTERAMERICAN INSTITUTION READY,
THROUGH ITS RELATED SCIENCES,
TO RETHINK THE AMERICAS IN THE
21ST CENTURY"**

PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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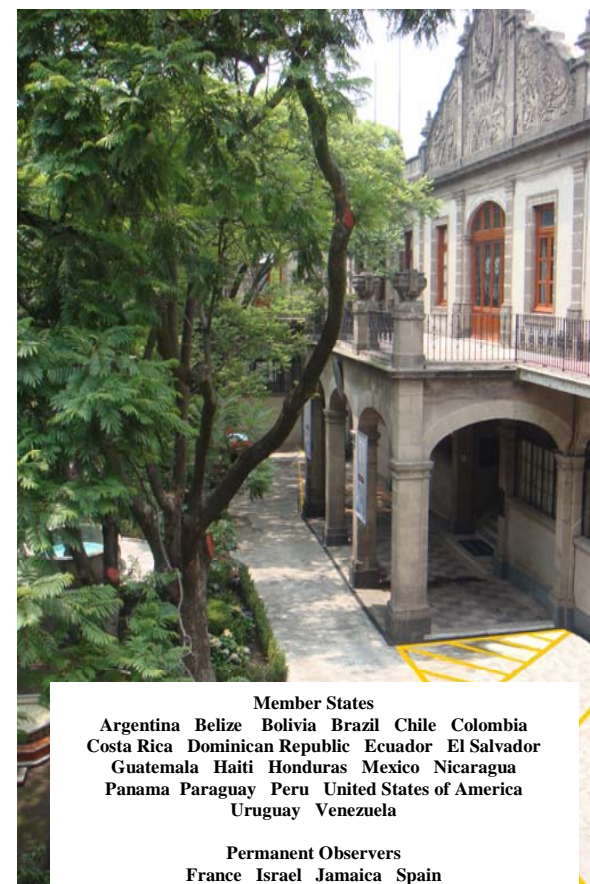
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SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

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