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Title: Application for Class A Liaison status from the Panamerican Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH)

Source: Dr. Santiago Borrero, Secretary General PAIGH

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INSTITUTO PANAMERICANO DE GEOGRAFÍA E HISTORIA

PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY
INSTITUTO PANAMERICANO DE GEOGRAFIA E HISTÓRIA INSTITUT PANAMÉRICAIN DE GÉOGRAPHIE ET D'HISTOIRE

Organismo Especializado de la Organización de los Estados Americanos



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SG/DA/ISO/131/2004

April 22, 2004

Mr Olaf Ostensen, President and
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REF: Application for Class A Liaison Status for the Panamerican Institute of
Geography and History (PAIGH) <http://www.ipgh.org.mx>

Dear Mr. Chairman and Madame Secretariat,

On behalf of the Panamerican Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), I like to request ISO TC211 to grant this specialized agency of the Organization of American States <http://www.oas.org/>, Class A Liaison Status to participate in the activities of your Committee.

PAIGH was officially created at the Sixth International Conference of American States held in Havana, Cuba, February 7, 1928. Since then, the General Secretariat facilities are based in Mexico City.

In essence, the objectives of PAIGH are: 1) To encourage production, carry out studies, coordinate and publicize cartographical, geographical, historical and geophysical studies, as well as other related scientific studies of interest to the Americas and 2) To promote cooperation among organizations interested in these fields of activity in the Americas, and with related international organizations.

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PAIGH provides technical assistance to Member States based on an annual program. Specifically, in 2004, in the area of Cartography the Institute supports projects related to the development of Spatial Data Infrastructures to support planning and decision-making processes, with priority given to sub-regional and regional levels; as well, in Geography, supports projects leading to a better understanding of the geographical reality of the Continent, giving preference to regional analysis applying advanced GIS and Geomatic technologies.

One of the main organs of PAIGH are its technical commissions, currently, cartography, geography, history and geophysics.

In particular, the Commission on Cartography, established in 1941, is dedicated to the promotion, coordination and development of geo-referenced information systems at multi-levels in the Americas. The Commission has committees on: i) Fundamental Spatial Data, including standing working groups on reference systems, geographic names, aeronautical and hydrographic charts; ii) Capacity building and technical cooperation; iii) Thematic applications and iv) Standards, including working groups on positioning, digital cartography and data exchange. Finally, the Commission has a permanent periodic publication called "*Revista Cartografica*".

In each Member State there is a National Section, composed of persons appointed by the Governments of each Member State. Each National Section has its Chairman, Vice Chairman, National Members of Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics and more than seventy members of Committees and Working Groups, by country, thus consequently the human capital of the Institute is integrated by numerous scientists, professionals and experts.

The following is the list of current Member States: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

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If our request is approved, I like to be named as PAIGH representative to ISO/TC 211, having Eng. Rodrigo Barriga, Chairman, Cartographic Commission as my alternate, and respectfully that Mr. Henry Tom be named to serve as the ISO representative to PAIGH.

In this context, it is PAIGH's intent to have ISO/TC 211 as an active partner in educating and training Latin-American and Caribbean Member States to understand and to use geographic information standards.

Sincerely,

Santiago Borrero

Secretary General

Pan-American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH)

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