

Association of American Geographers

AAG Annual Meeting 2006

PAIGH Panel: New Directions



Pan American Institute for Geography and History:
**An OAS Organization with Goals and Objectives for the benefit of
Geography in the Americas**



Santiago Borrero, PAIGH Secretary General
sborrero@ipgh.org

March 10, 2006 Chicago, Illinois USA

Background

- Established in 1928, with Headquarters based in Mexico City
- Oldest specialized agency of the Organization of American States - OAS
- PAIGH Assembly and Directing Council consists of Member States delegations, where each one is entitled to one vote
- Four Commissions: Cartography (1941), Geography (1946), History (1946) and Geophysics (1969). Commissions are responsible for developing and executing the scientific programs of PAIGH
- The General Secretariat is the central organ of PAIGH and its purpose is to perform for the successful operation of the Institute
- Each Member State has a PAIGH National Section, currently 21
- PAIGH is a non-profit organization operating with annual quotas contributed by Member States

PAIGH main objectives are to publicize related studies; to carry out studies and training in the scientific fields of activity and to promote cooperation among organizations in the Americas, including related international organizations, but...



The Role of PAIGH as the Intergovernmental Geography and History Organization of the Americas

- In this Knowledge and Information Society and era of globalization, we must preserve and foster the enormous cultural, ethnic and socio-political diversity that characterizes the Americas
- PAIGH must focus on studying the complex link between the earth sciences and human's history and provide the conditions that allow the new generation of specialists to continue with their endeavors and implement the results of their analysis for the welfare of the inhabitants of the Americas

Rethinking the Continent: Plurality, Diversity and Convergence. New roles for spatial technology and analysis in the context of sustainable development at multi levels... an organization of significance for The Americas



The Recent Biennium at PAIGH: Re-Engineering In 2004 and Modernization in 2005

- The renovation of the Institute began when it faced the paradigm of cutting-edge communication technologies that gave geographic information a new role in interpreting territories and when the global environment changed, significantly affecting Pan American institutions and visions
- The PAIGH's new agenda is to interpret this reality from the perspective of history and geography.
- PAIGH assist Member States and their institutions with this change, respond to the new and growing demands of the international scientific community and develop effective and timely communication mechanisms for its specialists

A step forward in the regional incorporation of spatial information technologies. New approaches to geographic and historic analyses in the context of Sustainable Development of the Americas.



Updating the Strategic Plan of PAIGH: A Survey

In 2005, PAIGH advanced an internal planning exercise including a survey. The following responses are being converted into recommendations to advance PAIGH as a more effective and relevant organization:

- 85.71% of the respondents indicated the need to incorporate with priority new generations of GI specialists to PAIGH
- 76.19% signaled the need for PAIGH to contribute to capacity building activities involving the institutions in charge of basic and thematic GI production and analysis
- 61.9 % backed the need to promote technical cooperation projects of a multidisciplinary nature

Still there is great need to coach LAC decision makers on the need for harmonic spatial data infrastructures at the local, national, regional and global levels and its contribution to economic, social and environmental sustainable development



What is Special about PAIGH?

- **PAIGH is a unique organization in the Region, combining geography and history**
- **PAIGH has no bureaucracy and operates in a fully decentralized fashion**
- **Given the reduced operational and administrative cost PAIGH constitutes a direct way to invest in technical cooperation**
- **78 years of experience accumulated with a continental dimension perspective in the context of spatial and historical dimensions**
- **PAIGH: The geospatial factor for OAS and other regional initiatives**

There are many ways to participate and to contribute to the PAIGH: Pan American Network; Affiliate member; Member of National sections; Prizes and Awards; Technical Projects



Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting 2006



**PAIGH: An Interested Partner to Advance Cooperation
Activities with AAG for the benefit Geographers,
Geography and the peoples in the Americas**

**Santiago Borrero, PAIGH Secretary General
sborrero@ipgh.org**

March 10, 2006 Chicago, Illinois USA