Organization of American States

PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES
March 2015 to February 2016

http://www.ipgh.org
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Organization of American States
PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

BASIC INFORMATION
The Pan American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH) was founded on February 7, 1928 at the Sixth International Conference of the Americas held in Havana, Cuba. In 1930, the government of Mexico offered the use of the building located on Ex Arzobispado #29 in Mexico City, which is the permanent headquarters of the organization. In January 1949, the PAIGH became the first agency of the Inter-American system when it signed the agreement between the Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Institute. Afterwards, in May 1974, within the framework of the Buenos Aires Protocol a new agreement was formalized, which currently guides the relationship between the OAS and the PAIGH.

PURPOSES
The purposes of the PAIGH, stipulated in the first article of its Organic Statutes, are:
• To encourage, coordinate and publicize cartographic, geographic, historical and geophysical studies, as well as studies on related sciences, which are of interest to the Americas.
• To promote and coordinate scientific and technical development, research, relationships amongst institutions and specialists, work and training in the fields of cartography, geography, geophysics and history.
• To foster and further cooperation amongst the institutions specializing in the four fields in the Americas, as well as international organizations.

STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION
The Institute’s organizational structure is as follows:
• The General Assembly
• The Directing Council
• The Meeting of Executive Officers
• The General Secretariat
• The Commissions on Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics
• The National Sections

The General Assembly: This is the supreme organ of the PAIGH and its mission is to set the scientific, administrative and financial policies of the Institute. It meets every four years and elects the officers of the Institute. The General Assembly consists of the delegations from the Member States, the Officers of the PAIGH and invited Observers. Each delegation from the Member States has the right to a vote.
The Directing Council: This is the Pan American organ of the PAIGH, which is responsible for performing the duties of the General Assembly during the intervals between its meetings. It meets once a year and consists of representatives from all the Member States and the Officers of the PAIGH.

The Meeting of Executive Officers: This is the governing organ and coordinates the activities of the Institute between the Meetings of the Directing Council. It meets twice a year and consists of the President, Vice President, Commission Chairs and the Secretary General.

The General Secretariat: This is the central and permanent organ of the PAIGH and is responsible for its management, coordination of activities, providing the necessary assistance so they can be carried out properly, implementation of tasks it is entrusted with and ensuring agreements reached for the adequate performance of the PAIGH are complied with. The Secretary General is the representative of the PAIGH and holds the post for four years.

The Commissions: These are the organs entrusted with promoting the scientific and technical development of their respective fields in the Member States, as well as coordinating, fostering and overseeing the projects and other research agreements approved by the General Assembly or Directing Council. There are four commissions: Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics, which are in turn subdivided into Committees and Work Groups. The Commissions meet every two years.

National Sections: These are the bodies established by each Member State to carry out the purposes of the PAIGH in their own countries and have the financial assistance of their governments. The National Sections consist of the people named by the governments of the Member States as representatives before PAIGH organs.

MEMBER STATES

Only the states of the American continent can be members of the PAIGH. Countries in other continents may be Permanent Observers. The 21 countries that are currently Member States of the PAIGH are:

Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, the United States of America, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela

The Permanent Observer countries are: Spain, France, Israel and Jamaica.
Institutional Strategies

The PAIGH has set for itself the following institutional strategies:

1. The Scientific Strategy consists of setting up, strengthening, and consolidating, over the short term, the multinational research projects being strongly pushed forward with the aim of renewing scientific efforts in strategic and priority areas for the member countries.

In this sense, the application of this strategy is intended to achieve greater and better links with universities, research centers, and other bodies at Pan-American and international levels, while encouraging them to actively participate in the tasks of scientific research and of the release to the public of that research.

For this, a Pan-American Agenda has been defined, constituting a component of planning that sets priorities for the issues of adaptation to climate change, organization of territorial information, managing natural hazards and historical heritage, these being key elements for contributing to the Inter-American system coordinated by the OAS. This helps towards the plans for sustainable development of our continent that have been accepted by all Member States.

2. The Administrative Strategy consists of having a system of continual organizational improvement that enables the Institute to lead and to transmit the studies that produce benefit to Pan-American society.

Among the most significant transformations, the following should be highlighted: the achievements in a greater operating efficiency and in a better communication with the PAIGH Authorities and with the National Sections, the inclusion of Universities, research centers and Ministries into an active role for the tasks of the Institute, and the strengthening of the relationships between the General Secretariat and all the interested groups surrounding it.

At the same time, the scientific publications that the Institute produces with the support of its four Commissions are being modernized through a permanent process now being coordinated.

3. The Financial Strategy consists of increasing the financial resources of the Institute, while seeking out new alternatives for resources and making the current system for managing expenses more efficient.

In concrete terms, it is intended to encourage former member countries to rejoin and to bring on board other countries that may be interested in contributing actively to the institutional resources.

At the same time, a new membership fee scale is being proposed to the Member States, which will not only bring up to date the purchasing power of the resources but also allows a view towards a new distribution of the contributions that each of the members make, with the PAIGH scientific program being the priority to be sustained by the new income.

As a complement to this, it is intended to sign agreements, with international institutions of high standing, for shared financing, also to seek out cooperating partners for them to provide an annual contribution. These actions are to be taken without neglecting the permanent search for other sources of finance.
Authorities of the PAIGH 2013-2017

*From left to right: Rigoberto Magaña, President (El Salvador); Roberto Aguiar, Vice-President (Ecuador); Rodrigo Barriga, Secretary General (Chile); Carlos López, President of the Cartography Commission (Uruguay); Jean Parcher, President of the Geography Commission (United States of America); Walter Fernández, President of the Geophysics Commission (Costa Rica) and Patricia Galeana, President of the History Commission (Mexico)*

*The President was elected at the 81st Meeting of Officers (Mexico, 2014) and the Vice President at the 45th Meeting of the Directing Council (Chile, 2014).*
1. Introduction

This report highlights the most relevant activities of the PAIGH, especially the continued functioning of its Technical Assistance and Publications programs, within a budgetary framework of financial austerity and order.

The main steps forwards taken in the Pan-American Agenda are presented, the coordinations for putting the Joint Action Plan into effect are indicated, and the tasks for speeding up the development of Spatial Data Infrastructures in the Americas are stated. Moreover, the tasks most relevant to the Technical Assistance and to inter-institutional relations as duties performed by the General Secretariat are outlined, while also the fulfillment of the resolutions made at the last Directing Council meeting are briefly summarized. Finally the plans for the medium-term future are stated.

2. Financial Status

Concerning the membership fees that the Member States contribute, these have enabled the scientific and publications programs to be financed, also to sustain the administrative functions of the Institute, within an austere budgetary framework and ordered finances.

Concerning the countries that owe the largest amount of unpaid fees, the necessary contacts and liaison tasks have been carried out, trusting in the valuable efforts of the corresponding authorities for solving these debts during the current year.

Besides the above and in accordance with Resolution No. 5 “Updates to the Annual Fees of the Member States” (Colombia, 2015), the Member States were requested to make a change to the fee rates, mainly due to these rates having been fixed since the year 1996. These resources are intended mainly for supporting the scientific-technical and publications programs, also for the work aimed at obtaining additional resources for specialized projects, with the goal of performing studies on issues such as adaptation to climate change, territorial organization, handling of natural hazards and historical heritage. All of this is to proceed in such a way as to contribute, from the point of view of the Institute, to the plans and goals of sustainable development that have been generally adopted by the Member States, so as to cooperate with both the preservation of the human species and also to contribute to improving the quality of life of the inhabitants of our continent.
3. Program of Technical Assistance 2015

As part of the budget of the Regular Fund for the year 2015, at the 45th Directing Council (Chile, 2014) a program of Technical Assistance was approved, composed of 27 projects distributed among the four Commissions, adding up to a value of US$178,850. The program was put into effect normally and in conditions similar to those achieved in the previous period. The total of the funds for the year 2015, for the Technical Assistance projects and the Publications, considering both the support of the PAIGH and that of other institutions, comes to US$685,266 (see Table N°. 5). In Tables number 1,2,3, and 4 there is a summary of the projects for 2015, separately for each Commission:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title of the project</th>
<th>State submitting the project</th>
<th>Assigned by PAIGH US$</th>
<th>Assigned from other institutions US$</th>
<th>Total US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SIRGAS 2015 Symposium: exchange of experiences and making plans at supranational level for the homogeneous regional implementation of fundamental base layers for the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas by building it up, transferring applications and developing technical-scientific capabilities.</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>6,540</td>
<td>27,500</td>
<td>34,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Workshop for consolidating strategies towards the unification of the Vertical Networks of the countries that are members of SIRGAS (Geocentric Reference System for the Americas)</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>28,750</td>
<td>34,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Proposal for standardizing tactile symbology for Latin America: application in cartography for tourism (2014-2016). Continued from 2014</td>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>25,700</td>
<td>31,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Integrated study, with LIDAR laser pulses system – Pedernales borough</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>41,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Usability of SDI geoportals</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>UN-GGIM: Americas Regional Committee of the United Nations Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>7,630</td>
<td>14,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Participation in ICC 2015</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Technical Meeting of the Cartography Commission</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cartography Commission Total**

|               | 48,840 | 134,580 | 183,420 |

*Table N°. 1 Technical Assistance Projects for 2015 of the Cartography Commission*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title of the Project</th>
<th>State submitting the project</th>
<th>Assigned by PAIGH US$</th>
<th>Assigned from other institutions US$</th>
<th>Total US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Proposal for standardizing tactile symbology for Latin America: application in cartography for tourism (2014-2016). Continued from 2014</td>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Integrated study with LIDAR laser pulses system – Pedernales borough</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>5,920</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>42\textsuperscript{nd} International applied geography course in the communication of geographic knowledge through the use of virtual classrooms and electronic media, an option for teaching in the Pan-American hemisphere. Virtual modes</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>13,041</td>
<td>21,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Continuation of the study on ethnic-physiographic variations and maps of views of the volcanic hazards for communities around the Santa Ana volcano (El Salvador)</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>64,281</td>
<td>69,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Online Network for Geographic Learning</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>7,150</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>10,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Training for capabilities in geography, climate change, tropical cyclones and management of hazards</td>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>13,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Technical Meeting of the Geography Commission</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>13,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Geography Commission Total**

| | 48,870 | 88,322 | 137,192 |

*Table No. 2 Technical Assistance Projects for 2015 of the Geography Commission*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title of the project</th>
<th>State submitting the project</th>
<th>Assigned by PAIGH US$</th>
<th>Assigned from other institutions US$</th>
<th>Total US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Integrated study with LIDAR laser pulses system – Pedernales borough</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>7,198</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Paleoenvironments and landscapes shaped by water in America: coastal, lakeside and riverside societies</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>5,624</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Integration by culture in the Americas</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>5,624</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>7,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Inventory and records of the ancient cemeteries of the Dominican-Haitian frontier and the south-eastern regions of the Dominican Republic</td>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>5,624</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Technical Meeting of the History Commission</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**History Commission Total**

| | 35,070 | 1,500 | 36,570 |

*Table No. 3 Technical Assistance Projects for 2015 of the History Commission*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title of the project</th>
<th>State submitting the project</th>
<th>Assigned by PAIGH US$</th>
<th>Assigned from other institutions US$</th>
<th>Total US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Experimental network for geodesic and geodynamic control for Argentina</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>5,624</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>15,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Gravity in the southern Andes, sector in Chile &amp; Argentina between 42°-47°S</td>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>5,624</td>
<td>126,200</td>
<td>131,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Continuation of the study on ethnophysiographic variations and maps of views of the volcanic hazards for communities around the Santa Ana volcano (El Salvador)</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>5,624</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Advanced Degrees in Geoscience</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>8,200</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>11,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Study of avalanches and flows of loose materials in the Sillapaca volcanic complex, Puno region of Peru</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>5,624</td>
<td>12,900</td>
<td>18,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Geophysics research and lithological mapping of the Santa Lucia trench, Uruguay</td>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>5,624</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>20,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Technical Meeting of the Geophysics Commission</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>9,750</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Geophysics Commission Total</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>46,070</strong></td>
<td><strong>167,100</strong></td>
<td><strong>213,170</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table No. 4 Technical Assistance Projects for 2015 of the Geophysics Commission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Assigned by PAIGH US$</th>
<th>Assigned from other institutions US$</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 Technical Assistance projects</td>
<td>178,850</td>
<td>391,502</td>
<td>570,352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodic Publications</td>
<td>34,510</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Corporación Andina de Fomento” (bank)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>65,550</td>
<td>65,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Geographic Institute of Spain</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14,854</td>
<td>14,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall total</td>
<td><strong>213,360</strong></td>
<td><strong>471,906</strong></td>
<td><strong>685,266</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table No. 5 Summary of amounts assigned by PAIGH and by the cooperating institutions - 2015

4. Program of Periodic and Occasional Publications

During the current period, tasks have been continuing with the aim of bringing up to date the several publications of the Institute and of improving their scientific quality. For this purpose a special Working Group was set up, composed of the editors of the periodic journals of the PAIGH. They have continued to work on adapting these titles to international standards for scientific journals and on measures for their inclusion into the internationally recognized catalogues and indexes.
The following journal titles have been distributed:

- “Geographic Journal” issues 152 (July - December 2012), 153 (January-June 2013), 154 (July-December 2013) and 155 (January-December 2014)
- “History of America Journal” issues 147, 148 and 149 (July-December 2012, January - June and July-December 2013 respectively)
- “Geophysics Journal” issue 64 (January 2012 - December 2014)
- “Cultural heritage in America, book II. Conservation and social usage”, coordinated by Arturo Soberón, Mario A. Rivera and Maria Cristina Mineiro
- The 2013 issue of the book recognized by the “Wallace W. Atwood” award (made by this Institute), titled “Art and Letters, or the construction of the social imaginarius of the Porfirian elite, 1904-1912” by Imelda Paola Ugalde
In Table N° 6, the amounts that have been assigned to the latest journal publications are detailed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal Publications</th>
<th>Amount assigned USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cartographic Journal number 90 (January - December 2014)</td>
<td>3,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic Journal numbers 153, 154, 155 and 156 (January-June 2013 to 2015)</td>
<td>15,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of America Journal numbers 148, 149 and 150 (January - June 2013 to January - June 2014)</td>
<td>7,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Archeology Journal number 32 (January - December 2014)</td>
<td>3,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Anthropology Newsletter number 48 (January - December 2013)</td>
<td>2,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geophysics Journal numbers 64 and 65 (2014 and 2015)</td>
<td>6,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assigned to journal publications</strong></td>
<td><strong>39,100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table No. 6*

**GeoSUR Newsletter**

Based on the contracts signed between the PAIGH and the “CAF”-Development Bank for Latin America, from July 2014 to December 2015, twelve issues of the GeoSUR newsletter have been published. These carry news of interest for the geospatial sector of the Americas, which includes basically information for the community linked to both of these institutions, which have jointly set up the GeoSUR Program. The newsletter is published in Spanish and English; some issues are also available in Portuguese.

*Figure No. 2 PAIGH-GeoSUR newsletter, started in July 2014*
Exchange of Bibliographic Materials

Concerning the exchange of bibliographic items, this process is being carried out through the National School of Anthropology and History (ENAH). At the premises of the General Secretariat, the new issues of journal titles are received regularly under this scheme. Thus, by the 31st of January of this current year the “José Toribio Medina” bibliographic resource of the PAIGH has 231,922 journal issues.

4.1 Pan American Network of Professionals

Concerning the Pan American Network of Professionals (RPP), in which currently there are records for 1,051 persons, a new procedure for distributing news of the main events of interest has been implemented, through a fortnightly newsletter called “NotiRPP”. This is the result of a survey in which a wide percentage (42%) chose the best way to receive it; this being through the PAIGH web site; in this mode the reader receives via electronic mail only the corresponding web link.

4.2 Digital distribution of periodic publications

One of the means by which the General Secretariat of the PAIGH puts in to effect the digital distribution of the periodic publications consists of the academic databases in which one can find the full text of the “Cartographic Journal”, the “Geographic Journal”, the “Geophysics Journal”, the “History of America Journal”, the “American Anthropology Bulletin” and the “American Archeology Journal”. To this end, agreements have been set up with the following academic databases: Ebsco, ProQuest and Cengage Learning, which offer to be read the issues published from 2006, 2005 and 2001 respectively. At the JStor database one can look at practically all the complete collections of the “Geographic Journal”, the “History of America Journal”, the “American Anthropology Bulletin” and the “American Archeology
Journal”, while the LatAm-Estudios database offers the full text of practically the whole collection of the “Geographic Journal”.

Moreover, the periodic journals mentioned above form part of the index and catalogue “Latindex”. Currently, the management tasks necessary for including the link to the digital version (full text) of the latest issues published of the periodic journals are being put into effect.

So that the latest material edited for publication may be widely distributed, it is planned to place this in Amazon (in Kindle format). So far, books one and two of the “Cultural Heritage in America” series, titled “Research and education for heritage” and “Social Conservation and Use” respectively, have been made available; so, also, have “The dark side of international cooperation; the conditions placed discretionally upon external aid in the encouragement of democracy and human rights”, “From Colonial to National: the ecclesiastical career of Chilean lay priests between 1650 and 1810”, “The Economic History of the Southern Cone Region of America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay) - the Revolutions and Independence periods”, and “Art and Letters, or the construction of the social imaginarium of the Porfirian elite, 1904-1912”. For free downloading, “Guide to Standards, second edition in Spanish, 2013, ISO/TC 211 Committee – Geographic Information / Geomatics” has been made available.

Once the previous phase has been concluded, it is intended to place there also the journal titles that have been produced under co-editing agreements, subject to the authorization of each one of the entities involved.

In coordination with the Editors Working Group, other mechanisms for distributing the periodic publications in digital format are being studied, along with including each one of them in reputable indexes.

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1 Latindex is a system for information about journals on scientific research, technical – professional issues and publications on scientific and cultural matters that are issued in Latin American countries, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal. The idea for setting up Latindex arose in 1995 at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and it became a network for regional cooperation from 1997 onwards <http://www.latindex.org>.
5. Pan American Agenda of the PAIGH

To take on the institutional challenges, the PAIGH has started to structure a strategic policy in such a way as to contribute, from its viewpoint, towards the objectives of integrated and sustainable development in the region. For this reason, from 2009 onwards, the “Declaration and Guide for the Pan American Agenda 2010-2020” was established as a route for institutional actions to follow not only up to 2020 but also to the years to come after. The Pan American Agenda constitutes an instrument for modernization, which, by means of analyses of the territory and of cultural heritage, aims to push forwards a continual improvement in the Institute at all its levels, especially for each of the Member States, making possible mechanisms for inclusion of new generations of specialists and trying to link them to the relevant organizations for these subjects and issues, at both regional and global levels.

In this context and with, as a complement to this, the decisions of the third Joint Technical Meeting of the PAIGH Commissions held from the 16th to the 19th of June at the premises of the Center for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean (CIALC) at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), located at the Central Campus in the University City of Mexico City, four main areas for study have been consolidated: historic heritage, adaptation to climate change, territorial management and natural hazards management. The studies to be performed in these fields are to take shape through the tasks of strengthening institutions, workshops, courses, seminars and specific projects. The result of these activities are made known through the related journal publications — “Cartographic Journal”, “Geographic Journal”, “Geophysics Journal”, “Journal of the History of America”, “American Archeology Journal” and the “American Anthropology Newsletter” — and also in special publications such as atlases, manuals, books, reports and specialized texts.

To achieve these results, greater effort is required for improving the quality of the projects, for which reason, in 2015 a new system for submitting proposals on-line was implemented in accordance with the available information technologies.

Moreover, it is considered to be relevant the fact that a greater number of networks of specialists have been set up and which lead to authentically Pan-American projects. Such is the case of the start-up of the “PAIGH/SIRGAS/UN-GGIM:A/GeoSUR 2013-2015 Joint Action Plan for accelerating the development of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas”. There is also the “Iberian-American Network of Geographic Information Infrastructures” (R3IGeo), which will mean an increase in the
network of support for the Commissions and in the preparation of projects that are more attuned to and in line with the priorities of the PAIGH Pan-American Agenda.

6. Joint Action Plan for Accelerating the Development of the SDIs of the Americas

On the occasion of the 45th Meeting of the Directing Council (Chile, 2014), a meeting was held with the participation of the leaders of four organizations — PAIGH, SIRGAS, UN-GGIM:Americas and GeoSUR — with the aim of jointly signing a new document with an up-to-date and integrating vision, in relation to the role of each entity. In this way, the purpose of continuing towards this objective was reaffirmed. Thus, the PAIGH contributed by facilitating the processes of cooperation for improving the coordination and cooperation for developing spatial information at global level and especially in the developing countries that need technical advice.

At the same time the Americas Regional Committee of the United Nations Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM:Americas) and its Group of Experts contributes to proposing policies for developing the regional infrastructure for geo-spatial data, also for cooperating in the linkage of alphanumeric information and data (census, statistics, among others) with geo-spatial data, in such a way that it contributes to building up measurement records and information that supports sustainable development in the region. SIRGAS has been consolidated as the sole Geospatial Reference System for the region, while the GeoSUR program of CAF –PAIGH has become the instrument for developing applications and consolidating the network of geospatial information that encourages the integration of the Northern, Central, Southern and Caribbean parts of the Americas. It is very important to make these objectives compatible with and part of the work plans of the PAIGH Commissions, in accordance with the Pan-American Agenda.

6.1 UN-GGIM: Americas

The conference of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Committee on Global Geo-spatial Information Management (UN-GGIM:Americas) has contributed on issues of coordination, especially through the direct support that has been given to this initiative through the PAIGH Technical Assistance Program, thus pushing forwards the strengthening of institutions and the creation of geo-spatial capabilities in the region.

The President of the PAIGH, engineer Rigoberto Magaña Chavarría, participated in the 5th Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geo-spatial Information Management held from the 3rd to the 7th of August 2015 at the headquarters building of the United Nations in New York (USA). At the same time a series of related, parallel events took place, at which leading figures of various nations and geospatial information experts participated with the aim of strengthening the cooperation and the initiatives involved for making progress in the use of data and geo-spatial tools for supporting sustainable development at global level. Participants from 86 countries attended, coming from international organizations, UN bodies, the private sector and non-governmental entities. The discussions recognized the critical role of the handling of geo-spatial information and the need for cooperating to move forwards in the development and use of data and geospatial tools for supporting sustainable development and the related programs at world level.

Moreover, the PAIGH Secretary General participated in the Conference of the UN-GGIM:Americas held on the 11th and 12th of November, 2015 in Mexico City, in the framework of the 2015 Latin American Geospatial Forum (LAGF).
On that occasion the institutional role of the PAIGH was recognized, especially where it involves processes for creating geographic information and for the cartographic integration of the continent.

6.2 Geocentric Reference System of the Americas (SIRGAS)

In March 2015, the Dominican Republic formally became a member of SIRGAS. This process started in the context of the “School on Reference Systems, Crustal Deformation and Ionosphere Monitoring” held in Panama City in October 2013. This school was a training activity of the project “Monitoring crustal deformation and the ionosphere by GPS in the Caribbean” backed by the International Union for Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) through the International Association for Seismology and the Physics of the Earth’s Interior (IASPEI), the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and the International Association for Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA).

At the same time this activity had the support of the PAIGH. Thanks to the contact established on that occasion, the participation of several representatives of the Dominican Republic was made possible at the SIRGAS symposiums of 2013 and 2014. As a result of this closer contact, the last SIRGAS symposium was held in the city of Santo Domingo, between the 18th and 20th of November of 2015, being coordinated by the “Pedro Henríquez Ureña” National University (UNPHU). Every four years the Executive Committee is elected, so on this occasion, for the period from 2015 to 2019 it was set up as follows:

**President:** William Alberto Martínez Díaz  
National Administrative Department of Statistics, Bogotá, Colombia

**Vice-President:** María Virginia Mackern Oberti  
National University of Cuyo, ‘Juan Agustín Maza’ University, Mendoza, Argentina

**WG 1 Chair (Reference system):** Víctor Cioce  
University of Zulia, Maracaibo, Venezuela

**WG 2 Chair (National Environments):** Roberto Pérez Rodino  
University of the Republic, Uruguay

**WG 3 Chair (vertical Datum):** Sílvio Rogério Correia de Freitas  
Federal University of Parana, Curitiba, Brazil

Through the Technical Assistance program of the PAIGH, support has continued to be given to this project. Currently the following Member States of the PAIGH are also members of SIRGAS:
6.3 **CAF-IPGH-GeoSUR Program**

Currently, between the CAF / Latin American Development Bank and the PAIGH, the following documents for cooperation remain in force:

- Contract for developing the Integrated North Andean Map (MIAN)
- Contract for providing services to support the GeoSUR Program

The above demonstrates once again the importance that the Bank gives to the GeoSUR initiative, for which the objective is to continue with the services for building capabilities tending to favour the development of Geospatial Data Infrastructures in Latin America and the Caribbean.

With the support of the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the Program has a geoportal working which offers free access to national maps that more than 110 institutions of Latin America and the Caribbean publish on the Internet; each one of these has implemented an interactive map service alongside a mechanism for offering access to their maps and other geographic data.

As a complement to this, on the days 21st and 22nd of September 2015, at the premises of the PAIGH a meeting for coordination was held with the GeoSUR Coordinator, representatives of the USGS and the PAIGH Secretary General present, for the purpose of establishing policies for improving the services of the GeoSUR portal.
At Cartagena, Colombia, the location for the 46th Meeting of the Directing Council, the 8th GeoSUR Encounter was held, with major specialists of the region being present and having there the opportunity to discuss issues of common interest. Also, the winner of first place and honourable mentions in the fourth award of the GeoSUR prize were announced.

On this occasion, recognition was given to the initiative of Mexico, submitted by the National Institute for Statistics and Geography, titled “Digital Map of Mexico”. Moreover, two honourable mentions were awarded to the initiatives of Bolivia and of Brazil, titled: “GeoBolivia: start-up node for the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Plurinational State of Bolivia” and the “Municipal System of Urban Information – Integration of Geospatial Information for Rio de Janeiro” respectively.

7. Relevant Technical Assistance Tasks

7.1 Joint Technical Meeting of the Commissions

Under the coordination of the History Commission, from the 14th to the 19th of last June, the 83rd Meeting of the PAIGH Authorities was held (at the premises of the National Institute for Historical Studies of the Revolutions of Mexico and at the Latin America and Caribbean Research Center (CIALC) of the UNAM). The Third Joint Technical Meeting of the PAIGH Commissions was held there (at the CIALC premises) on the same occasion, at which the current status of the Institute was analyzed. Issues of great importance were discussed, such as a wide-ranging analysis of the Pan-American Agenda, especially concerning those adaptations needed for projecting it as an instrument for strategic planning towards the centenary of the Institute. These adjustments cover the inclusion of historic heritage as one of the new themes for study; at the same time they reinforce the concepts giving
relevance to the analysis of natural hazards, territorial management and adaptation to climate change. Another important aspect was the thought and discussion given to the Joint Action Plan signed between the PAIGH, SIRGAS, UN-GGIM:Americas and GeoSUR; the outcome was that the Cartography Commission is currently enhancing it so as to project it forwards into the coming years as a truly effective instrument for regional coordination and cooperation.

Moreover, a series of workshops were run; among them, those covering procedures for proposing projects and for drafting scientific articles stand out. The latter workshop relates very directly to the initiative that the Editors Working Group is pushing forwards for having the periodic publications indexed in the most well-known scientific indexes. Furthermore, an important workshop was held, chaired by the National Geographic Information Center (CNIG) of Spain, concerning the harmonization of the terminology of ISO TC/211 and R3IGeo in order to draft the Pan-Hispanic glossary.

At the Third Joint Technical Meeting, 161 persons participated; among them were included representatives of practically all the Member States of the Institute. The results have made it possible to make the necessary adjustments to the work programs of each of the Commissions. Without doubt, better working relationships have been encouraged, based on Pan-American cooperation and fraternity, which quite definitively will help to improve the quality of life for the people living in this continent, through the specialized activities being performed by the Institute.

7.2 Integrated Map of America

To contribute to the development of geospatial information, the PAIGH has designed a relevant strategy for building an integrated cartographic data base in the region, which will serve as a territorial aid for various studies associated with the Pan-American Agenda. In this initiative, administrative boundaries, settlements, road networks, the terrain morphology and toponyms have been considered as fundamental data, along with the hydrography which is the key element, as a geographic feature, for various natural and cultural processes that affect territorial and environmental management, especially concerning issues related to adaptation to climate change and the management of natural hazards.

The concepts for creating an integrated cartography started with the setting up of the “Americas Global Map Working Group” in the year 2005, as a product of the meeting of the PAIGH Cartography Commission held that year in Caracas, Venezuela. With this, it was intended to achieve and push forwards the development of a continental map based on the standard of the international initiative called the “Global Map”; this objective was partially achieved through the project “Integration of
Global Map Data of South America”, which was executed by the end of the year 2012, motivating the start-up of participative cartographic activities. (Hunt, 2012).

The initiative for having available an integrated continental map has begun to take shape in reality through the execution of specific projects at sub-regional level, as is the case of the “Integrated Map of Central America” and the “Integrated Map of the North Andean Region”, which, taken together, will enable in the medium term the cartographic harmonization and standardization of 12 countries. From the point of view of the PAIGH, this contributes to making territorial information available for taking on projects, studies and analyses of multinational interest, from a regional perspective. Such applications include sustainable development, adaptation to climate change and the handling of natural hazards, these being issues for which geographic information is relevant. These projects act in complement to other initiatives, in such a way as makes it possible to have available a continental cartographic coverage that cooperates with the efforts that are being made in this area by regional and global organizations.

7.3 Integrated Map of Central America

On the basis of the full proposal made by the National Section of the United States of America through the PAIGH Technical Assistance program, the initiative “Integrated Map of Central America” was begun, and was implemented over the years 2009 and 2014, by means of a series of participative workshops held mainly in El Salvador. This made it possible to establish a unified digital map base that includes Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, the south of Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama.
For the execution of this activity, the United States Geological Survey of the United States (USGS) and the Geographic Institutes of all the participating countries cooperated, while the Latin American Development Bank (CAF) gave its support. The metadata of this map, which is available for viewing in the GeoSUR portal, was documented on the basis of the Latin American Metadata Profile (LAMP), based on the ISO 19115 standard.

### 7.4 Integrated Map of the North Andean region (MIAN)

Following this scheme of ideas, the project “Integrated Map of the North Andean region (MIAN)” is now fully in its execution phase; this has the participation of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru, with Panama in this case acting as the link with the initiative Central American Map. It is intended that, during the current year, this stage be concluded so that the subsequent phases of continental cartographic integration can follow. For this, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Center for Geographic Information of Spain (CNIG) are both contributing their cooperation, while the Geographic Institutes of all the countries involved are also participating. The Latin American Development Bank and the DOI-ITAP (of the United States of America) are providing their backing.

The objective here is to integrate digital cartography at 1:250,000 scale of the participating countries, for which the following workshops have been carried out:

- **First Workshop**: 9th to 13th of February 2015, at the premises of the Agustín Codazzi Geographic Institute in Bogota, Colombia; on this occasion major technical agreements were reached about the issues.
- **Intermediate workshop**: 7th to 8th of April 2015, at the premises of the National Geographic Institute of Peru, concerning the cartographic harmonization between Bolivia and Peru.
- **Second Workshop**: 13th to 17th of July 2015, at the premises of the Military Geographic Institute of Ecuador. Significant progress was made concerning the object catalogue and application scheme, cases in frontier zones; likewise further steps were taken in scheduling the integration of the reference data.
- **Third Workshop**: 16th to the 20th of November, 2015, hosted by the “Tommy Guardia” National Geographic Institute of Panama (IGNTG).

Moreover, the plans to publish a WMS (Web Map Service) in the first quarter of 2016 and create a joint hydrography chart during that same year are kept in place.
Inauguration of 1st MIAN workshop  
(Photograph: IGAC, Colombia)

Directors of Geographic Institutes, Coordinator of the GeoSUR program, President and Secretary General of the PAIGH at the 1st MIAN workshop  
(Photograph: IGAC, Colombia)

Attendees at the 2nd MIAN workshop at the IGM in Ecuador  
(Photograph: IGM, Ecuador)

Participants at the 3rd workshop for the North Andean Integrated Map - MIAN

7.5 Cooperation with the Abu Dhabi Environmental Agency

The PAIGH participated in the Summit of the Eye on Earth summit, which was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from the 6th to the 8th of October in 2015. On this occasion, the results of the commitments entered into under the “Sponsorship Agreement” between the Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi (EAD) and the Pan American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH) were presented. This agreement, signed on the 30th of December 2013, concerns the project titled “The GeoSUR Program, a model regional geospatial network for the Arab region”. At the summit, the above meant participating in a series of presentations, among which the following are to be highlighted:

- The GeoSUR session, with the objective of presenting the lessons learned and the best practices gathered together from Latin America with the aim of being able to view how the project could possibly be reproduced in other regions.
• Session titled “Connecting networks to support environmental sustainability: What Global Network of Networks can do for you!”, in which the PAIGH Secretary General, Rodrigo Barriga, presented the relations of the PAIGH, these links being sustained at global, regional and inter-regional levels, for contributing to the creation of capabilities and the strengthening of institutions.

• Session “Enabling the data revolution in the Americas” organized by the Americas Regional Office of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), in which the PAIGH Secretary General presented the scope and the achievements of the Pan-American Agenda and of the ‘Joint Action Plan for Accelerating the Development of the SDIs of the Americas’, signed between the PAIGH, SIRGAS, UN-GGIM: Americas and GeoSUR.
• Session for evaluating and establishing mechanisms for inter-regional cooperation, titled “Regional innovative approaches for cross regional cooperation in knowledge sharing”, in which it was agreed to continue with the permanent communication system between inter-regional organizations of America, Europe, Africa, the Arab and the Asia-Pacific regions.

At the same time, a series of parallel meetings were held for strengthening the links of mutual cooperation between the Institute and the representatives of various specialized international organizations attending this summit.

The Session organized by the UNEP had Ivan B. DeLoatch, Executive Director of the Federal Geographic Data Committee of the United States Geological Service and the Secretary General of the PAIGH as panel members (Photograph: PAIGH)

Presentation of the Secretary General of the PAIGH (Photograph: PAIGH)

Panel members of the session “Regional innovative approaches for cross regional cooperation in knowledge sharing”: David Stanners, Ahmed Abdelrehim, Frank Turyatunga, Rodrigo Barriga Vargas, Sabah Nait, Peter King (Photograph: PAIGH)

Presentation of the Secretary General of the PAIGH (Photograph: PAIGH)

HE Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary General of the Environmental Agency of Abu Dhabi (EAD) together with the Secretary General of the PAIGH (Photograph: PAIGH)

Ahmed Baharoon, Director of the AGEDI (Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative) and the PAIGH Secretary General at the moment in which the Project Report was handed over. (Photograph: PAIGH)

The Secretary General of the PAIGH and the facilitator of the Special Initiative “Global Network of Networks” (at center), Derek John Gliddon (Photograph: PAIGH)
7.6 **Technical Cooperation with the CNIG of IGN-Spain**

The process of technical cooperation between the PAIGH and the National Center for Geographic Information (CNIG) of the National Geographic Institute (IGN) of Spain has continued. During 2014 a unique, specific document was signed between the PAIGH and the IGN-CNIG with the objective of carrying out a series of activities for strengthening institutional capabilities. As part of the above-mentioned document, between October and November 2014, the workshop titled “Harmonization of terminology and standards” of the “R3IGeo” network was run in the framework of the Third Joint Technical Meeting of the PAIGH Commissions which took place in Mexico City in June 2015.
As part of the activities of the 46th Meeting of the Directing Council, in Cartagena, Colombia, in 2015, a workshop was held for leaders coming in person from national institutions responsible for geographic information services and Spatial Data Infrastructures, to build up their capabilities for organizing and managing those responsibilities.

Moreover, various mechanisms for cooperation between the CNIG of Spain and the PAIGH have continued, mainly those associated with the Integrated Map of the North Andean region and with the specialized guidance being given to the management of the Metadata of the GeoSUR Program.

7.7 “Leopoldo Zea” Americas Thinkers Award

The General Secretariat, together with the History Commission, have announced the call for submissions corresponding to the schedule and format rules. The Commission President, Patricia Galeana, made known the titles of the Works submitted and assessed, and the one given the award at the 46th Meeting of the Directing Council (Colombia 2015). On that occasion the award was given to the submission titled “The symbols of the alternative modernity; Montalvo, Rodó, Martí, González Prada and Flores Magón”, Ricardo Melgar Bao of Mexico being the author.
8. Inter-Institutional Relations

8.1 Relations with the OAS

Concerning relations with the OAS, in April 2015 the annual report of the PAIGH was presented to the OAS (in the USA); on that occasion the most relevant activities of the period were explained, in the context of the Pan-American Agenda.

In the same way, conversations for strengthening links with the OAS Executive Secretariat for Integrated Development have continued, involving themes such as climate change, organization of territorial information and management of natural hazards, specifically with the areas responsible for Integrated Management of Hydrous Resources and for Management of Natural Disasters; with whom the aspects involving the implementation of protocols for the exchange of geographic information were analyzed.

Moreover, the Secretary General of the PAIGH attended, in January 2015, the presentation of the book “Strategies and processes of the foreign policy of the United States 1981-1991”, whose author is Mr Miguel Insulza Salinas, who was Secretary General of the OAS during the period May 2005 to May 2015.

Specialized advice was given to the office of the OAS concerning the area around the boundary between Belize and Guatemala, for determining the coordinates of points related to the line between the adjacent countries.

8.2 Inter-American Cadastral Network of the OAS

The first meeting of the Inter American Cadastral and Property Records was held in the city of Bogota, Colombia, on the 2nd and 3rd of December 2015. During the work sessions, due emphasis was given to encouraging and maintaining media in which to reflect on issues, to mutually-held knowledge, horizontal technical cooperation, training and the exchange of experiences between the agencies and entities involved in cadastral and property records in the Americas. This was with the purpose of contributing to progress in cadastral and property record systems, in establishing systems for the administration and management of land, and in the objectives of sustainable development, among other goals. On this occasion, the role of the PAIGH in relation to this initiative was recognized.
8.3 National Sections of the PAIGH

During this period, there have been changes in the management of the National Sections of Belize, Bolivia, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay.

Moreover, the PAIGH has participated in some meetings with representatives of the following countries:

- Foreign Relations Ministry of Brazil (Brasilia)
- Ministry of Foreign Relations of Chile (Santiago)
- National Section and Foreign Relations Ministry of Colombia (Bogotá)
- National Section of El Salvador (San Salvador)
- National Section of the United States of America (Washington, D.C.)
- Secretariat of Foreign Relations of Mexico (City of Mexico)
- Foreign Relations Ministry of Ecuador (Quito)
- Protocol activities in Mexico City with the participation of ambassadors and of representatives of the Diplomatic Corps of the PAIGH Member States with accreditation in Mexico
In all these contacts it was possible to make known the main matters in progress at the Institute, with special emphasis on the Pan-American Agenda and on aspects of mutual cooperation, at the same time dealing with issues involving administrative and financial aspects.

8.4 Latin American Geospatial Forum

Coordinations were made for participating in the 2015 Annual Conference of the Latin American Geospatial Forum (LAGF), held between the 10th and 13th of November in Mexico City. The PAIGH was one of the patron organizations of this event.

8.5 Visit to the United States Geological Survey (USGS)

On the 20th of April 2015, a visit was made to the USGS, where leading representatives of that service and the PAIGH Secretary General participated. The objective of the meeting was to analyze aspects of mutual cooperation for strengthening the development of the integrated continental map, also for other projects such as the “Central American Integrated Geo Spatial Information System for adaptation to climate change and natural hazard management” and the “Cost – Benefits Manual for SDIs”.
8.6 Meeting with representatives of the World Bank and of the Inter-American Development Bank

On the 22nd of April 2015, in Washington D.C., two separate meetings were held with representatives of the World Bank and of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), for both, this was with the aim of exploring opportunities for mutual cooperation. As a result of these initial conversations, a further meeting was set up with representatives of the IDB in Mexico City. The IDB may be interested in analyzing the possibility of becoming part of the initiative “Central American Integrated Geo Spatial Information System for adaptation to climate change and natural hazard management”.

8.7 Pan-American Declaration on Adult Education

The Secretary General of the PAIGH participated in the seminar panel “Pan American Partnership for Adult Education”, held in the context of the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) in Chicago, Illinois, on the 24th of April 2015 in which the academic and professional participants declared the following:

Working with adult education institutions in Latin America for enriching research and education, in the context of the annual meeting in Chicago of the Association of American Geographers, the need for greater Pan American cooperation and integration for facing a changing world is recognized. In particular, we seek to commit ourselves to a variable setting in Latin America in which problems of world importance are faced through a regional focus and list of issues, through adult education beyond the international borders. We support the issues identified in the First Forum of University Rectors (held in the framework of the Seventh Summit of the Americas in Panama) titled “Prosperity and education: the challenge of cooperation in the Americas; the role of universities”. These issues are 1) Academic Mobility; 2) Technology and innovation; and 3) Sustainable economic development. For this reason, we advocate greater cooperation and exchange between universities, professors and students for improving access to information through networks, technology and innovation with the objective of creating communities of knowledge applied to achieving an equitable and sustainable society, unified in terms of local and global scales. In order to reach these objectives, it is intended to seek international funding for facilitating integration and cooperation in adult education in Latin America. The participants in this panel have 1) developed educational models such as on-line education, conservation for creating capabilities in science and workshops about climate change; 2) researched thematic areas of importance, such as adaptation to climate change, sustainable development and cross-border policies for ecological issues; and 3) shared specialized knowledge in regions such as the Amazon, the Caribbean, Central America, the Andes. These regional models, themes and experience should be used for building a new paradigm of Pan American cooperation centered upon communities of knowledge that is applied and sustainable in the Americas.
8.8  Presentation of the Book on Spatial Data Infrastructure

On the 8th of May, 2015, the Secretary General of the PAIGH was invited by the Geography Institute of the UNAM to present the book “Spatial Data Infrastructures and Geographic Standards in Mexico: a current overview” by the engineer Jesús Olvera, Carlos Alberto Sara Gutiérrez, Marisol Mancera Cedillo, Héctor Daniel Reséndiz López and Luis Chias Becerril. The authors, in this text, make several bibliographic references in which they highlight, among other concepts, the importance of geographic and environmental information for improving the quality of life of people, likewise the important need for the nations and their leading organizations to have full knowledge of territorial information through the building up of a project at national level with a view of the long term on the basis of geographic information and knowledge. There are numerous challenges set forth in this book, such as a contribution towards building spatial data infrastructures at all levels and to the development and application of the geographic standards that Mexico requires for the welfare of its inhabitants.

8.9  Second ministerial meeting of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas

The Secretary General participated as member of a panel group in the Round Table seminar “Renewable Energy: mapping potential resources and diversifying the energy system” that was held within the framework of the Second ministerial meeting of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), an event run during the days 25th and 26th of May 2015 at Mérida, Yucatán, México.
The objective of this session concerned the interest of the region in having available the best mapping tools for renewable resources and policies for diversification that enable renewable energies to be integrated with the power generation and distribution system, as a way to contribute to improving the systematization of information about existing renewable resources, also to the possible strategies for diversifying the energy resources of the region.

On this occasion the PAIGH presented in summary form the scope and content of the Pan American Agenda and the relationship between the Institute and the GeoSUR program, pointing out particularly the importance and transversal effect of geospatial information for the development of an inventory of renewable energy sources in our region at a scale with sufficient resolution and level of detail for handling this issue.

8.10 Cooperation with the National Meteorological Service of Mexico

With the aim of continuing to reinforce the links of cooperation between the National Meteorological Service of Mexico (SMN) and the PAIGH, a work meeting was held for developing the line of work involving the establishment, within the premises of the Institute, with the finance of the SMN, a training center in areas of common interest.

The General Coordinator of the SMN of Mexico and the Secretary General of the PAIGH (Photograph: PAIGH)
8.11 International Cartographic Conference ICC 2015 (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

On this occasion, at one of the plenary sessions, the paper about the Pan American Agenda was presented, describing especially the aspects most closely related to cartographic and geo-spatial matters, highlighting among other topics the Joint Action Plan for speeding up the development of the SDI of the Americas signed between the PAIGH, SIRGAS, UN-GGIM: Americas and GeoSUR, the PAIGH programs of technical assistance and of publications, the projects carried out in conjunction with the various organisations such as the Environmental Agency of Abu Dhabi, continental cartographic integration and cooperation with the IGN-CNIG of Spain, among others.

At the same time, interesting meetings were held with members of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and the Brazilian Institute for Geography and Statistics (IBGE). That held between the President of the Cartography Commission and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) promises very well for the future in matters of mutual cooperation.

8.12 Sixth Iberian Seminars on Spatial Data Infrastructures (JIIDE)

The Sixth event in which the Iberian Seminars on Spatial Data Infrastructures was held in the city of Seville, Spain, from the 4th to the 6th of November, during which workshops, presentations and a technical event, all with speeches and displays by a wide variety of organizations related to this whole field of activity were run. All of this is within the objectives of the framework agreement for cooperation signed between the PAIGH and the CNIG of Spain. During this event, the Secretary General gave a speech concerning the PAIGH and the SDI in the Americas, titled the “SDI in the Iberian-American region”.

The PAIGH participated in the Iberian-american Seminars on Spatial Data Infrastructures (JIIDE) held in Seville, Spain, between the 4th and 6th of November 2015 (Photograph: PAIGH)
8.13 SIAP agreement for room at the “Manuel Orozco y Berra” map library

Last January 14th, an agreement on conditions of use was signed between the PAIGH and the Agricultural Foods and Fisheries Information Service (SIAP, Mexico) at the premises of the General Secretariat of the Institute. By means of this agreement, the Institute authorizes the SIAP to use, during five years, a room of the PAIGH for housing an office, also a room with an exhibition of instruments from the last century and maps belonging to the PAIGH. As the counterpart receiving the use of the premises, for its part the SIAP will provide to the PAIGH information derived from the processing and interpretation of satellite images about relevant scientific aspects for which there is a shared interest concerning a wide range of geographic studies.

 Signing of agreement between SIAP and PAIGH (Photograph - PAIGH)

9   Fulfillment of the resolutions of the 46th Meeting of the Directing Council (Colombia, 2015)

Resolution No. 1   “Updates to the Joint Action Plan for accelerating the development of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas PAIGH/SIRGAS/UN-GGIM: Americas/ GeoSUR”.

A formal letter has been sent to the Cartography Commission so that the functions of the Secretariat would be ad hoc, and to the leaders of the SIRGAS and UN:GGIM-Americas programs requesting their support for bringing the “Joint Action Plan” up to date.

Virtual meetings of the Cartography Commission with the leaders of each program and organization will be scheduled.

A project will be submitted as a resolution to the 47th Meeting of the Directing Council.

Resolution No. 2   “ISO/TC 211 Standards”

The second pan-hispanic version of the “ISO/TC211 Multilingual Glossary” will be distributed by the means available to the PAIGH. A formal letter will be sent to the Director of the CNIG of Spain, expressing thanks and recognition.

Resolution No. 3   “PAIGH Editors Working Group”

The Coordinator of the Editors Working Group will be asked to submit a Technical Assistance Project as a way to finance the activities scheduled for 2017, including the work plan for the same year.
Resolution No. 4  “Workshop for Leaders of Cartographic Agencies”
Inform the National Sections.
Request that the Cartography and Geography Commissions organize another
workshop to be held in Paraguay in 2016, in the framework of the 47th Meeting
of the Directing Council, with representatives of the following initiatives being
invited: USGS Topographic Map Production System of the United States of
America; the National Topographic Map of Spain and Experiences, and the
CNR-IGCN of El Salvador, among other organizations.

Resolution No. 5  “Bringing the annual fees of the Member States up-to-date”
A request to modify the fees has been made to the Foreign Relations Ministries
of the Member States.

Resolution No. 6  “Cooperation Agreements with donor organizations in the region”
In coordination with the National Sections, the relevant International
Cooperation Agencies will be contacted for the purpose of studying the
feasibility of setting up and signing agreements with the PAIGH.

Resolution No. 7  “Name of the award for the thesis in Cartography, Geodesy or Geographic
Information”
Request the National Sections that they send, before the 30th of March, to the
General Secretariat their proposals, considering their contributions or relevance
at Pan-American level.
For the definitive name of the “Award for the best post-graduate thesis in
Cartography, Geodesy and/or Geographic Information”, the General Secretariat
of the PAIGH will submit its recommendations to the 47th Meeting of the
Directing Council.

Resolution No. 8  “Award for post-graduate and doctoral thesis in History”
The History Commission will call for submissions to this award.

Resolution No. 9  “Creation of the PAIGH Ex-Authorities Chamber”
The coordinators of the “Virtual Chamber of the ex-authorities”, professor
Héctor Pena and the President of the History Commission, will be informed about
the activities involved with this topic that are being performed by the General
Secretariat with the cooperation of the M.A. Paola Ugalde, winner of the
“Wallace W. Atwood” award of 2013.

Resolution No. 10  “Reactivation of Chapter XII of the Organic Statutes; ‘On the status of
Cooperating Associate’”
Set up a registration form and make it known generally, through the means
available to the Institute.

Resolution No. 11  “Location and host for the 21st General Assembly”
Request that the PAIGH National Section in Guatemala ratify the location as
host.

Resolution No. 12  “Location and host for the 21st General Assembly”
Request that the PAIGH National Sections in Panama and Bolivia ratify with
their respective governments the offer to host the alternative location.
Resolution No. 13  “Location and host for the 48th Meeting of the Directing Council”
Request that the PAIGH National Section in Costa Rica ratify the location as host.

Resolution No. 14  “Acceptance of the reports of the President, Vice-President, Secretary General, and of the Commission Presidents”
These are available on the PAIGH web page.

Resolution No. 15  “Change of Title of the American Anthropology Newsletter”
The institutions with which there are exchange agreements and the subscribing clients have been informed of the change to the name of the journal.

Resolution No. 16  “Financial Report for 2014”
The full version is on the web site of the PAIGH.

Resolution No. 17  “Audit Report for 2014”
The full version is on the web site of the PAIGH.

Resolution No. 18  “Budget Programme for 2016”
The Accounting Department of the General Secretariat of the PAIGH will oversee and ensure the full and due processing of each one of the items specified in that budget.

Resolution No. 19  “Presentation of Reports from National Sections”
A message has been sent to those National Sections that have not yet sent their report requesting them to do so.

Resolution No. 20  “Statement of Gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Colombia”
This recognition and thanks was sent to the Government of the Republic of Colombia and to its Ministry for Foreign Relations for its cooperation and support for holding the 46th Meeting of the Directing Council.

Resolution No. 21  “Recognition of the Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute of Colombia, of the PAIGH National Section in Colombia and the members of the Organizing Committee”
This was given for their substantial efforts to ensure that the 46th Meeting of the Directing Council be a success.

Resolution No. 22  “Recognition of the technical team of the PAIGH”
This was given to the personnel of the General Secretariat of the PAIGH.

10 View towards the medium-term future
Encourage and work towards the fulfillment of the institutional strategies, in the scientific, administrative and financial areas.

Special emphasis will continue to be given to the objectives of the “Pan American Agenda” and the “Joint action plan for accelerating the development of the SDIs of the Americas”. Priority has been given to the development of studies and the editing of publications about the history of America, in the
widest sense, so as to contribute to knowledge of and preservation of the heritage of the peoples of America, also to encouraging their integration and their sense of Pan-Americanism. The Agenda also relates to the progress made for developing a Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas, especially where this concerns facilitating the creation of an integrated digital continental map that contributes, among other aspects, to sustainable development, to preparatory measures and integrated management for natural hazards, also studies of climate change and adaptation to it.

Continue pushing forwards the improvement of the scientific quality of the periodic publications, supporting the work of the Editors Working Group.

Keep strengthening links with international organizations specializing in the same fields of action as those of the PAIGH.

Continue with the processes for finding additional administrative resources.

Undertake processes related to the improvement of the physical infrastructure of the offices of the General Secretariat in coordination with the Foreign Relations Secretariat of Mexico.