



Pan American Institute of Geography and History

Specialized Agency of the Organization of American States

Report on the Activities 2023

of the General Secretariat of the Pan American
Institute of Geography and History



"Science in the
Service of
Peace"

Headquarters,
Mexico City,
December 2023

**"Towards an Institutional
Re-Engineering"**

Pan American Institute of Geography and History

Specialized Agency of the
Organization of American
States



**Report on the Activities of
the General Secretariat of
the Pan American Institute
of Geography and History,
2023**

**“Towards an Institutional
Re-Engineering”**

MA. Antonio
Campuzano Rosales,
Secretary General

Publ. 571



AMERICANO DE GEOGRAFIA E HISTORIA



Authorities of Pan American Institute of Geography and History (2022-2025)



Patricia Solís
President
United States of America



Rocsanda Pahola Méndez Mata
Vice President
Guatemala



Antonio Campuzano Rosales
Secretary General
Mexico



Max Alberto Lobo Hernández
President of the
Cartography Commission
Costa Rica



Hermann Manríquez Tirado
President of the
Geography Commission
Chile



Filiberto Cruz Sánchez
President of the
History Commission
Dominican Republic



Mario Calixto Ruiz Romero
President of the
Geophysics Commission
Ecuador



Christian Núñez Solís
Vice President of the
Cartography Commission



Rodrigo Barriga Vargas
Vice President of the
Geography Commission



Reina Cristina Rosario Fernández
Vice President of the
History Commission



Alexandra P. Alvarado Cevallos
Vice President of the
Geophysics Commission



Map of the PAIGH Authorities

The PAIGH, its Functions and its Organization

The Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) was founded on the 7th of February, 1928 by a resolution approved at the Sixth International American Conference which was held in Havana, Cuba.

In 1930, the Government of the United Mexican States built, for the PAIGH to use, the building at N° 29 in “Ex Arzobispado”, Tacubaya, in Mexico City.

In 1949, a formal agreement was signed between the Institute and the Council of the Organization of American States, and the PAIGH became the first specialized agency of the latter.

Only the American States may be members of the PAIGH. There is also the category of Permanent Observer; currently Spain, France, Israel, Jamaica and the Republic of Korea have that status.

The PAIGH is made up of the following Pan American organs:

- General Assembly;
- Authorities;
- General Secretariat; and
- Commissions.

Moreover each Member State officially sets up a National Section and designates its members. The National Sections are established for the fulfillment of the mission, vision and scientific strategy of the PAIGH in the national sphere and ambit, having available for this purpose the financial support of its government.

Member States

Argentina



Belize



Bolivia



Brazil



Chile



Colombia



Costa Rica



Ecuador



El Salvador



United States of America



Guatemala



Haiti



Honduras



Mexico



Nicaragua



Panama



Paraguay



Peru



Dominican Republic



Uruguay



Venezuela





Mission

- Encourage, coordinate and distribute studies pertaining to its areas of interest, which are Cartography, Geography, History, Geophysics and those related sciences for the benefit of the Americas;
- Support initiatives, innovation and the creation of knowledge in matters of its competence, by means of studies, tasks and trainings of its Commissions;
- Encourage interdisciplinary cooperation among related institutes in America and with international organizations.

Vision

- Becoming an organization of excellence that is made up of specialists and researchers of its areas of interest;
- Operating as an institution that facilitates and supports research that provides scientific-technical assistance to its Member States, to the Organization of American States, and to all those entities, which request it within the limits of the possible and of the formal agreements;
- Articulating and promoting relationships concerning its areas of interest among Member States, civil society, as well as international scientific, academic, and private initiative organizations.

Principles

- The PAIGH prioritizes scientific activities, through its Technical Assistance Program, as well as the dissemination of specialized knowledge through its Publications Program, or those programs established for these purposes in the future;
- It encourages attention to the relationship among disciplines in its studies, projects and publications with an emphasis on science, technology and critical thinking;
- It stimulates activities of multinational interest;
- The PAIGH recognizes the importance of equality, non-discrimination, respect and tolerance for all human beings;
- It respects the freedom of expression of its authors, who bear sole responsibility for their respective contents;
- The PAIGH does not start up or encourage any work that is considered to be biased towards political or religious proselytism;
- It supports open access to its studies and research produced by its programs.



INSTITUTO
PARANÁQUEÑO
DE GEOLOGÍA
& HISTORIA

23



Report on the activities of the General Secretariat of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History

Contents

Introduction

Pages 2-5

■ **Actions performed concerning Guiding Principle I:**
Encourage scientific research in the fields of cartography, geography, history, geophysics and related sciences, specifically those studies that are of interest to the Member States, with the objective of contributing to peace among the American states.

Págs. 6-17

■ **Actions performed concerning Guiding Principle II:**
Distribute and make known those scientific studies in cartography, geography, history, geophysics and related sciences that are of interest to the American continent, in accordance with the scientific and technical programs approved by the Institute and in coordination with the General Secretariat and the Commissions.

Págs. 18-22

■ **Actions performed concerning Guiding Principle III:**
Keep the finances in good condition, in order to ensure that they are correctly operational, fully backing the prioritized scientific research projects and the objectives for which the Institute was created. At the same time, the annual assessment and check on the accounts and the status of the funds will be carried out, with the support of internal and external auditors.

Págs. 23-26

■ **Actions performed concerning Guiding Principle IV:**
Strengthen the world presence of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, placing emphasis on its relations with international entities such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the States of this continent.

Págs. 27-44

■ **Actions performed concerning Guiding Principle V:**
The Pan American Institute of Geography and History will strengthen its relations with the countries that host its central office, the General Assembly event and also the Presidencies of the Commissions and the meetings of those Commissions, with the aim of supporting the best possible functioning of these organs, which will result in benefits for the correct operational running and good public image of the Institute.

Págs. 45-50

■ **Actions performed concerning Guiding Principle VI:**
Work towards a good state of conserving the whole of the human resources, materials, infrastructure, fixed and moveable assets, historic and artistic assets, archive, journal and library stocks, and the map library of the PAIGH, also towards the updating of the rules of procedures in accordance with the new Organic Statute, with the goal of keeping the institute suitably operational for the correct fulfilment of the objectives for which it was created.

Págs. 51-58

AL INSTITUTO
PANAMERICANO
DE GEOGRAFIA
E HISTORIA.

EN SU XXV ANIVERSARIO
LAS DELEGACIONES ASISTENTES
A LA IV ASAMBLEA GENERAL
MEXICO JULIO HENCK

Introduction

Report on the Activities of
the General Secretariat of the
Pan American Institute of
Geography and History



The Pan American Institute of Geography and History is a specialized inter-American body of a scientific-technical nature, of the Organization of American States (OAS), which has a degree of technical and financial autonomy in the exercise of its functions, in accordance with its institutional regulations; with the mission of encouraging, coordinating and distributing studies in its areas of interest, which are Cartography, Geography, History, Geophysics and related sciences. In addition, it supports initiatives and innovations for knowledge and the creation of it, by means of studies, training, and the work of its Commissions; while also encouraging interdisciplinary cooperation among the institutes of our continent and related international organizations; all of the above is for the benefit of the nations of America.

In order to fulfil this important mission, the current Secretary General, MA. Antonio Campuzano Rosales, in the year 2023, continued to apply the Strategic Modernization Plan of the PAIGH currently in force, which is aligned with the 2030 United Nations Agenda, the Charter of the Organization of American States and the regulations of this institution; this plan is divided into three areas: scientific, financial and administrative, and has six central guiding concepts. For their adequate fulfilment, there has been an ongoing institutional re-engineering in the three areas mentioned above.

As a starting point for the activities of the General Secretariat, the ceremony of the 95th Anniversary of the creation of the PAIGH should be highlighted; this was held at the Palace headquarters building in Mexico City on February 7th, 2023. At this event, our institution was given suitable emphasis before important scientists invited as guests of honor; members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited in Mexico and important academic figures from reputable institutions were also present.

Concerning the scientific sphere, the Technical Assistance Program was checked, analyzed, and strengthened in the aspects involving grants, projects and cooperation agreements. Concerning that specifically involving the projects, as had been done from the previous year onwards, follow-up actions and monitoring continued for what was being given finance. The process of selecting these projects, their finance, and the rendering of accounts for them, even down to the way that the project technical reports were submitted, were all analyzed in detail, with the aim of finding areas of opportunity and of making it more efficient. The

same was done with the grants, and discussions were held with some of the National Section presidents in order to get to know their needs and to focus this program on satisfying the expectations of Pan-American scientists in matters involving training. Finally, the same was done for the cooperation agreements that would be needed; it was intended to achieve strategic alliances focused on satisfying needs, above all in matters involving training.

In the sphere of scientific outreach and publications, work has continued intensely on the scientific journals; without neglecting these, our social networks were improved and strengthened, our web site was transformed; this is certainly being translated to English. Our occasional journals and publications are supported. In fact, a Commemorative Publications Program has been set up.

Concerning our finances, this General Secretariat is looking for a rational management of the resources; the mechanisms for rendering accounts and for transparency were strengthened. It is important to mention that it was this General Secretariat that, from 2022, pushed for the Advisory Financial Planning and Assessment Committee to be implemented again and for its rules of procedure to be updated; this committee had not been in operational condition for 20 years. We appreciate the guidance and support of this committee, which started its activities in 2023.

It is intended to share the fact that all the above-mentioned measures have made it possible to ensure the correct operational functioning of the institute and of the scientific projects that have priority for our community. However, what has given us the most satisfaction is announcing that all of the tasks performed made it possible to obtain a favorable balance in our finances. This financial management has been recognized by the highest level of authority in the PAIGH, the General Assembly.

I can declare that the global presence of the PAIGH has been strengthened considerably in terms of its relations with other international organizations; we have become closer to the Organization of American States (OAS) and to other bodies attached to the OAS. Moreover, we are satisfied to report that we have strengthened our relations with international organizations of a scientific nature, such as with the Committee



of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management of the United Nations (UN-GGIM) and the Americas Regional Committee of that UN body (UN-GGIM: Americas); with the Geodesic Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS); with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); and the Pan-American Center for Geographic Studies and Research (CEPEIGE), among others. We have cooperated in the areas of setting up and running scientific studies, disseminating them and even with financial support. For this reason, we can state now that we are once again at the leading edge of scientific work on the global scene.

In another area, we continue to strengthen our relations with international organizations that have headquarters in Mexico, such as the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL); the Latin American Institute for Educational Communication (ILCE); the Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS), and the Regional Cooperation Center for Adult Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (CREFAL).

We have also made approaches to the Presidencies of the National Sections of the Member States and Observer States of the PAIGH, also with their diplomatic representatives in the country hosting the headquarters.

Concerning another aspect, considerable progress has been made in the diplomatic relations with the countries hosting the General Secretariat, the Commission Presidents and the other PAIGH Authorities; we have had the opportunity to approach the Authorities of Mexico; particularly the Secretariats for International Relations, Public Education and National Defense, also the National Section of Mexico. Their support has been fundamental for making progress in aligning the PAIGH with international rules and procedures and those of the host country, with total respect for Mexican sovereignty and the diplomatic immunity of our institution.

A significant step forwards is the re-engineering of the whole of the rules, regulations and procedures of our organization; this has been the analysis and update of all the rules of procedure

and aligning all of them with the Organic Statute that has been in force since October 2021. Along the same lines, there has been the drafting of further rules necessary for covering gaps in the regulations and procedures. The above makes it possible to be certain about the way for all and each one of the members making up the PAIGH community to act.

Finally, for the careful management of the human and material resources of this institution, we have worked intensely. The General Secretariat is setting up a team with staff motivated to serve this institution with loyalty, while keeping to a respect for their human and labor rights, also to the compliance with the laws of the country hosting this headquarters. The Civil Protection Program is being fulfilled, as is the Maintenance Program for our palace building, which is part of the historic heritage of Mexico and of America.

I am pleased to say that the riches of our institution, represented by the stocks of material in the library, historic, journal, museum and map collections are now already in safe places and in a

good state of conservation. The work continued with the tasks for rescuing the Historic Archive, and we are recovering the historic memory of the 21 Member States of our organization.

All of this introductory summary tells us of the significant achievements that have arisen from the fulfilment of the strategic plan that serves to guide the General Secretariat and the staff who work there. Likewise, that plan makes it possible to consolidate the significant changes that the institutional re-engineering has caused in this administration. Significant steps are being taken to ensure that, at the end of this current administration and almost on the threshold of the commemoration of the first centenary of our institution, a stronger, solid, more dynamic Pan American Institute of Geography and History is handed over, being in truth a scientific reference point at continental and world levels in the Earth Sciences and in History.

MA. Antonio Campuzano Rosales
Mexico City, December 2023



Actions performed concerning Guiding Principle I:

Encourage scientific research in the fields of Cartography, Geography, History, Geophysics and related sciences, specifically those studies that are of interest to the Member States, with the objective of contributing to peace among the American States

This central guiding principle is focused on encouraging scientific studies and research, which is the fundamental mission of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, in accordance with Article 2 of its Organic Statute currently in force; among other aspects, this specifies that scientific studies should be encouraged and initiatives, innovation and the creation of knowledge should be supported. In the same way, interdisciplinary cooperation in the areas of interest to this institution (Cartography, Geography, History, Geophysics, and related sciences), should be supported, benefiting the nations of America.

Due to the above and throughout 2023, work of a wide scope has continued on the scientific agenda of the PAIGH, in particular for the Technical Assistance Program for matters concerning projects and grants. For that involving the projects, work has continued on the "IDE: AMERICAS" Spatial Data Infrastructure, also on relations with the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management of the United Nations and its Americas Regional Committee (UN-GGIM: Americas) and with the Geodesic Reference System



for the Americas (SIRGAS). On the subject of grants, 121 of these were processed, by means of the work of our four commissions, which distributed the grants equally. It should be pointed out that the support of South Korea and of the Kingdom of Spain was obtained.

Americas SDI

Concerning the web site of the "SDI: AMERICAS Spatial Data Infrastructure", UN-GGIM: AMERICAS and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean were cooperated with and work was coordinated to strengthen this scientific initiative. Due to this, throughout the year several work meetings were held, with the objective of staying up to date and making the transfer of information by the PAIGH to the initiative indicated here.

Moreover, the General Secretariat has sustained coordination with the above-mentioned international organizations in order to sustain the work related to the governance of the site. In addition, the Cartography Commission, as led by its President, MSc. Max Lobo, supervised the contents and advised on the decisions of a scientific nature for that web site.

Consequently, coordination was established with Patricia Snaider, PhD. (Argentina) and Oscar Luis Pyszczek, PhD. (Colombia), also with representatives of the National Geographic Institute of Spain, with the goal of promoting the "*Atlas of Climate Change of the Americas*" (ACCA), developed in the years 2017 and 2019. The same was done with MSc. Luis Andrés Valenzuela Olivares, and his work "*Review of Scientific Sources of the 16th and 17th Centuries for the drafting of climate maps of America*". Both of these works were financed and put into effect within the framework of the Technical Assistance Program of this Institute and other cooperating universities. This coordination had as its aim making both projects part of the "SDI: AMERICAS" initiative. For this reason, at this time the information cited here is being transferred. It is intended to complete this work in the first part of the year 2024.

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management of the United Nations (UN-GGIM) and its Regional Committee for the Americas

During the meeting of the 13th Session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management of the United Nations, held and recorded at the United Nations building

in the city of New York, from the 1st to the 4th of August 2023, fundamental discussions were held concerning the contributions of the regional committees and the thematic networks, also about the implementation and adoption of standards. The objective of this committee is to lead the coordination, the maintenance and the accessibility of geospatial information and resources at world level. This enables the UN Member States and society in general to use these tools to find sustainable solutions that push forwards social, economic, and environmental development. So, we are pleased to report that the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) was invited to participate as an observer at these important meetings.

In the fulfilment of its institutional Mission and the Strategic Modernization Plan, the PAIGH is proud of having been present at this major event, contributing actively to development and progress in the management of geospatial information at world level. The PAIGH, represented by its Secretary General during his participation at this event, recognized and congratulated the regional committees for their efforts and the thematic networks for their valuable contribution to the global agenda for geospatial information. In particular, the work on the application of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) was outstanding; the IGIF is a fundamental tool for the management and analysis of geospatial data at global level.

This participation was a demonstration of our institutional commitment to the encouragement of and progress in geospatial information in the Pan-American region. At this important international occasion for dialogue, strategies were discussed, and best practices were shared for sustainable development and decision-making based on geospatial data.

The Secretary General of the PAIGH, in his various participation activities, declared the importance of the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and gave congratulations to the upper levels of its supporting group for its efforts. At the same time, the commitment of the PAIGH to align its goals with those of the IGIF and to support its global implementation was ratified; all the Member and Observer States and other entities were encouraged to cooperate in its implementation and promotion for supporting the objectives of sustainable development, for this reason the statement: "We do not want to leave anyone behind".

In the same way, support for the UN Group of Experts on Geographic Names was re-stated. It was announced that, at the next General Assembly of the Institute, some time will be dedicated especially to covering this issue, strengthening cooperation between the Member States and encouraging a greater understanding of cultural identity. At the same time, a commitment was made to cooperate closely with the UN Group of Experts and provide knowledge and resources for enriching the global management of geospatial information.

Tenth Session of the Americas Regional Committee of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNGGIM: Americas)

The PAIGH was present at the Tenth Session of the Americas Regional Committee of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNGGIM: Americas), which was held and recorded at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in the city of Santiago, Chile, on the 17th – 20th of October, 2023. In the Agenda for Tuesday October 18th, words of welcome were stated by Rolando Ocampo, Director of the ECLAC Statistics Division; Marcela Sandoval, Minister for National Assets and Resources of Chile; Paloma Merodio, Co-Chair of the UN-GGIM; Stefan Schweinfest, Director of the Statistics Division of the United Nations (UN); and Paula Narváez, President of the UN Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC).

Subsequently, space was made for celebrating the 10 years of UN-GGIM: Americas; for which Mrs. Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo, President of UN-GGIM: Americas; MA. Antonio Campuzano Rosales, Secretary General; and Antonius Bambang Winajarto, President of UN-GGIM: ASIA-Pacific were all given the opportunity to give speeches for making clear their satisfaction with this important event.

In this context, the Secretary General, on behalf of the PAIGH Pan-American community, awarded and handed over to Mrs. Sofía Nilo and to legal clerk Rolando Ocampo a commemorative plaque for the 10 years that the UN-GGIM: Americas has been in existence, and expressed thanks for the work and tasks performed by this regional organization and its services to the benefit of the continent.

Along the same lines, he confirmed his commitment to continue cooperating with the regional international organizations, as part of the Strategic Modernization Plan of the PAIGH for 2022-2025.

On the second day of activities (18th of October), work continued on the launch of an SDI Americas Web Site, which has been in development for at least two years. In this Session, MA Campuzano made clear that, with the launch of the SDI Americas Web Site, 16 years of work was being recovered, this being a Project that started within the Pan-American community of the PAIGH and that previously was known as GEOSUR. The important work of the ECLAC, UN-GGIM: Americas, SIRGAS, AMERIGEO, the Latin America Development Bank and of the PAIGH was highlighted for their contribution to the consolidation of the Integrated Map of America.



The importance of keeping this platform updated was emphasized, and all of those present were congratulated for the success achieved.

It should be clarified that several research activities of the Technical Assistance Program (PAT) of the PAIGH, related to climate change and the climate emergency, are in the process of having their information transferred, to enrich this platform. Among these research efforts, we can mention the *Atlas of Climate Change of the Americas* (ACCA); the *Network of Climate Change Researchers of the Americas* (RICCA, in Spanish initials) and the *Climate Atlas, 16th and 17th centuries*; it is hoped to have these projects available in 2024 at the latest.

On the 20th of October, the activities scheduled for this important meeting came to an end; with the work completed, the agenda that had been previously set for this international high-level gathering was fulfilled; there had been exchanges of opinions, agreements, analyses of issues of interest for the continent and, above all, thought had been given to which way the efforts of the Pan-American community should be directed, in support of peace and the scientific development of the nations of America.

During the above-mentioned event, MA Campuzano talked with Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo, Leonardo Loureiro Silva and Pamela Castillo Retamales, President, Vice-President and Executive Secretary respectively of UN-GGIM: Americas, in order to confirm to them the support and willingness of the Pan-American community through this Institution for their tasks of research and scientific dissemination for the benefit of the nations of the American Continent. Along the same lines and considering that this committee of experts will be present in Mexico at various events in the year 2024, MA. Campuzano invited them to make an official visit to the palace building, headquarters of the General Secretariat, during this same year.

Subsequently, in the month of November and in accordance with the strategic plan of the PAIGH, the Secretary General of this Institute held, in virtual mode, a work meeting with members of the Americas Regional Committee of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Americas). Those present were Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo, President, Leonardo Scharth Loureiro Silva, Vice-President, Pamela Castillo, Executive Secretary, and Alvaro Mauricio Monet, of the Statistics Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The purpose of this meeting was to confirm and adjust the preparations for the 11th

Session of the Regional Committee to be held in Mexico in October 2024.

This session of work reaffirmed the links for cooperation between the PAIGH and UN-GGIM: Americas, while leaving confirmed the support before the representatives of that scientific organization.

MA. Campuzano Rosales talked with Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, PhD President of the PAIGH National Section of the United States of America, during their participation in the Tenth Session of the Americas Regional Committee of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Americas). At the meeting, the Secretary General recognized the support that Doctor Bishop has provided to the PAIGH in various matters of this institution. In the same way, thanks were given for pushing forwards the initiative in the region of the Americas, in accordance with the policy statement received by the 23rd General Assembly of the PAIGH in Quito, Ecuador, in October of 2022. At the same time, the request to Doctor Bishop was repeated for her to present a text and speech on the matter of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) during the 24th General Assembly of the PAIGH that was due to be held and recorded after, in early November that year in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Finally, a cordial invitation was made to the doctor and her work team to visit the palace building of the PAIGH headquarters, in Mexico City, in the year 2024.

Meeting with the Academic Network of UN-GGIM: Americas

During his tour through Uruguay in November, 2023, the Secretary General of the PAIGH held a meeting with Dr. Eng. Surveyor Rosario Casanova, Vice-president of the Regional Network of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and President of the Academic Network of the Americas Regional Committee of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Americas). Doctor Casanova fulfils important functions in regional organizations within the areas of geomatics, geo-technologies, and territorial organization and policies. At this meeting, both parties discussed the possibility for increasing scientific cooperation among the relevant organizations. For his part, the PAIGH leading official confirmed his support and cooperation with the regional international network of surveyors and the Academic Network that he presides over.



Meeting with the ECLAC

MA. Campuzano held a work meeting with Mr Rolando Ocampo, Director of the Statistics Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in the framework of the Tenth Session of the Americas Regional Committee of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNGGIM: Americas), held on the days 18th to the 20th of last October at the ECLAC headquarters in Chile. The objective was to continue the joint work between both institutions; due to this, the leading official of the PAIGH gave thanks for the support obtained from the ECLAC in order to push forwards the SDI: Americas initiative. Along the same lines, he predicted the consolidation of the initiative in cartographic, geographic and statistics matters of the Americas. In order to finalize, a cordial invitation was made to Mr. Ocampo and the authorities of the ECLAC to visit the palace building of the PAIGH headquarters, located in Tacubaya, Mexico City.

As a result of this invitation, on the last December the 1st, the Palace building of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History headquarters received the significant visit of legal Clerk Rolando Ocampo, Director of the Statistics Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

MA. Campuzano Rosales, his wife Alma Verónica Ireta Badillo and the General Secretariat team welcomed this distinguished visitor by means



of a ceremony at which the staff working at this Institute were present. MA. Campuzano proceeded to give a presentation about the re-engineering of this specialized organization; emphasis was given to the substantial effort that its transformation had meant, with this process still not completed yet.

In response, legal Clerk Ocampo gave a speech to those present, in which he declared himself surprised and pleased with the results of these tasks. He emphasized how he was encountering an Institute very different from the one he had seen on his previous visit, at the start of the period of MA. Campuzano in his post. Concerning the functions of the PAIGH as contrasted with those of the UNGGIM: Americas, he emphasized the fact that, the course that the PAIGH has taken achieved these functions being complementary to each other. Towards the end of his speech, legal Clerk Ocampo congratulated the PAIGH and foresees “much better and much greater results” for the following year and others to come.

The ceremony concluded with the signature of the Book of Distinguished Visitors of the PAIGH and the taking of an official photograph.

Geodesic Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS)

This entity celebrated its 30th anniversary last October; it is now at the service of the Pan-American countries and its origins go back to the International Conference for the Definition of a Geocentric Datum for South America, held in Asunción, Paraguay, between the 4th and 7th of October 1993. Its objectives are to define and maintain the continental geocentric reference frame, the unified vertical reference system, the gravimetric geoid model, and the continental absolute gravity network, in addition to constituting the definition of the geodesic reference frame for the Americas. At the same time, it is an organization linked to the International Geodesic Association and to the PAIGH, which is responsible for encouraging the growth, development, sustainability and suitable use of the SIRGAS reference frame.

The General Secretariat of the PAIGH has continued to provide support to SIRGAS, where it involves the solution for the requirements of its web site (the official web page of SIRGAS), by means of the provision of hosting and subdomain web services at <https://sirgas.PAIGH.org>

For this period, the PAIGH provided, through the Technical Assistance Program, US\$ 13,000 for running the 14th International School on "The Determination and Use of the Geoid", which was held through in-person mode in Buenos Aires, Argentina, over the days 13th to the 17th of November, 2023.

In the framework of the Tenth Session of the Americas Regional Committee of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNGGIM: Americas), which was held on the 17th to the 20th October, 2023, in the city of Santiago, Chile, the Secretary General of the PAIGH held several discussions on work, with representatives of international institutions. That held with representatives of the Geodesic Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS) should be pointed out especially; these representatives were Col. Gustavo Caubarrère and Mr. Salomão Soares, President and Vice-President of that organization.

During the meeting, the need to widen the cooperation between these two international organizations was established. Concerning this, the Secretary General stated his intention of extending the support that the PAIGH gives to such an important continental initiative, and along the same lines he promised to visit the office of the president of this organization, in Montevideo, Uruguay, during the coming months, in order to consolidate the efforts for Joint Work between the two organizations.

A few weeks after, MA. Campuzano visited the city of Montevideo, Oriental Republic of Uruguay, in order to meet Col. Gustavo Caubarrère, President of the Geodesic Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS). During the work meetings, further congratulations were declared on the occasion of the thirty years since the creation of this Working Group of the PAIGH Cartography Commission; in the same way, support for and





the cooperation between these two scientific organizations was confirmed. For this reason, the Secretary General stated to the leading official of SIRGAS that his organization will continue receiving financial support from the PAIGH, which will gradually increase, from the year 2024 onwards. This will be done directly, as part of the budget for the Cartography, Geography and Geophysics Commissions, which was approved by the General Assembly of the PAIGH. Finally, a plaque referring to the anniversary of the creation of the international body cited here was handed over, in recognition of the work and service that has been uninterrupted over these last three decades, in addition to the valuable contributions to the development and dissemination of Geodesy at regional level.

Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the CEPEIGE

Last November, the Secretary General travelled to Quito, Ecuador, in order to participate in the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Pan American Center for Geographic Studies and Research (CEPEIGE in Spanish initials). At this event, he presented to Eng. Nelson Ortega, Director of this Center, a plaque stating recognition and congratulations, in fulfilment of Resolution N.º 19 of this specialized entity of the Organization of American States (OAS), approved at the previous General Assembly, the 24th (Dominican Republic).





At this event, distinguished academics of international reputation participated; these included MA. Bolívar Troncoso, President of the National Section of the Dominican Republic and Col. Gustavo Caubarrère, President of the Geodesic Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS).

The congratulations from that Resolution also recognizes the work of the authorities and staff of the CEPEIGE in the activities aligned with the vision, mission and principles of the PAIGH. Along the same lines, the Government of the Republic of Ecuador was thanked for its support and commitment.

Strategy 1.1:
1.1 To encourage, support, coordinate and work towards ensuring that the studies performed by the Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics Commissions be the result of the scientific and technical programs drafted and approved by the Institute itself.

Technical Assistance Program - “Grants”

Continuing with the search for opportunities for specialized training, the PAIGH, through its four

Commissions has continued to manage and award grants for on-line courses and diplomas, for benefiting the Pan-American community of the Member States.

Grants of the Cartography Commission

Diploma: “Analysis of Geospatial Information”; on-line

Within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and the Center for Research in Geospatial Information Sciences (CentroGeo), and by means of the signature of the third Specific Cooperation Agreement between the two institutions, seven grants were awarded for taking the course at Diploma level in “Analysis of Geospatial Information”. The call for applicants opened on August 1st, 2023, and 103 applications for the grant were received from 14 countries among the 21 PAIGH Member States. The diploma course started on September 18th and finished on December 10th, 2023.

Courses in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) on-line, basic and advanced levels

In February, 2023, conversations were held between the General Secretariat of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and the National Center for Geographic Information (CNIG) of the National Geographic Institute of Spain (IGN), with the intention of defining action policies for mutual institutional cooperation for the period 2023.

Thanks to the good will and aid of the PAIGH and the generous cooperation of the IGN of Spain through the CNIG, it was possible to manage up to completion ten grants for the on-line courses in basic and advanced GIS, five for each level, for the first cycle of courses that the CNIG ran this year (April-May). On March the 3rd, the call for applications was announced, aimed at technical personnel of the Cartographic Agencies of the Member States, receiving 120 applications for the grant, from 14 Member States of the PAIGH. The course started successfully on April 17th and finished on May the 26th, 2023, without delays.

Course in Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) On-Line

In continuity with the close institutional cooperation between the PAIGH and the IGN

of Spain through the CNIG, for the second cycle of courses of the October - November period, 15 grants were provided for the course in Spatial Data Infrastructures (IDE), which was intended for technical personnel of the Cartographic Agencies of the Member States. The call for applications was announced on September the 6th and 62 applications were received from 14 Member States of the PAIGH. The course started on October 9th and finished on November 17th, 2023.

We wish to state our thanks and appreciation to the authorities of the IGN of Spain and of the CNIG for the generous and altruistic support that has been provided in this period to the Pan-American community, with the running of these high-level technical training courses. In the same way, it is intended to continue working closely with and in coordination with the IGN of Spain through the CNIG, for the awarding of grants for the 2024 period, for the benefit of the Pan-American Community of the PAIGH Member States.

Joint grants of the Cartography and Geography Commissions

49th Pan-American Course in Applied Geography: Geospatial Analysis and Cartographic Representation for the Purposes of Territorial Organization (TO)

Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and the Pan-American Center for Geographic Studies and Research (CEPEIGE), with the patronage of the Cartography and Geography Commissions of the PAIGH, it was possible for 28 grants to be processed for the 49th Pan-American Course in Applied Geography: Geospatial Analysis and Cartographic Representation for the Purposes of Territorial Organization (TO). 31 applications were received from 13 countries. The course started on May the 15th, 2023 and ended on August the 4th, 2023.

Grant of the Geophysics Commission

“1st Pan-American Course in Geophysics – Knowledge of Geophysics applied to management of disaster hazards and territorial organization”

From the year 2023 onwards, the Geophysics Commission of the PAIGH will support, with its financial resources, the CEPEIGE with the purpose of increasing the academic opportunities that this

institution offers by means of grants for on-line courses. For this period, the “1st Pan-American Course in Geophysics - Knowledge of Geophysics applied to management of disaster hazards and territorial organization” has been created. For this, there are 30 grants being offered for the Member States of the PAIGH.

Grant of the History Commission

Diploma course: “History of America”

In the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), the History Commission awarded ten grants for the “History of America” Diploma course. This course was run by the Latin America and Caribbean Research Center (CIALC) of the UNAM. Around the middle of the month of October 2023, the 2023-2024 History Commission grant was announced with applications receivable from that date; this was for the provision and running for the third time of the “History of America” Diploma course. 185 grant applications were received from 15 countries. The diploma course started on November the 22nd, 2023 and will end on November the 13th, 2024.

Grants for the Training Workshop on Geographic Names and Geospatial Information, Republic of Korea

As of the month of February 2023, the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) offered to run a second Training Workshop on Geographic Names and Geospatial Information. As a result, a new group of people from the PAIGH was set up, made up from 16 countries. MSc. Max Lobo, President of the Cartography Commission, played an outstanding role, acting for the second time as the official representative of the PAIGH.

The training program was put into effect and run in the headquarters of the NGII in the city of Suwon, Republic of Korea from the 12 to the 15 of September 2023. Over the course of four days, those receiving the grant, together with the hosts, participated in substantial learning and debates in the fields of geographic names and geospatial information, bringing together a great quantity of diverse ideas.

We make clear and explicit appreciation to the National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea for its valuable support when giving the finance for this second workshop and



providing all the support for running it. This has been offered as a contribution by the Republic of Korea as Permanent Observer State of the PAIGH.

5th Joint Technical Meeting of the Commissions

Within the framework of the 24th General Assembly of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and in the Dominican Republic, PAIGH member state, the Commissions of this scientific organization inaugurated their 5th Technical Meeting, configured in their work setup.

BSc. Bolívar Troncoso, President of the National Section of the host country, wished success to the scientists and specialists in the areas of Cartography, Geography, History, Geophysics, and related sciences who had responded to this invitation, both in person and by virtual media. With that, the activities for the days 30th and 31st of October had been inaugurated.

In the same way, the President, Patricia Solís PhD, and the Secretary General, MA. Campuzano, gave a warm welcome to the Presidents of the Commissions, also to the members of the Committees and Working Groups, among other guests.

The Presidents of the four Commissions of the PAIGH (Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics), led the development to the agendas set for the work of the 5th Technical Meeting of the Commissions, held on the 30th and 31st of last October.

Satisfactory progress was made in the fulfilment of the objectives of the scientific area of the 2022-2025 Strategic Modernization Plan of this specialized organization of the OAS, both in its guiding principles and in its strategies.

This occasion made it possible for scientists from various parts of the continent to present their projects, in order to make the results from them widely known, also and in the same way, to share proposals for future activities that take on their areas of interest.

The closing stage of this cycle of tasks included the messages of MA. Antonio Campuzano and of BSc. Bolívar Troncoso Morales, President of the National Section in the Dominican Republic, host country for these scientific meetings.

These meetings are significant, as they made possible inter-relations between the Commissions with the aim of performing joint projects within the framework of the Technical Assistance Program, also the assessment of those projects in progress, in addition to the enriching benefit from the technical and academic presentations by the scientists participating.

American Congress on “Liberty”

In the framework of the Technical Meeting of the History Commission of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the tasks of the *Second Academic Sessions of the American Congress on Liberty*, were completed satisfactorily. Outstanding academics and researchers of the Pan

American community attended this event from May the 23rd to the 25th, 2023, which was held in Mexico City. These *Second Academic Sessions of the American Congress on Liberty*, were chaired by Franklin Barriga López, PhD, while planning for them was centered on the National History Academy of Ecuador, under the direction of its president, César Alarcón Costa, PhD; they relied on the hospitality of Mexico for this event to be put into effect.

Responding to this invitation, in Mexico an Organizing Committee was set up, chaired by the distinguished Mexican historian Patricia Galeana; she invited the PAIGH to participate in this event. Filiberto Cruz, PhD, President of the History Commission accepted the invitation, supported by the Secretary General.

This Committee consisted of two entities: A Mexican Sub-Committee and a Sub-Committee for International Organizations. The *Mexican Sub-Committee* was made up of: the *National Academy for History and Geography of Mexico*, suitably represented by the MA. Elizabeth Rembis; the “Chapultepec Castle” National Museum of History with its Director, Salvador Rueda Smithers, PhD, who was with us at this event and opened the doors of the Castle to us; and the Latin America and Caribbean Research Center (CIALC) with its Director MA. Rubén Ruíz Guerra who from the start contributed with his expertise and resources to the hospitality for the attendees at the event. The *Sub-Committee for International Organizations* with diplomatic status and headquarters in Mexico is made up of: Latin-American Institute for Educational Communication (ILCE), directed by Salvador Percastre, PhD, provided coverage in the “Iberoamericano” channel; and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), suitably represented by Filiberto Cruz, PhD, President of the History Commission, who provided not only his own expertise but also the resources of his Technical Meeting of that year for putting this event into effect.

The Government of Mexico, by means of the authorities of the Secretariats of Foreign Relations and of National Defense, also of the Government of Mexico City, provided their support, coverage and security, also the facilities for holding this academic encounter.

The conferences with special speakers and the presentations made by academics of international reputation, all of them from 14 countries of the American continent, by presenting their work made possible not only the development of new historic knowledge but also a frank, open dialogue

and the exchange of viewpoints which, despite being different from each other, enrich us with the cultural diversity of our greater homeland, America.

Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, United States of America, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and the host, Mexico; also, the Latin-American Institute for Educational Communication (ILCE) and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History at this event are the countries and international organizations that were appropriately represented by brilliant academics.

To bring to a close the Technical Meeting of the History Commission of the PAIGH, on May 25th, a ceremony was held at the Palace headquarters building of this specialized organization of the OAS; the purpose was to give recognize, on behalf of the Pan-American community of historians, a very major figure in the history of the American continent, Doctor Patricia Galeana Herrera.

Doctor Filiberto Cruz, on behalf of the historians that are part of the current community of the PAIGH, and within the framework of the Technical Meeting of the History Commission of our institution expressed their recognition to Doctor Galeana, for her career and major contribution to the history of Mexico, of America and her important services to this international organization. Finally, a diploma and a recognition plaque were presented on behalf of all the historians of the Pan-American community.

This congress, that was part of the Technical Meeting of the History Commission, made it possible to reposition the PAIGH once again at the leading edge in the continent, in the academic sphere of the science of History in America.

Strategy 1.2: Encourage progress in the scientific and technical development of the areas of interest to the Institute in the Member States themselves, by means of the support of the National Sections.

Technical Assistance Program “Projects”

For the period 2023, 13 projects were approved, 2 for training and 11 for research. Six of these have completed their activities, five are in their final phase and two have had their finance suspended definitively for not proceeding with those activities.

For this period, new policies were implemented for the transfer for use and spending of the approved funds, that have as

their purpose the provision of clear information about the procedures for the transfer and use of the funds, giving special attention to the commitments that the researchers responsible for the projects undertake when their proposals are approved for receiving finance from the PAIGH through the Technical Assistance Program.

Projects of the Technical Assistance Program 2023 – 2024

As happens each year, the PAIGH General Secretariat, through the Technical Assistance Department and in coordination with the Commissions for Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics, launched the call for project proposals for the 2023-2024 period. For the issue of this call for proposals, a new version of this text was drafted, in order to provide the applicants clearer and more specific information about the requirements for submitting proposals. On March 1st, 2023, the call for proposals was published and distributed with the cooperation of the National Sections and through the social networks of the PAIGH, also to all the members of

the Pan American Professional Network (RPP). At this issue, 53 proposals were received on time and in the right form, and one more received beyond the deadline; these applied to the Commissions in the following distribution:

- 29 to the Cartography Commission
- 37 to the Geography Commission
- 19 to the History Commission
- 20 to the Geophysics Commission

It should be mentioned that several of the proposals submitted applied for funds from more than one commission. Due to the large number of applications received, the deadline for the analysis of the proposals by the Commission presidents was extended. On July 18th, 2023, a virtual work meeting was held at which the PAIGH Commission Presidents analyzed the proposals and chose the ones recommended for the allocation of funds. In total, 11 projects were submitted to the 24th General Assembly, and these were approved: eight of them for research and three for training. On December 12th, 2023, the National Sections which had submitted projects to the Technical Assistance Program were notified about the results of the assignment of funds. The projects approved were distributed in the following way:

- 3 for Cartography;
- 5 for Geography;
- 1 for History;
- 4 for Geophysics.





Actions taken concerning Central Guiding Concept II:

Distribute and make known those scientific studies in Cartography, Geography, History, Geophysics and related sciences that are of interest to the American Continent, in accordance with the scientific and technical programs approved by the Institute and in coordination with the General Secretariat and the Commissions.

The Pan-American Institute, being aware of the mission for which it was set up in 1928, over the 95 years of its history has strengthened links for cooperation with various institutions of the continent, with the aim of disseminating the science and technology of the disciplines that this international organization works on: Cartography, Geography, Geophysics, History and related sciences, also with the purpose of contributing to peace among the nations of America.

Currently, the tools and means with which the Institute is enabled for fulfilling its objectives have slowly adapted to modern times; for this reason, the consolidation of the Social Communication Department has continued.

Strategy 2.1: Distribute and make known the studies performed by the various components of the Institute, resulting from the work of its Commissions, also from their Committees and Working Groups; with the aim of contributing to the development of Cartography, Geography, History, Geophysics, and related sciences within the Member States, and to the purposes of the Institute itself. The concept here is that various technological tools will be used for communication matters.

So that the Publications Program makes it possible to give visibility to the research and results of projects to be presented in the format of an article in the scientific journals of the PAIGH, complying with the parameters of quality that are required for the texts at this level.

In order to concentrate this knowledge in specialized volumes and make it widely known in the scientific community, and so that this knowledge be useful, the publications of the PAIGH are separated into occasional and periodic types.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

Occasional Publications

In order for scientific knowledge to be distributed in the areas of interest of the PAIGH to a larger number of people, this organization has made use of modern tools such as the Internet, which is one of the best and most widespread of media. For this reason, the following occasional publications have been made available in the web site of this institute in the year 2023:

- Workshop: "Assessments concerning the issues of teaching and learning global and regional histories from the Latin-American viewpoint".
- Origin and evolution of the names of the provinces, municipalities and municipal districts of the Dominican Republic.
- Historic Atlas of America II. New views on the legacy marks left by the American.

Scientific Journals

The scientific journals of the PAIGH have had a long record of un-interrupted publications: the *Journal*

of the History of the Americas has been published since 1938; the *Geographic Journal* appeared in 1941; the *Cartographic Journal* started in 1952, the *Geophysics Journal* appeared for the first time in 1971, *American Archeology* has been published since 1990 and the most recent title is *American Anthropology* in 2016; this last is a continuation of the *American Anthropology Newsletter* founded in 1980.

With the rich accumulated experience of printed publication, the Editors Working Group in the year 2018 pushed forwards the initiative, by means of a Project, to present the journals in digital format with the use of the Open Journal System (OJS) platform, which is a system that makes possible the publication of scientific journals, complying with quality standards, being available for queries by means of the open access site: www.revistasipgh.org.

In the year 2023, the production of journals was the following:

- *Cartographic Journal* N° 107 (July-December 2023)
- *Geographic Journal* N° 166 (January-June 2023)
- *Journal of the History of the Americas* N° 165 (May-August 2023)
- *Journal of the History of the Americas* N° 166 (September- December 2023)
- *Journal of the History of the Americas* N° 167 (January-April 2024)
- *American Anthropology* N° 15 (January-June 2023)
- *American Anthropology* N° 16 (July-December 2023)
- *American Anthropology* N° 17 (January-June 2024)

In the period January- December 2023, 74 scientific articles were published. Currently the following journals are in the process of being prepared for publication: *Cartographic Journal* N° 108, *Geographic Journal* N° 167, *Geophysics Journal* N° 70, *Journal of the History of the Americas* N°168, *American Archeology* N° 41.

Concerning the *Journal of the History of the Americas*, this year it began to be issued every four months, for achieving being indexed in a new international indexer. Also, the exchange of announcements of this publication has continued in the following journals: "*Archipiélago*" Journal, *American "Cuadernos"* (notes and articles), "*Legajos*" (file collections) (Newsletter of the General Archive of the Nation, Mexico), "*Mexican History*", with the objective of taking advantage of this type of outreach in other media, so that in each journal issue announcements about the PAIGH are renewed.



We are pleased to announce that, in the month of August, the *Cartographic Journal* obtained certification to become part of Scopus, which is a database of bibliographic references and abstracts selected by experts with enriched data and academic literature linked to a wide variety of disciplines, which makes it possible for the journal to be consulted from anywhere in the world.

In early March, a new contract for hosting services through the Open Journal System (OJS) platform with the Mexican firm “eScire” for two more years was signed; this makes it possible to get together the subsequent issues and thus be available for our readers.

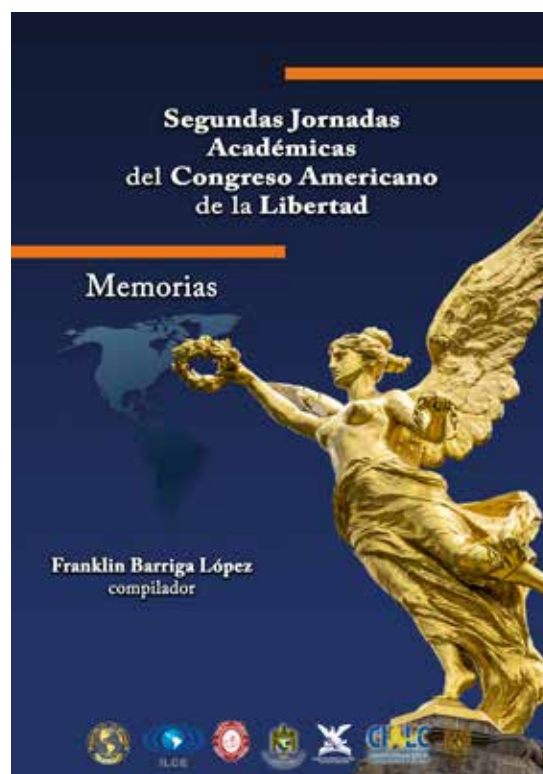
With the aim of keeping the above-mentioned platform up-to-date and fulfilling the service contract, from the 8th to the 10th of March, the updates to the OJS version were carried out, and currently version 3.3 is being worked on.

Along the same lines, in the month of April, a workshop in on-line certification was run for the OJS platform, with the participation of editors, editorial assistants and members of the Social Communication Department; there were a total of six participants.

In the period of September - November, several problems arose for the *Cartographic Journal* in the OJS; for this reason, Dr. María Ester Gonzalez (editor) was not able to perform her own tasks with the journal. In November, the Secretary General held a meeting with her, with those who administer the platform and the social communication staff; the situation was assessed, and corrective and

preventive actions were taken in relation to these unfortunate occurrences.

Finally, the publication of “*Second Academic Sessions of the American Congress on Liberty*” is in preparation. This is the result of the research work presented at the Joint Technical Meeting of the History Commission.



Editors

The *Geographic Journal* has announced a change of its editor; for this reason, this Institution thanks the work of MSc Marcela Norori (Honduras), who has labored with commitment to her tasks; concerning this, BA María Jesús Leyva (Chile) has now taken over this position and is maintaining the synergy of this activity.

EXTERNAL OUTREACH AND PUBLICATIONS

For the dissemination of the published works and the activities that are performed in the PAIGH, and of the scientific knowledge generated by the authors of articles for our journals, this organization has available several media for external publications and outreach, such as the web site and the social networks, which are constantly being updated in order to present attractive and useful information for our followers and readers.

Web Site

Being aware of the penetration that digital media mean, the PAIGH has undertaken the task of renewing its web site, which it has maintained in permanent updates of its content. Due to the above, work started on the translation of the entire content of the portal, with the objective of having available a version in English, thus offered with greater clarity, in order to permanently present information about the PAIGH and its activities.

Social networks

With a basis in the “PAIGH Policy for Social Networks”, which determines the criteria for its publications in social networks, the dissemination of scientific issues and of the activities of this organization itself has continued, with the aim of placing at the disposal of our followers the information related to the areas of interest of the Institute.

Concerning the previous year, the following social networks are being maintained: Facebook, X, Instagram, and YouTube.

The scheduling of the contents on these communication tools, is based on four areas of interest:

- Lists of anniversaries of the Member States and at world-level. For highlighting outstanding occurrences in the historic sphere.

- Week of the Member States. Providing space for the countries of the PAIGH to highlight their own cultural and scientific aspects, of general interest. On July the 17th, 2023, the third of this cyclical event was started.
- Agenda of the Secretary General. Making known the regular activities that the leading official of this international organization participated in, focused on the Strategic Modernization Plan of the PAIGH 2022-2025.
- General Information. Announcements of the academic activities of the Member States, such as seminars, presentation of publications, grants, among others.

It is an important media space for disseminating scientific articles from our periodic publications.

In the framework of the 95th Anniversary of the PAIGH, the section “From the photographic archive of the PAIGH” was presented, with the objective of showing, in images, the history of the Institute in its various stages and development.

Currently, emphasis is placed on making widely known the calls for submissions to the commissions for Cartography (Award for the BA Thesis in Cartography, Geodesy and/or Geographic Information) and History (“Silvio Zavala” Award in the Colonial History of America and the Award for Best Doctoral Thesis in Pan-American History), in addition to the invitations to apply for the Pan-American Award and PAT 2024-2025 Projects.



By the month of December of the year 2023, the social networks recorded the following numbers of followers: Facebook 160,271; Instagram 6,816; X 7,506; YouTube 507, with a total of 175,010.



INSTITUTIONAL IMAGE

For the PAIGH, the perception of the Pan-American community and of society in general is important; for this reason, it works continually with various projects that tend towards strengthening its institutional image, for which there has been major production work in the design of:

- Front pages of journals and occasional publications.
- Metallic plaques.
- Printed diplomas to be awarded in recognition.
- Image of the 95th Anniversary of the PAIGH.
- Paper materials with the image of the 95th Anniversary of the PAIGH.
- Creation of the new stamp design of the PAIGH.
- Report with graphic elements on the 99th Meeting of Authorities.
- Report with graphic elements on the 23rd General Assembly.
- Designs for the “banners” and paper materials of statutory meetings.
- Digital cards for end-of-the-year greetings to the Member States, Observer countries and institutions that cooperate with the PAIGH.
- Re-design of the logo, paper materials and stamp of this institution. Design of stamp for the Historic Archive.

Layout design for internal documents:

- Report with graphic elements. 99th Meeting of Authorities.
- Proceedings of the 97th Meeting of Authorities.
- Proceedings of the 98th Meeting of Authorities.
- Facsimile of the original document setting up the PAIGH.
- Organic Statute.
- APEF Committee rules of procedure.

- Financial rules of procedure.
- Report on the Activities of the General Secretariat of the PAIGH, 2022. “Towards an Institutional Re-Engineering”.
- Basic documents of the General Secretariat of the PAIGH, 2022.
- Resolutions in Spanish and English of the 24th General Assembly.
- Drafting of the Report on the Activities of the General Secretariat of PAIGH, 2023.

Strategy 2.2:
Distribute, by means of editions and co-editions of printed and digital books, the works that can be considered as classic publications in Cartography, Geography, History, Geophysics, and related sciences which, due to their value, are judged to be of current interest for scientific development.

In the work that is being performed currently in the General Secretariat, the search for and selection of texts of great historic value in the sphere of the Earth Sciences and of History has continued. When the resources of the PAIGH are sufficient, the publication of new editions of the above-mentioned works can be put into effect.



Actions taken concerning Central Guiding Concept III:

Keep the finances in good condition, in order to give guarantees of their correct operational status, to the prioritized scientific research projects and to the objectives for which the Institute was created. At the same time, the annual assessment and check on the accounts and the status of the funds will be carried out, with the support of internal and external auditors.

The essential mission of the PAIGH is to generate, encourage and disseminate scientific – technical knowledge in its areas of interest and push forwards the actions of the scientific agenda of this institution; all for benefiting peace in the Americas. For the fulfilment of this mission, it is fundamental to maintain our organizational structure working well and in a correct operational state; for this reason, it is necessary to keep the finances of our organization in a good state of health.

The above explains the reason for one of the doubts of the leading official of the General

Secretariat, MA. Antonio Campuzano, about the rational and transparent management of the human, material, and economic resources; this action is in accordance with the Modernization Plan of the PAIGH for 2022-2025, of which he is the author, which involves the re-engineering of our organization. In the same way, this concern also reflects the public promise that was made to the Pan-American community during the transfer of this post to the current official two years ago, when a commitment was made to preserve the legacy of the PAIGH and the integrity of the finances in order to guarantee the operational status of this international organization.

Strategy 3.1:

The General Secretariat will seek to suitably maintain the operations of the Institute, by means of a healthy and balanced management of the income and expenses, with a correct use of the budget and of its financial status.

For the General Secretariat, it is fundamental to ensure the healthy management of the finances of the PAIGH, as is right for a scientific-technical organization, of democratic origin and with an institutional mission to the benefit of the nations of America; this can only be achieved sustaining three fundamental pillars:

- First, a healthy balance between the income and the expenses;
- Second, a rational management of the finances;
- Third, transparency and accounting report.

Due to the above, for this General Secretariat it is a fundamental premise that all the Member States cover their annual quotas and that the debts that they may incur, given that these are practically the only source of income that ensures the existence of our institution. At the same time, the leading official of our organization administers the other sources of income that make up the rest of the finance for operational expenses.

Under this concept, the Budget is being projected using a serious and objective perspective, with an adequate planning for the real income, at the same time making a distribution of the budget items that prioritizes the scientific aspect over the administrative aspect. All of this while, as far as possible, not affecting the legacy of assets and resources of the PAIGH.

2023 BUDGET

Status of annual quota payments as of December 31st, 2023

The budget of the year we are covering in this report is characterized by the fact that its planning was done considering the income which were expected to be received in reality; for this reason, the expenses were planned for in the same way, without going over-budget in the scientific area.

The situation in which the income of our organization finds itself is, we are pleased to report, wholly healthy for the PAIGH as of the closing date of December 31st, 2023, due to the money received only from the quota type of income amounting to USD 597,490. This will be reported broken down into details in the following points:

- First, the income from “delayed quota payments” corresponding to the previous years amounted to 121,589 USD; the recovery of these resources was achieved thanks to the willing collaboration of the Presidents of the National Sections, who supported the General Secretariat in the management tasks that they carried out in relation to the governments of the countries of our community. The above represented 20% of the total of that received from the quota type of income.
- Second, the income exclusively from “quotas of the 2023 financial year” amounted to 467,763 USD; which makes up 79% of the total obtained.
- Thirdly, the income from “quotas paid in advance” amounted to 8,139 USD; this made up 1% of the money received.

If one looks carefully at the income achieved, especially for the delayed quotas type, this is due to the management tasks that the General

Secretariat has carried out, by means of official communications addressed to the various governments of our Pan-American community requesting their support for covering the commitments made under the concept of the quotas and thus helping this entity to continue its scientific work.

It is important to recognize the Member States for the financial commitments to the PAIGH in time, concerning specifically the payment of the quotas of our organization.

The Administrative income, which amounted to a total of 65,728 USD was received over the year. Concerning provision of gifts and sales of publications, USD 20,472 was obtained; this is due to the work performed intensely by the Social Communication Department. The above contributes to strengthening the operational type of expenses of the General Secretariat. In the same way, other income was 45,256 USD; here are included the resources obtained from the University of Arizona, of the United States of America, also from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, for work jointly done on scientific matters, in addition to banking interests, among other concepts.

Finally, the total for the income of the PAIGH during the year 2023 amounted to 663,219 USD. Within this figure, the quotas obtained meant a percentage of 90% and the other sources of income make up 10%.

Financial Situation of the Technical Assistance Program

On the issues of planning for the outlays, we can say that priority was given to the scientific agenda of this institution, whose strength lies in the Technical Assistance Program (Grants, projects, awards, cooperation agreements and the technical

		Amount assigned by the Commissions			
		Cartography	Geography	History	Geophysics
2023 Budget	Outlay type				
	Grants	8,600	8,600	8,600	8,600
	Projects	21,300	24,900	21,000	24,900
	Technical Meeting	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
	Awards	1,000	---	3,000	---
	Other outlay types	2,600	---	900	---
TOTAL		41,500	41,500	41,500	41,500

and consultation meetings of the commissions). To this program, USD 166,000 was assigned; for this reason the sum of USD 41,500 was sent to each one of the four commissions (Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics), while it is these Commissions which determine the amounts that the various types of activity of the Technical Assistance Program receive.

In general terms, it is important to consider the way in which the Budget was distributed in the area of the Technical Assistance Program, concerning that which involves the Commissions of the PAIGH:

PLANNING FOR THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM		
TYPE OF OUTLAY	AMOUNT ASSIGNED	PERCENTAGE
Grants	34,400 USD;	21%
Projects	92,100 USD	55.5%
Technical Meeting	32,000 USD	19%
Awards	4,000 USD	2.5%
Other expense types	3,500 USD	2%
Total	166,000	100 %

Moreover, due to the monitoring actions that this General Secretariat applies to the Technical Assistance Program, especially in the outlay type of projects, the return of USD 12,374 left over from the projects of previous years was achieved.

Strategy 3.2:
The General Secretariat guarantees that accounts and the status of funds are checked, also that the budget and its budgetary items are suitably used, all with the support of internal and external auditors.

2023 Financial Report

It is important to comment that the income from quotas, only for the year 2023, amounted to USD 467,763; that is to say, USD 29,194 less in relation to the year 2022 in which the money gathered for the same income type was USD 496,957. If we consider that the ideal for the quotas for this year was the figure of USD 647,934, that received amounted to 72%, this is USD 180,171 less than that estimated ideally for this type of income.

Concerning the accumulated total of quotas outstanding from previous years, this amounts to USD 1,216,000; thus, the debt of the Member States that have not covered their quotas has risen by 4% in relation to the year 2022, when the total was USD 1,165,132. In terms of the percentage, a decrease in this debt can be seen, thanks to the recovery, by this administration, of items related to previous years, acting on matters of the quotas of previous years.

Concerning that involving the Technical Assistance Program in the sphere of the projects, it is important to comment that, of the USD 92,100 which was estimated for projects, USD 49,408 has been spent; this makes up 54% of that estimated initially; while that which is left pending to be spent during the following year is USD 42,692, equivalent to 46% of the total that had been intended for this area. This last figure here includes USD 17,950 for projects suspended due to their not complying specifically with the policies and rules necessary for the suitable disbursement and use of funds.

Concerning the area of publications, as has already been mentioned, USD 26,000, was assigned; the whole of this money has been used; that is to say, 100% of the amount programmed was actually spent.

About the Statutory Meetings, it was necessary to request an increase of USD 15,000 to cover all the expenses; this was necessary despite having increased the amount for this type of expense from USD 32,600 in 2022 (scheduling carried out for meetings in virtual, in-person and hybrid (in-person and virtual simultaneously modes) to USD 39,600 in 2023, the year – last year – in which there was a full return to in-person (face-to-face) meetings.

A decisive factor has been the slow increase in the travel that the Secretary General has had to do, caused by the end of the Covid 19 pandemic and the new reality of face-to-face meetings, such as in the case of the city of New York, due to the meeting of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management of the United Nations and its regional committee for the Americas (UN-GGIM), or to various countries of America, in order to be present at General Assemblies of the Organization of American States.

The above necessarily involves carrying out a comprehensive check on this type of expense during the following year; selecting and setting priorities for the international commitments which the leading official of the PAIGH must attend. Along the same lines, there are checks to ensure that the statutory meetings of this institution are complied with, due to the fact that, over the last two years, the

budgetary resources have been very insufficient, and it is forecast that this same situation is not going to change in the year 2024. For this reason, a very specific study should be performed for increasing in 2025 the financial resources for this scientific area which is fundamental for the Pan American community.

External Audit

In accordance with this strategy, the Secretary General has requested the collaboration of “Vieyra Mota and Associates”, a firm of certified accountants and business advisors, to perform the external audit of this institution. This measure is taken considering two fundamental aspects, that of ensuring the checks and statements of accounts and also the status of the financial funds to be presented appropriately to the Advisory Financial Planning and Assessment Committee (APEF), the General Assembly, the PAIGH Authorities and, likewise, to the National Sections and governments of the Member States.

The General Secretariat will ensure the checks and assessment of accounts and the status of the funds, also of the suitable use of the Budget and its component budgetary items, all with the support of internal and external auditors.

Due to the above, at the time of writing this current report, the above-mentioned external audit is being performed by the accounting firm mentioned here. The results will be published during the year on the web site of this institution.

Meeting of the APEF Committee

Once Resolution N° 6 “Alignment of the Rules of Procedure for the Advisory Financial Planning and

Assessment Committee (APEF) with the Organic Statute of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History” had been approved and issued at the 23rd General Assembly (Quito, Ecuador, October 25th-28th, 2022), the APEF Committee became active once again, after more than two decades since running its last activity.

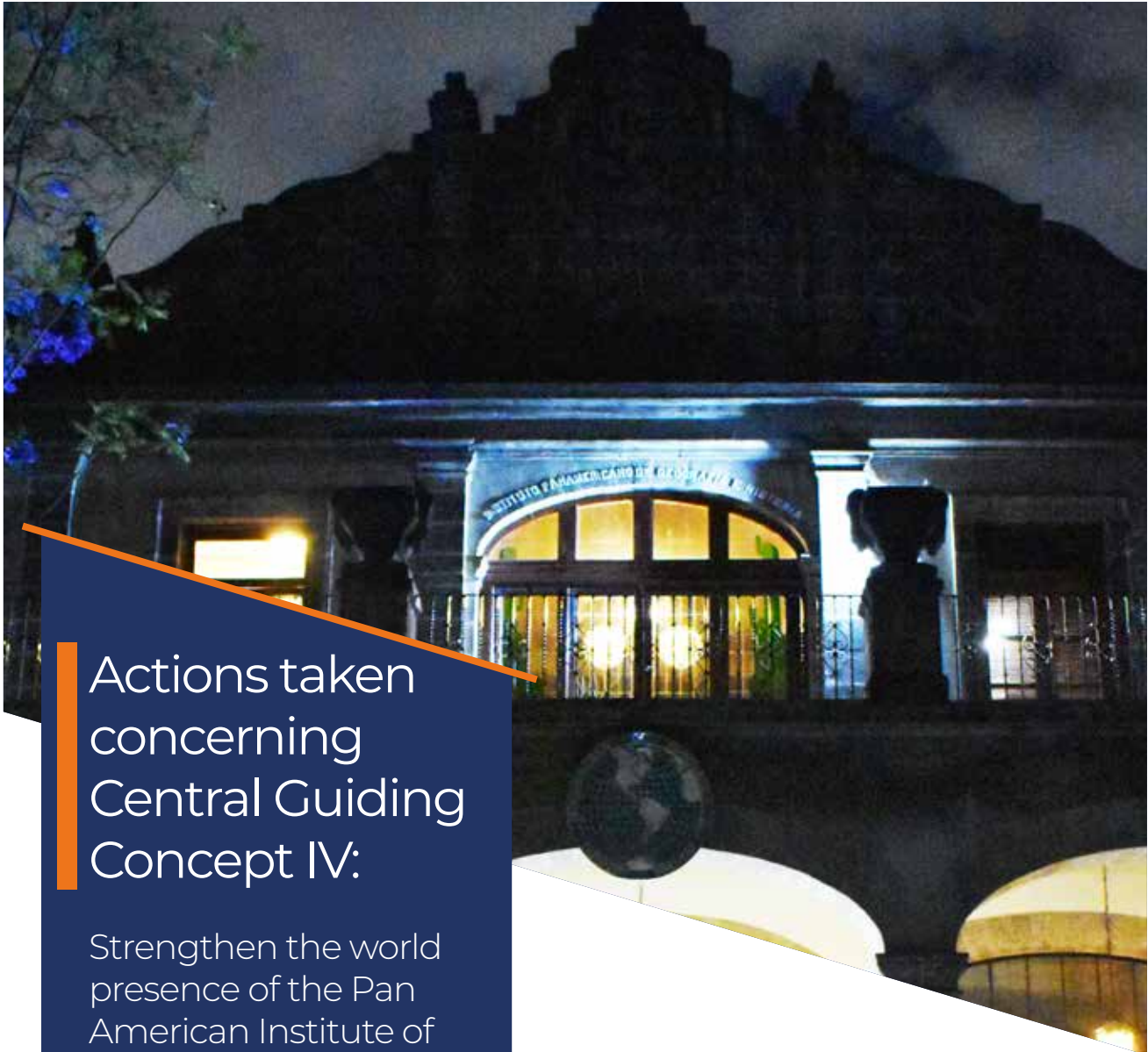
The same Assembly designated Patricia Solís, PhD, President of the PAIGH to chair it; also, Surveyor Sergio Cimbaro, President of the National Geographic Institute of the Republic of Argentina, and Colonel Juan Croquis, Director of the Military Geographic Institute of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, as members of the APEF Committee.

Thus, on Tuesday, June 27th, 2023, the APEF Committee met in virtual mode in order to perform a comprehensive internal audit corresponding to the financial and audit reports of 2022, in addition to a check and assessment on the budget proposal for the year 2024.

The meeting had, in addition, the presence of the Secretary General of the PAIGH, with the participation of the BA auditor Ricardo Vieyra, of the firm “Vieyra and Associates”, of the head of the Department of Financial Administration and Human Resources of the General Secretariat; they were supported by the MA. Carolina Cortés Conde of the “Cortés” Accounting Firm. During the meeting, the financial aspects and the planning of the Institute were examined and checked in detail.

In this way, the meeting represented a significant step in the strengthening and transparency of the internal operations of the PAIGH, this being the objective set since the tasks of renovation, improvement, and updates to the internal rules of procedure and in fulfilment of that outlined in the Strategic Modernization Plan, put into effect by the current administration.





Actions taken concerning Central Guiding Concept IV:

Strengthen the world presence of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, placing emphasis on its relations with international entities such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the states of this continent.

Strategy 4.1:
Make relations with the OAS closer, as is appropriate for one of its attached specialized organizations with technical autonomy.

Support for the Office of the Adjacency Zone between Belize and Guatemala

In accordance with the spirit in which it was founded, the PAIGH continues to collaborate with the executives of the Office of the OAS in the Adjacency Zone between Belize and Guatemala; for this reason, it responds to the requests for support related to the ratification of coordinates on the frontier of the adjacency zone between the above-

mentioned States. For this end, the backing and the collaboration of the Military Geographic Institute of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay is available.

Last October, the General Secretariat received a request from this same Office of the OAS in the Adjacency Zone, with the aim of receiving face-to-face training involving cartography and the handling of ArcGIS Pro for a member of the personnel of the Verification Team of that Office.

This General Secretariat is putting into effect the management tasks related to providing the above-mentioned training in face-to-face mode in 2024, by means of sending a scientific technician. This support is being negotiated with the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, to whom we give thanks for their valuable support in this area, which is so delicate in terms of peace in the continent.

Support for the Inter-American Court of Human Rights concerning a consultation request for an opinion

During the course of 2023, the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights invited the Pan American Institute of Geography and History to submit the comments that it considers appropriate about the opinion presented in consultations by the Republic of Colombia and the Republic of Chile titled "Climate Emergency and Human Rights". In their request, Colombia and Chile formulated specific questions to the Court.

The questions raised are related to the obligations of states deriving from the link between human rights and the climate emergency in various themes and issues: Preserve the right to life and to survival; the rights of children and of the coming generations; providing due care for women, indigenous people and communities of descendants of African peoples; etc. It should be clarified that this international organization agreed not to give a concrete answer to each one of the questions submitted by the Republic of Colombia and the Republic de Chile, but the elements to be taken into account by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights will be presented and explained at the time of issuing the Consultation Opinion requested.

The Secretary General presented the proposal for the institutional response at the 99th Meeting of PAIGH Authorities, held and recorded in Guatemala City, at the middle of the year. On this occasion, the seven leading figures who make up this collective body to perform a joint official response to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

In the response provided, the scientific work that the PAIGH has been performing over recent years on

matters of climate change and the emergency that this causes was explained in detail. Along the same lines, the above-mentioned international judicial entity was offered, the backing and support of the Pan-American scientific community in the study of this phenomenon and the consequences it brings.

Finally, information related to the "Atlas of Climate Change of the Americas" (ACCA) and to the Inter-American Network for Climate Change of the Americas (RICCA) was offered, as was all the institutional and scientific backing of this institution on this current issue.

General Assembly of the Organization of American States

In the framework of the 53rd General Assembly of the Organization of American States, held in Washington, D.C, in June 2023, the Secretary General shared the representation of the PAIGH with our President, Dr. Patricia Solís. During this meeting, they discussed progress made and the proposals for the next statutory meetings.

During his trip to the city of Washington, D.C., MA Campuzano was received by Ambassador Luz Elena Baños, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OAS. They both highlighted the valuable contributions of the PAIGH to the dissemination of Cartography, Geography, History, Geophysics, and related sciences for the benefit of the Americas.

Meeting with the Inter-American Defense Board (JID)

During his stay in Washington D.C., in the framework of the above-mentioned Assembly, MA. Campuzano met with Brigade General Porfirio Fuentes Vélez, Director General of the Inter-American Defense Board (JID). This meeting made it possible to strengthen the cooperation between the two institutions and to make progress towards a solid collaboration for the benefit of the region.

These achievements reached by the PAIGH demonstrate the commitment of the PAIGH to strengthening its presence in international forums and to encouraging cooperation to the benefit of the Americas.

Meeting with and visit to the PAIGH National Section in the United States of America

On March 30th, 2023, in virtual mode, the leading official of the PAIGH General Secretariat met Geographer Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, President of the National Section of the United States, in response to



an invitation to participate in their annual meeting. On this occasion, the work and the achievements reached in the year 2022 were presented; these achievements closely followed the 2022-2025 Modernization Plan that had been presented to them at the meeting of the previous year.

Dr. Patricia Solís and MA. Antonio Campuzano, during their travel to and stay in the city of Washington, D.C., in June, held an in-person work meeting with Geographer Deirdre Bishop, President of the National Section of the PAIGH in the United States of America. This meeting, in a very cordial mode, meant strengthening the work of the PAIGH. At the same time, a valuable and useful meeting was



held with Erick Langer, PhD, representative of the History Commission before the National Section of the United States.

Working Tour to the National Section of Uruguay

The Secretary General of the PAIGH made an official visit to the offices of the Military Geographic Institute of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay (IGM), in the city of Montevideo, from the 22nd to the 24th of November; there he was received by its Director, Colonel Andrés Moraes, incoming President of the National Section of the PAIGH in Uruguay. During their conversations, topics involving the projects that Uruguay puts into effect in the areas of the Earth Sciences and of History were discussed, also those in which the PAIGH provides support through its Technical Assistance Program (PAT).

MA Campuzano emphasized the importance of the participation and leadership of Uruguay, at the events of the second semester of the year 2023, such as the 10th Meeting of the UN-GGIM: Americas, the 24th General Assembly of the PAIGH, and the 30th Anniversary of the SIRGAS. Moreover and in addition, he expressed appreciation for the scientific collaboration that Uruguay provides to the General Secretariat of PAIGH in order to support the Office of the Adjacency Zone of Belize - Guatemala of the Organization of American States (OAS); which is significant for its contribution to peace in the Central American region.

The Director of the Military Geographic Institute of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay (IGM), Colonel Andrés Moraes, offered a tour to the Secretary General of the PAIGH around the premises of the institution that he directs. It was a pleasure to





meet the staff working there, and to give them congratulations for being a reference point for quality in the production of Geographic Information, at both national and international levels. In the visit to the Fort Artigas Military Museum, in Montevideo, he was received by MA José María Olivero Orecchia and there, the Secretary General signed the book of Distinguished Visitors, while at the same time giving thanks for the invitation.

At the same time, within the framework of his visit to Uruguay, the Secretary General met with Colonel Juan Croquis, outgoing President of the representation of the PAIGH in that country. This was in accordance with the 2022-2025 Strategic Modernization Plan of this Institute, which encourages scientific and technical development in the areas of interest in the Member States themselves, by means of support for the National Sections. During the conversations held, both representatives stated their conviction and interest in the activities and cooperation agreements that are in progress concerning the Technical Assistance and Publications programs that the PAIGH offers, also in the dissemination of the work of Uruguayan scientists in the areas of Cartography, Geography, Geophysics and History. Along the same lines, the grants and calls for applications to annual grants were placed at their disposal.

In this working tour through Uruguay, the Secretary General participated in the “2023 PAIGH Sessions”, convened by the National Section of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History in the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, on the 20th to the 23rd of last November. The event was held in face-to-face mode at the lecture hall of the Military Institute

of Further Education, in the city of Montevideo, and with transmission in virtual mode.

The four commissions that make up the working committees ran the following events: VII Cartography Session, VI Geophysics Session, IV Geography Session and the I History Session. At these, various researchers who make up the representatives of the PAIGH National Section in Uruguay, presented material of importance and relevance at both national and world levels in the areas of the specialization that is both theirs and of the Institute.

These sessions were within the frame of the major functions of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, which is the dissemination of the results of scientific research by means of the channels established by each one of the National Sections of the Member States.

At the closing ceremony of the event referred to here, MA. Campuzano recognized the significance of these events, which are put into effect in accordance with the action policies of the 2022-2025 Strategic Modernization Plan of the PAIGH, which relate to supporting the development of the National Sections, also to their work within the Member States. At the same time, he placed at the disposal of the Pan-American community two tools of the PAIGH for supporting scientific work done in the region; these are the Technical Assistance (projects) and Publications programs.

Along the same lines, he mentioned the scientific collaboration and support that Uruguay has offered through its National Section, in the efforts that are being made in favor of peace in America, especially in the Belize - Guatemala Adjacency Zone.



Working Tour to the National Section of Ecuador

The Secretary General of the PAIGH was warmly received by Brigade General Jaime A. Navarrete Berrú, Director of the Military Geographic Institute (IGM) of the Republic of Ecuador, headquarters of the representatives of the PAIGH in that country; this happened during the working tour that was made and recorded upon his visit to Ecuador, on November 24th.

MA Campuzano made clear his recognition for the excellent work performed by the National Section of the Republic of Ecuador to the benefit of the 21 Member States of the Inter-American community. At the same time, he handed over a commemorative plaque of the 95th Anniversary of the IGM, celebrated during the past month of April.

In this way, continuity has been given to the work of strengthening the activities of the PAIGH with its National Sections, offering the tools for dissemination for the areas of projects and of scientific research. Likewise, the invitation to participate in the matters of applications for awards and grants for the scientists of the Pan-American community.

Collaboration with the National Section of El Salvador

On the 23rd of last October, the Secretary General, responding to an invitation from BA. Camilo Trigueros, Executive Secretary of the Real-Estate Registration Council of Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic (CRICAP), participated in the CRICAP Forum. In his presentation, MA. Campuzano presented a general panorama of the activities and structure of our organization, in addition to explaining the Work Plan that this Institute leads with. This meeting was carried out as support for the National Section of the PAIGH of El Salvador, which is characterized by its professionalism and service to the Pan American community.

Working Tour to the National Section of the Dominican Republic

The Secretary General of the PAIGH, during his visit to the National Section of the PAIGH in the Dominican Republic, attended the inauguration of the 21st Dominican Congress of Geographic Sciences (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic).

On this occasion, MA. Campuzano gave a keynote presentation "50th Anniversary of the CEPEIGE", in order to recognize the work of the Pan American Center for Geographic Studies and Research

(Ecuador), the work of which specializes in being the platform for Pan-American academic excellence in terms of the exchange of experiences and knowledge in the Geospatial Sciences by means of academic presentations, workshops, courses, among other academic activities. The above is as a result of the invitation of the National Section of the PAIGH in the Dominican Republic.

The Dominican Congress of Geographic Sciences, organized by the National Section of the PAIGH in the Dominican Republic, is a reference point that demonstrates the leadership of Dominican scientists in the Earth sciences; their contribution, through this forum is, without doubt, very valuable for the nations of the American continent.

Working Tour to the National Section of Chile

The Secretary General on a business trip to the city of Santiago, Chile, on October 16th, 2023, visited the Military Geographic Institute (IGM) of Chile, headquarters of the National Section. There, he was received by Colonel Carlos Prado Casanova, Director of the IGM and President of the National Section.

At this meeting, Colonel Prado presented the mission, structure and work performed by the National Section of the PAIGH in Chile, in addition to its development projects. MA. Campuzano recognized, by means of giving a metallic plaque, the important work achieved by this Chilean organization for the benefit of America. At the same time, both organizations ratified their commitment to collaboration and mutual support in their scientific tasks to the benefit of the continent.

Strategy 4.2: Strengthen its image and its relations with Governments and with societies in the Member States of the Institute, also and in the same way with the Observer States.

STATUTORY MEETINGS - 2023

Ceremony of the 95th Anniversary of the PAIGH

The 6th International American Conference, held in Havana, Cuba, approved the creation of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History. In consequence, the ceremony of the 95th Anniversary of our institution was held at the Palace building headquarters of the PAIGH in Mexico City.

During the ceremony about the foundation of the PAIGH, MA. Antonio Campuzano Rosales,

Secretary General, placed emphasis on the noble principles and contributions that men and women have clearly made over the length of the history of this institution for the benefit of the American continent.

At the same time, he gave details about the vision of the Institute for creating an integrated map of America, which had the objective of contributing to the technological and social development of the nations of the PAIGH.

During the ceremony, Patricia Solís, PhD, President of the PAIGH and guest of honor, mentioned that she will continue to work on promoting the strategic alliances, as support for achieving the Sustainable Development Objectives of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations. At the same time, she highlighted the work of women who are scientists and professionals with a recognition of their historic and scientific contribution.

Patricia Galeana, PhD, former President of the History Commission of the PAIGH, was present at the ceremony of the 95th Anniversary as a guest of honor. In her presentation, she praised the fundamental role of scientists in the creation and consolidation of the Institute, also their contribution to peace in the American continent.

As a result of the invitation that the Secretary General made, Patricia Solís, PhD, placed her own photograph on the wall of the Presidents of the PAIGH, as the first woman to occupy this position in the time, almost a century, that our institution has existed.

At this ceremony, the inauguration of the Wall of Female Authorities of the PAIGH was held and recorded; this was run by doctors Patricia Galeana, Elsa Leticia Flores Márquez and Patricia Solís. The above was the result of Resolution 10, issued by the 23rd General Assembly (Quito, Ecuador, 2022). The participation of women in the PAIGH has been important in its various component entities, structures, and activities; so, the creation of this wall contributes to raising the visibility of the women who have been Authorities in this institution.

Along the same lines, in fulfillment of Resolution 9, issued by the 23rd General Assembly (Quito, Ecuador, 2022), and at the same ceremony, a plaque was unveiled for inaugurating the Historic Archive "Eng. Pedro Celestino Sánchez". This opening ceremony was run by Patricia Galeana, PhD, former President of the History Commission of the PAIGH. The importance of the inauguration of this archive will make it possible to protect the stock of historic and scientific documentation of the 21 nations who make up the community of the PAIGH.

During the ceremony of the 95th Anniversary of the PAIGH, the pictures of the scientists Piedad Peñaherrera de Costales (anthropologist), Martha Ordoñez Albán (paleontologist), Artemis Torres Valenzuela (historian), Raquel María de León (geographer and historian) and Eunice Newton Foote (scientist) were inaugurated in the Gallery of Geographers and Historians of America.

The event ended with a toast and a small buffet offered by Mrs. Alma Verónica Ireta Badillo, wife of the Secretary General.

99th Meeting of PAIGH Authorities

The work of the 99th Meeting of PAIGH Authorities was performed and recorded at Guatemala City, Guatemala, on the days 4th to the 6th of July 2023.

On that occasion, the host was BSc. Pahola Méndez Mata, Vice-President of the PAIGH. From the PAIGH, those present to participate were all of its Authorities: the President, Patricia Solís, PhD; the Vice-president, BSc. Pahola Méndez; the Secretary General, MA. Antonio Campuzano; and the Presidents of the Commissions; that of Cartography MSc. Max A. Lobo; that of Geography, Hermann Manríquez, PhD; that of History, Filiberto Cruz, PhD; and that of Geophysics, Mario Ruiz, PhD.





In the inaugural session, the meeting was honored by having the speech of the Vice-Minister of the Ministry for Agriculture, Livestock and Food of the Republic of Guatemala, César Vinicio Arreaga. The Vice-President of this Institute, BSc. Pahola Méndez, for her part emphasized the importance of being the location and host for this meeting; following this, the President, Patricia Solís, PhD, highlighted the relevance of the Meeting of Authorities; both of them emphasized the fundamental role of the Authorities in the coordination and fulfillment of the resolutions approved at the 23rd General Assembly of the PAIGH in the year 2022. Finally, MA Antonio Campuzano Rosales, the Secretary General, talked about the coming centenary of the PAIGH in the year 2028, as he highlighted the privileged and bold position of the Authorities as captains of a ship that now sails towards this major historic milestone.

On this occasion, the General Secretariat presented a partial report about its activities. Along the same lines, the Authorities assessed in detail the 2022 Financial Report and the 2022 Audit Report; they also studied the projects that were presented within the Technical Assistance Program, the first draft of the Resolutions and the modifications to the Rules of Procedure that are aligned with the new Organic Statute authorized in 2021.

A point which was outstanding during the Meeting of the Authorities was that the setting up of the Committee for the PAIGH Centenary Celebrations was made official, for the centenary to be held in 2028; this committee is responsible for preparing the celebrations of the first century of the existence of our institution at the service of America. The PAIGH Authorities met to designate Patricia Solís, PhD, as President of the Celebrations Committee and MSc. Pahola Méndez Mata as Vice-President to support the President in her functions and responsibilities, coordinate the planned activities and events, and represent the Committee in the absence of the President. Moreover, she will contribute with ideas and proposals for running the academic events and will participate in the decision making and the drafting of the agenda for concrete actions.

Finally, MA. Campuzano was designated as Technical Secretary of the above-mentioned Committee. As Technical Secretary, he will be responsible for drafting and distributing the Project of celebrations, calls for proposals, agendas, and documents. Moreover, he will record and draft the minutes, ensuring a complete and precise record of the discussions and decisions. He will also coordinate the internal and external

communication of this working group, manage the documentation and filing involved with the celebrations of the Centenary and will provide support for the logistics and administrative coordination of the scheduled activities and events. Within five years, the PAIGH will have completed 100 years of encouraging scientific knowledge in our Americas!

This meeting of Authorities provided a unique opportunity to gather and concentrate efforts and work together towards the strengthening and renovation of the PAIGH. The Authorities, as the coordinating body, have the responsibility of ensuring the fulfilment of the resolutions of the General Assembly of the PAIGH and proposing initiatives in the matters within their scope.

100th Meeting of Authorities

In the framework of the 24th General Assembly of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, the inauguration of the 100th Meeting of PAIGH Authorities and of the 5th Joint Technical Meeting of the Commissions took place. During the ceremonial event, the hosts gave a cordial welcome to the Authorities of the PAIGH, to colleagues, scientists, and executive leaders of America.

In representation of the Government of the Dominican Republic and presiding over this session, the Vice-Minister of Economic and Social Analysis, Alexis Cruz, PhD; the Sectorial Ambassador of the Vice-Minister for Multilateral Foreign Policy Affairs, Ambassador Néstor Cerón; and BSc. Bolívar Troncoso Morales, President of the National Section of the PAIGH of this country and Director of the “José Joaquín Hungría Morell” National Geographic Institute were present.

On this occasion, the Authorities examined their partial reports and again exercised supervision over the Financial and Audit Reports for the year 2022. Along the same lines, they performed checks for the last time on the projects that were presented within the Technical Assistance Program, also and at the same time on the final draft of the Resolutions that were going to be submitted to the General Assembly. On the same occasion, they made the final modifications to the Rules of Procedure that are being aligned with the new Organic Statute authorized in 2021.

Also during this meeting, the certificates that give accreditation to the Authorities as holder of the positions they currently occupy in this international organization were handed to them. Moreover, the Secretary General received, from the hands of the



President of the National Section of the Dominican Republic, a plaque in recognition of the Institute.

24th General Assembly

One aspect to highlight was the 24th General Assembly of the PAIGH, on the days 1st and 2nd of November 2023, in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; the importance of this event determined the scientific, administrative, and economic policies of this Institute for the year 2024.

At this work gathering, the Authorities of this organization participated, so did the representatives from 16 Member States out of the 21 that make up the Pan-American community of the PAIGH, also those from the Kingdom of Spain and the Republic of Korea in terms of their status as Permanent Observer States. At the same time, SIRGAS and CEPEIGE participated as invited international organizations.

The inauguration was presided over by Alexis Cruz, PhD, Vice-Minister for Economic and Social Analysis of the Ministry for Economy, Planning and Development of the government of the Dominican Republic, also by the Authorities of the PAIGH and the President of the National Section of the country hosting the headquarters. At the same time, there was a welcome speech from the President of the National Section of the PAIGH in the Dominican Republic, BSc. Bolívar Troncoso Morales and a speech from the President of the PAIGH.

For starting up and chairing the General Assembly the following Authorities were there to perform these functions:

- President of the Assembly, Patricia Solís, PhD, President of the PAIGH (United States of America)

- Vice-President of the Assembly, BSc. Pahola Méndez, Vice-President of the PAIGH (Guatemala)
- Secretary, MA. Antonio Campuzano Rosales, Secretary General of the PAIGH (Mexico)

Reports of PAIGH Authorities

- Report of the President of the PAIGH
- Report of the Vice-President of the PAIGH
- Report of the Secretary General
- Reports from the Presidents of the PAIGH Commissions, including the recommendation for the approval of the Technical Assistance Program (PAT) and the Publications Program for the year 2024.
- Cartography Commission
- Geography Commission
- History Commission
- Geophysics Commission

The following Working Committees were created, voted on and started up: Scientific Policy Committee, Financial Policy Committee, Administrative Policy Committee, and a Coordinating Committee. In accordance with article 29 of the Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly, the Working Committees are made up of a President, a Vice-President and a Rapporteur who will prepare the corresponding report.

The Scientific Policy Committee had as its responsibility the study of all those matters that, due to their nature, were transferred to it from the plenary sessions, especially checking and, where needed, propose changes to the standards, procedures and rules for the preparation, assessment, approval and supervision of the activities and projects of the Institute. Among the significant matters, the consultation request for an opinion received from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights about the “Climate Emergency and Human Rights” was analyzed. This committee was made up by:

- President: Geographer Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop (United States of America);
- Vice-President: Engineer Walter Myers (Panama);
- Rapporteur: Doctor Marilyn Romero Vargas (Costa Rica).

The Financial Policy Committee had responsibility for studying all of those matters that, due to their nature, were transferred to it from the plenary sessions, especially checking the Audit and Financial reports, the Draft Budget Project and the detailed report of the General Budget for the

Strengthening of the Technical Assistance Program (PAT) of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History. It was made up by:

- President: Surveyor Sergio Cimbaro (Argentina);
- Vice-President: Colonel Gustavo Caubarrère (Uruguay);
- Rapporteur: Engineer-Geographer Lida Domínguez (Paraguay).

The Administrative Policy Committee had responsibility for studying all of those matters that, due to their nature, were transferred to it from the plenary sessions, especially checking the mechanisms for the actions of the Institute and, where needed, to propose changes to the Organic Statute and to the rules of procedure for the General Assembly, General Secretariat, Commissions, Staff, Publications, etc., and will seek to make the working procedures of the Institute more efficient. It was made up by:

- President: Doctor Cenia Correa (Dominican Republic);
- Vice-President: Engineer Francisco Javier Medina Parra (Mexico);
- Rapporteur: Colonel Carlos Emilio Prado Casanova (Chile).

The Coordinating Committee was responsible for evaluating the decisions of the three Working Committees in order to prevent duplicated efforts or contradictions. The Coordinating Committee was made up of the PAIGH Vice-President, who chaired it; the Secretary of the Assembly, and the Presidents and Rapporteurs of the Scientific, Financial and Administrative Policy Committees.

Among the specially invited presentations there was that titled “YouthMappers”, given by Patricia Solís, PhD, President of the PAIGH; that of Deirdre D. Bishop, PhD, President of the National Section of the United States of America, with the topic of “Current State of the Integrated Geospatial Information Frame (IGIF)”. Added to this, there was the time given for the staff representing the Embassy of Korea in the Dominican Republic to intervene concerning the *Training Workshop on Geographic Names and Geospatial Information*, offered by the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) of Korea, in the years 2022 and 2023.

As a result of the work performed in the General Assembly, the Resolutions that were approved were those which are stated as follows; in these the Secretary General is given instructions about applying them:

1. Updating and extension of the Pan-American Agenda of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History
2. Declaration of affirmation of the fundamental principles of the Locus Charter about the ethics of location data
3. Raising the status of the Geographic Names Working Group to that of the “José Joaquín Hungría Morell” Geographic Names Committee of the Cartography Commission of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History
4. Appreciation expressed to the Republic of Korea for its contributions as Permanent Observer State of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History
5. Annual Quotas of the Member States of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History for the year 2024
6. Presentation of the detailed report on the general Budget for strengthening the Technical Assistance Program (PAT) of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History
7. General Budget of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History for the year 2024
8. Recognition of the authorities of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History
9. Approval for obtaining and managing the funds for the celebrations of the centenary of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History
10. Approval of funds intended for sustaining the Geodesic Reference System for the Americas
11. Approval of funds intended for sustaining the Regional Committee for the Americas of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
12. Alignment of the Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly with the Organic Statute of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History
13. Alignment of the Rules of Procedure for the General Secretariat with the Organic Statute of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History
14. Creation of the Regulations for the Pan American Award of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History
15. Placement of a commemorative plaque for inaugurating the journal and magazine



- library of the Palace headquarters of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, to name it after “Héctor Oscar José Peña”
16. Ratification of agreements signed between various entities and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History
 17. Host and location of the 25th General Assembly and the 102nd Meeting of the Authorities of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History
 18. Presentation of the reports of the National Sections of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History corresponding to the year 2023
 19. Recognition and congratulations for the Pan American Center for Geographic Studies and Research (CEPEIGE), at the commemoration of its 50th Anniversary since the start of its activities
 20. Recognition and congratulations for the Geodesic Reference System for the Americas on the 30th Anniversary of its creation
 21. Recognition and congratulations for the Regional Committee for the Americas of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its 10th anniversary
 22. Acceptance of the reports of the Authorities of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History corresponding to the 2023
 23. Recognition for the Government of the Dominican Republic, the “José Joaquín Hungría Morell” National Geographic Institute and the organizing committee for the preparation of the 24th General Assembly and associated meetings.

Commendations awarded by the General Assembly

The History Commission of the PAIGH, through the jury, decided unanimously to assign the award for 2023 Best Masters Degree Thesis in Pan-American History to MA Pedro Altamirano Castillo of the University of Concepción in the Republic of Chile for the research work titled “Itinerant social sciences: Brazilian and Argentine intellectuals in Santiago and Concepción (Chile, 1964-1973)”.

Separately, the recognition given by the Cartography Commission as the award for “Best Masters Degree Thesis in the areas of Cartography, Geodesy and Geographic Information”, was presented by MSc. Max Lobo Hernández, President of that Commission.





In the same way, the Cartography Commission, through a jury, made known the results of the award for Best Masters Degree Thesis in the areas of Cartography, Geodesy or Geographic Information; this was for MA. Andrés Moreno Bulla (Colombia) of the Technical University of Berlin (Germany) because: "... the work here sets out a competent and repeatable technique for monitoring the variability in the state of the sea in coastal zones with reduced costs". A special Mention was granted to BSc Gabriela Pasetto Falavigna (Brazil), of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil), as the reviewers judged that "... the matters dealt with is of current interest (hazards in aerodromes) and relevant for society."

BSc. Bolívar Troncoso Morales and MA. Antonio Campuzano Rosales, President of the National Section in the Dominican Republic and PAIGH Secretary General, respectively, undertook to give the speeches at the at the closing session and thanks expressed for the intense work done in the General Assembly.

The closing session ended with an invitation to all the Member States of the PAIGH to participate in the 25th General Assembly of the PAIGH, to be held in the Republic of Chile in 2024.

The importance of the 24th General Assembly of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History was that it determined the scientific, administrative, and economic policies of this institute for the year 2024.

Schedule of visits to Ambassadors of the Pan-American community in Mexico and in America

Embassy of Mexico in Commemorative Attendance

The Secretary General of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, MA Antonio Campuzano Rosales, was invited by the Ambassador of Mexico in the Dominican Republic, Mr Carlos Miguel Aysu González, to share a few brief moments during the scientific activities that were taking place in the capital of that country, within the framework of the statutory meetings of this Institute in 2023.

Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Mexico

The Secretary General of the PAIGH was present at the College of Mexico, on February 22nd, upon the invitation of her Excellency María Isabel Castillo Baez, PhD, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic in Mexico, to be present when Eduardo Matos





Moctezuma, PhD, gave a keynote conference presentation titled "Pedro Henríquez Ureña: a biographical outline", in the framework of the re-activation of the special academic "Pedro Henríquez Ureña" course in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. It should be mentioned that Matos Moctezuma, PhD, collaborated over many years (1980-2012) as part of the Editorial Committee of the American Anthropology Journal, published by the PAIGH until 2016.

On the 7th of November, MA Antonio Campuzano Rosales, Secretary General of the PAIGH, was invited by Ambassador Castillo Baez, to the celebration of the "Day of the Dominican Republic". During the activities of the event, the Secretary General took advantage of the opportunity to make clear his appreciation for the magnificent role of her country as host of the recent statutory meetings of the PAIGH: 100th Meeting of the Authorities, 5th Technical Meeting of the Commissions and the 24th General Assembly, not only to the Ambassador but also to the Minister Councilor, Mr. Freddy Espinosa Mireles and to

the Director of Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Ramón Grullón Solórzano. For BSc Bolívar Troncoso Morales, President of the National Section of the PAIGH in the Dominican Republic and Director of the "José Joaquín Hungría Morell" National Geographic Institute, the work of the organization of these events was highlighted.

Embassy of Nicaragua in Mexico

Strengthening the links of the PAIGH with its Member States, the Secretary General attended a ceremony for placing a wreath on the occasion of the 156th anniversary of the birth of the Nicaraguan poet and diplomat Rubén Darío, while accompanying at this event the Ambassador of Nicaragua in Mexico, Mr. Juan Carlos Gutiérrez Madrigal.

Embassy of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay

On May 3rd, 2023, the Ambassador of Uruguay in Mexico, Mr. Aníbal Cabral Segalerba, visited the Palace building, headquarters of the General Secretariat. On this occasion, the Secretary General gave a presentation about the activities performed and those which are scheduled to be put into effect. The Ambassador was invited to sign the book of Distinguished Visitors.

In his speech directed at the PAIGH, Ambassador Cabral stated his satisfaction with the work that our institution has been performing over recent years and re-confirmed the commitment of Uruguay and its National Section in the Pan American community.

Embassy of the Republic of Brazil

On August 15th, 2023, the Ambassador of Brazil in Mexico, Mr. Fernando Coimbra, visited the Palace building, housing the General Secretariat. On this occasion, the leading official of this organization gave a presentation about the activities performed in recent years by the PAIGH and those which are scheduled to be executed. At the same time, the scientific and institutional public dissemination programs were presented to him. Speaking to him, emphasis was placed on the importance of the scientific leadership of Brazil in the Pan American community. Ambassador Fernando Coimbra stated his recognition of and support for the PAIGH and agreed to sign the Book of Distinguished Visitors.



Embassy of the Republics of Central America

On September 8th, 2023, the leading official of the General Secretariat attended the celebration of the 202nd Anniversary of the Independence of Central America that the embassies of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua ran jointly.

On this occasion, MA. Campuzano re-confirmed, before their excellencies the ambassadors Pablo Heriberto Abarca Mora (Costa Rica), Delmy Cañas (El Salvador), Marco Chicas Sosa (Guatemala), Alden Rivera Montes (Honduras), and Juan Carlos Gutiérrez Madrigal (Nicaragua) the institutional backing of the PAIGH to the scientific communities of their respective nations.

Visit of the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

The Secretary General of the PAIGH made an invitation to Ambassador Tae-wan Huh, of the Republic of Korea, to visit the PAIGH in Mexico City. The objective of this invitation was for this diplomat to perform the honor of donating a flag of his country to our Institute.

The ambassador Huh Tae-wan, accompanied by staff from his Embassy, made his visit to the PAIGH





attended the celebration of the National Celebration of the Republic of Korea. This constitutes an example of the links of friendship that unites this Permanent Observer State and the community of the PAIGH.

Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean

With the objective of strengthening the alliances with international organizations, on the 15th of last February, the Secretary General accepted the invitation of Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini, Secretary General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL), with its central office in Mexico, so he attended the celebration of the 56th Anniversary of this international organization at the Tlatelolco plaza. It should be made clear that, in a way similar to the PAIGH, it has as its objective preserving peace in America. At this event, the leading official of the OPANAL was invited to visit the headquarters of the PAIGH.

Subsequently, the leading official of the PAIGH visited the central office of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America.

on April 19th, 2023, the day on which, in a ceremony, the flag of the Republic of Korea, Permanent Observer State of the PAIGH, was donated to be placed together with the flags of the Member States and the Permanent Observer States of the PAIGH, in the “William Bowie Chamber” (or “Golden Chamber”) of the Palace headquarters building of this organization.

At this ceremonial event, the Ambassador stated the support of his country for the Pan American community and the major significance of placing his standard-bearing country alongside those which make up the Pan American community. For his part, the Secretary General thanked the above-mentioned diplomat for his gesture and for the support that the Republic of Korea provides to the development of the management of geospatial information and of geographic names in America.

Following the ceremonial session, Mrs. Alma Verónica Ireta Badillo, wife of the PAIGH Secretary General, offered a special wine and refreshments to the guests. Among the attendees present at this important event, representatives of the diplomatic corps of the Member Countries accredited in Mexico were there.

Subsequently, on October 4th, 2023, the Secretary General, accompanied by his wife,



He was received by Ambassador Bonzanini, with whom he shared experiences about the way in which that organization carries out its alignment with the laws of the country hosting that office site. The leading official of the OPANAL agreed to share the experiences of himself and of his team, so a visit to the PAIGH Palace building was scheduled. The visit of Ambassador Bonzanini, accompanied by staff members of his work team, was held and recorded on March 31st, 2023. At this meeting, the experiences shared were about the way in which the organization makes adjustments and aligns with international laws and with the laws of the country hosting the headquarters, Mexico. Along the same lines, they agreed to advise the PAIGH on some procedures that our institution should establish in order to comply with the regulations and procedures that all embassies, international organizations and diplomatic offices fulfil in Mexico.

This visit was very useful, as it made it possible for the Secretary General to confirm that the PAIGH was not aligned with and behind in relation to various aspects of the regulatory framework of the country hosting the headquarters; at the same time, it enabled taking corrective measures in order to match the hospitality of Mexico. For this reason, thanks are given to Ambassador Bonzanini and his assistants for the help given on this major subject.

Other events

On Tuesday, February 21st, MA Antonio Campuzano, Secretary General of the PAIGH, participated in the "Final Session", in virtual format, organized by "Petróleos Mexicanos", with a keynote speech that had the theme "Flag of Mexico", from a historical perspective. With this, the PAIGH continued with its objective of bringing its activities closer to the governmental institutions of the country hosting the headquarters.

The Secretary General of the PAIGH was invited to the 3rd Report on the Activities of MA Rubén Ruiz Guerra, Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Research Center, on February the 28th; this was the result of the strong link between the two institutions.

MA Antonio Campuzano and staff of the General Secretariat visited the premises of the Center for Research in Geospatial Information Sciences (CentroGeo) on March 22nd, 2023. With this institution, there is a specific signed work cooperation agreement for providing eight grants in the year 2023, by the PAIGH to applicants from its Member States for the Diploma course in Geospatial Information Analysis run by this center



for learning. This visit made it possible to bring the personnel of both institutions closer together and consolidate the strategic relations that the PAIGH has with this scientific center for geospatial information.

On April 25th, the Palace building of the PAIGH headquarters had the honor of receiving the visit of Ricardo Sodi Cuellar, PhD, President of the High Court of Justice of the State of Mexico, in accordance with the Strategic Plan of the current administration which seeks to bring this Institute closer to the authorities of the Mexican State, also to search for areas of cooperation. It should be clarified that Magistrate Ricardo Sodi provided advice and guidance to the General Secretariat for their tasks in aligning with the country hosting the headquarters. We thank Judge Sodi for his presence at this General Secretariat.

On May 12th, 2023, the Secretary General attended the celebration of the 212th Anniversary of the Independence of Paraguay. At this event, the leading official of the PAIGH clearly stated his

satisfaction to Ambassador Gloria Yrma Amarilla Acosta about such an important event and declared to her the support of the PAIGH for the scientists of Paraguay.

On May 22nd, as an introduction to the Second Academic Sessions of the American Congress on Liberty, MA Antonio Campuzano Rosales, Secretary General of the PAIGH, was awarded recognition as Honorary Foreign Member of the National Academy of History of Ecuador. This recognition was awarded for his contribution to the history of the American continent.

The objective of meetings like these is to strengthen relations with the Governments and the societies of the Member States of the Institute, in accordance with the "2022-2025 Strategic Modernization Plan".



Actions taken concerning Central Guiding Concept V:

Strengthen its relations with the countries that host its central office, the General Assembly event and also the Presidencies of the Commissions and the meetings of those Commissions, with the aim of supporting the best possible functioning of these organs, which will result in benefits for the correct operational running and good public image of the Institute.

Strategy 5.1:

The General Secretariat will seek to maintain good relations with the country that hosts the Institute, also with the States which the Commission Presidents belong to.

Participation in the 34th Meeting of Ambassadors and Consuls of Mexico

Cooperation for benefiting cultural and scientific development is one of the foundations of the work of the PAIGH with its Member States, in particular with the country hosting the headquarters, Mexico. In this context, MA. Antonio Campuzano Rosales, the Secretary General, attended the presentation that Ambassador Marcelo Ebrard gave within the framework of the 34th Meeting of Ambassadors and Consuls of 2023, in Mexico City, during January of that year.

The presence of MA Campuzano at this event strengthens the relations between the PAIGH and the government of the country hosting the headquarters, which makes possible the fulfilment of one of the objectives set out in the Strategic Modernization Plan of the PAIGH.





Relations with the Secretariat of Foreign Relations of Mexico, country hosting the General Secretariat of the PAIGH

The Secretary General responded to the invitation extended by Ambassador Alicia Bárcena, Secretary of Foreign Relations of Mexico, attending last December as a result of the Christmas message provided by the accredited Diplomatic Corps and the executives of that Secretariat.

At the event, Dr. Bárcena exchanged congratulations with MA. Campuzano, while repeating her support in the management tasks that he has been running as leading official of the PAIGH; also, for the scientific work and the continuation of jointly-performed work for the following year.

Miguel Hidalgo Municipality, location for PAIGH central office in Mexico City

The Secretary General received at the Palace building headquarters of the PAIGH MA. Eduardo Contro, Director of Economic Development and Support of the Miguel Hidalgo Municipality in Mexico City, with the aim of bringing the Institute closer to the local authorities of the country hosting the headquarters.



MA. Contro offered the service of this authority on aspects of the support teams for hazards, security, the cultural area for public outreach and dissemination, among others. Moreover, he recognized the labors of the Institute for keeping the peace on the continent.

This meeting is historic because, for the first time in several decades, the General Secretariat of the PAIGH made relations with Mexican authorities at municipal level closer. This, undoubtedly, will facilitate the activities of the PAIGH General Secretariat in the country hosting the headquarters.

Along the same lines, the Secretary General made a courtesy visit to the Miguel Hidalgo municipal office, in whose sector the Palace headquarters building of the PAIGH is located. Subsequently, on March the 9th, MA. Juan Pablo Gutiérrez and BA. Israel Salazar, officials of the Miguel Hidalgo municipality came to this building of the PAIGH. During this visit, the Secretary General presented the activities that the Institute performs, also placing emphasis on the importance of setting up links with local authorities at the level of boroughs or municipalities, of the country hosting the headquarters. As a result of this meeting, a work committee will be established for the collaboration between the two entities.



Relations with the PAIGH National Section in Mexico

In accordance with the 2022-2025 Strategic Modernization Plan of the PAIGH, and with the objective of pushing forwards better relations with the National Sections, MA. Antonio Campuzano received MA. Jaime del Río Salcedo, President of the National Section of the PAIGH in México, accompanied by Mrs. Verónica Guerrero Huepa, at the Palace headquarters building of the General Secretariat of the PAIGH, on January 24th, 2023. At this meeting, the two leading figures committed themselves to strengthening the relations and the work performed jointly between their respective institutions. It should be clarified that he offered his support, advice, and collaboration, for the General Secretariat of the PAIGH to continue its work of aligning with the laws of the country hosting the headquarters, Mexico. It is important to highlight the fact that this support was made evident over the whole year 2023, while MA. Jaime del Río was in the above-mentioned position.

Visit to the State Palace of Justice of Mexico

On January the 25th, 2023, the Secretary General of the PAIGH, MA. Antonio Campuzano Rosales, was present at the Third Report on Strategic Development of Magistrate Ricardo Sodi Cuellar, President of the Upper Tribunal of Justice of the State of Mexico, as part of this linkage of this Institute with the country hosting the headquarters.

At this meeting, the lawyer, Mr. Sodi, offered his impartial advice to the leading official of the General Secretariat in order to contribute to the process of aligning the PAIGH with the laws of Mexico.

Relations with the National Institute for Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI)

Last December, the Secretary General of the PAIGH attended a work meeting in virtual mode with Paloma Merodio Gómez, PhD, Vice-President of the Governmental Council of the National Institute for Statistics and Geography.

At this session, Dr. Merodio explained the interest of UN-GGIM in collaborating and strengthening the commitments of this organization with Mexico through the PAIGH in the framework of the preparations for the High Level Forum of the UN-GGIM to be held the following year in Mexico; emphasis was placed on the need to work in a coordinated way with the organizations of the region.

The leading official of the PAIGH made clear his willingness to collaborate with the UN-GGIM in its future activities, in accordance with the 2022-2025 Strategic Modernization Plan in terms of encouraging greater scientific and technical exchanges with related international organizations. The meeting ended with agreement to hold an in-person meeting at the start of the following year in the Palace headquarters building of the PAIGH.

Collaboration with the “Cortés” Accounting Firm

The Secretary General received at the Palace headquarters building of the PAIGH the firm of accountants led by Accountant Carolina Cortés on January 23rd, 2023. It should be made clear that accountant Cortés agreed to collaborate with the PAIGH in order to supervise the finances and accounting of our organization and to give advice on it, in addition to aiding the General Secretariat towards obtaining the E-Signature of this institute.

This strategic relationship made it easier for the PAIGH General Secretariat to be able to make significant progress, over the year 2023, in the institutional alignment with the laws of the country hosting the headquarters, thanks to the advice and work performed by the above-mentioned accounting firm on the issues involved in the alignment of the PAIGH with the tax-related and employment rules of the country hosting the headquarters.



Collaboration with the “Sodi” Lawyers Firm

On Wednesday the 13th of last December, at the Palace building of the headquarters of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, the Secretary General gave a warm welcome to BA. Jacqueline Sodi Zapfe, also to her full work team from the “Sodi” Lawyers firm. It should be pointed out that this firm agreed to advise this General Secretariat and guide its legal affairs.

This strategic relationship will make it possible for the PAIGH to consolidate the work that has been in progress over the last two years in order to align appropriately with the laws of the country hosting the headquarters and to suitably respond to the hospitality of Mexico, without harming the diplomatic immunity which it enjoys as an international organization.

SIGNING OF COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

MA. Campuzano Rosales, as head of the PAIGH, over the last two years has sought to sign agreements

with various international organizations, universities, and academic and scientific institutions, in order to achieve strategic alliances and cause a synergy that makes possible a better fulfilment of the institutional mission of our institute. Due to the above, the agreements signed in the year 2023 should be mentioned; these were ratified by the 24th General Assembly held and recorded in last November, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. These are described as follows:

- Cooperation Agreement between the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and the Seminar on the History of Baja California. It was signed in Mexico City, on March 10th, 2023. The objective of this cooperation agreement is to establish the general basis and the mechanisms for cooperation for making full use of the infrastructure and experience of both parties, with the aim of putting into effect actions involving research, training, consultancy, projects, and the dissemination of culture. This agreement is in force for a period of five years from March 10th, 2023, until March 9th, 2028.
- Third specific cooperation agreement, between the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and the Center for Research in Geospatial Information Sciences A.C. (CentroGeo). It was signed in Mexico City on July 25th, 2023, at the premises of CentroGeo. The objective of this specific agreement is to establish the basis for granting seven grants for the diploma course "Geospatial Information Analysis", for which the cost of signing up will be covered by these two organizations, which will each provide the finance of 50% of the signing-up fee for the diploma and courses that the Distance Training area of "CentroGeo" offers at its second annual round of courses for this period. This agreement was in force for four months and 25 days, from July the 25th, 2023, to December 20th, 2023.
- Framework cooperation agreement, between the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and the Latin American Institute for Educational Communication (ILCE). This was signed in Mexico City, on August 17th, 2023, at the site of the ILCE. This agreement has as its objective establishing the basis of cooperation for professional training by means of organizing and running courses, diploma-level programs and other events and actions of either an academic type or involving scientific research, indeed of any related type that is for the fulfilment of their objectives

and that are of mutual interest and benefit, whether in in-person or remote mode, also by means of possible productions, co-productions and exchanges of stocks of audio-visual materials in accordance with their technical feasibility and institutional interest in them. The current agreement is in force indefinitely, from August 17th, 2023.

There are other agreements that are being negotiated in December 2023:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)

In September 2023, meetings for coordination were started between ESRI; the General Secretariat of the PAIGH and the Cartography and Geography Commissions of this Institute. In representation of ESRI, Eng. Eric van Praag participated, while the PAIGH was represented by the Secretary General, MA. Antonio Campuzano accompanied by the Technical Assistance Manager, Mr. Norberto García. The Cartography and Geography Commissions were represented by their respective presidents, MSc. Max Lobo and Hermann Manríquez, PhD. The purpose of these coordination meetings is to make progress in the management tasks necessary for renewing the current MoU, which expires on the 26th of June 2024, or, alternatively for proposing a new MoU with a greater scope. Work continues in coordinated way on this issue, by means of periodic meetings between the General Secretariat of the PAIGH, its Cartography and Geography Commissions, and ESRI.

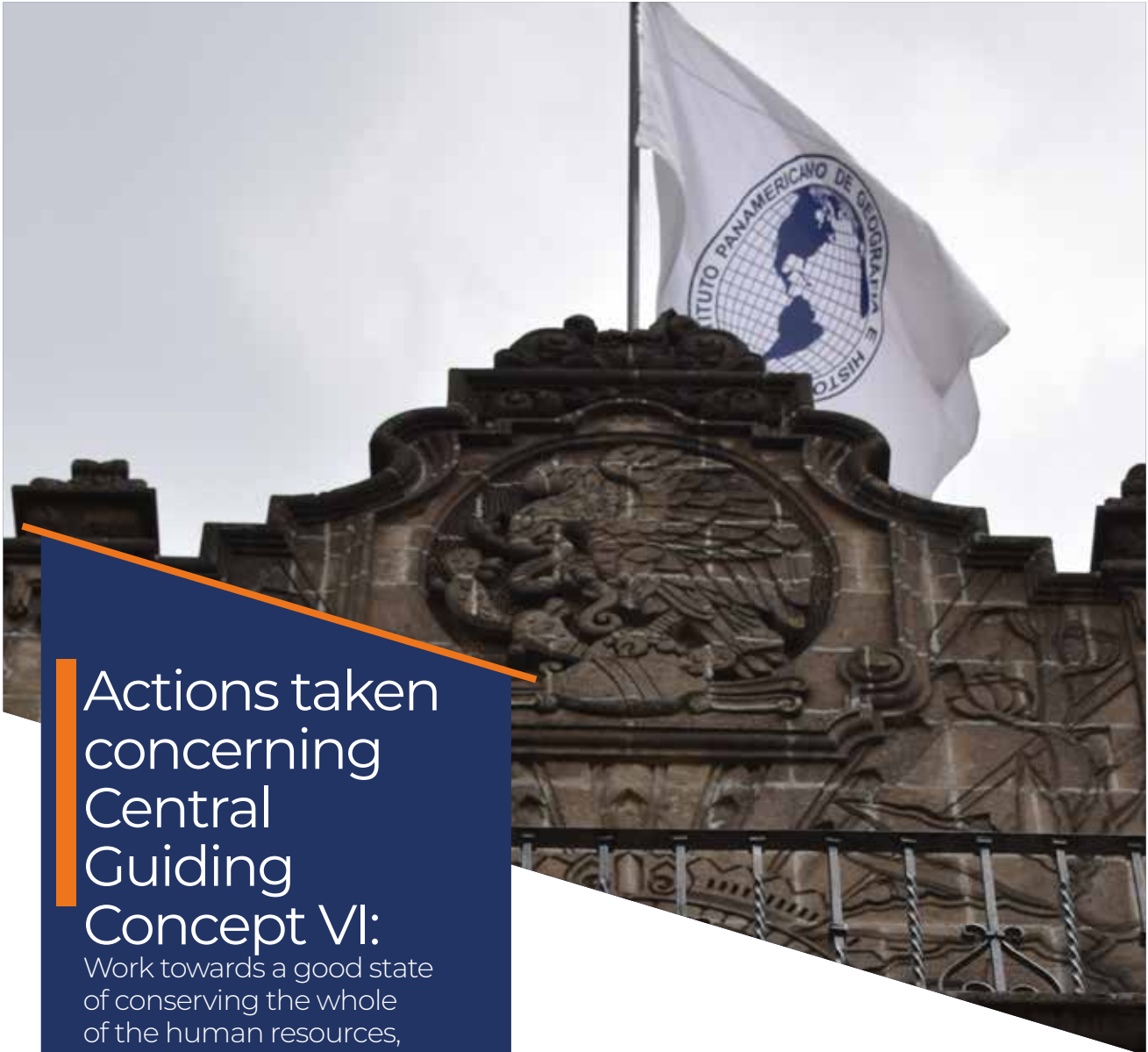
- Cooperation agreement between the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and Mexican Society for Geography and Statistics (SMGE).

Last December, the Secretary General of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, MA. Antonio Campuzano Rosales, had an interesting meeting with Hugo Castro Arana, PhD, President of the Mexican Society for Geography and Statistics, of Mexico City, accompanied by María Eugenia del Valle Prieto, PhD, and by BA Miriam Funes. The pleasant conversation turned on the issue of making

closer links and consolidating objectives that are related and shared between the two institutions; for this reason, it was agreed to work jointly so that soon a cooperation agreement between the two institutions could be signed.

It should be pointed out that the society referred to above was founded in April 1833, and that it is the first in America and the fourth in the world. Currently it sustains the exchange of experiences and services for the development of the Geography of Latin America with the Geographic Society of Lima, the Geographic Society of Colombia, and the Association of Brazilian Geographers, among others. This enables it to encourage the exchange and the integration of information, of researchers, studies, and practices, that are linked with the geographic sciences and history in the Americas.





Actions taken concerning Central Guiding Concept VI:

Work towards a good state of conserving the whole of the human resources, materials, infrastructure, fixed and moveable assets, historic and artistic assets, archive, journal and library stocks, and the map library of the PAIGH, also towards the updating of the rules of procedures in accordance with the new Organic Statute, with the goal of keeping the institute suitably operational for the correct fulfilment of the objectives for which it was created.

As was stated in the Strategic Plan, the staff of the PAIGH acquired a new dimension in the current administration; this concerns their conversion from the mentality of an employee to that of international public staff member at the service of the Americas, as is suitable for the persons who provide their services in this General Secretariat. For this reason, measures have been taken in accordance with the institutional re-engineering that this General Secretariat is currently implementing.

Strategy 6.1:
Sustain a cordial working atmosphere among the staff and all the entities of the PAIGH, also keeping the headquarters building in optimal working operational status and conditions of preservation, conserving moreover the fixed premises, also the moveable fittings, archives and historic materials that are kept within that site.

Human resources of the General Secretariat

The human resources are the most valuable asset and strength that our institution has; due to this, a training program has been applied, in the various thematic areas listed as follows:

- The Secretariat of Foreign Relations of Mexico was kind enough to share with the PAIGH a training in matters of diplomatic protocol for the staff of the General Secretariat, as is right for an international organization with diplomatic immunity;
- Along the same lines, the “Cortés Accounting Firm” provided talks and guidance involving the financial and tax-related rights and obligations that must be complied with by all personnel who work in an office with diplomatic status in the Mexican Republic.



Civil Protection

The headquarters of our institute is located in the neighborhood of Tacubaya, in Mexico City, which is a seismically-active zone; for this reason, preparations in matters of civil protection are of vital importance, for the purpose of safeguarding the lives of the people who work in and visit the Palace headquarters building, in addition to facilitating the maintenance of the site, its facilities, and of the valuable stocks of materials kept within it. Due to the above, the following actions were taken:

- Training courses were given to the whole staff on the management of the fire extinguisher equipment and, likewise, on matters of civil protection, evacuation, search, and rescue.
- The “Civil Protection Week” was set up to run from about September 19th of each year, in order to commemorate the earthquakes that affected Mexico City in 1985, 2017 and 2022.
- A detailed inspection of the PAIGH was carried out in order to certify that the seismic event of September 19th, 2022, had not caused any damage to the integrity of the Palace headquarters building.



Maintenance of the Palace headquarters building

In the year 2023, with the maintenance personnel and with the support of some aid available from the offices of the PAIGH, the “Program: Activities and Tasks for Minor Maintenance at the PAIGH Palace Headquarters Building” was started; this made it possible to improve the presentation and conservation of the premises and infrastructure of this institute, so that the following could be done:

- Talks were given to all of the staff working at this institute about the importance of conserving a site that is 93 years old; moreover, indications were given about the correct use of the rainwater and wastewater drainage and the hydraulic, electrical, electronic, digital, communications and audio-transmission systems that are used in these facilities, also about the existing furnishings and fittings.
- The staff who work at this international organization were instructed especially to report immediately any deficiency, defect, or damage that they see on the premises of the building, no matter how small, in order to solve the problem and avoid greater expenses in the integrated maintenance.
- Works for cleaning surfaces were carried out on the facades (every six months), rooftop terraces, moldings and cornices (once a month), passageways, offices, archives, journal library and common areas (every day), cleaning of metallic plaques (once every two months), cleaning of water tanks (every six months), storage spaces (every two months), pruning and cleaning up of the garden area (every two months), application of paint to internal walls, offices, chambers and the water-proofing of the roof-terraces (every six months).

All of these measures that are being taken make it possible to conserve the Palace building that is the PAIGH headquarters and is a site for diplomatic activity while at the same time belonging to the Mexican State, which generously had it built for the express purpose of being the site for our international organization and of placing it, by an agreement to provide it, at the disposal of the PAIGH and of all the Pan-American community, without any rent needing to be paid, from May the 5th, 1930 when it was inaugurated, up to the current date.

In consequence, these premises and building have a historic value not only for Mexico but also

for the whole Pan-American community; so, in return the General Secretariat has the duty of providing maintenance and carrying out preventive conservation tasks.





Finally, it is important to say that on the next May 5th, 2025, this Palace building, the PAIGH headquarters, will reach 95 years since having been inaugurated and starting to house the Pan American Institute of Geography and History.

Strategy 6.2:
Analyze and put into effect the proposals and modifications necessary for aligning the rules and procedures contained in all of the regulations of the PAIGH with that stipulated in its Organic Statute currently in force.

Updates to the Rules of Procedures of the PAIGH

The current administration has continued with its program for updating the procedures and regulations of this institution, in accordance with Resolution 5 of the 22nd General Assembly of the PAIGH (virtual mode), on the 27th of October 2021, which approved the Organic Statute of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History that is now in force. That Assembly also instructed the head of the General Secretariat and the National Sections to update and make adequate the regulations, rules, and procedures of our institution in relation to our regulations that are the most important in a legal sense. The rules of procedure that the current administration received and that had to be updated were the following:

- Rules of procedure for the General Assembly of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History;
- Rules of procedure for the Directing Council;

- Rules of procedure for the Commissions;
- Rules of procedure for the Meetings of the PAIGH Commissions;
- Rules of procedure for the General Secretariat;
- Financial rules of procedure;
- Rules of procedure for Publications and Documents;
- Rules of procedure for the Advisory Financial Planning and Assessment Committee;

In consequence, from the year 2022 onwards, an *Internal Committee for the Review of the Rules of Procedure of the PAIGH*, was set up within the General Secretariat. This committee received support and advice from the PAIGH Authorities and from the National Sections, and it completed the alignment of the following regulations: *Financial Rules of Procedure, Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Financial Planning and Assessment Committee (APEF)*. At the same time, it proposed the derogation of the *Rules of Procedure of the Directing Council*, due to the latter no longer existing. Concerning the activities of this committee, the 23rd General Assembly, at Quito, Ecuador, in October 2022 approved the rules of procedure mentioned here and annulled the one to be removed.

The *Internal Committee for the Review of the Rules of Procedure of the PAIGH* continued its work; thus, the alignment of the *Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly* and of the *Rules of Procedure of the General Secretariat*, was achieved. This committee also drafted a new one, the *Rules of Procedure for the Pan American Award*. At the 24th General Assembly, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in November 2023, these three regulations were approved.



The above-mentioned committee continued with the work on updating the rules and procedures of this institute, with the Secretary General himself leading it. In this way, the tasks of aligning the Rules of Procedure for the Commissions and the Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of the Commissions were started. In the same way, the drafting of the Rules of Procedure for the Technical Assistance Program, was begun, with the aim of organizing the scientific agenda of the institute on a more regular and institutional basis; this agenda is made up of the projects, grants, and formal agreements. It is expected to complete these tasks around the middle of the year 2024.

Strategy 6.3:
Maintain the library, journal and map collections, and archives that belong to the Institute with the purpose of ensuring their state of conservation, available for consultations.

Library resource managed in the “José Toribio Medina” Collection

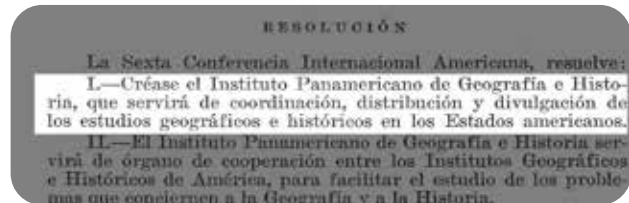
During the year, the Secretary General visited the managerial and academic staff of the National Anthropology and History School, an adult training establishment which, in its Library, stores the “José Toribio Medina” bibliographic resource collection. On his visits, staff of the library were met and questioned, and once again it was possible to confirm the excellent conditions of maintenance, restoration, conservation, and use of the library material. This stock and resource is available for consultation by the public.

Along the same lines, and as part of the scientific exchange with the above-mentioned academic entity that has custody of the library resource, valuable to this institute, the Secretary General participated in the celebrations of the 85th anniversary of the existence of the PAIGH; for this reason, a presentation was given about the history of Mexico.

Cartographic stock managed in the “Manuel Orozco y Berra” Map collection

The General Secretariat, in 2023 was, on several occasions, able to visit in person the “Manuel Orozco y Berra” Map collection, being a place where the cartographic materials and stock of the PAIGH is kept. It was possible to check on and see the good work done there on the restoration, conservation





and classification of the stocks of our institution. These materials are sorted and converted to digital media, which facilitates on-line queries on them by any user who desires to consult them physically, in person or remotely.

Historic and accounting archive

The work involved with the “Program of Organization of Institutional Archives of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History 2023” has continued; due to this, actions were taken for the personnel specializing in archives and history of this institute to select, filter out and conserve the documentation that this international body creates, receives and controls. This gave as a result an adequate administration, security for and conservation of the written and digital information that is held in this store of documentation.

At the same time, the suitable measures for maintenance applied in the installation, fitting-out and equipment of the archive of transactions that gathers much documentation together, facilitated its use by the staff of this institute, also their control of and security measures for that archive.

Concerning the area designated as the “Engineer Pedro Celestino Sánchez” Historic Archive, the classification of the documentation stocks that are being kept to be converted to digital media in the future is continuing. Moreover, maintenance tasks were performed on the shelves, walls and floors, also on the electrical and lighting fittings, in order to preserve the stocks of documentation containing historic, photographic and digital material, also journals.

Library of journals at the palace headquarters building

During the year 2023, the rescue, inspection, classification and cataloguing of the atlases of the various countries of the Pan-American community that were in the storerooms of the palace building was completed. Being there could have put their survival at risk, because neglect there could have led to their being destroyed or suffering deterioration over time. On being discovered, they were subjected to a mechanical cleaning process and moved to the journals library of this institute, with the aim of setting up the holdings of a historic nature called: “PAIGH Atlas Collection”. The above-mentioned collection was set up to be exhibited and available for inspections in the journals library itself; for this purpose, tasks for adapting and redesigning the location among the shelves were



carried out, while conserving at all times the original surrounding structure.

Along these lines, the rescue of 143 atlases should be highlighted; these had been present and recorded at the Palace building but were about to be lost due to a lack of historical awareness. The rediscovery of another 35 atlases was equally satisfactory, as these had not been recorded at all. In total, these are 178 atlases that now are able to enrich our stocks of historic and cultural materials that are part of the collective memory of America.

Historic Discovery for the PAIGH

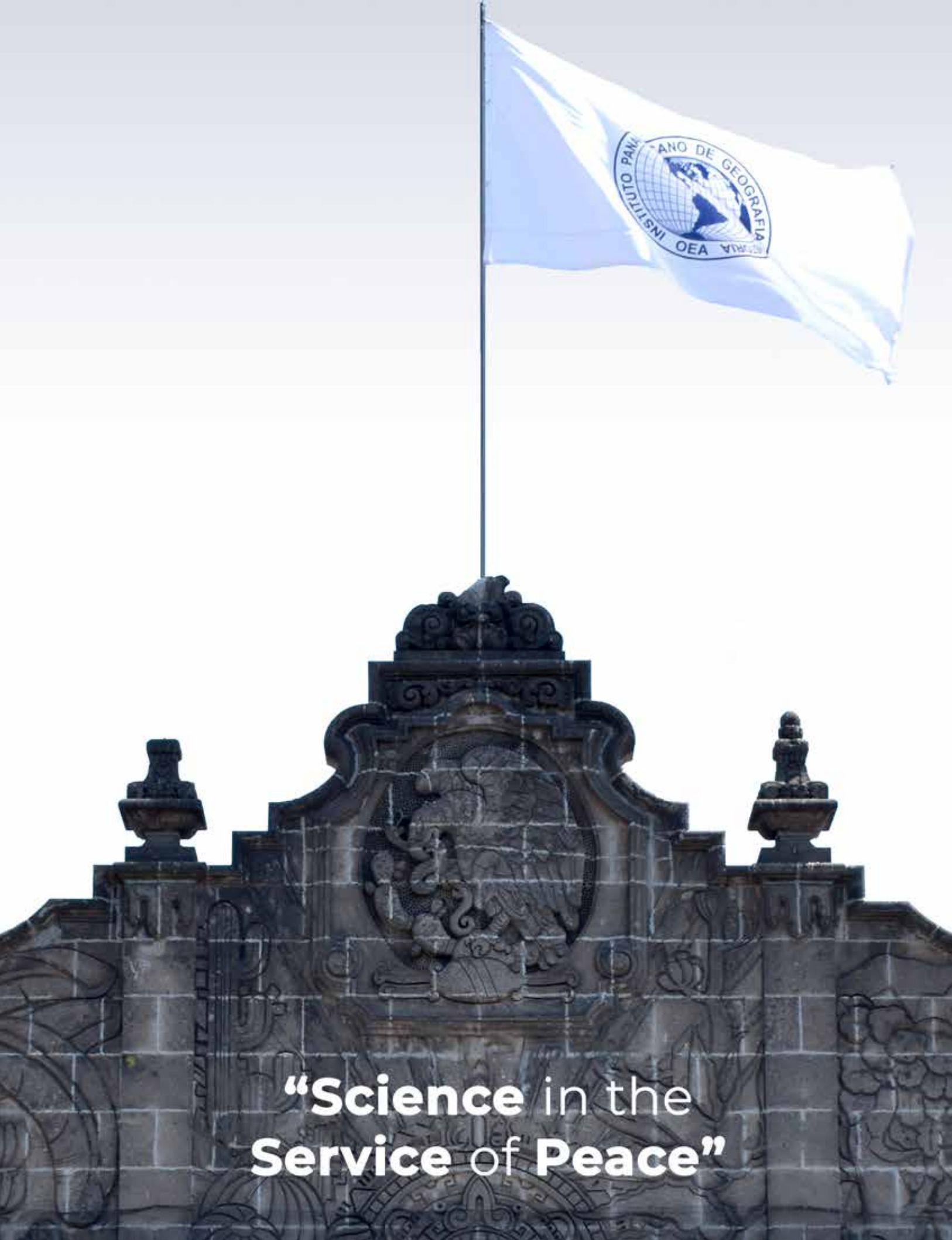
A major, significant discovery! At the “Columbus Library” of the Organization of American States, the Proceedings Book of the VI International American Conference, held in Havana, Cuba, was found. Resolution of February 7th, 1928, by which the PAIGH was created, was found in this book. This discovery, for a major historic event, strengthens our institutional history.

The facsimile of the document cited above will be presented for the first time, publicly, at the Ninety-sixth PAIGH Anniversary Ceremony to be held and recorded on the coming 7th of February 2024, at the Palace headquarters building.

Status of the Resolutions of the year 2022

Only resolution number 12 of the 23rd General Assembly, held and recorded at the city of Quito, Republic of Ecuador, in October 2022, remains to be put into effect. This resolution refers to the placing of a commemorative plaque concerning the past of the historic site in Mexico that is made up of the Palace building of the PAIGH headquarters.





**“Science in the
Service of Peace”**