

## **Report on the LACSC14 Regional Assembly, Colombia.**

### **Successful IASPEI Regional Assembly held in Bogotá 23-25 July 2014.**

The first assembly of the Latin American and Caribbean Seismological Commission (LACSC), an IASPEI regional Commission formed in 2012, drew more than 230 participants to Bogotá, Colombia, from 25 different countries to present 242 papers. Three simultaneous sessions had 149 oral presentations. 93 posters were displayed in the Exhibit Hall.

The Regional Assembly was organized by GEOSLAC (Latin-American and Caribbean Association of Geosciences), National University of Colombia, Antonio Nariño University, Valle University, Quindío University, Colombian Society of Geology and the Colombian Geological Survey. Significant financial support was provided by the Colombia Geological Survey (SGC - Servicio Geológico Colombiano), which celebrated the 20th anniversary of the National Seismological and Strong Motion Networks

Most of the contributions came from Colombia (84), United States (35), Brazil (16), Chile (16), Argentina (10), Costa Rica (10), Mexico (10), Venezuela (8) and Nicaragua (6). Several participants from Europe (15), Asia (2) and South Africa (3) also attended the meeting.

The meeting fully accomplished the main LACSC goals: to establish in the Latin American community a framework for discussions, collaborations, and new acquaintances, besides motivating Seismology students and young scientists. 65 students accounted for 27% of the papers. Very few no-shows were noticed in the oral sessions. Partial travel support from IUGG and IASPEI was given to 24 students and young scientists.

The Exhibit Hall had five companies of geophysical instrumentation and services and five stands of journals and societies, including SSA. During the meeting, SSA granted 20 new free student memberships. SSA also jointly convened the session on "Subduction Zone Processes" which was followed by a well-attended discussion on the SZO ("Subduction Zone Observatory"), a proposal for an international coordination of large multi-disciplinary and multi-national projects.

The conference fostered and promoted other initiatives on training and international collaboration. A pre-congress one-day training course on the "Earthworm" system was attended by 16 people. The course, taught in Spanish and English, gave an overview of the new developments in Earthworm, as well as hands-on practice on installing and running the system.

Three post-congress workshops were also organized. IRIS Data Services held a 6-day training course presented by eight different lecturers for 33 participants on "Managing Data from Seismic Networks". Following the IRIS Data Services workshop, the IRIS International Development project sponsored a 2-day Advanced Studies Institute that included two parallel sessions on the calculation of regional moment tensors by Bob Hermann and double differencing techniques by Felix Waldhauser. The GEM (Global Earthquake Model) Foundation organised for scientists working within the SARA project (South America Risk Assessment) a 5-day workshop focused on the discussion of available PSHA regional models for Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil and Chile. Training on the OpenQuake-engine and the Hazards Modeling Toolkit (HMTK) was also provided

All participants are already looking forward to the next LACSC Regional Assembly, which will be held in Costa Rica in 2016. The new 2014-2016 LACSC Executive Committee was formed with Marino Protti (Costa Rica) as president, Diana Comte (Chile) as vice-pres., Carlos Vargas

(Colombia) as past-president, Marcelo Assumpção (Brazil) as executive secretary, and Hernando Tavera (Peru) and Nora Sabbione (Argentina) as two additional members.