

Report of the
II General Assembly of the
Latin America and Caribbean Seismological Commission (LACSC)
IUGG-IASPEI
San José, Costa Rica, June 20-22, 2016

The II General Assembly of the Latin America and Caribbean Seismological Commission (LACSC), one of the 4 regional commissions of IASPEI, was held in San José, Costa Rica, from June 20 to 22, 2016, at the Wyndam-Herradura Convention Center. This Assembly was organized by the Costa Rica Volcanological and Seismological Observatory, a research institute at the National University in Heredia, and by the Costa Rica National Academy of Science, the IUGG adhering institution in Costa Rica.

Given the prestige that seismological institutions have in Costa Rica, this event was declared of Public Interest in an official decree by the President of Costa Rica and the Minister of Science, Technology and Telecommunications. The Vice-President of Costa Rica, Ms. Ana Helena Chacón Echeverría, attended and officially opened the Assembly. Also present at the stage during the inauguration were the Minister a.i. of Science and Technology, the Chancellor of the National University, the President of the Costa Rica Academy of Sciences and the President of the National Emergency Commission.

Participants from 37 countries submitted 283 abstracts to this assembly, 202 for oral presentations and 81 as posters. Only 4% of the oral presentations and 7 % of posters were canceled before the meeting. Most cancelled oral presentations could be replaced before the final program so that the sessions had no interruptions. The scientific program encompassed 16 sessions including a Forum on the Costa Rica Building Code and a special session on the Pedernales, Ecuador Earthquake, where for the first time data and results from this event were shared in an international meeting. A total of 207 participants attended this assembly.

A one-week course on Seismic Moment Inversion was tough before the assembly. Taking advantage of the large and broad participation at the LACSC2016, two workshops were also held in Costa Rica right after the assembly: one on Seismic Hazard in South America, Central America and the Caribbean, organized by the USGS and the University of Chile with support from USAID/OFDA; the other was an Expert workshop on Tsunami sources for Central America, funded by UNESCO.

As a goal for the LACSC2016 Assembly, the local organizing committee decided to support, with lodging and/or registration fee, all students and early career scientists who requested funding. Thanks to the support from USAID/OFDA/LAC, IASPEI, IUGG, SSA and IRIS, 53 students and 31 early career scientists funded.

Two official meetings of LACSC were held during this assembly, one of the Officers of the Executive Committee and Council, and a Plenary Session. An amendment to LACSC statutes was introduced to make them compatible with the new IASPEI statutes in terms of membership. A new Executive Committee was elected integrated by Victor Huérfano from Puerto Rico as President, Marino Protti (Costa Rica - IASPEI) as Past-President, Mario Ruiz (Ecuador) as Vice-President, Marcelo Assumpção (Brazil - IASPEI) as Executive Secretary, Patricia Alvarado (Argentina - IASPEI), Leandro Rodríguez (Peru - IASPEI), Sergio Barrientos (Chile - IASPEI) Franck Audemard (Venezuela - CERESIS), Eduardo Camacho (Panama), Xyoli Pérez-Campos (Mexico-IASPEI) and Lloyd Lynch (Trinidad and Tobago - CERESIS). Puerto Rico was chosen as the venue for the next LACSC2018 Assembly. That assembly will be held jointly with the Annual Meeting of the Seismological Society of America in April 24-26, 2018.

Marino Protti, LACSC President 2014-2016.