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**LACSC-2022 Regional Assembly**

**Report**

After skipping 2020 because of the covid-19 pandemia, the IV Regional Assembly of the IASPEI’s Latin American and Caribbean Seismological Commission (LACSC), was held in Quito, Ecuador, organized by the Geophysics Institute of the National Polytechnic School (IG-EPN). The venue was the Hilton-Colon Hotel. Most scientific sessions had a strong focus on the region and covered topics such as Volcanic Seismology, Tsunamis, Subduction Zone Seismicity, Early Warning, Hazard and Risk, Geodesy, Network Operations, Ambient Noise, Infrasound, Machine Learning, Seismicity of Continent Interiors, Anthropogenic Seismicity, etc. The most popular session was on volcanic seismology, not a surprise given the magnificent volcanic scenery of Ecuador.

A total of 242 people registered for a hybrid meeting: 209 in person and 33 on-line. The on-site participants were 142 (68%) professionals and 67 students (32%). Three simultaneous oral sessions had 140 presentations (both in person and on-line). 119 posters were scheduled after the oral sessions, and remained on display for the three days of the meeting. Around 30 papers were not presented ("no-shows", some of them withdrawn a few days before the meeting),which is about 10% of the initially programmed papers.

**Country distribution**: The in person participants came from 28 different countries, mainly from Ecuador (52), United States (32), Mexico (16), Brazil (15), Colombia (15), France (13), Chile (12), Costa Rica (7), UK (6), Argentina (4), Guatemala (4), Italy (4), and Peru (4). Regarding the papers, the first authors were mainly from Ecuador (31), U.S. (31), Brazil (26), Mexico (22), France (16), Chile (15), Colombia (14), Costa Rica (11), UK (11) and Argentina (10).

**Gender balance**: Of the 208 in person participants, 146 (70%) were male and 62 female (30%). A total of 67 students were present at the meeting: 41 male (~61%) and 26 female (~39%). A campaign to encourage more women participation in IASPEI activities should be considered...

**Travel grants**: IASPEI, IUGG and IPGH (Pan American Institute of Geography and History) provided funds for partial travel grants to students and early career researchers. A total of 76 applications were received and 49 grants were distributed mainly to Latin American participants (some Ecuadorian students were given the registration fee only), after analysis by a 4-member selection committee from the LACSC Executive Committee. Nine of the grantees declined their grants because they could not secure other funds to complement the US$ 500 partial travel support. It is clear that support (from IASPEI, IUGG and other agencies) for Latin American students is essential as most of their universities cannot support attendance to congresses abroad. The final 40 grant recipients were 28 students and 12 early career researchers. The Seismological Society of America (SSA) also supported the attendance of one student within the SSA travel grant program for student members. SSA also sponsored lunch for all participants during the three days of the meeting. Seven instrument and service companies helped sponsor the meeting.

**Courses**: Two pre-congress courses were given on the week-end before the start of the meeting. A 2-day course on SeisComp platform for beginners, given by Faustino Blanco (GEMPA) was attended by 18 people who learned how to install and configure the code in their own laptops. One afternoon course on the new developments of the "Shake Map", given by David Wald and Bruce Worden (USGS), was attended by about 30 people. SSA also sponsored a Willian Joiner Lecture by David Wald on "The Future of Rapid Earthquake Impact Estimation"

**Field trips**: A pre-conference, 5-day long field trip to Galapagos was led by Benjamin Bernard (Ecuador) focused mainly on volcanic aspects. This "field-course" was part of the technical session on Volcanology and was attended by 30 people, the maximum capacity planned for the trip. It was one of the highlights of the congress. After the congress, three field trips were organized: a 1-day trip to Cotopaxi volcano led by Patricia Mothes (Ecuador) with 12 participants; a 2-day trip to Imbabura Geopark, led by Marco Almeida (Ecuador) with 15 people, and a 3-day trip to Reventador led by Silvia Vallejo (Ecuador), Jeff Johnson (USA), and Hugo Ortiz (Ecuador/USA) with 25 participants. This last trip included camping one night on the route to the volcano, as well as a practice with seismo-acoustic measurements. All field trips were highly evaluated by the participants, both for the logistics as well as for the scientific aspects.

**LACSC Plenary:** A LACSC Council meeting was held on the evening of October 4th. A tribute was made to colleagues who passed away: Patricia Alvarado (San Juan, Argentina, member of the previous Executive Committee), Rick Benson (IRIS Data Management), and Victor Gonzalez (National Univ. Costa Rica). According to the LACSC Statues, all participants in a regional assembly are part of the LACSC Council and can vote for the election of the Executive Committee and for the venue of the next regional assembly. The next E.C. (2022-2024) was elected as: Esteban Chaves (Costa Rica) - President; Victor Huérfano (Puerto Rico) - Vice-President; Mario Ruiz (Ecuador) - Past President; Xyoli Perez-Campos (Mexico) - Executive Secretary; Leda Sánchez (Uruguay) - CERESIS representative; regular members: Marcelo Assumpção (Brazil), José Augusto Casas (Argentina), Cristobal Condori (Peru), Patricia Pedraza (Colombia), Sergio Ruiz (Chile), Wilfried Strauch (Nicaragua); and Johannes Schweitzer (Norway) - IASPEI representative.

The venue of the V LACSC Assembly was approved to be in Costa Rica in 2024, to be organized by the National University of Costa Rica and other local institutions.

As a closing ceremony, the Quito Municipality offered a cocktail reception in the Metropolitan Cultural Center with presentation of the Quito Symphony Orchestra. The reception was followed by a "Chiva Quiteña" tour, a typical bus ride downtown with onboard music and "canelazo" (a local beverage) marking the final moments of a most memorable LACSC meeting!



Volcano Seismology Session



Symphony Orchestra, closing ceremony at the Quito Cultural Center