Report of the
VI General Assembly of the
Latin America and Caribbean Seismological Commission (LACSC)
IUGG-IASPEI
Mexico City, Mexico, August 3-7, 2026

The Latin American and Caribbean Seismological Commission (LACSC) held its 6th Biennial Assembly at the Courtyard by Marriott Revolución Hotel, Mexico City, Mexico, from Monday, August 3, to Friday, August 7, 2026, with 172 registered participants from 20 different countries (14 of them from LAC), including 24 undergraduate students, 37 graduate students, and 111 academics and professionals.

Given that Latin America is one of the regions with the highest seismic activity in the world, the LACSC serves as a vital scientific bridge for countries to share knowledge that saves lives in the face of natural disasters. A total of 196 abstracts were received, of which 8% were from undergraduate students, 23% from graduate students, and the remaining 69% from academics and professionals.

Thanks to financial support from IASPEI ($11,000 USD), IUGG ($4,000 EUR), and the mining company Fresnillo PLC ($3,000 USD), the local organizing committee decided to provide support—in the form of lodging and/or registration fees—to 46 people: 15 early-career scientists, 20 graduate students, and 11 undergraduate students.

The inauguration took place on Tuesday morning with the distinguished participation of CTBTO Executive Secretary Dr. Robert Floyd; Minister María Antonieta Jáquez Huacuja, Coordinator for Disarmament, Nonproliferation, and Arms Control, representing the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Johannes Schweitzer, Secretary-General of IASPEI; Dr. Victor Huérfano, President of LACSC; Dr. Xyoli Pérez Campos, Executive Secretary of LACSC and Director of the CTBTO's International Monitoring System; and directors of schools and research institutes in Mexico. The ceremony featured two musical performances by one of Mexico's finest percussionists, maestro Iván Manzanilla.

Our scientific and technical program began on Monday with three pre-conference courses attended by 18 participants; the courses were "Using Portable Seismic Arrays to Inform Hazard Assessments," "Modeling Long-Period Data for Source Constraining," and "Introduction to Tsunami Numerical Modeling." On Friday, a guided tour was offered of the National Seismological Service (SSN, UNAM), the National Center for Disaster Prevention (CENAPRED), and the Museum of Geophysics (Geophysics Institute, UNAM), with 23 participants.

Over three days, there were 2 plenary talks and 1 panel discussion on challenges and opportunities for seismic instrumentation networks for regulatory purposes, as well as 16 specialized sessions, including a dedicated session on recent seismic activity in Venezuela (June 2026). Eighty-nine percent were oral presentations, and the rest were poster presentations. The closing ceremony took place on the afternoon of Thursday, August 6, and featured a special performance by a traditional Mexican folkloric ballet troupe.

The LACSC General Assembly was held on Wednesday afternoon, during which the host city for our next assembly was officially announced: Concepción, Chile, in 2028. A new Executive Committee was elected, consisting of Catalina Patricia Morales Yáñez from Chile as President, Rodrigo Alejandro León Loya from Colombia as Vice President, Victor Huerfano (Puerto Rico) as Past President, Ericka Alinne Solano Hernandez (Mexico) as Executive Secretary, Esteban Chaves (Costa Rica), Marcelo Assumpcao (Brazil), Cristobal Condori (Peru), Jorge Campo (Guatemala), Mario Ruiz (Ecuador), Silvana Spagnotto (Argentina), Leda Sanchez (Uruguay, CERESIS Representative), and Johannes Schweitzer (Norway, IASPEI Representative).

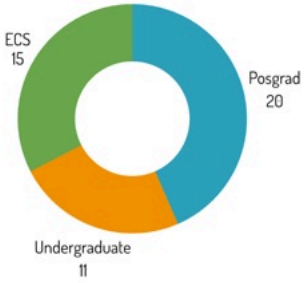
Throughout the technical sessions, moderators evaluated presentations delivered by early-career researchers and students as part of the IASPEI Best Presentation Award, which consists of $1,500 USD to attend the 44th IASPEI General Assembly in 2027 in South Korea. This award recognizes outstanding scientific contributions, structural logic, and exceptional communication skills in the fields of seismology, tectonics, and related earth sciences within the region. The winner was formally announced and honored during Thursday's Closing Ceremony.

The session rooms were named after pioneering women in seismology and plate tectonics: Inge Lehmann, Marie Tharp, Maria Graham and Ethel Bellamy. During the Assembly, 43 people responded to a survey about this initiative. Overall, did you like this initiative? 93% agreed. Some respondents suggested not only naming the rooms after these women or featuring infographics, but also establishing awards in their honour or taking stronger measures to encourage more women to pursue careers in STEM fields.

The exhibition area featured 16 exhibitor booths showcasing state-of-the-art equipment, innovative technologies and specialised services that are advancing the field of Earth sciences. Five technical presentations were delivered by our sponsors during coffee breaks.

Ericka Alinne Solano Hernández, Local Committee Coordinator LACSC 2026

68 grant applications received

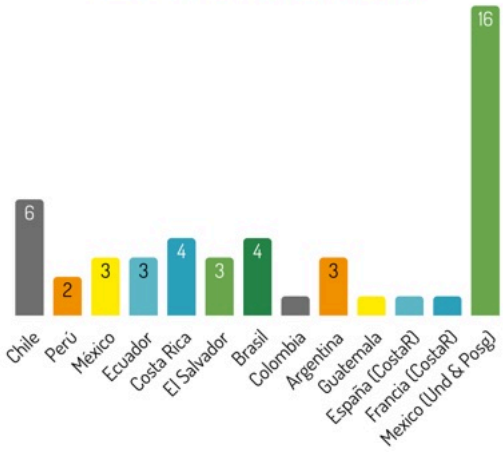


46.8% Posgrad students (PhD & MSc)

21.3% Undergraduate students

31.9% ECS

46 assistants sponsored by **IUGG, IASPEI & Fresnillo PLC**



46 grants given



20 Persons in shared accommodation (10 rooms in hotel venue) and registration



26 Persons with registration granted (Grad, Undergrad & ECS)

Assistants sponsored by **IUGG, IASPEI & Fresnillo PLC**



$4,000 EUR IUGG



$11,000 USD IASPEI



~$3,000 USD Fresnillo PLC

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