



Report

AGU “Meeting of the Americas” Iguassu Falls, Brazil, 08-12 August 2010

The Meeting

The Joint Assembly (or “Meeting of the Americas”), organized by AGU with support from several national and regional scientific societies, was held in South America for the first time. 2012 participants gathered during the four-day meeting to discuss all topics of the Earth Sciences in 377 sessions (211 oral and 166 poster) with a total of 2658 papers, covering mainly Atmospheric Sciences and Global Change, Biogeosciences, Oceanography and Hydrology, Geology and Global Geophysics (Tectonophysics, Seismology, Geodesy and Vulcanology), Space Physics and Planetology. Other areas, such as Natural Hazards, Near Surface Geophysics and Education also had several sessions. Twelve interdisciplinary (Union) sessions were organized.

Three lectures were given:

- *Bringing the Atmosphere into Focus: Fine-grained Atmospheric Observations from Pole-to-Pole*, by Steven C. Wofsy, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- *Impacts of Climate Change in South América*, by Carlos Nobre, INPE, Brasil.
- *Mid-Cretaceous Global Plate Reorganization and its Relation with Present Day, Major Orogenic Systems*, by Ruben Somoza, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina (sponsored by LatinMag association)

Parallel to the main congress, a Geophysics exhibit for school children was also held in the convention centre drawing 360 students from the local schools. This exhibit was organized by CIENTEC (University of Sao Paulo). Three pre-congress courses were held on the Sunday August 8th: 1) “Seismic processing with GeBR” by Unicamp University (Brazil), 2) “Earth System Data, Access, Use and Sharing” organized by UCAR (USA), and 3) GIFT (“Geophysical Information for Teachers”) organized by Earth2Class (USA), Unicamp and FURG (Brazil).

Seismology

There were 19 two-hour oral sessions and 11 poster sessions in Seismology or co-sponsored by Seismology. Several sessions dealt with subduction zone problems including flat-slab geometry. A session on seismic hazard was organized by CERESIS and discussed progress of the GEM project in South America. A session on induced seismicity gathered many Brazilian seismologists as there are presently several cases of reservoir induced seismicity being studied in the country. FDSN (Federation of Digital Seismographic Networks) organized a session to discuss the present status and future prospect of national seismic networks in Latin America.

Great interest was given to the sessions on the 2010 Haiti and Chile earthquakes with some of the presenters being interviewed by the news media.

After the meeting, a one-week course on “Management of Waveform Data and Metadata” was given by IRIS to 36 participants from all of Latin America. This hands-on course was financially supported by IRIS, CERESIS (Regional Center for Seismology in South America), IUGG and IASPEI.

All major South American seismology groups were represented in the meeting in addition to several seismologists from Central America and the Caribbean. The 2010 Joint Assembly in Iguassu, Brazil, was the best attended meeting for South American seismologists since the 2005 IASPEI meeting in Santiago, Chile.

Student support

IASPEI gave US\$ 6,000.00 to support attendance of Latin American graduate students. The total number of student applications in the Seismology section was 18. Nine of these applications were from Latin American students: 3 from Argentina, 4 from Chile, 2 from Brazil. Six PhD students were selected, three from Argentina and three from Chile.

Marcelo Assumpção
Co-chair of the AGU Program Committee
“The Meeting of the Americas”