

**Report on the VII SIRGAS School on Reference Systems
and the Symposium SIRGAS 2015
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, November 16 - 20, 2015.**

The current activities, advances, and new challenges of SIRGAS are reported, discussed, and re-oriented (if required) in the annual SIRGAS Meetings, which have been held since 1993. In this series, the *Symposium SIRGAS2015* took place in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, November 18 to 20, 2015. In the days prior to the Symposium (November 16 and 17), a new edition of the *SIRGAS School on Reference Systems* was held. Both events were hosted by the *Universidad Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña* (UNPHU) and they were developed in the frame of the project *Monitoring crustal deformation and the ionosphere by GPS in the Caribbean* granted by the *International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics* (IUGG) in agreement with the *International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior* (IASPEI), the *International Association of Geodesy* (IAG), and the *International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy* (IAGA); and the support of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH).

The SIRGAS School was attended by 60 participants from 19 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Monserrat (UK), Panama, Puerto Rico (USA), Uruguay, USA, and Venezuela. The subject of the school concentrated on strengthening the basic concepts needed for the appropriate generation and use of fundamental geodetic and geophysical data in the Caribbean Region, especially for studying, understanding and modelling deformations of the Earth's surface and features of the ionosphere and its influence on navigation systems used for civil aviation.

The Symposium SIRGAS2015 was attended by 148 participants from the same 19 countries. In 54 oral presentations and 15 posters, the following topics were presented: SIRGAS advances and new challenges, maintenance and new perspectives for the continental reference frame, national reference frames, geodetic estimation of geophysical parameters, height systems, gravimetry and geoid, geodetic analysis of the Earth's crust deformation, and practical applications and use of reference frames. Presentations are available at the SIRGAS web site (www.sirgas.org).

Thanks to the support of the PAIGH, the IUGG, and the IAG, it was possible to provide 20 SIRGAS colleagues from 9 countries with partial travel grants. SIRGAS deeply acknowledges this support.

In the frame of this Symposium, the SIRGAS Directing Council elected our colleagues William Martínez-Díaz (Colombia) and Virginia Mackern (Argentina) as the new SIRGAS President and Vice-president. They will coordinate the SIRGAS activities for the next four years with the support of the new presidents of the SIRGAS Working Groups: WGI - Víctor Cioce (Venezuela), WGII - Roberto Pérez Rodino (Uruguay), WGIII - Sílvia Rogério Correia de Freitas (Brazil).

Claudio Brunini, Laura Sánchez



*Attendees of the VII SIRGAS School on Reference Systems.
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, November 16-17, 2015.*



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