

## ABOUT PAIGH

The Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) was created in 1928 during the VI International American Conference at the Ministerial Level held in Havana, Cuba. Headquarters were established in Mexico City at the disposition of the American nations for the installation of the offices of the General Secretariat. In 1949, one year after the signing of the Charter of the OAS in Bogotá, Colombia, the Institute signed an agreement with the Council of the Organization of American States and became its first Specialized Organization. The agreement was modified and signed in Washington, D.C., on May 6, 1974.

## OBJECTIVES

- To encourage, coordinate, and publicize cartographic, geographic, geophysical, and historic studies as well as other related scientific studies of interest to the Americas.
- To promote and carry out studies, work, and training in the aforementioned fields of activity.
- To promote cooperation among organizations interested in these fields of activity in the Americas, and with related international organizations.

## NATIONAL SECTIONS

The National Section is the body established by each of the 22 Member States for the accomplishment of the aims of PAIGH on the national level and relies upon the financial support of its government for that purpose. The National Sections are composed of the persons appointed by the governments of the Member States as representatives to the various bodies of PAIGH.

## COMMISSIONS

The structure of PAIGH is based on the four commissions – Cartography, Geography, History, and Geophysics. These commissions are the organizations responsible for developing and executing the scientific and technical programs of PAIGH, approved by the General Assembly or the Directing Council. They also promote and coordinate the scientific and technical development in their respective fields in the Member States.



**PAIGH** is a voluntary organization and we have members from private industry, US government, and academia. Generally, responsibilities for membership are that you attend our annual national section meeting, call in monthly to our scheduled teleconference, and interact with commission representatives in other national sections to develop and/or participate in projects. Projects can be funded by PAIGH and funding requests are submitted to PAIGH annually on a scheduled timetable and awards are announced in January of each year.

*Join Us!*

The U.S. National Section of PAIGH draws from expertise and networks from many US agencies and organizations. Cooperation and a diversity of skills and perspectives are essential to continuing our contribution and participation in this organization. To learn more, visit:

[www.aag.org/cs/paigh](http://www.aag.org/cs/paigh)

# PAIGH

PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
OF GEOGRAPHY & HISTORY

U.S. NATIONAL SECTION

## U.S. NATIONAL SECTION

### **PRESIDENT - Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop**

U.S. Census Bureau  
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### **VICE PRESIDENT - Paul R. Cooper**

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### **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY - Allyson (Ally) M. Johnson**

U.S. Geological Survey  
*amjohnson@usgs.gov*

### **U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT LIAISON - Melissa Kopolow McCall**

Foreign Affairs Specialist  
*kopolowMJ@state.gov*

### **CARTOGRAPHY COMMISSION**

Through its Commission on Cartography the Institute develops important projects in the areas of: Fundamental Geospatial Data (SIRGAS, Global Map of the Americas, Geographic Names, Aeronautic and Hydrographic charts), Institutional Strengthening and Technical Cooperation (Geospatial Data Infrastructure), Thematic Applications (Geospatial Information for the Prevention and Mitigation of Disasters, Information for Planning and Decision-Making), and Standards (Positioning, Digital Cartography, Data Exchange).

### **REPRESENTATIVE - Mark L. DeMulder**

U.S. Geological Survey  
*mdemulder@usgs.gov*

### **GEOGRAPHY COMMISSION**

The Commission addresses three major areas of the PAIGH Strategic Plan, for Research, Education, and Institutional Strengthening. The commission undertakes activities analyzing the impact of the occupation of space and its social, economic, environmental, and cultural aspects; generating analysis to prioritize the action of spatial planning; promoting policies that propel development in its diverse scales and relationships with economic, social, and cultural integration; developing mechanisms to strengthen education and geographic science at all levels, and promoting cooperation among institutions in the Americas.

### **REPRESENTATIVE - Dr. David Salisbury**

Department of Geography and the Environment, University of Richmond,  
*dsalisbyu@richmond.edu*

### **HISTORY COMMISSION**

The History Commission plans, conducts, and publishes historical works on the Western Hemisphere experience. Contributing to the conservation of archaeological sites and historical monuments in the Americas, the History Commission promotes the organization, preservation, and arrangement of historical archives and museums. Additionally the History Commission is involved promoting cooperation

among individuals and institutions dedicated to studying the history, anthropology, and archaeology of the Americas.

### **REPRESENTATIVE - Dr. Erick Detlef Langer**

Department of History, Georgetown University  
*langere@georgetown.edu*

### **GEOPHYSICS COMMISSION**

The Geophysics Commission promotes exchange between institutions of PAIGH Member States to study and resolve problems in solid Earth and atmospheric geophysics. The Commission supports a graduate-level scholarship program in earth sciences with well-respected universities in the Hemisphere. The Geophysics Commission promotes the development of interdisciplinary multinational projects between the distinct Commissions of PAIGH and encourages the publication of the results of projects financed by the Commission in scientific journals.

### **REPRESENTATIVE - Dr. Jorge L. Bajo Sanchez**

Department of Geography, University at Buffalo  
*jvbajo@buffalo.edu*

## **THE PAN AMERICAN AGENDA - 2010 - 2020**

In support of PAIGH's broader mission, there is new emphasis on fostering development of spatial data bases. This includes information obtained from the systematic observation of Earth from space in order to assist with decision making processes, improve early warning systems and disaster response systems, and promote sustainable use of natural resources. The Agenda also looks to encourage innovative study of Pan American development by fostering a broader vision of the history of the Americas and a plurality of approaches in environmental history, historiography, historical cartography, climate change, natural hazards, cultural diversity, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

## **U.S. NATIONAL SECTION AND PAIGH COMMISSION 2014 HIGHLIGHTS**

- ◆ PAIGH representatives attended the 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC) in Monaco October 6 - 10, 2014.
- ◆ PAIGH supported the conduct of a series of cross-border mapping workshops and research activities, to expand and update a GIS database to mitigate transboundary environmental challenges in the Brazilian, Bolivian, and Peruvian Amazon.
- ◆ The principal History project by the USNS section remains the Historia de las Américas/History of the Americas project.
- ◆ Geological Survey of Deposit Flows and Pyroclastic surges, tephra fall, lahars, and Debris Flows in the Western Zone of the Santa Ana volcano project is a collaboration between SUNY at Buffalo, the Dirección General del Observatorio Ambiental (DGOA) of El Salvador, and UNAM de México.