



“GeoSUR develops geographic services on a free-access web platform”

## The Editor's Note

The need for greater productivity and for updating data and spatial information in the region as critical to its development, without ignoring the historical heritage factor, is emphasized in this issue. The requirement for infrastructure investment, planning and training at the pace of technological progress to meet the different types of private or public users is articulated in the interview of the month. In the permanent columns, and on an opportunity analysis for Latin America and the Caribbean, is the questioning of SDIs' utility when these are based on outdated data, the renewal of national geographic databases initiatives, as well as institutional strengthening for technological applications also in

less common areas such as the historical and cultural heritage knowledge of the Americas.

GeoSUR newsletter seeks to disseminate GeoSUR Program's achievements and characteristics as well as events, projects and best practices for the application of GI into sustainable development and decision making in the region, as part of the Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas.

The Portuguese translation is performed by **Eduardo Freitas**, Manager of the GEOeduc Institute of Brazil. Please send your contributions and suggestions to: **Nancy Aguirre**, Editor of GeoSUR Newsletter, at [cnaguirre@ipgh.org](mailto:cnaguirre@ipgh.org).

## Inside this Issue:

- The interview of the month with Emerson Zanon, Director of Mundo GEO Group, emphasizes the purpose of GeoEduc Institute and the MundoGEO # Connect Conference 2015.
- From Eric's desk highlights the importance of geographic information as a fundamental factor towards development, and the need to maintain the geographic heritage of our countries updated within the SDI.
- From PAIGH's General Secretariat shares the promotion of projects for technological applications in bibliographic, historical and cultural assets.



Emerson Zanon Granemann, entrepreneur in the area of communications and cartographic engineer, is editor and publisher of the MundoGEO Group. He launched the InfoGNSS magazine in 2002, the MundoGEO Portal in 2003, and more recently, the MundoGEO magazine. He also conceived the conference MundoGEO # Connect LatinAmerica in 2011.

*“The region still needs much investment in infrastructure and planning that are two actions in which analysis is fundamental.”*

## Emerson Zanon, Director of MundoGEO, talks about this group and the GeoEduc Institute

**The MundoGEO users' community seems constantly growing. What is the typical profile of their users?**

Yes, the growth of our community is very big, first because there is a huge repressed demand, especially in Latin America. The region still needs much investment in infrastructure and planning that are two actions in which analysis is fundamental.

On the other hand, technology advancement, cheaper data production, and higher productivity requirements, are what drives the sector.

There are basically two types of geospatial data users, those who need to take macro fundamental decisions for governments requiring information at smaller geographical scales; and those acting more locally, at larger scales both in public and in the private.

**The GeoEduc Institute has been recently established as part of the MundoGEO Group. What is the purpose of this project and what are the initial results?**

The purpose of the [GEOeduc Institute](#) is to continue the mission that [MundoGEO](#) began in 1998, which is to connect the community by filling a communication gap between the industry sector and the users.

Today MundoGEO continues its mission towards increasing these connections through its various channels including: The MundoGEO magazine and website, social networks, webinars and the [MundoGEO # Connect Conference](#).



*“The GEOeduc Institute was created for capacity building of this community because the speed of technological advances, something extremely important to becoming more productive, has not kept as current in traditional teaching institutions.”*

*“The theme of the 2015 conference is: “Creating new dimensions.” Its program of activities is being organized so that the major changes that this sector is experiencing will be highlighted.”*

*“MundoGEO has accomplished a great partnership with GeoSUR by disseminating projects and good practices in the geospatial information application for decision-making in the Americas”*

## Emerson Zanon, continues...

The [GEOeduc Institute](#) was created for capacity building of this community because the speed of technological advances, something extremely important to becoming more productive, has not kept as current in traditional teaching institutions.

The option of online-continuing education allows offering courses with no boundaries, since it may provide training in multiple languages and for various knowledge levels.

The newly created Institute has already trained more than 1,300 professionals. Besides teaching short courses we foresee to providing more extensive and formal certification courses in the near future.

***MundoGEO # Connect is one of the major and biggest conferences in the region. What are the prospects for 2015 and the changes that will take place?***

The theme of the 2015 conference is: “Creating new dimensions.” Its program of activities is being organized so that major changes affecting this sector are highlighted. The economics involved is the first topic.

Today we have new business models whose differential is the aggregated service that the industry sector is offering to users, which goes beyond the equipment, software and geospatial data exclusively.

Another theme is the many new geospatial-solution applications in the daily life of public and private enterprises serving an increasingly demanding citizen / client / consumer.

And finally, topics related to the integration of geoinformation with

WebGIS, MobileGIS, The Cloud, Big Data, and 3D / 4D / 5D modeling will be included. All these questions will be featured in the program. Besides all these, the industry will mark a large presence at the show.

***How has been the experience of your connection with the GeoSUR Program, and how do you see the future of this collaboration?***

MundoGEO has accomplished a great partnership with GeoSUR by disseminating projects and good practices in the geospatial information application for decision-making in the Americas through their communication channels; there is a big coherence between the two institutions.

We expect to increase this cooperation in the future particularly on the development of events, mainly those offered online, which have proved to be most effective for integration of the Latin American community, and are also the focus of the two organizations.

In relation to the GeoSUR Program and the GEOeduc Institute I think there is great potential for mapping community demands in the region; for developing online education projects for the community, which aim at a better learning of technology and to understanding Geospatial Data Infrastructure investment-advantages.

## From Eric's Desk

Throughout the development of GeoSUR I have noted that some of the SDI we are building in the region are based on cartographic products that need to be updated; and I realize with concern that some regions of Latin America have maps dating from the early seventy. The benefits we may take of an SDI are directly linked to the quality and timeliness of the information we obtain from it and I think we should make a concerted effort in the region to update the various available sources of geographic information.

I think that CAF, in its capacity as regional development bank, can help raising awareness among officials of our governments on the importance of geographic information as a key factor in development as well as the need to maintain the geographic heritage of our countries updated.

During my involvement in two major events, the 5th Iberian Conference of Spatial Data Infrastructures (Portugal), and the 45th Meeting of the Directive Council of the PAIGH (Chile), I had the opportunity to talk to representatives of

institutions in Spain, Portugal and Latin America that are renovating their national cartographic databases; and I was very pleased to note that with the new technologies available today in areas such as remote sensing, GIS and computer science, these processes are now more efficient, faster, less expensive and have a high degree of automation. Likewise, efforts to update the map databases in several countries in the region are beginning.

The 7th GeoSUR Meeting took place parallel to the PAIGH Meeting in Santiago, Chile.

The Program's progress and achievements, as well as its Action Plan for the period 2015-2017 were presented during this event; joint activities carried out by the CAF and PAIGH were discussed; a new project for the development of an Integrated North Andean Countries Map (MIAN) was exhibited; and the GeoSUR 2014 award was granted to the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) of Brazil.



Eric van Praag, GeoSUR Program Coordinator



7th Meeting of GeoSUR Program



45th Meeting of the Directive Council of PAIGH in Santiago, Chile

## From PAIGH's Secretary General

### A look to the future also requires knowing the past

From a while now we have been advancing plans for institutional strengthening and capacity building through the use of tools and technologies in line with current geospatial techniques.

Notwithstanding, our efforts to link these modern technologies to learning processes of our historical and cultural heritage of the Americas are recent.

Thus, as the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History we intend to promote a series of projects that allow us

being aware of our rich heritage through digitization (e.g. the Bibliographical Fund "José Toribio Medina"); and on how to link modern technologies such as remote sensing for the archeological studies in the region.

Without a doubt, this knowledge will help us to understand complex processes of land use planning that endorsed pre-Columbian cultures to live within nature, of which surely we have much to learn today.



The Secretary General while visiting offices of the Commission on History, Mexico City (Photo: PAIGH)

## GeoSUR Portal's Novelties

Two technical visits took place within the joint project of the CAF and PAIGH, funded by the *Eye on Earth* initiative, which aims at helping institutions in the region to migrating their data and geo-services to The Cloud.

The first visit to the Ministry of Environment of Peru, was accomplished by Paloma Abad of the National Center for Geographic Information (CNIG), Spain, and the second was undertaken by Miguel Blanco, GeoSUR consultant, to the National Geographic Institute of Guatemala.

Mapping services in The Cloud were put into operation during both visits and are now available for consultation in the GeoSUR Portal.

Likewise, the Web Seminar series offered by GeoSUR in collaboration with MundoGEO Group (Brazil) continued.

Furthermore, two presentations were given: The first, was on a joint project of the University of Colorado and CAF to producing real-time flood maps and flow-measurement using satellite imagery in Latin America and the Caribbean; and the second, was on a project "European Location Framework (ELF)" currently advanced by Eurogeographics.

Recordings of both presentations are now available in the GeoSUR Portal's Library section.

In addition, five (5) new map viewers and ten (10) new WMS services were linked into the Portal.

It is worth noting the incorporation of the Mexican Ministry of Energy map-viewer that provides access to the National Inventory for Renewable Energy in the country that is highlighted as "The Map of the Month" in the GeoSUR Portal.



Mexican Ministry of Energy map-viewer featured in "The Map of the Month" of [GeoSUR Portal](#)



Map of Peru-Bolivia Ecological Systems published by the Ministry of Environment of Peru in the [GeoSUR map viewer](#)

### GeoSUR Program: Basic Figures

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Years in Operation                          | 8      |
| Participating Institutions                  | 110    |
| Beneficiary Countries                       | 26     |
| GeoSUR Network Specialists                  | 550    |
| Officials Trained<br>(6 Regional Workshops) | 250    |
| CAF Officials Trained                       | 130    |
| Virtual Workshops Offered                   | 40     |
| Available Digital Maps                      | 20,000 |
| Available Metadata                          | 14,000 |
| Map Services (WMS)                          | 310    |
| WFS Services                                | 25     |

Webpage: <http://www.geosur.info>

## CAF - Development Bank of Latin America

[investorinformation@caf.com](mailto:investorinformation@caf.com)

[www.caf.com](http://www.caf.com)

## PAIGH

[secretariageneral@ipgh.org](mailto:secretariageneral@ipgh.org)

[www.ipgh.org](http://www.ipgh.org)

## GeoSUR Program

[geosur@caf.com](mailto:geosur@caf.com)

[www.geosur.info](http://www.geosur.info)

## Other events in the region

### CAF: "INNOVATORS OF THE AMERICAS" AWARD WINNERS TOUR 2014

The [tours](#) are conducted in order to motivate and inform the Latin American population about the innovations winning this award (now in its second edition), and it has become the most important regional award in terms of innovation. Asuncion, La Paz and Quito hosted the six winners of this Prize's second version: Colombians David Hernandez Salazar (Design), Oscar Amaya Montoya (Education), Carlos Ortiz Espinosa (Social Development) and Sebastian Bustamante, together with Bolivian Franz Freudenthal Tichauer (Science and Technology) and Mexican Enrique Galindo Fentanes (Enterprise and Industry).

The winners shared their success stories in colleges before representatives of business associations, government agencies, media and the general public, to inspire and spread of new patterns of thought and development in Latin America. This version of the [Innovators of the Americas](#) tour began in Asuncion (Paraguay), to continue in La Paz (Bolivia) and finished in Quito (Ecuador). Innovators of the Americas, the continental prize for the promotion of innovation in Latin America, is a tool for exchanging knowledge and opportunities for multiple institutions from the academic, private and government sectors, and for encouraging the creation of a super lattice of allies working in a new model of development in our region [Source: [CAF](#)].

*"The winners shared their success stories in colleges before representatives of business associations, government agencies, media and the general public, to inspire and spread of new patterns of thought and development in Latin America."*



45th Meeting of the Directive Council of the PAIGH ([Program](#))



3rd edition of GeoSUR Award received by INPE's representative

## SEVENTH MEETING OF GEOSUR PROGRAM

The 7th Meeting of GeoSUR Program in Santiago, Chile, conducted in the framework of the 45th Meeting of the Directive Council of the PAIGH was a success, and rounded off an excellent year for the Program. The results of GeoSUR Award 3rd Edition follow:

**Winner:** "Computational Platform for Development of Monitoring Systems, Analysis and Environmental Extremes-Alert (TerraMA2)" by the National Institute for Space Research (INPE), Brazil.

**Honorable Mention:** "Enterprising-citizen Digital Platform: Tools to Support Public Management Modernization and Optimization" by the Secretariat for Economy and Business of Retail Size of the Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism, Chile.

**Honorable Mention:** "National Inventory for Renewable Energy" by the Ministry of Energy Secretariat for Energy Planning and Transition, Mexico.

[Source: Santiago Borrero, GeoSUR Program Senior Advisor]