

25 YEARS
OF COLAGE
MEETINGS



Asociación Latinoamericana de Geofísica Espacial
Associação Latino-americana de Geofísica Espacial
Latinamerican Association of Space Geophysics



- 2 Foreword
- 3 The Resolution of Havana and the creation of the ALAGE
- 6 Summary of COLAGE meetings
- 8 Photo gallery
- 11 Contributions of some of the former ALAGE Presidents

Foreword

The ALAGE precursor according to Juan Roederer was the CLARC (Consejo Latinoamericano de Radiación Cósmica), with the initial name of Curso Latinoamericano de Radiación Cósmica, in Bariloche, Argentina in January 1959 (see paper by Korff y Chasson, *Physics Today*, July 1959). There was also a CLARC meeting in Mexico City organized by Dr. Ruth Gall and Prof. Manuel Sandoval Vallarta in 1961.

In 1964 there was a course in Tucumán, Argentina, not under the CLARC acronym but with the same spirit. The next CLARC meeting that Juan remembers of was in INPE, Brazil promoted by Prof. Gianni Carlo Giambiagi and the support of CLAF, presided by him at that time, there the words “Radiación Cósmica” were changed by “Geofísica Espacial”.

The *Asociación Latinoamericana de Geofísica Espacial (ALAGE)* was created in 1993. It is a scientific autonomous society that attempts to motivate the development of research in Space Geophysics, taking advantage of the human resources and the cultural unity, as well as the similar economic conditions of Latin America. ALAGE seeks to complement the activities of the existing regional geophysical organisms.

One of the main activities of ALAGE is the periodical organization of meetings that are attended by most of the scientists working in the ALAGE areas of interest: the middle and high atmosphere, the ionosphere, the magnetosphere, the interplanetary medium, the cosmic rays, the planets, satellites, minor planets and small bodies, the Sun and the Solar-terrestrial relations. These meetings are called *Conferencia Latinoamericana de Geofísica Espacial (COLAGE)*. Up to now we have organized nine of them in different Latin American countries. The COLAGE meetings have been attended each time by nearly a hundred scientists and graduate students not only working in Latin America but also from all over the world.

Another important activity of ALAGE is the publication of its Bulletin, it is the way in which we communicate relevant

information from our countries. Until now, we have elaborated 34 bulletins.

At 25 years of the first COLAGE meeting, we have reached a wide recognition in Latin America and also in several other countries outside the region. We have incorporated by now almost all the researchers working in the region, counting at present with 149 active members. Therefore, we are the Association that effectively represents most of the Space Physics research carried out in Latin America.

Blanca Mendoza
ALAGE President 2011-2014

The Resolution of Havana and the creation of the ALAGE

The aims and objectives of ALAGE were firstly presented during the III COLAGE in La Havana, Cuba, here we find the official text.

Resolution of the participants in the III Latino-american Conference on Space Geophysics.

Given that:

Space Geophysics, the branch of science studying globally the circumterrestrial space, the interplanetary medium, the planetary and cometary envelopes, the solar variability and its effects into the earth, has a growing importance on the reliable operation of space systems and in the better understanding of Global Climate Change mechanism.

Important contributions to Space Geophysics have been done by Latinamerican scientific groups, both theoretical and experimental, as well as during their participation in scientific campaigns, frequently as mutual collaboration or as part of international programs.

And taking into account that:

In order to face successfully the multiple difficulties interposed in the advance of Space Geophysics research in each Latinamerican country is imperative to find new modes and ways to make a more efficient use of the human and material resource available, taking advantage of the cultural links and the similar economic conditions of the region.

The Participants in the Third Conference on Space Geophysics Unanimously Resolve:

1. To create the Latinamerican Space Geophysics Association (ALAGE, Spanish acronym) to strengthen the links among the community of participant scientists, taking as a base the document "On the creation of a Latinamerican Space Geophysics Association" adjoined to this resolution and integral part of it.
2. To urge the public and private organizations, national and international, financing the scientific research in

Latinamerican countries to give special attention and assign priorities to the programs on Space Geophysics proposed in their respective spheres of influence.

3. To ask to the Science Academies or Scientific Research Councils, depending on each country, to provide funds for a fee that permits the ALAGE to function properly, especially during the critical initial stage of its existence.

About the Establishment of a Latinamerican Organization of Space Geophysics

I. Introduction

In order to confront with success the multiple difficulties that interpose to the development of space geophysics research in each Latinamerican country, it is necessary to find new ways to use in a more efficient way and in a conjointly from the material and human resources available making use of the cultural unity and the similar economic conditions of the region.

With the initiative of the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciales (INPE) and the Centro Latino Americano de Física (CLAF) the I Latinamerican Conference on Space Geophysics (COLAGE) took place at Aguas de Lindóia, Brazil, from the 21 to the 25 of November of 1988. Due to the success of that conference, it was decided to organize a second conference in Mexico. During the II COLAGE, held in Cuernavaca, Mexico, between the 7 and 11 of July of 1991, the Permanent Latinamerican Committee on Space Geophysics (COLAGE) was created.

The main objectives of this Committee were basically related with the organization of future conferences that intend the continuity of the relations among the Latinamerican specialists working in the different branches of the Space Geophysics.

We understand “Space Geophysics” as the branch of science studying globally the circumterrestrial space, which includes the study of the middle atmosphere, ionosphere and magnetosphere, interplanetary medium, the planetary and cometary envelopes, and the Sun and the Solar-Terrestrial relationships.

The purposes were accomplished in the short time till the III COLAGE took place. In its organization the COPLAGE has played an important role. However, evidently, in order to accomplish a better level of scientific collaboration among our countries it is necessary to establish an Organization with greater capabilities, able to address regional issues such as:

- The poor understanding by the organisms that finance the science about the importance of Space Geophysics in our region, mainly due to the priority given to other research programs where economic and social impact is more evident in a straightforward view.
- The scarce existence of research projects in developed countries that have important Latinamerican participation.
- The high cost of experimental research, which needs investments that the majority of the Latinamerican countries cannot afford.
- The economic limitations to participate in international conferences, postgraduate courses, etc., which limit the possibility of scientific and technical actualization and keep us away of the main research tendencies in the world.

II. Resolutions

On the basis of the above considerations the attendance to the III COLAGE decides to create the Latinamerican Association of Space Geophysics (ALAGE). This organization will work mainly as a union link among our community in

order to promote the communication and collaboration of working related groups in the region. Its objectives are divided in:

- a. Short term objectives whose accomplishments are needed to consolidate the ALAGE, and
- b. Long term objectives, those which will allow us to advance towards more ambitious goals.

The short term objectives are:

- To organize periodically, in collaboration with the Local Committee that will be formed on each occasion, the Latinamerican Conference of Space Geophysics (COLAGE) as the proper frame for the dissemination of scientific results and the interchange of experiences.
- To promote the integration of Latinamerican countries with interests in Space Geophysics that still have not joined the ALEGE activities.
- To encourage and update the information about the human resources and the infrastructure of our major fields of study in the region and to have it available to whoever might be interested.
- To promote data exchange and every kind of scientific information between the diverse Latinamerican groups of Space Geophysics.
- To edit periodically an information bulletin that helps to keep united and informed our community.
- To keep an active and efficient contact with the relevant components of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), as well as with international organizations of scientific support.
- To promote the interest and participation of the scientists in the scientific policies of their respective countries.

The long term objectives are:

- To contribute to the development of the scientific research in Space Geophysics in the region.

- To promote specialists exchange between Latinamerican institutions and with other developed countries in order to increase and keep up to date the degree of knowledge in the actual trends of research and its new techniques.
- To assist in the consolidation of the postgraduate courses in our areas of research, already existing in Latinamerica, with the purpose to make available to the scientists of our region the scientific heap that each country has reached on these specialities.
- To promote the popular publication of the basic principles of the sciences related with Space Geophysics, in order that the population and the governments in the Latinamerican region better understand our study subjects.
- To support and promote, when asked for, before international organizations and governments of developed countries, financing research projects in which scientific institutions of various Latinamerican countries are involved.

The initial bases on which the operation of ALAGE are established are:

- a. A provisional steering board with the following structure:
- b. President: His function is that of a General Coordinator of the steering board and the official representative of the organization.
- c. Information Secretary: Will be in charge to divulge the activities of ALAGE and to edit and to edit its bulletin. The editorial committee will be integrated by the other members of the steering board.
- d. Foreign Secretary: His main function will be to serve as a link with international organizations.
- e. Statutes Commission: Will be formed by thee members in charge of making a project of statutes that will be presented for its approval in the IV COLAGE.
- f. Treasurer: Will administer the finances of the ALAGE in common agreement with the President.

1.To establish an affiliation system by institutions and or individuals. The definite forms of affiliation will be exten-

sively discussed by the Statutes Commission in order to adapt them to the specific circumstances of each country and institution.

2.To ask for an initial annual contribution of such amount that allows us to carry out the necessary communication and international coordination actions. This amount will be in agreement with the real possibilities of the interested institutions and or individuals.

3.The ALAGE 's provisional headquarters will be the institution where the President works.

The Provisional Steering Board. Elected by The Attendance. is formed by:

President: José Fco. Valdés Galicia
Instituto de Geofísica, UNAM,
MÉXICO.

Information Secretary: Ma. Andrea Van Zele
Fac. de Ciencias Geológicas
Universidad de Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA.

Foreign Secretary: Juan G. Roederer
Geophysics Institute
University of Alaska,
U.S.A.

Statutes Commission: Juan Pérez Hernández
Instituto de Geofísica
y Astronomía Academia de Ciencias de Cuba, CUBA.
Luis Gomberoff
Facultad de Ciencias
Universidad de Chile, CHILE.
Inés S. Batista
Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais
Sao José Dos Campos, BRASIL.

Treasurer: Javier A. Otaola
Instituto de Geofísica, UNAM,
MÉXICO.

La Havana, November 4th, 1993

Summary of COLAGE Meetings

The **First COLAGE** was organized from the 21st to the 25th of November of 1988, in Águas de Lindóia, São Paulo, Brazil. During this meeting, representatives from the most significant research groups in Space Science from Latin America gathered for the first time to present the latest results of their research and promote scientific discussions. It was hosted by the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE). It was attended by 125 participants, who presented 85 contributions in the different areas of interest of the ALAGE. There were 25 invited speakers from Asia, Europe, Latin America and USA.

The **Second COLAGE** was organized from the 7th to the 11th of June of 1991 in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Was sponsored by the Instituto de Geofísica of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM). The meeting coincided with the solar total eclipse of the 11th of June observed in the central part of Mexico. It was attended by 110 participants who presented 80 contributions. Nearly 80 works were published in a special volumen of *Geofísica Internacional*, a journal belonging to the SCI. There were 12 invited speakers from Asia, Europe, Latin America and USA.

The **Third COLAGE** was organized from the 1st to the 5th of November of 1993 in La Havana, Cuba. It was hosted by the Academia de Ciencias and the Centro de Convenciones Pedagógicas of the Ministerio de Educación de Cuba. There were 68 contributions that were published in the Cuban journal "Ciencias de la Tierra y del Espacio" of international circulation. There were 9 invited speakers from Europe, Latin America and USA. During this COLAGE, all the participants decided to create the Asociación Latinoamericana de

Geofísica Espacial (ALAGE), as a way of collaboration among all Space Physics researchers working in Latin America. The document with the objectives and statutes is found in the ALAGE web page under the title RESOLUTION OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE III LATINAMERICAN CONFERENCE ON SPACE GEOPHYSICS.

The **Fourth COLAGE** was organized from the 22th to the 26th of April of 1996 in San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina. It was sponsored by the Laboratorio de Ionosfera of the Instituto de Física de la Facultad de Ciencias y Tecnología of the Universidad Nacional de Tucumán. There were 75 contributions, also, there were 21 invited speakers from Asia, Europe, Latin America and USA.

The **Fifth COLAGE**, was organized from the 3rd to the 7th of November of 1998 in San José de Costa Rica, Costa Rica. It was sponsored by the University of Costa Rica. There were 127 contributions, as well as 14 invited speakers from Europe, Latin America and USA.

The **Sixth COLAGE** was organized from the 1st to the 5th of October of 2001 in Puerto Tomé, Concepción, Chile. It was sponsored by the Academia Chilena de Ciencias, Universidad de Bío-Bío, Universidad de Concepción, Universidad de Chile and Universidad de Santiago de Chile. There were 135 contributions and 80 participants. Many of these works were published in *Geofísica Internacional*, that belongs to the SCI. There were two plenary conferences: Dynamic trapping of electrons in collisionless space plasmas (C.G. Fälthammar, from Sweden) and Ulysses Mission (B. Tsurutani, USA) and two invited speakers: Present

status of magnetometers and digisonde observations in Peru (Oscar Veliz, Peru) and Upper atmosphere research at INPE (B. Clemesha, Brazil).

The **Seventh COLAGE** was organized from the 29th of March to the 2nd of April of 2004 in Atibaia, Sao Paulo, Brazil. It was sponsored by the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE) of Brazil. There were 148 participants and 216 contributions. Many of these works were published in a special issue of the Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics (v.67 n.17-18, 2005), belonging to the SCI. Also, there were 30 invited speakers from Asia, Europe, Latin America and USA. As an associate event to this COLAGE, a Latinamerican Advanced School on Space Environment (ASSE) was organized in the week preceding the Conference. Twenty-one invited lecturers from nine countries presented tutorial lecture to a group of about 80 students from seven Latinamerican countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Peru, Mexico and Venezuela). The tutorial lectures were published in a special issue of Advances in Space Research (Vol.35, 2005).

The **Eight COLAGE**, was organized from the 11th to the 17th of July of 2007 in Mérida Yucatán, Mexico. It was sponsored by the Instituto de Geofísica and other dependences of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM), the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA) and the Centro Latinoamericano de Física (CLAF). There were 122 participants, 46 students and 76 researchers, 191 contributions, and 15 invited speakers from Asia, Europe, Latin America and USA. A new activity was included in this meeting: the Second Latinamerican School in Space Geophysics, aimed at graduate

students and posdocs. The teachers were: Dr. Mario Acuña (NASA, USA), Dra. Inéz Batista (INPE, Brazil), Dr. Rainer Schween (Max Planck, Alemania), Dr. Akiira Kadokura.(Polar Research Institute, Japan) , Dra. Cristina Mandrini (IAFE, Argentina). There were 50 participants: 47 graduate students and 4 posdocs.

The **Nineth COLAGE** was organized from the 4th to the 8th of April of 2011 in Punta Leona, Costa Rica. It was hosted by the Centro de Investigaciones Espaciales (CINESPA) and the Planetario de San José of the Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR), Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología de Costa Rica (CONICIT), Centro Latinoamericano de Física (CLAF) and Committee on Space Research (COSPAR). There were 110 participants, 31 students and 79 researchers, and a total of 132 contributions. There were 28 invited speakers from Asia, Europe, Latin America and USA. Many of these works have been submitted for publication to Advances in Space Research, in a special volume "Advances in Theory and Observation of Solar System Dynamics". Also the Advanced School of Space Environment (ASSE) was carried out, aimed to graduate students and posdocs. The teachers were: Dr. María Josefina Olascoaga, Dr. Merav Opher, Dr. Bruce Tsurutani (USA), Dr. Jorge Chau (Peru), Dr. Daniel Gómez (Argentina), Dr. Fernanda São Sabbas (Brazil), Dr. Juan Valdivia (Chile), and Dr. Gaetano Zimbardo (Italy). There were 45 participants, 39 students and 6 posdocs.

Second COLAGE

PHOTO GALLERY

This gallery has been prepared with the contributions of several ALAGE members, prominently Dr. Aracy Mendes da Costa. Unfortunately we have no photos of the first COLAGE in Águas de Lindóia, São Paulo, Brazil. As time goes by we have more and more photos for each COLAGE. In fact for the 9th COLAGE in Punta Leona, Costa Rica we have so many photographs that it was difficult to make a choice.

Also we spot some of our dear colleagues that are no longer with us like Mario Acuña, Ruth Gall, Luis Gomberoff, Miguel Ángel Herrera and Javier Otaola.

I hope you enjoy it, remember good times and perhaps you can find yourself in some of the photos.



Fourth COLAGE



Sixth COLAGE





Fifth COLAGE



Seventh COLAGE



Eighth COLAGE



Ninth COLAGE



Contributions of the former ALAGE Presidents

We have asked the former ALAGE presidents to present some thoughts about the ALAGE, here are their contributions.

Dr. José Francisco Valdés Galicia, Provisional ALAGE President 1993-1996 and ALAGE President 1996-1998

COLAGE-ALAGE: A SUCCESSFUL BINOMIUM

It was the year 1991, I returned from a sabbatical stay abroad when the Space Physics group of UNAM was preparing for its first international endeavor as local committee of an international scientific meeting: the II COLAGE, to be held at Cuernavaca, Mexico, at the time of a great solar eclipse on 11 July. By all means the meeting was a success as it provided the right atmosphere for long discussions and interchange of ideas amongst the members of Latinamerican space geophysicists who barely have had contact in the past. The participants enthusiasm led to the embryo of a new Latinamerican organization in the form of a permanent comitee: the COPLAGE (Comisión Permanente Latinamericana de Geofísica Espacial), that was to serve as: i) an international committee for the III COLAGE, to be held in Havana, Cuba in 1993, ii) promote the publication of a small bulletin and iii) produce a directory of human resources in space geophysics in latinamerica. The individuals in COPLAGE were one representative by each of the countries present: Andrea Van Zele (Argentina), Inez Batista (Brazil), Luis Gomberoff (Chile), Eduardo Araujo (Cuba), José F. Valdés (Mexico) and Juan G Roederer, as representative of "the foreigners", Latinamerican people working for institutions outside the region. Andrea Van Zele was appointed as editor of the bulletin and José F. Valdés as coordinator of the group. This is how our association was born.

Given the limitations of the organizing country and those imposed for many to travel there, the celebration of the III COLAGE in Havana had many subtleties. Nonetheless, the meeting was celebrated with attendants from seven Latinamerican countries and some invited speakers from outside the region. It was there that the participants signed a special document, called then "la declaración de la Havana", where the creation of ALAGE was announced. A "provisional" steering board was elected with the commitment to continue publication of the bulletin, produce a proposal for the ALAGE bylaws and contribute to organize the IV COLAGE in Tucumán, Argentina. The text of the document signed and the members of the provisional steering board can be found elsewhere in this booklet.

The meeting in Tucumán in 1996 marked the formal constitution of ALAGE, as it was then when the bylaws were approved and the first regular steering board was elected. I had the privilege to be the first formal President with Walter Gonzalez as VicePresident (President elect), Virginia Silbergleit as Information Secretary, Juan G. Roederer as Foreign Secretary and Dolores Maravilla as Treasurer. An advisory committee with one representative from each country was also integrated. The IV COLAGE was the first of our meetings expanded to have participants from practically all over the world and they started to be

known and appreciated by a much larger community of scientists. "Las tucumanas" as we friendly referred to the local organizing committee, constituted by a vast majority of women, did a wonderful job.

The University of Costa Rica offered to organise the V COLAGE, which was carried out in San Jose, in November 1998. The participation of groups from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba and Mexico was by then traditionally established. The addition of Costa Rica, Peru and Venezuela on that occasion was highly welcomed. The meeting was kept under a traditional format of plenary invited lectures and contributed poster sessions, but a few workshops were added to discuss particular topics such as magnetospheres, scientific satellites or the space climate. ALAGE had for the first time a statutory change of authorities.

Since then four more successful COLAGE's were celebrated in Chile (2001), Brazil (2004), Mexico (2007) and Costa Rica (2011), the number of attendants has been always just over one hundred, so that the meetings give always the opportunity to talk to most of the participants. We have managed to keep an atmosphere where scientific discussions are always conducted in a friendly way and a spirit of collaboration more than competition, this being one of the assets of the COLAGE's.

The ALAGE was consolidated over the years, today it has the recognition of many other scientific associations over the world, sponsors conferences on topics related to space and has several collaboration agreements of mutual benefit with other professional societies.

In this 25 anniversary, we must be happy that we have maintained the COLAGE's and created a successful Latinamerican scientific association. It has been a collective effort, from our own grassroots, worth the while no doubt.

Dr. Walter D. Gonzalez, ALAGE President
1998-2001

ON ALAGE 's IMPORTANCE and ACTIVITIES

Since 1989 I had the chance to participate in some of the initial activities of a group of Latin-American scientists working in space geophysics, that not much later would become formalized in the presently known Asociación Latinoamericana de Geofísica Espacial, ALAGE.

It has been a pleasure to participate in the organization of one of the most important activities of ALAGE, namely the regional meetings known as COLAGE's, during which the Latin scientists, posdocs and graduate students of Space Geophysics discuss about research associated with frontier topics in this area of Geophysics. It has been common to publish special issues of well known international journals with the papers presented and discussed in the COLAGE meetings. Also, it has been frequent the participation of well known international scientists in those meetings as invited speakers and contributors of review papers.

As a former President of ALAGE I had a wonderful experience of interacting with many scientists and colleagues from the several nations that belong to this organization.

Among the activities that should be mentioned, in addition to the COLAGE's, I think that the intensive courses that were organized right before or after the COLAGE meetings represented an important complement to the curricula of the graduate courses in space geophysics as given at the Universities or Institutes dealing with space geophysics in the participating countries. Both, the COLAGE meetings and those intensive courses were important triggers for the intensification of research activities in space geophysics in each of the countries where these activities were carried out.

Finally, I think that the publication of frequent bulletins, as it has been done to date, is also an important tool to keep the ALAGE spirit alive. It is the responsibility of each member of ALAGE to collaborate

with the continuation of the Bulletin, as a mean to exchange experiences and results of our research activities in space geophysics, and also to give enough importance to the organization and participation in the COLAGE meetings.

The future of ALAGE and of the COLAGE meetings will be based on the important participation and collaboration that each member can give to them now.

Dr. Marta Rovira, ALAGE President 2001-2004

Our work started on the 5th of October, 2001 during the VI COLAGE that took place in Puerto Tomé, Chile. The directive committee was formed by President: Dr. Marta Rovira (IAFE, Argentina), Vicepresident: Dr. Alberto Foppiano (Universidad de Concepción, Chile), Information Secretary: Dr. Aracy Mendes da Costa (INPE, Brazil), Foreign Secretary: Dr. Walter González (INPE, Brazil), Treasurer: Dr. Marta Zossi (Universidad de Tucumán, Argentina) and for the Steering Committee:

- a. Argentina: Dra. Marta Mosert
- b. Bolivia: Dr. René Torres
- c. Brazil: Dr. Polinaya Muralikrishna
- d. Colombia: Dr. José Arias
- e. Costa Rica: Dra. Lela Taliashvili
- f. Cuba: Dr. Ramón Rodríguez Taboada
- g. Chile: Dr. Alejandro Valdivia
- h. Ecuador: Dr. Mario Agama
- i. Mexico: Dra. Blanca Mendoza
- j. Peru: Dr. Walter Guevara

Our work ended in the VII COLAGE that took place in Atibaia, Brazil, from the 9th of May to the 2nd of April, 2004.

During this period Dr. Aracy Mendes da Costa published, with the help of the different national representatives, but mainly due to her personal work and perseverance, the bulletins 17 (April 2002), 18 (October 2002), 19 (April 2003), 20 (October 2003), 21 (December 2003) and 22 (February 2004). Through those bulletins we informed on the different activities of the research groups that belong to ALAGE, like conferences, prizes and other news of interest to the ALAGE community.

Under the initiative of Dr. Abraham Chian, it was carried out the 1st Advanced School of Space Weather.

Between the 4th and 10th of July, 2002, Dr. Rovira visited Cuzco, Peru. She had interviews with many University authorities and visited hotels and other places with the aim to organize the VII COLAGE. Due to different reasons, it was not possible to organize the COLAGE in Peru, instead it took place in Atibaia, Brazil.

During our term, we insisted on the need to have an ALAGE logo. We received anonymously 8 logos, after a vote, it was chosen the logo that now identifies ALAGE designed by Dr. Aracy Mendes da Costa.

Dr. Alberto Foppiano, ALAGE President 2004-2007

On the ALAGE and COLAGE's

The Latin-American Association of Space Geophysics (ALAGE, Spanish and Portuguese acronym) and the Latin-American Conferences on Space Geophysics (COLAGE's) that the ALAGE organizes are engraved in the minds, hearts and hands of many scientists in the Latin-American region.

How could we forget the superb presentations by invited speakers and contributed papers by tenacious fellow scientists young and old, or the dedicated lectures on several topical Schools, or the time and effort devoted to get published COLAGE papers in regular refereed research journals, or the work on the co-ordination of scientific collaboration, or the time spent during the ALAGE General Assemblies, let alone the joyful social gatherings held in several of the most beautiful places of our Americas?

All this come true thanks to the unselfish work and steadfast good will of many people over more than two decades. A few times these virtues have shined particularly brightly. Perhaps they are not well remembered or were expressed only behind the scenes. Once opinions were hard divided on how and to whom a special honour should be bestowed (Tomé, 2001) but creativity and goodwill prevailed. On another occasion the timing and venue of a COLAGE were heated

dly debated (2001 – 2004 session). Several bona fide discussions over international phone calls and unselfish steady work finally solved the problem.

Many ludic instances graced the ALAGE General Assemblies. A special one is related to the agreement on the wording of the ALAGE's by laws. Should the title of an officer be gender independent? Would Presidente (President) be good enough for male and female? Or should be stated Presidente/Presidenta? After a good general laugh at the comments from one that sounded particularly "machista", the text Presidente(a) was passed, and so was Secretario(a), Tesorero(a), etc.

An inherited feature of our Latin-American science, probably associated with the well-known North – South asymmetry of economic development, has been a subject of some concern within the ALAGE. Although it was reflected in the theme of the VI COLAGE, namely "Colaboración Latinamericana ahora" (Latin-American collaboration now"), it did not materialize when a simple presentations authorship tally was made during VII COLAGE. Ever since, many more papers are authored by Latin-American scientists, but authors still tend to belong to institutions of one country only. Is it true that science can gain momentum and can reach new frontiers in our countries if we could join together in practising science?. Or is this belief only a remnant from the old Bolivarian dream? Perhaps it is worth trying to prove it! Long live the ALAGE and its COLAGE's.

Dr. Inéz Starciarini Batista, ALAGE President
2007-2011

Contribution to the 25th anniversary of COLAGE commemorative booklet

ALAGE was created with the aim to congregate the Latin-American scientists in space geophysics and promote the scientific development in this research area. The seed of this association was the first COLAGE (Conferência Latino Americana de Geofísica Espacial) held in Águas de Lindóia, Brazil, in 1988, idealized and organized by Dr. José Marques da Costa, at that time the head of the Space Geophysics and

Aeronomy Department, at INPE (Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais). Until now six different Latin-American (LA) countries have hosted COLAGE meetings. Peru will become part of this team in 2013, becoming the seventh LA country to host COLAGE. Although in its 25 years COLAGE has been able to congregate scientists and students from various of the Latin-American countries, it is important to keep in mind that a significant number of countries are not yet integrated in ALAGE and that we should continue our effort towards a major integration of the space geophysics scientific community.

So far ALAGE has proved to be an association that does not need affirmative actions in order to respect the gender distribution in its board of representatives. Three out of its six presidents were women, a very high rate when compared to similar scientific associations around the world.

A very important characteristic of the COLAGE's meetings is the significant participation of graduate students. This number keeps increasing every conference. The students represent the future of our research as well as of our association. They shall be the responsible for the celebration of COLAGE's 50th anniversary. They are most welcome at the meetings and their participation should be always encouraged.

Acknowledgments

We acknowledge Drs. Inés Batista, Marcos Macado and José Valdés for the revision of the text, and to the Editorial Section of the Instituto de Geofísica, UNAM, Vanesa Gómez Vivas, Freddy Godoy Olmedo and Andrea Rostan for the support in the elaboration of the PDF version and printing of this booklet.



geofisica
UNAM

25 YEARS
OF COLAGE
MEETINGS