

ICSU ROLAC Activities Report 2016



ICSU

International Council for Science
Regional Office for
Latin America and Caribbean



5th anniversary of ICSU ROLAC March 1st , 2016 Mexico City, Mexico

The secretariat celebrated with an intimate gathering at the Mexican Academy of Science (MAS), our host in the country.



Dr. Renata Villalba-Cohen Executive Secretary of The Mexican Academy spoke about the achievements and contribution of ICSU in Mexico and the future challenges in the next host country, El Salvador. She emphasized that ICSU could have an enormous impact in that country.

V Workshop on Mathematics Education in Latin America

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

9-11 March 2016



An important outcome of the workshop was the launch of the new phase of the process of study and implementation of standards for initial training of teachers of mathematics in Honduras, with financial support of the IADB (Inter-American Development Bank).



The interest of participating in this process has been expressed and reinforced by the educational authorities of several countries like Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Cuba.

IX international congress “Science Didactics” XIV International Workshop on Physics Education

28th of March- 1st of April

La Havana, Cuba



ICSU ROLAC gave a presentation called “Contribution to the improvement of mathematics education through informal pathways from the International Council of Science in Latin America and the Caribbean” before an ample group of experts in Mathematics education. The vice-ministry of Education of Cuba Rolando Forneiro, president of the organizing Committee of the event highlighted the importance of ICSU’S work and its relationship with the Ministry of Education of Cuba.

3th meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)

30 March to 1 April 2016 in Mexico City, Mexico



The IAEG-SDGs was established to develop an indicator framework for the monitoring of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development at the global level, and to support its implementation. The objectives of the meeting were to establish a tier system for indicators, procedures for the methodological review of indicators, and development of global reporting mechanisms,Guillermina Echeverría from the Steering Committee attended the meeting.

Habitat III Preparatory meeting – Latin America and the Caribbean: Livable and inclusive cities: The Global Challenge of Urban Sustainable Human Settlements April 18th to 20th, 2016 Toluca City, Mexico



The meeting took place from as part of the process leading to the conference of United Nations on Urban Sustainable Human Settlements Development Habitat III that will take place in Quito, Ecuador next October. Representatives of Latin America and the Caribbean met at Toluca, México to exchange perspectives and experiences and to conform a common vision for the future of cities and human settlements and the instruments needed to build them. Manuel Limonta attended.

ICSU/CFRS WORKSHOP

GENDER ISSUES IN FIELD RESEARCH

Mobility and Internationalization of Science

April 27, 2016, México City



The International Council of Science (ICSU), through its Committee of Freedom and Responsibility in Research (CFRS) and the support of the Mexican Academy of Sciences (MAS) and ICSU ROLAC, organized this workshop in order to exchange and discuss about the present situation of mobility of women doing field research and their risks.



ICSU/CFRS WORKSHOP
GENDER ISSUES IN FIELD RESEARCH
Mobility and Internationalization of Science
April 27, 2016, México City



19th Regional Committee meeting ICSU ROLAC (RCLAC19) April 28, 2016, México city



- Review of Buissness Plan 2016.
- Election of new memebbers of the Regional Comittee. Patricio Felmer y Arturo Martínez ended their term
- Review Terms of Reference for Regional and Scientific Comittees.
- Inform on relocation of ROLAC



**19th Regional Committee meeting
ICSU ROLAC(RCLAC19)
April 28, 2016, México city**



Members : Arturo Martínez, Patricio Felmer, Lilliam Álvarez, Juan Jaen, Ana Rada. Carmen Cisneros, liaison with the Mexican Academy of Science was also there.

Secretariat staff: Manuel Limonta, Camilo García, Guillermina Echeverría and Dení Rayn

100 anniversary of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences

3-6 May 2016, Rio, Brazil



Magna Meeting 2016 of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences with the theme 100 Years of Science: Building a Better Future.

The sessions addressed studies on zika virus, global health, sustainable food security, energy, new technologies and education, among other topics of great interest of society. They were conducted by Brazilian scientists and prominent foreign guests of excellence.



**100 anniversary of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences.
the theme 100 Years of Science: Building a Better Future**

Dr. Limonta with Jacob Palis former president of the academia



Dr. Limonta with Luiz Davidovich current president of BAC



Signing of agreement El Salvador – ICSU

May 17, 2016



Foreign Minister Hugo Martínez signed an agreement with the Executive Director of the International Council for Science, Heide Hackman, for the establishment of El Salvador as the regional headquarters for Latin America and the Caribbean of this scientific organization in the next five years.

Also present were the minister of education, Carlos Mauricio Canjura and the deputy minister of science and technology, Erlinda Hándal Vega, as witnesses of honor; As well as ICSU General Secretary David Black, ICSU-ROLAC Regional Director, Manuel Limonta and members of the Executive Board, Manuel de León and Charles Erkelens.

El Salvador, May 17, 2016



Heide Hackmann signed an agreement with the government of El Salvador, which will host ICSU ROLAC for the next five years, starting August 2016.

Present at the ceremony were Hugo Roger Martinez Bonilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Erlinda Handal Vega, Vice-Minister of Science and Technology, and Carlos Canjura, Minister of Education. Manuel Limonta, along with Charles Erkelens, David Black and Manuel de Leon, were also present.

ICSU representatives know about science and technology programs in El Salvador

May 20, 2016.



The representatives of the International Council for Science (ICSU) visited different instances of the Vice-Ministry of Science and Technology to learn about some of the programs that are being promoted for the development of science, technology and innovation in the country.

The visitors were: ICSU Director Heide Hackman, ICSU General Secretary David Black, ISCU-ROLAC Regional Director Manuel Limonta and members of the Executive Board, Manuel de León and Charles Erkelens.

The Vice-Minister of Science and Technology, Erlinda Hándal Vega, accompanied them at the National Center for Scientific Research of El Salvador (CICES), where they were able to dialogue with researchers about the studies carried out in relation to Chagas disease, renewable energies and cytogenetics



Visit to the Computer Assembly Plant in El Salvador May 22, 2016

President of El Salvador, Prof. Salvador Sanchez Cerén,
Minister of Education Ing. Carlos Canjura, and Vice minister
of Science and Technology Dra. Erlinda Handal Vega.



ICSU ROLAC Steering Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction May 24-25th, 2016 San Salvador, El Salvador



The Science Committee of Disaster Risk Reduction (SCDRR) has been in a process of integration and consolidation. This year a lay out plan for the work program was elaborated. This will allow ICSU ROLAC to better plan activities and collaboration in the region.



First Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas, Asunción, Paraguay 8-9 June, 2016



This conference helped ICSU ROLAC to gain a wider view on the advances, challenges and opportunities in the region regarding Disaster Risk Reduction. It was particularly important at this point since the work program for of the Science Committee of Disaster Risk Reduction (SCDRR) is being elaborated

Symposium on Biocultural Heritage, June 9-10,2016. Mexico City, Mexico



ICSU ROLAC in collaboration with the Thematic Network on Biocultural Heritage, CONACYT, organized this symposium as a first step to create an International Network on this topic in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Opening of ICSU ROLAC Secretariat in El Salvador August 30, 2016



The Ministry of Education, through the Vice Ministry of Science and Technology, inaugurated the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Council for Science (ICSU - ROLAC) and held the Seminar called "The Open Science Imperative: Challenges and Opportunities "on Tuesday, August 30, 2016 at the facilities of the National Museum of Anthropology" David J. Guzman ".



Opening of ICSU ROLAC Secretariat in El Salvador

August 30, 2016



The opening ceremony was presided by; The Minister of Education, Carlos Canjura, and Vice Minister of Science and Technology, Erlinda Handal Vega; Technical and Planning Secretary of the Presidency, Roberto Lorenzana, The Executive Director of the International Council for Science (ICSU), Heide Hackman; And the regional director of ICSU-ROLAC, Manuel Limonta.

The inauguration was attended by important international personalities such as

Heide Hackmann, executive director of ICSU, Vivaldo Moura, President TWAS ROLAC / Brazilian Academy of Sciences, David Black, General Secretary ICSU, Jeremy Mc Neil, Co-President IANAS, Maria Uhle, Director of International Activities - National Science Foundation, Javier Luque, Inter-American Development Bank, Rafael Ibarra, RedCLARA, Jonathan Baker, UNESCO Regional Specialist, Geoffrey Boulton, President CODATA ICSU, Milciades Mejía, President, Academy of Sciences, República Dominicana, Jorge Tezón, Manager of Scientific and Technological Development, CONICET, Carlos Rodríguez Castellanos, Vice-president Academy of Sciences of Cuba, José Luis Morán López, President, Comité Regional para A.L. y Caribe ICSU, Sergio Pastrana, Secretary of Foreign Relations - Cuban Academy of Sciences, Arturo Martínez, Vicepresident Regional Commette for L. A. and the Caribbean ICSU, Pedro Urrea, Office of the Historian of Havana, Trevor Alleyne, President Academy of Sciences of the Caribbean, Winston Mellowes, Secretary, Academy of Sciences of the Caribbean, Jorge A. Huete-Pérez, Vicepresident Academy of Sciences of Nicaragua, Enrique Forero González, President Colombian Academy of Sciences, Pedro León Azofeifa, President National Academy of Sciences of Costa Rica, Mario Lanza Santamaría, President National Academy of Sciences of Honduras, María del Carmen Samayoa, Médicas, President Academy sciences, de Guatemala, Nicole J. Moreau, ICSU, Executive Board,

Regional Director Dr. Manuel Limonta meets with the President of El Salvador.

August 30, 2016



Dr. Limonta had a meeting with the President of El Salvador which allowed him to provide him more information about the work that ICSU ROLAC does in the region. In addition, Limonta confirmed Prof. Salvador Sánchez Cerén that El Salvador's proposal to be the new host country for ICSU ROLAC had been accepted.





On August 30, 2017, Dr. Manuel Limonta, along with important guests such as David Black, Maria Uhle, Nicolo Moreau, Jeremy McNeal, Sergio Pastrana, Erlinda Hándal, and Jose Luis Moran met with President of El Salvador Prof. Salvador Sánchez Cerén on the inauguration of the ICSU ROLAC office in San Salvador, El Salvador. In this second meeting, the Prof. Sánchez Cerén informed the guests about the effort and work being done in terms of the advancement of Science and Technology in El Salvador. Also, he highlighted his interest in supporting organizations such as ICSU and thanked the participants for attending the event in the country.



"The Open Science Imperative: Challenges and Opportunities"

August 30, 2016



The Open data conference was held after the official opening ceremony of ICSU ROLAC secretariat in El Salvador with the intervention of many high level authorities in the topic.

Open Data is fundamental to the future of science-to its quality and rigour, its ability to help solve complex global challenges, and as powerful source of deep understanding in support of economic & policy development.



ICSU ROLAC participates in the Latin American and Caribbean Open Science Forum (CILAC) September, 6 -7 2016.



**Dr. Tavaré Vasquez
President of Uruguay
Opening of the event**

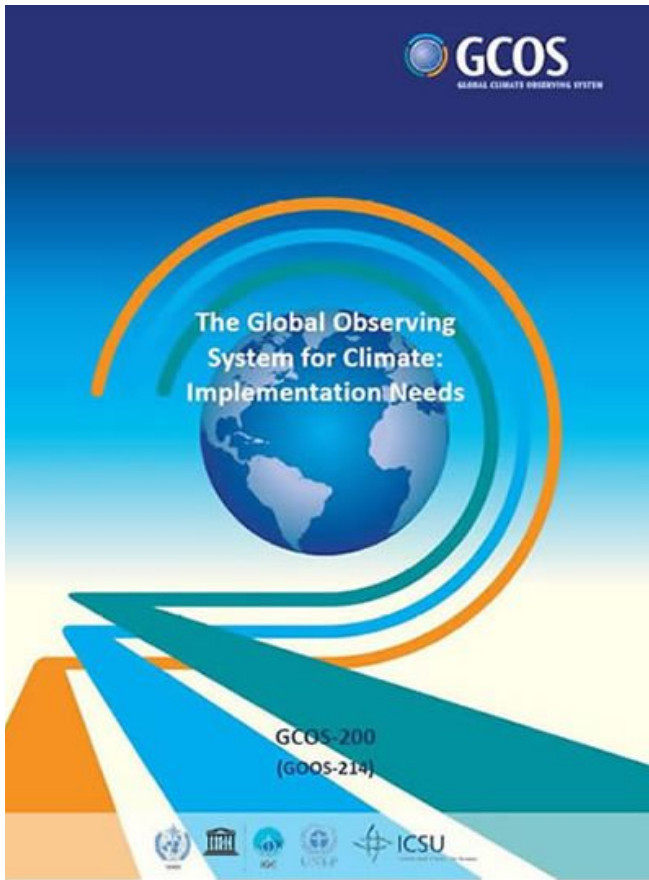
ICSU ROLAC had an important and relevant participation at the Latin American and Caribbean Open Science Forum (CILAC) that took place in Montevideo, Uruguay on 6th - 9th September 2016. The event was organized by UNESCO and institutions like Grupo Montevideo, Universidad de la República de Uruguay, Intendencia de Montevideo,



CILAC

Different members of ICSU ROLAC participated in the event. Dr. Manuel Limonta participated in a plenary session with Ministers of Science and Technology in which he presented them about Future Earth and the programs that the office implements in the region. Decio Gazzoni, member of the Sustainable Energy Steering Committee, also had a presentation on the efforts done in the sustainable energy matter. Arturo Martínez, Vice Chair of the Regional Committee, presented about indigenous knowledge which falls into the Biodiversity Priority Area, and he also participated as the moderator in the Open Data session. Finally, Lorena Carlino from CONICET, Argentina presented about Open Data Management.





Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) October 3-6, 2016 in Guayaquil, Ecuador

ICSU ROLAC participates in the GCOS' 24th Steering Committee Meeting in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Dr. Manuel Limonta ICSU ROLAC Regional Director accepted the invitation made by the Global Climate Observing System as ICSUs headquarters delegate (GCOS) to the 24th Steering Committee Meeting on October 3-6, 2016 in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Dr. Limonta presented them aspects related to the work of the ICSU ROLAC office in the region as well as the structure of the institution, information about the new ICSU-ISSC merger and the relocation of the office from Mexico to El Salvador.

GCOS Implementation Plan 2016

Approved by the 24th of the GCOS Steering Committee and submitted to UNFCCC

The draft of the new GCOS Implementation Plan has been approved by the GCOS Steering Committee at its 24th Session at CIIFEN, in Guayaquil, Ecuador. It has been submitted to the UNFCCC for further considerations.

First Workshop on Urban Health in El Salvador: “Current and Future Opportunities for Urban Health in El Salvador” October 11-12, 2016

On October 11-12, 2016 The International Council for Science's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ICSU ROLAC) partnered with The Vice Minister of Science and Technology organized the first Urban Health Workshop in El Salvador.



Urban Health



PhD. Franz Gatzweiler

PhD. Franz Gatzweiler, Executive Director of the International Programme Office (IPO) of ICSU's Urban Health programme and PhD. José Siri, epidemiologist and researcher at the United Nations University were the experts invited to present in this two-day workshop. Both presenters addressed key issues to consider when dealing with urban health, such as recognizing global and regional objectives, challenges and opportunities for El Salvador, Latin America and the Caribbean, good practices in Urban Health and Models to understand the complex interaction of factors in the Urban Health topic.



PhD. José Siri

Urban Health

Each day of the workshop, all the participants were lectured by both experts as a whole and then the audience was divided into three working groups that were asked to brainstorm and discuss about problems, main actors, decision makers, possible solutions, and available tools to face the Urban Health problematic.



Dr. Manuel Limonta and Ing. Michael Eilbrecht

The first day of the workshop focused on identifying and diagnosing the main Urban Health problems of El Salvador through the active participation of the experts, moderators and all the audience. Once the diagnosis phase was completed, the second day focused on searching for possible solutions by using current available tools in the country and to set clear achievable objectives on Urban Health issues.



Urban Health



In this two-day workshop more than 340 participants amongst researchers, policy makers, science educators, government representatives, and university students assisted to 4 presentations, 3 question and answer sessions and 2 break-out sessions.

20th Regional Committee Meeting November 3-4, 2016.



On 3–4 November, the regional Committee held its 20th meeting in San Salvador, El Salvador. Seven members were present: José Luis Morán-López, Lilliam Álvarez, Ana Rada Tarifa, German Poveda, Juan Jaén, Hernán Thomas, and Paloma González. ICSU ROLAC Regional Director, Manuel Limonta and the full secretariat were there to support the meeting: Karla Rodríguez and Oscar Reyes. The 20th Regional Meeting took place for the first time in the new host country and allowed all members of the Committee to have a wider image of the country and the efforts being done in the advancement of science.

20th Regional Committee Meeting



Dr. Manuel Limonta introduced new members of the Committee: Hernán Thomas from Panama; Kit Fai Pun from Trinidad & Tobago; and Paloma Gonzáles from Spain (ICSU ROLAC- El Salvador liaison). The Regional Director was able to introduce the new members of the Secretariat: Karla Rodríguez, the new Administrative Officer; Claudia Marroquín as ICSU ROLAC – El Salvador Liaison Officer and Oscar Reyes as Communications Officer.



20th Regional Committee Meeting

Ing. Carlos Canjura, Deputy Minister of Education and MD. María Isabel Rodríguez, Presidential Advisor, were present at the meeting. Ing. Canjura and MD. Rodríguez talked to members of the Committee about the “Jóvenes Talentos” program, which was created to attract and develop outstanding students from fourth grade on in order to teach them advanced classes on mathematics, chemistry, biology and alike.



Young Scientists Conference

November 7-8, 2016



The Young Scientists Conference organized by TWAS ROLAC, ICSU ROLAC and the Vice Ministry of Science and Education of El Salvador was held in San Salvador, El Salvador on November 7-8, 2016. There were established five objectives for this meeting. 1) To increase the number of Latin American countries which participate in TWAS and ICSU ROLAC activities. 2) To strengthen the current regional links between TWAS and ICSU. 3) To create bridges among the different disciplines in order to provoke an exchange of perceptions and visions. 4) To extend ICSU ROLAC presence among young scientists, with a gender perspective. 5) To promote the project “Future Earth” in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region.



Young Scientists Conference



The participants consisted in two of the TWAS ROLAC Executive Committee members: Dr. Prof. Harold Ramkissoon -The University of the West Indies-, and Dr. Prof. Rafael Vicuña -Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile-, ICSU ROLAC Secretariat, and 19 Young Scientists under 40 years old nominated by the Presidents of 17 National Academies -Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Uruguay. We also had the guest speakers, PhD. Prof. Rafel Vicuña from Chile and PhD. Prof. Harold Ramkissoon from Trinidad & Tobago.

Young Scientists Conference



We welcomed more than 700 participants in this two-day conference, amongst who can be mentioned different university representatives, independent researchers, government representatives, students and others. The audience enjoyed 18 presentations from the Young Scientists from the countries previously mentioned and also key lectures made by Prof. Vicuña and Prof. Ramkissoon.

Habitat III

October 17 – 20, 2016

Dra. Ana Rada and Dr. Manuel Limonta attended the Habitat II Conference as ICSUs delegates; the event took place from 17th-20th October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador. Dra. Rada and Dr. Limonta took part in the side events, networking events, exhibition space, dialogues with stakeholders, attending the negotiations, and to engage with the broader urbanization community.



Dra. Ana Rada



PhD.Franz Gatzweiler

International Union of Soil Sciences Inter-Congress Meeting November 20 – 25, 2016



On 20- 25th November 2016, the International Union of Soil Sciences Inter-Congress Meeting took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil with the aim to discuss pressing matters concerning the IUSS. Ph.D. Prof. Manuel Limonta attended the event as a representative of ICSU headquarters to present ICSU, its work and interest to continue working with this important scientific Union, which joined ICSU in 1993.



ICSU ROLAC Secretariat El Salvador



Karla Rodriguez, Administrative Officer; Manuel Limonta, ICSU ROLAC Regional Director; Claudia Marroquín, Liason Officer; Oscar Reyes, Communication Officer.