



AAPG

DISCOVER

The Latin America Region Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Victor Ramirez, Latin America Region President

I send you my warm regards on behalf of the Latin America Region Steering Committee.

We invite all of you to keep track of our Region's intense activity through our communication resources, including our Facebook and Twitter account and Web page. You will note how the Student Chapters and Young Professional activities continue to increase in quantity and frequency, reflecting new generations of geoscientists' interest in belonging to AAPG.

Regarding membership, once more I invite all Associate members throughout the Region to become Members. As many of you already know, discussions held last year in several AAPG meetings (including ACE, ICE and Region presidents' teleconferences) led to an important vote at the House of Delegates meeting at ACE in Houston in April. The result was a change in the AAPG Bylaws to lower the sponsorship requirement for membership from three sponsors to one. With the need to find just one sponsor instead of three, the process of becoming a new member, or of transferring from Associate to Member, is now simpler than ever.

For a Region like Latin America, with such a large geographical area and low Member to Associate ratio, finding a single sponsor may still be a challenge for some. We believe, however, that AAPG is moving in the right direction towards simplifying the membership process and becoming a truly global organization.

Being an AAPG Member helps you as an individual and Latin America as a Region influence decisions that can transform the AAPG organization. Thanks to nine Members who supported us at the House of Delegates meeting in Houston this year, we can say proudly, for the first time ever, the Latin

America Region filled all delegate seats to which it is entitled. We can have even stronger representation at future meetings if all Associates eligible for membership will upgrade to full Member status. As a result, the Latin America Region will gain more delegate positions.



Victor Ramirez

There is progress to be made. Of 1,934 individuals registered with our Region, just 372 (20 percent) are Members, while 418 (22 percent) are Associates. Many of our Associates are experienced geoscientists who pay the same AAPG dues as Members but do not receive the benefits of full AAPG membership. Qualified Associates can upgrade their status today by completing a form on the AAPG membership site, <https://appmanager.aapg.org>.

The numbers show the Latin America Region has the potential to strengthen its voice in AAPG. It is a task that deserves the attention of the Region Steering Committee, and we all are committed to turning around this ratio. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions about the process or if you would like to check on your own membership status.

I hope you have time to enjoy some great soccer matches during the Brazil FIFA 2014 World Cup and that you find this newsletter informative and entertaining.

Victor Ramirez

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REGIONAL NEWS UPDATE

Brazil 2014: More than Soccer

Preparation for the FIFA World Cup was not the only event attracting international audiences to Brazil in May. The Geosciences Technology Workshop (GTW) Brasil, "Stratigraphic Traps and Play Concepts in Deep Water Settings," brought in 143 geoscientists representing 12 countries from the United States, Europe and Asia.

The workshop, co-hosted by AAPG Latin America Region and the Associação Brasileira de Geólogos de Petróleo (ABGP), included session themes focusing on case histories and global analogs, evolving concepts on stratigraphic traps, stratigraphic traps in Brazil and the role of technology in defining stratigraphic traps.

The content was well-received by participants including Peter Mullin, new ventures manager at PanAtlantic Exploration in Houston, who found GTW sessions even more valuable to him than sessions he attended at AAPG's larger annual and international conventions.

"These themed sessions are first class. They allow focus and in-depth analysis, which in turn can lead to breakthrough thinking," Mullin said.

Session chair Jaime Buitrago and Mexico business development manager at ExxonMobil in Houston agreed stating, "The [GTW] format allows for people to focus on a subject without the usual overload of a large convention."

Buitrago said he found GTW Brasil to be helpful, well organized and useful to a wide variety of participants. He said he benefited personally by learning about effective, true stratigraphic traps. "I was particularly impressed by Petrobras' paper about the stratigraphic traps in Sergipe-Alagoas," he said.

Brazilian native Flavio Feijó, a senior geologist working as teacher and mentor at Petrobras, said he attended the GTW to gain current knowledge on stratigraphic traps in deep water, as well as to meet up with old friends and to make new contacts. The GTW achieved each of those objectives.

"The workshop was a very pleasant experience, with good lectures and discussions, and extensive networking during the breaks," Feijó said. "I improved my knowledge of deepwater settings in general, and about Brazilian basins in particular. That will be useful in upcoming classes and lectures."

While two-thirds of workshop participants came from Brazil, nearly one-fourth came from the United States and Canada. Other countries represented included Argentina, Colombia, Jamaica, Suriname, the United Kingdom, Italy, Ireland, Norway and Malaysia.

As international demand continues, AAPG will continue to offer workshops throughout the Latin America Region. The next GTW, "Expanding the Science of Unconventional Resources in Colombia – From Heavy Oil to Shale Gas/Shale Oil Opportunities," will be held in Bogotá, 10-11 December 2014.



Mario Carminatti, executive manager of exploration, Petrobras gives remarks during the Opening Plenary Session of GTW Brasil.



Workshop organizers, session chairs and presenters gather at the close of GTW Brasil Session 3 (Left to right: Victor Vega, GTW Brasil general co-chair; Nilo Azambuja, session co-chair; Ricardo Jorge Jahmert, Petrobras, session co-chair; Richard Tozer, BP Brasil, presenter; Roberto C.R. Cunha, Petrobras, presenter; Sylvia Couto Anjos, Petrobras, GTW Brasil general co-chair; Ricardo Defeo de Castro, Petrobras, presenter; and Jose Daudt, BP Brazil, presenter.)

Region Members Discuss the Future of the Latin America Region

Youth and growth were the primary themes of the Latin America Region all-member meeting held at the AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition (ACE) in Houston on 7 April.

More than 50 members and friends of the Latin America Region attended the meeting and reception, which included representation from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States and Venezuela.

The meeting started with greetings from AAPG leadership, including President Lee Krystinik, President-elect Randi Martinsen and Vice President, Regions John Kaldi, each of whom congratulated the Region for the highly successful International Conference and Exhibition (ICE) hosted in Cartagena, Colombia in September 2013.

Victor Vega, Latin America Region president-elect showed ICE highlight videos and delivered a presentation featuring the Region's extensive technical offerings, as well as the explosive growth number of Student chapters and Young Professional (YP) chapters being formed. He also provided a snapshot of the Region, which is comprised of 59 percent Students or recent graduates.

Latin America Region leaders encouraged all members to motivate Students and Young Professionals to stay involved with AAPG throughout their careers, as well as to invite current AAPG Associates to convert to full Member status.



Participants in the Latin America Region all-member meeting, 7 April 2014

LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Latin America Region Sends Unprecedented Representation to the 2014 House of Delegates Meeting

AAPG leaders from around the globe gathered in Houston on 6 April for the annual meeting of the House of Delegates. The House of Delegates (HoD), the governing body of AAPG, meets every year before the AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition in the United States.

This year's meeting featured unprecedented presence from the delegates representing AAPG's six international regions, whose representation at the annual HoD meeting increased 31 percent between 2013 and 2014.

Gustavo Carstens, lead delegate from the Latin America Region and representative from the Asociación Argentina de Geólogos y Geofísicos Petroleros (AAGGP), was one of the international delegates who made the trip to Houston.

"The number of delegates present was very high, and fortunately the Latin America Region was at the same level as other Regions. It was clear that the importance of the topics to be discussed impacted the attendance," he said.

One of the most anticipated topics to be discussed was the proposed bylaws amendment to remove the sponsorship

requirement for AAPG membership, a proposal supported unanimously by AAPG international regions.

Regions filled 55 out of 62 positions (89 percent) entitled to them at the meeting, and each Region selected a spokesperson to address the House. Physical presence is important because delegates or pre-approved alternates must be physically present at the meeting in order to vote.

Delegates never voted on completely removing sponsorship as a requirement for AAPG membership, because an alternate amendment lowering the requirement from three sponsors to one was presented first, and the alternate amendment passed with a majority vote.

Carstens said learning HoD meeting procedures was an important part of attendance this year.

"We did a good job preparing our strategy for the meeting, but we didn't know exactly the procedures and then we were surprised by those who really did. It is a lesson learned for future meetings," he said.

Carstens added that while he would have preferred eliminating the sponsorship requirement entirely, he is pleased with the results.

"[The outcome] is not exactly what we were looking for, but it is a step forward. It will help a lot to increase the membership in the Region."

Latin America Region delegate Miguel de Armas of the Asociación Colombiana de Geólogos y Geofísicos agreed adding that most meeting participants seemed to be satisfied with the compromise.

"It is a good step. One sponsor is better than three. Now we should tell everyone in the Region what was decided," De Armas said.

Another outcome of the meeting was voting to approve the Sociedad Colombiana de Geología as an AAPG Affiliated Society. With 10 Affiliated Societies, the Region is now eligible to elect another delegate and send 10 representatives to the 2015 House of Delegates meeting.

The Latin America Region also can qualify for more delegates by increasing the number of AAPG Members in the Region – a key goal for the Region Steering Committee.

Members representing the Latin America Region included delegates Gustavo Carstens (Argentina), Kurt Bayer (Colombia),

Miguel de Armas (Colombia), Curtis Archie (Trinidad & Tobago) and appointed delegates Flavio Feijó (Brazil), Antonio Velasquez (Colombia), Patricio Marshall (Argentina), Felipe Audemand (Venezuela) and Alfredo Guzman (Mexico).

The Latin America Region thanks them for making the effort to attend the meeting and fill all nine positions for the first time ever.



Some of the Latin America Region representatives to the House of Delegates meeting in Houston. (Left to right: Antonio Velasquez, Kurt Bayer, Patricio Marshall, Gustavo Carstens and Flavio Feijó.)

STUDENTS AND YPS

Multiple Opportunities for Geoscience Students in the Latin America Region

August is a month of opportunities for geosciences students in Latin America. In addition to regular chapter activities, Students have the chance to participate in the Latin America Geosciences Student Conference in Mexico City, Mexico and the Geological Technical Week and Geosciences Meeting in Bucaramanga, Colombia. Both events represent a collaborative effort between AAPG Chapters and other geosciences chapters, and they set the standard for inter-societal cooperation across the region.

The 2nd Annual Latin American Geosciences Student Conference (LAGSC) – Aimed at exchanging knowledge and experience among Latin American students, the conference will be held at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico in Mexico City on 4-7 August 2014.

The conference is being organized by the AAPG and SEG chapters of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM), in coordination with EAGE. The first LAGSC was held in Medellín, Colombia in 2013 and had 150 attendees. Organizers hope to double participation this year.

According to UNAM AAPG Chapter President and LAGSC Committee member Antonio Castillo, LAGSC 2014 provides an excellent opportunity for students to catch up on the state of geosciences

in Latin America and Mexico, as well as to experience Mexican culture and daily life.

Conference focus areas include applied geophysics, resources and energetics, geological sciences, geological engineering and physics of the earth's interior. Both undergraduate and graduate students are invited to participate.

Abstract submissions are being accepted until 28 June. For more information or to register for the conference, visit www.lagsc2014.org.

The 11th Geological Technical Week – A forum for technical and scientific interaction between academia and industry in Colombia and in Latin America will be held at the Universidad Industrial de Santander (UIS) on 11-15 August 2014.

The conference is being organized by the Santander Association of Geology Student Chapters (including AAPG, SEG, SEG Economics EAGE, SGA and ACGGP) and is supported by the UIS School of Geology.



The Technical Week is held every two years in different schools of geology around Colombia. The last event, held at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogotá, had more than 300 participants. By providing additional opportunities to engage students and professionals, the organizing committee hopes to have 400 participants this year.

Organizing committee president Flover Rodriguez and former UIS Chapter president and education liaison for the Colombia YP Chapter said the Technical Week is “an event organized by students and for students,” which includes topics of interest including conventional and unconventional resources, minerals, environmental geology, engineering geology, geomorphology and stratigraphy, natural hazards and planetary geology.

Rodriguez encourages geoscience students throughout Colombia and neighboring countries to attend the Technical Week.

“Attending will give you the opportunity to receive high-quality training in various topics of current interest, as well as to meet and interact with students, researchers and professionals from around the country and the region.

Strengthening these friendships, and work and research contacts is of vital importance to your professional development,” he said.

For more information about the Geological Technical Week visit:

<http://semanageologiauis.wix.com/xisemanageologiauis>



Peru YP Chapter Promotes Education Through Short Courses

For Young Professionals in Peru, education does not stop at graduation. That is why the AAPG YP Peru Chapter has hosted four short courses, ranging from two to eight days each, since the start of 2014.

The most recent activity was a core description course, which featured two days of theory and one day of practice and included participants from companies Pluspetrol, Petrobras, Pacific, Savia, Perupetro and Karoon, as well as from Lima's San Marcos University and the University of Engineering.

The close connection to industry is part of the YP chapter's mission, said chapter president Juan Carlos Quinto.

“Our YP chapter has a fascinating role in promoting knowledge, interaction and professionalism. All of our members are working in oil and gas companies in Peru, and we realize how energy is so important and how it manages the road to develop countries like ours,” he said.



Participants in the Core Description short course sponsored by the AAPG YP Chapter.

Quinto has worked with the chapter since its formation in 2011, but he took a more active role in December 2013, when the Executive Committee reorganized and decided to focus heavily on professional development for Peru YPs.

“We realized that all Peru YP members have different backgrounds and technical skills, so we agreed to balance our knowledge through short courses in order to generate more academic equivalence between us and to refresh ourselves on geological issues. These sessions also give us an opportunity to share work experience, opinions and discussions,” he said.

The leadership team's efforts are paying off. The chapter has 32 members, and is growing.

“I think it interesting to see how other colleagues want to join our chapter. That means we are doing a good job,” Quinto said.

In addition to working with Young Professionals, the Peru YP Chapter is lending a hand to the next generation of geoscientists. The chapter's education liaison Miguel Nicho has assisted in the formation of a student chapter at the University of San Antonio de Abad in Cuzco and the reactivation of the Universidad Nacional de San Agustín Chapter in Arequipa.

Congratulations to our new Student Chapters!

San Antonio de Abad, Cuzco, Peru – May 2014

Universidad Nacional de Comahue, Neuquén, Argentina – June 2014

Calling All Young Professionals in Brazil and Trinidad & Tobago!

YP chapters are forming in Brazil and Trinidad & Tobago! To be a part of the team, contact ypchapter.tt@gmail.com (Trinidad & Tobago) or aapg.yip.chapter.brazil@gmail.com (Brazil).

Nicho is working to prepare students for the Imperial Barrel Award competition, and he serves on the organizing committee for the Latin America Region Student Chapter Leadership Summit (SCLS) –scheduled to be held in Lima in November 2014.

Nicho said he is excited about the SLCS, which represents the first time AAPG will hold an event bringing young leaders from different countries to Peru. He added that YP Peru Chapter leaders look forward to attending the SCLS and providing career advice to participants.

“It will be a good opportunity for the students to exchange their experiences as student chapters and to ask us [Young Professionals] their questions.” Nicho said.

For Quinto, assisting others is a natural part of being involved with the Association.

“AAPG is part of my life. I’ve been involved since joining the student chapter at San Marcos University with Miguel Nicho in 2001. I saw how AAPG was growing in Peru through my chapter and through members who were senior geologists. So now it is really important to advance in AAPG, to give back the opportunities given me, and to assist AAPG in Peru in advancing to meet new challenges in the future,” he said.



LCV Peru's Silvia Blanco explains how to recognize and describe sedimentary environments used to identify cores at the YP Peru Chapter's core description short course in Lima.

UPCOMING EVENTS

4-7 June

Congreso Mexicano del Petróleo (Asociación Mexicana de Geólogos Petroleros)

19-23 June

GSTT Angel Falls Geotour (Geological Society of Trinidad & Tobago)

4-7 August

Latin America Geosciences Student Conference (AAPG & SEG UNAM Student Chapters)

11-15 August

XI Semana Técnica de Geología & I Geosciences Annual Meeting (AAPG UIS Student Chapter)

27-29 August

Simposio de Exploradores (Sociedad Colombiana de Geología)

Something to report?

Do you have something to share with the Latin America Region?

Send us your articles, photos and upcoming events for publication in our newsletter and on our website. Send submissions to latinamerica@aapg.org

STAY IN TOUCH

Region website

latinamerica.aapg.org

Email

latinamerica@aapg.org

Phone

+571.485.2338 (Colombia)

+1.281.886.8525 (USA)



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