

# **THE SPATIAL REFERENCE FOR GEOMATICS IN THE AMERICAS**

Authors: Claudio Brunini<sup>1</sup>, Laura Sánchez<sup>2</sup>, Hermann Drewes<sup>3</sup>, William Martínez<sup>4</sup>, Roberto Luz<sup>5</sup>, María Virginia Mackern<sup>6</sup>

Presented by: Alvaro Monett<sup>7</sup>

SIRGAS was created during the International Conference for the Definition of a South American Geocentric Datum, held from October 4 to 7, 1993, in Asunción, Paraguay. The development of SIRGAS “Project” comprised the activities needed to the adoption on the continent of a reference network of accuracy compatible with the techniques of satellite positioning, especially those associated with the Global Positioning System (GPS). Nowadays SIRGAS data are the most basic theme in the SDI’s of the Americas, the basis for spatial data standardization, the space-time link among data sets and information and the common language for data sharing, interoperability and compatibility.

This presentation describes the realized campaigns, with their components and participating countries, processing and combination centers, institutional structure in the different periods composing SIRGAS history, and the exhaustive capacity building process carried out in different countries through specialized courses, SIRGAS schools and other modalities.

The experience of work around SIRGAS development shows that the establishment of a structure (institutional framework) is a good approximation to solve the coordination issues. Also, the establishment of specific working groups is a good way to face both, the technical and policies problems. By other hand it is important understand the capacity building as a key element for the consolidation for a sustainable regional geodetic

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<sup>1</sup> SIRGAS President UNLP – CONICET, Argentina

<sup>2</sup> SIRGAS Vice-President DGFI, Germany

<sup>3</sup> IAG Representative DGFI, Germany

<sup>4</sup> SIRGAS WGII President IGAC, Colombia

<sup>5</sup> SIRGAS WGIII President IBGE, Brazil

<sup>6</sup> SIRGAS - WGI President UN Cuyo, LUJAM Argentina

<sup>7</sup> SDI – Chile Executive Secretariat, PC-IDEA GT Plan Coordinator

framework. From the regional perspective, it is important to achieve synergies linking the work of SIRGAS, using PC-IDEA as a platform of cooperation and collaboration, with the work of the other regions and countries.