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## Introduction of the IEEE Guadalajara Section Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society Chapter

### INTRODUCTION

**A**fter the 2011 International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS) was held at Vancouver, a discussion among some colleagues from the Western Technological Institute of Superior Studies (ITESO, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente) and the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN, Instituto Politécnico Nacional), both from Mexico, showed the necessity to develop a connection between the academic and industrial research communities in remote sensing topics throughout Mexico.

The Chapter would offer the opportunity to foster collaboration among the different and research and development projects based on remote sensing techniques, under the leadership of a growing group of professionals in both, the academic and industrial fields. A

search process began in order to locate the maximum number of researchers working in remote sensing applications throughout the Mexican territory. With the clear idea to create the Chapter, we were able to meet the minimum requirements set by IEEE, and the formal petition was carried.

On October 22nd, 2012, we received the letter from Cecelia Jankowski, Managing Director of Member and Geographic Activities of IEEE, informing us that the requirements of the MGA Board Operations Manual were met, and the IEEE Guadalajara Section Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society Chapter was formed, with a formation date set on October 4th, 2012 with the denomination GRS29 and geocode CH09422.

### INAUGURAL GATHERING

On February 26th, 2013, the first meeting of the members was carried at Mexico City; the venue was the Aerospace Development Center (CDA, Centro de Desarrollo

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### Chapter's Corner



This corner showcases activities by the GRSS Chapters around the world. It is a way to exchange best practices among our members, and suggest ideas to be implemented, although "with a local flavor", in other Chapters. Moreover, we hope that by looking at the organization and actions by their colleagues, some of our members will be prompted to start a new Chapter in their own local region. We would be delighted to help, please drop me a mail!

Just as a reminder, here are a few information about how to start a Chapter, taken from the IEEE web site:

*"A Chapter shall be a technical subunit of a Region, one or more Sections or a Geographic Council. There may be single Society Chapters, joint Society Chapters, and Technical Council Chapters. A Chapter shall comprise a minimum of twelve (12) IEEE voting members of a Society, or group of Societies in the case of a joint chapter, and shall be established by petition.*

*The petition must include (among others):*

- ▶ *Signatures of at least twelve (12) IEEE members, in good standing, of Graduate Student*

*Member, Member, Senior Member or Fellow grade, who are members of the Society(ies) and Section(s) involved. It is suggested that more than the specified amount of names and signatures be included to ensure that all petitioners qualify, thus speeding the petition's processing.*

- ▶ *A business plan that includes mission/goals, planned meetings and activities for first 6 months."*

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**FIGURE 1.** The first meeting of the Chapter.



**FIGURE 2.** Meeting with Melba Crawford at IGARSS 2013.



**FIGURE 3.** The second meeting of the Chapter.

Aeroespacial) of the IPN. The list of participants to this meeting was 22, all from different development areas (engineering, research, academic and social) and different parts of the country. During this session, the Administrative Committee were selected, which is conformed by Dr. Iván Esteban Villalón Turrubiates (IEEE Senior Member, ITESO) as Chapter Chair, Dr. Alejandro Monsiváis Huertero (IEEE Senior Member, IPN) as Chapter Vice-Chair, Dr. Ernesto Soto Galera (IEEE Member, Mexican Petroleum Institute) as Chapter Secretary, and Dr. Guillermo Martínez Flores (IEEE Member, IPN) as Chapter Treasurer. Figure 1 shows a picture of the meeting.

Because members throughout the Mexican territory integrate the Chapter, we decided to request a Joint Chapter in order to remove the “Guadalajara Section” tag and be considered as a Mexican Joint Chapter as a whole. This process is still ongoing.



**FIGURE 4.** Call for Papers of the Research Forum.

### CHAPTER MEETINGS

Some members of the Chapter participated in the IGARSS 2013 at Melbourne, where the Chapter Chair and Co-Chair gave a brief presentation during the Chapters Dinner, and had a meeting with Melba Crawford, President of the Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society. Figure 2 shows a picture taken at the event. This was a great opportunity to introduce our group to the scientific community gathered at the conference.

The second meeting of the Chapter was held on August 21st, 2013, at the CDA in Mexico City with a participation of 18 members. Figure 3 shows a picture taken at the meeting. This reunion was crucial to define a joint working plan for 2013 and 2014, which consider:

- ▶ The planning of a course that will be mainly focused on geomatics and remote sensing, with participation of distinguished lecturers.
- ▶ The planning of a first national research forum on geomatics and remote sensing, which will accept papers in several topics for oral and poster presentations.
- ▶ The proposition of an invited session for the IGARSS 2014 that will be held at Quebec, and will be focused on the research work carried in Mexico.

The third meeting of the Chapter was held on November 13th, 2013, at the Postgraduate School (COLPOS, Colegio de Posgraduados) in the city of Texcoco, with the participation of 29 members. The main focus of this reunion was to promote the activities of the Chapter, also an introduction of the IEEE to a group of interested professionals and students.

### CHAPTER EVENTS FOR 2014

For 2014, we had our first meeting on March 18th at the CDA in Mexico City. The aim was to set the logistics for

the First National Research Forum. Moreover, the invited session proposed for IGARSS 2014 was accepted under the title "Emerging trends and challenges of remote sensing in Mexico", and will present 10 papers of collaborative research work within the members of the Chapter.

The Chapter has an official web page at <http://www.grss-ieee.org.mx>, an official twitter account as @grssieemexico, and the Chapter Chair's e-mail is [villalon@ieee.org](mailto:villalon@ieee.org).

The First National Research Forum titled "The geomatics challenges in Mexico" will be held at the CDA on April 29th, with the presentation of 23 research papers (oral and poster), two plenary sessions and the participation of distinguished guests from the academic and industrial areas. The topics of interest are natural resources and environment, risk and vulnerability, climate change, emerging technologies, and additional topics under consideration of the technical committee. The expected participation for the event is 60 attendants between academics, professionals and students. Moreover, will be a good opportunity to promote the IEEE and GRSS memberships. Figure 4 shows the Call for Papers promoted for the event.

The following activities also include the participation at IGARSS 2014, the planned course of geomatics,

and a couple of member meetings throughout the rest of the year.

## CONCLUSIONS

We hope to maintain a motivated, professional and vibrant GRSS Chapter, with the responsibility to connect the researchers, academics, student, industrial and members working in remote sensing and related areas. We intend to coordinate both, national and international activities and are looking to promote the GRSS within Latin America and the connection with the IEEE Women in Engineering Society. With a country with about 112 million inhabitants distributed in near 2 million square kilometers, we know that the responsibility and commitment of the scientific community must be increased in order to look for opportunities in research and development areas, moreover, the academia must receive an impulse and this is where the Chapter can provide ideas for a better tomorrow. Mexico is growing its remote sensing society, so far the Chapter have about 65 members, most of them are active members of IEEE and GRSS, and from different parts of the country. We intend to work in collaboration and to promote the values of the IEEE.

## GRSS CHAPTERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

| CHAPTER LOCATION                             | JOINT WITH (SOCIETIES) | CHAPTER CHAIR            | E-MAIL ADDRESS   |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Region 1: Northeastern USA</b>            |                        |                          |  |
| Boston Section, MA                           | GRS                    | Francesca Scire Scapuzzo | <a href="mailto:fscore@alum.mit.edu">fscore@alum.mit.edu</a>                   |
| Springfield Section, MA                      | AP, MTT, ED, GRS, LEO  | Paul Siqueira            | <a href="mailto:siqueira@ecs.umass.edu">siqueira@ecs.umass.edu</a>             |
| Rochester/Binghamton/Buffalo/Ithaca/Syracuse | GRS                    | Anthony Vodacek          | <a href="mailto:vodacek@cis.rit.edu">vodacek@cis.rit.edu</a>                   |
| <b>Region 2: Eastern USA</b>                 |                        |                          |  |
| Washington, DC & Northern VA area            | GRS                    | Miguel Roman             | <a href="mailto:Miguel.O.Roman@nasa.gov">Miguel.O.Roman@nasa.gov</a>           |
| <b>Region 3: Southeastern USA</b>            |                        |                          |  |
| Atlanta Section, GA                          | AES, GRS               | Kristin Bing             | <a href="mailto:kristin.bing@gtri.gatech.edu">kristin.bing@gtri.gatech.edu</a> |
| Eastern North Carolina Section               | GRS                    | Linda Hayden             | <a href="mailto:haydenl@mindspring.com">haydenl@mindspring.com</a>             |
| Melbourne Section, FL                        | GRS, AES               | William JuneK            | <a href="mailto:wjuneK@ieee.org">wjuneK@ieee.org</a>                           |
| <b>Region 4: Central USA</b>                 |                        |                          |  |
| Central Illinois Section                     | LEO, GRS               | Weng Cho Chew            | <a href="mailto:w-chew@illinois.edu">w-chew@illinois.edu</a>                   |
| Southeastern Michigan Section                | GRS                    | Adib Y. Nashashibi       | <a href="mailto:nuha@eecs.umich.edu">nuha@eecs.umich.edu</a>                   |
| <b>Region 5: Southwestern USA</b>            |                        |                          |  |
| Denver Section, CO                           | AP, MTT, GRS           | Michael Janezic          | <a href="mailto:janezic@boulder.nist.gov">janezic@boulder.nist.gov</a>         |
| <b>Region 6: Western USA</b>                 |                        |                          |  |
| Alaska Section, AK                           | GRS                    | Franz Meyer              | <a href="mailto:fmeyer@gi.alaska.edu">fmeyer@gi.alaska.edu</a>                 |
| Los Angeles Section, CA                      | GRS                    | Paul A. Rosen            | <a href="mailto:Paul.A.Rosen@jpl.nasa.gov">Paul.A.Rosen@jpl.nasa.gov</a>       |

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