

## The international workshop on forensic investigations of disasters (FORIN) associated with landslides

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From June 26<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>, the First International workshop on forensic investigations of disasters (FORIN) associated with landslides was held at the University of Sciences and Arts of Chiapas (Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapas-UNICACH) in the city of Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico.



Figure 1. Inauguration of the international workshop, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico. From right to left, Anthony Oliver-Smith, Silvia Ramos, Enrique Guevara, Luis Madrigal Frías, Roberto Domínguez-Castellanos, Irasema Alcántara-Ayala, Mario Antonio González Puón and Carlos Daza.

The opening ceremony took place on Wednesday June 26<sup>th</sup> (figure 1). The welcoming speech was made by Roberto Domínguez-Castellanos, Rector of the UNICACH. Authorities from the National Civil Protection System and the Institute of Civil Protection of Chiapas, and the Ministries of Environment and Science and Technology also participated in the inauguration of the workshop. A series of three lectures were given immediately after the official opening. Enrique Guevara, Director of the National Centre for Disaster Prevention (CENAPRED) spoke

onPublic policy on integrated risk management in Mexico.Silvia G. Ramos Hernández's lecture dealt with advances and challenges of seismic and volcanic monitoring for risk management in Chiapas; and, Irasema Alcántara-Ayala gave a presentation on Integrated Research on Disaster Risk.

Twenty five young scientists from different Latin-American countries including Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela attended the workshop. The scientific backgrounds of participants included fields in both natural and social sciences, among them engineering, geology, geophysics, geography, anthropology, politics, architecture, sustainable development, planning and environmental sciences. The gender balance was close to even with 13 males and 12 females (figure 2).



Figure 2. Participants of the First International workshop on forensic investigations of disasters (FORIN) associated with landslides, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico.

Workshop activities included a series of lectures (figure 3), presentations of individual projects, working groups, interviews with local media (figure 4), fieldwork in a local community threatened by landslides, and final project proposals. Study cases included the disasters of Yungay, Perú, 1970; hurricane Mitch in Honduras, 1998; hurricane Katrina, New Orleans, 2005; and the earthquake of Haiti, 2010, among others. Theoretical aspects of the social construction of disasters, vulnerability, landslide hazard, field evaluation of landslides, displacement and resettlements, risk reduction and integrated research on disaster risk were the major topics of the workshop.



Figure 3. Teaching activities: Dr. Roberto Barrios, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois, Carbondale.



Figure 4. Interviews to local media were also a significant activity of the international workshop.



The workshop was sponsored by the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Geographical Union (IGU). It was supported by the ICSU's IRDR program, the ICSU Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ICSU-ROLAC), the Mexican Academy of Sciences (AMC), the International Consortium on Landslides, the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), the University of Sciences and Art of Chiapas, and the National Centre for Disaster Prevention (CENAPRED).



Figure 5. Landslippage in La Cueva del Jaguar, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico.

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