

INSARAG

AMERICAS REGIONAL CHAIRMANSHIP GROUP

Chair MÉXICO: Lic. Ricardo de la Cruz Musalem, General Director of Civil Protection, Ministry of Interior
I Vice-Chair ARGENTINA: Emb. Alejandro Carlos Daneri, President of Cascos Blancos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
II Vice-Chair

News Bulletin, 2018/01

MESSAGE

WELCOME REMARKS

In 2016, Mexico made the decision to join the Regional Steering Group and with that, assumed the responsibility of inspiring and empowering the countries of the Americas to build a strengthened region in terms of emergency response.

Now as Regional President, I reiterate my commitment to continue working hand in hand with OCHA, to keep on this great work, in order to join more countries to INSARAG.

I invite you to continue enriching the continent through the integration and the joint effort of our agencies, because disasters have no borders.

Ricardo de la Cruz Musalem
General Director of Civil Protection in Mexico



Foto: XVI Meeting of INSARAG Americas 2017 – 30/11 Ecuador, credit: @PcSeoob

OF THE AMERICAS

IEC BOMBEROS DE CHILE

On 17 November, 2017, Bomberos de Chile USAR Team successfully finished an intensive 36-hour INSARAG field exercise and classified as a medium team in accordance with the INSARAG guidelines. The team, consisting of 179 volunteer firefighters from all over the country, has become the first country in Latin America and the 51st in the world to successfully undergo an IEC. The team was mentored by Joseph Anthony Bishop from the UK, and a professional group of experts from Switzerland, Spain, France, Germany and the US participated in INSARAG's flagship and unique peer review and quality assurance process.

Foto: IEC de Bomberos de Chile – 17/11/17 Chile.



UPCOMING CONFIRMED EVENTS

- ✓ 5 – 9 February **Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week**, Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ 26 February – 1 March **USAR Coordination Course**, Fairfax, United States
- ✓ 5 – 9 March **IEC SNGRD**, Colombia
- ✓ 23 – 28 September **USAR Coordination Course**, San José, Costa Rica

THE FIRST USAR COORDINATION COURSE IN SPANISH



Foto: First USAR Coordination Course in Spanish – 08/12/17 Costa Rica

Twenty-four participants from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru were trained in the key aspects of USAR coordination using the INSARAG methodology in the first USAR Coordination Course in Spanish, which took place in the Regional Central American Search and Rescue Academy in San Jose, Costa Rica from 4 to 8 December, 2017. The course package was developed in 2016 by the INSARAG Training Working Group to train USAR team leaders and instructors, as well as UNDAC members with experience in USAR coordination methodologies. The second edition of this course is planned for 23 – 28 September in Costa Rica.

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REGIONAL INSARAG MEETING

The XVI meeting of the INSARAG Americas Regional Group was held on from 29 to 30 November 2017 in Guayaquil, Ecuador. It was hosted by the Government of Ecuador in its capacity as Regional Chair and prepared jointly with the I and II Vice-chair, Mexico and Argentina respectively, as well as with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in its capacity as INSARAG Secretariat. The meeting gathered a total of 45 participants from 17 countries of the region, one country from the Africa, Europe and the Middle East (AEME) region, as well as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in its capacity of INSARAG Secretariat. The countries and organizations were all represented by their INSARAG focal points or in delegation of the focal points, as well as with some UNDAC members and UNDAC focal points.

Significant achievements throughout 2017 were highlighted during the meeting, and priorities for 2018 were agreed upon. Participants analysed and shared the lessons learned from the response to the 19 September Mexico earthquake. Representatives of INSARAG Working Groups provided updates on the key themes in the INSARAG community, then the participants split into groups to work on regional contributions for the INSARAG Steering Group on important topics, such as quality assurance for light teams, national accreditation processes or the revision of the INSARAG Guidelines. The new Regional Chairmanship Group was also appointed:

Mexico, represented by Mr. Ricardo de la Cruz Musalem, Director-General of Civil Protection, as regional Chair for 2018; and

Argentina, represented by Amb. Alejandro Daneri, President of the White Helmets Commission, as regional I Vice-Chair for 2018.

We would like to thank the Government of Ecuador for the excellent organization of this meeting and for the determined leadership of the Regional Group throughout the whole year!

The outcomes of the meeting are available in the Chairman's Summary:

http://www.insarag.org/images/Americas_meeting/2017_INSA_RAG_Americas_Chairmans_Summary_Final.pdf.



Foto: XVI meeting of the INSARAG Americas Regional Group 2017 – 30/11 Ecuador

SIMEX BARILOCHE 2017

Between November 21 and 23, 2017, in the City of Bariloche, Republic of Argentina, SIMEX Nacional was held, which is considered the most important platform to strengthen the capacities of the search and rescue groups.

Nowadays, it is observed that large earthquakes have a break in the order of 400 to 500 kilometers, with the propagation of energy heterogeneously.



This activity was sponsored and organized by the Sub Secretary of Civil Protection of the Municipality of San Carlos de Bariloche, who has been working for more than a year for its implementation, in conjunction with the INSARAG Operational Focal Point. With the sponsorship of the White Helmets Commission, INSARAG Political Focal Point and vice president of the regional group.

Although the exercise is of a national nature, it is a reflection of the methodologies and contents of SIMEX International. The participation of USAR teams from Chile, Colombia, Brazil, Paraguay, with their management components as well as UNDAC experts from the region as EXCON.

In the act took place the signature of the joint provision between the Secretariat of Civil Protection and White Helmets that regulates the system of national accreditation of urban search and rescue teams.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Invitation to the Working Group on Regional USAR Capacity Assessment

During the XVI Regional Meeting of November 2017, it was agreed as a priority to continue with the project of Regional USAR Capacity Assessment. Argentina, which will lead the process, and the INSARAG Secretariat, are forming a small Working Group to that end. Those interested in being a part of it should kindly inform the INSARAG Secretariat (eidimtaite@un.org, insarag@un.org), with copy to the Operational Focal Point of your country, by 9 February.

Registration of Observers – IEC SNGRD Colombia

The SNGRD Colombia (Medium) IEC exercise will be take place from 5 to 9 March 2018. The hosts will accept applications from 20 international observers, prioritizing observers from the region and members of teams that will be classified or reclassified in the future. Observers must cover their own ticket expenses (to Bogotá from their country of origin and Bogotá-Armenia-Bogotá), accommodation and food expenses in Bogota. All information, including the registration and the Administrative Note, is available on the Virtual OSOCC: <https://vosocc.unocha.org/VOLogin.aspx?suk=Ru59hs2PgaxxxplusxxxpluswtruraA9a8unuW7m6FhTukgctd8MvDMxxequal>.

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