



***FRIEND/AMIGO
PROJECT FOR
MEXICO AND THE
CARIBBEAN REGION***



**PROCEEDINGS
FIRST MEETING
OF THE COMMITTEE
OF EXPERTS
OF THE JIUTEPEC, MEXICO,**

DECEMBER 1 - 3, 1999



IMTA
Instituto Mexicano
de Tecnología del Agua

1. INTRODUCTION

The first meeting of the Committee of Experts of the *FRIEND/AMIGO Project for Mexico and Caribbean Region* was carried out with the co - auspice of UNESCO, the Institute of Tropical Forests of Puerto Rico (ITF) and the Mexican Institute of Technology of the Water (IMTA), during December 1 to 3, 1999, at the headquarters of the IMTA. Experts from Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico, Puerto Rico, United Kingdom and UNESCO participated in this meeting. The objective of the meeting was to constitute the Committee of Experts of the Project and to approve the Plan of Action until the year 2002.

2. AGENDA

- (a) Welcome by the local authorities
- (b) Presentation of the FRIEND Project
- (c) Presentation of the FRIEND/AMIGO Project
- (d) Presentation on the International Institute for Tropical Forests (ITF)
- (e) Analysis and approval of the Base Document
- (f) Constitution and terms of reference of the Committee of Experts of the FRIEND/AMIGO
- (g) Analysis and approval of scientific projects
- (h) Regional Conference
- (i) Financial aspects
- (j) Plan of Action
- (k) Mechanisms of Work
- (l) Conclusions

3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEETING

- (a) Dr. Javier Francisco Aparicio Mijares, Coordinator of Hydrological Technology of the IMTA, welcomed the participants, placing all the IMTA facilities at their disposal.
- (b) Dr. Carlos Fernández-Jauregüi, Regional Hydrologist, explained the characteristics of the UNESCO FRIEND Project and the expectations of the UNESCO Regional Office of Science and Technology for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROSTLAC), from the *FRIEND/AMIGO Project for Mexico and Caribbean Region*. Dr. Fernández-Jauregüi also made an INTERNET demonstration of the facilities existing in the Region for this Project through the computer system LACHYCOS. On the other hand, Dr. Alan Gustard, President of the FRIEND International Steering Committee, made a brief intervention on the state and the results of the FRIEND Project in the world and the extent of collaboration among the regional groups. Mr. Gustard offered to send to all members of the Committee of Expert, documents related to the databases developed in other FRIEND groups.
- (c) MSc. Eduardo Planos O. Gutiérrez, Regional Coordinator of the *FRIEND/AMIGO Project for Mexico and Caribbean Region*, presented a report on the status of the coordination actions and the Project Base Document. Mr. Planos indicated that, during 1999, the Coordinator's office, with the support of ORCYT - LAC, sent to all the countries of the Region the Base Document, propitiated the appointment of experts and maintained permanent consultation with the designated experts. Five countries, members of UNESCO, Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico, Dominican Republic and Trinidad Tobago and the Institute of Tropical Forests of Puerto Rico, showed an immediate interest of participating in the Project and four of these countries Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico and Puerto Rico, nominated experts.

- (d) Dr. Frederick Scatena summarized the characteristics of the ITF work, the projects that are executed and the interest of that Institute in supporting the FRIEND/AMIGO initiative.
- (e) The assisting experts expressed their favorable opinion on the Base Document, adopting it as the work document. The prospective results of the First Phase of the Project (2000 - 2002), are as follows:
- Development of a Home Page and database, linked with the ROSTLAC *LACHYCOS* System
 - To elaborate a monograph that shows the State of the Art in the scientific topics that are executed under this project, the necessities and work perspectives in the Region.
 - Prepare the First Regional Conference, in the year 2001.
- (f) **Constitution and Terms of Reference of the FRIEND/AMIGO Committee of Experts:** following the norms established in the Base Document, the Committee of Experts was constituted by the gentlemen: Cesar Buján Rubio (CUBA), Herbert Thomas (JAMAICA), Roberto Mejía Zermeño (MEXICO) and Frederick Scatena (PUERTO RICO).

The Second Meeting of the Committee of Experts will be held in Jamaica, in November, 2000.

- (g) **Scientific projects:** the adopted projects and their regional coordinators for the First Phase were as follows:

Project	Coordinator	Participating
Home Page and Data Base	Roberto Mejía Zermeño	Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, other countries from the Region
Eco hydrology	Frederick Scatena	Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico, other countries from the Region
Maximum hydrological phenomena	Cesar Buján Rubio	Mexico, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, other countries from the Region
Low flow	Roberto Mejía Zermeño	Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, other countries from the Region

The coordinators of scientific projects will prepare a brief document of each project (two pages maximum) that will contain the following information:

- Title
- Objectives
- Antecedents
- Period of execution
- Prospective results
- Work calendar
- Participants

These documents will be circulated among the members of the Committee of Experts, for their comments before their definitive adoption as guide for the work and before they are published in the Home Page of the FRIEND/AMIGO Project.

(h) Regional Conference:

The Regional Conference will be a forum to discuss the results reached in the Project, the needs of the Region and the necessary actions to implement the Second Phase of the Project, in all Latin America Region.

The experts that act as coordinators of the scientific projects will have the responsibility to prepare the central report for each selected topic and to drive the work sessions for each topic, that will be discussed in the Conference,

A number of papers - speakers will be invited, based on the contribution that they can make to the debate; in the same way, reports will be selected among those that react to the Conference announcement.

The provisional date of the Conference is November 2001, and the headquarters will be the Dominican Republic

(i) Financing

The FRIEND/AMIGO Project begins with the co-patronage of UNESCO, CATHALAC, ITF and the IMTA. The minimum financing foreseen for the year 2000 is of about 22 thousand USD.

The Dr. Alan Gustard announced that several financing opportunities exist, through the Government of the United Kingdom, the Institute of Hydrology of UK and the International Steering Committee of the FRIEND Project.

(j) Plan of General Action until the year 2002:

Activity	Task	Date	Place	Responsible / Participants
1 Home Page and Data Base	Home Page and Data base Workshop	February 2000	IMTA México	Roberto Mejía Zermeño, Eduardo O. Planos Gutiérrez, IMTA staff
	Caribbean Atlas revision	Will be define after, 2000	Montevideo Uruguay	Herbert Thomas
	Home Page presentation on Internet	February - march , 2000	IMTA México	Roberto Mejía Zermeño, Eduardo O. Planos Gutiérrez, IMTA staff
2 Eco Hydrology	Preparation, consultations among experts and to send document to the Coordinator	January - February 2000	Puerto Rico	Frederick Scatena, with members of the Committee of Experts and countries of the Region
3 Maximum hydrological phenomena	Preparation, consultations among experts and to send document to the Coordinator	January - February 2000	Cuba	Cesar Buján Rubio, with members of the Committee of Experts and countries of the Region
4 Low flow	Preparation, consultations among experts and to send document the Coordinator	January - February 2000	México	Roberto Mejía Zermeño, with members of the Committee of Experts and countries of the Region
5 Development of project task	Tasks foreseen in the file of projects	According Project calendar		Coordinators and participants
6 Presentation of speaker proposals for Regional Conference		February - March 2000		Experts
7 Coordinator activities	Compilation and preparation of project file	February - March 2000		Coordinator
	Work Evaluation	Cuatrimestral		
	Firths Regional Conference Announcement	January 2000		
	Field work in the Region	According needs		
8 Second Expert Committee meeting		November - December, 2000	Jamaica	Herbert Thomas and Eduardo O. Planos Gutiérrez
9 Regional Conference		November - December, 2001	Jamaica	Herbert Thomas and Experts and speakers

(k) Mechanisms of Work:

- The Committee of Experts will work through the electronic Round Table amigo@unesco.org.uy, enabled by ROSTLAC.
- All the information will be compiled by the Regional Coordinator who will act as facilitator of the work
- The Committee of Experts will meet once a year, if deemed necessary.
- The Regional Coordinator will represent the FRIEND/AMIGO Project in the International Steering Committee of the FRIEND Project
- All the documents of the Project will be elaborated in English and Spanish.

(l) Conclusions

The regional Coordinator made a summary of the agreements adopted during the meeting and thanked, on behalf of the participants and of the UNESCO the facilities and attentions given by the colleagues of the IMTA.

4. PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING

- **Carlos Fernández-Jauregüi**, Regional Hydrologist, Regional Office of Science and Technology of the UNESCO for Latin America and the Caribbean, uhcj@unesco.org.uy
- **Alan Gustard**, President of International FRIEND Steering Committee, Institute of Hydrology of United Kingdom, agu@mail.nwl.ac.uk
- **Eduardo O. Planos Gutiérrez**, Regional Coordinator FRIEND/AMIGO Project for Mexico and Region of Caribbean. Instituto de Meteorología de Cuba, planos@met.inf.cu

- **Cesar Buján Rubio**, Centro de Hidrología y Calidad de las Aguas de Cuba, cenhica@ceniai.inf.cu
- **Herbert Thomas**, Water Resources Authority, Jamaica, tommie@cwjamaica.com
- **Roberto Mejía Zermeño**, Instituto Mexicano de Tecnología del Agua, rmejia@tajin.imta.mx
- **Fred Scatena**, Institute of Tropical Forest, Puerto Rico, fscatena@Ltinternet.edu

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