

Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding is executed within the framework of academic-technological collaboration between both institutions., by and between:

The Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, hereafter referred to as "INGV", is a Public Research Institution having its principal place of business with address Via di Vigna Murata 605, 00143 Rome (Italy), represented by its President, Prof. Carlo Doglioni.

The Quito Astronomical Observatory "OAQ" is part of the National Polytechnic School "EPN" and is dedicated to research in the field of Astronomy and Space Weather as well as the promotion and dissemination of this knowledge within Ecuador. This agreement is with the National Polytechnic School, represented by its Rector, Dr. Tarquino Sánchez Almeida.

Considering the development of cultural and scientific cooperation to be of mutual advantage to both parties, and desiring to reinforce such cooperation, the parties agree on the following points:

- 1 Scientific and educational cooperation shall be undertaken in the field(s) of:
 - a) Ionospheric Physics
 - b) Space weather

Such cooperation shall be carried out on the basis of equal and mutual advantage, taking into consideration, through mutual consent, the budget available at the moment in time and the experience acquired by the interested scholars from both parties.

The above-mentioned institutions agree to facilitate exchanges of knowledge and joint work and provide advice in areas of mutual interest by their scientific-technological staff with the aim of promoting the development of thesis work and common research projects. In particular, it stands out:

- a) Exchange of visits by scholars;
- b) Participation in research programmes;
- c) Organization of joint data acquisition campaign, scientific instruments and data sharing;
- d) Organization of scientific meetings, seminars and courses on subject(s) laid down in the Agreement;
- e) Exchange of scientific information and scientific papers;
- f) Collaborative Sponsored Research and Development activities and joint publications/patents;
- g) Joint supervision of Graduate dissertations/Ph.D. Thesis.

The respective scientific scholars responsible for the project are Dr. Claudio Cesaroni for INGV and Dr. Ericson López responsible for OAQ.

This agreement shall remain in force for three years and may be terminated by either party with a minimum of 120 days written notice. Activities in progress at the time of termination of this Agreement shall be permitted to conclude as planned unless otherwise agreed.

Parties may apply for renewal of the Agreement for a further period of equivalent duration. If not renewed, the Agreement expired ceases its effects, without prejudice to the continuation of any ongoing activities.

An arbitrators council, made up of a member chosen by each contracting party and a jointly chosen one, shall resolve any eventual controversy concerning the interpretation and application of this Agreement.

This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature by both Parties and remain in force for 3 (three) years. It may be amended, or terminated with written notice of one of the Parties at any time 120 days in advance.

Freely and voluntarily, THE PARTIES appearing hereby acknowledge and accept the content of each and every clause of this Subsidiary Agreement for Interinstitutional Cooperation. Accordingly, they electronically sign it in a single digital copy, with the date of execution being the date recorded with

None of the activities mentioned above, nor the signing of this letter, present financial obligations between both institutions. Likewise, collaboration on future projects that are mutually beneficial is declared of interest.

Instituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia
Prof. Carlo Doglioni

National Polytechnic School
Dr. Tarquino Sánchez Almeida