

The Latinamerican Chapter Poster Presentation, a positive feedback loop

The Latinamerican Chapter has the mission to help the SD-community grow in the Spanish speaking countries. Founded in 2003, it has Latinamerican members from Mexico to Chile, from Spain and a growing number of Spanish speakers living in other countries. Since 2003, the annual meeting allows practitioners to gather and newcomers to get in to touch; we have been in Mexico, Chile, Colombia and Argentina so far. These conferences are the base of our positive feedback loop: each year the number of works submitted and presented is increased.

Since 2005, the Spanish “Revista de Dinámica de Sistemas” publishes two numbers per year. The “sisTEMAS” newsletter and a mail list allow keeping in touch.

During November, the 7th Latinamerican Conference took place in Santa Marta, Colombia, organized by Industrial University of Santander, National University of Colombia and University of Magdalena. During the 2009 Annual Meeting we met many Spanish-speaking members living outside the Spanish-speaking countries and the wider group continues to grow. This year's meeting will take place in Lima, Perú in November 2010. It is an opportunity to welcome new members.

If you would like to join us please contact Gloria Pérez (gloria.perez@itesm.mx), Isaac Dyner (idyner@unalmed.edu.co) or Martin Schaffernicht (martin@utalca.cl).

For "Report of the Latinamerican Chapter Meeting" please go to page two:

Report of the Latinamerican Chapter Meeting

Chaired by Martin Schaffernicht

This year, only few members of the Latin-American Chapter could attend the International Conference (the list of the 9 attendees is in additional material). This has two main reasons: first, the financial situation after the economic crisis puts pressure on budgets; second, travelling from Latin America to South Korea is more expensive than to the usual conference locations.

The main topic of discussion was the “Revista de Dinámica de Sistemas”, the chapter’s Spanish language on-line journal. This journal has published 2 numbers per year from 2005 through 2008, but an insufficient number of submissions lead to an interruption during 2009.

There is an apparent positive feedback relationship between the number of submissions, the academic recognition of the journal (indexation) and its attractiveness to authors. Since the journal is not yet indexed, and most Spanish speaking countries experience rising pressure to publish in indexed journals, the journal has become less attractive; at the same time, the interruption during 2009 makes it impossible to become an indexed journal in the very short term. The same pressure to publish has also reduced the current editor-in-chief’s time available for this task.

Still attendees believe the journal has an important function for those who prefer to write and/or read in Spanish language (which is the *raison d’être* of this chapter). Therefore it has been decided that there will be several editors, first of all Santiago Arango (Universidad Nacional de Colombia) and Camilo Olaya (Universidad Los Andes, Colombia). Second, we will strive to produce special numbers of the journal in order to enhance attractiveness. Our main goal for the next three years is to be indexed in the SCIELO database, which is the main database for Latin-America.

The meeting also dealt with the 8th Latinamerican System Dynamics Conference which will take place in Medellín (Colombia), November 17 through 19 (more information at (<http://convena.upb.edu.co/8encuentros/>)).