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CLAG HERALD

Caribbean & Latin America GLOBE News

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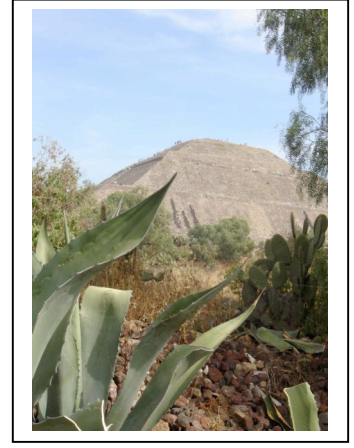
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First GLOBE Teachers Close Encounter in Mexico.

A dream come true for the GLOBE Program in Mexico when at last they could gather all the teachers, trainers and Master Trainers in a Conference celebrated in Oaxtepec, Morelos where they shared all the experiences, the achievements and the challenges of the program in all the states of the country. The Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) hosted the activity that acknowledge the extraordinary work and dedication of the

GLOBE team headed by Guadalupe Pardo, the achievements and efforts of the teachers that gave extra time for developing the program and the benefits for the students increasing their analytical capabilities, scientific thought, improving their self-esteem and teamwork.

The participants left with the compromise that there is one planet, one home, and we all, been members of it, had the responsibility of dedicating our efforts to its preservation.

Caribbean & Latin America GLOBE (CLAG) Consortia Meeting in Panama.



On February 2-3 in the city of Panama, the CLAG Consortia celebrated its second meeting with the extraordinary help of GLOBE Director Phd. Teresa Kennedy, whose efforts for the region were acknowledged during the event that gathered the largest participation of Latin American countries in any GLOBE International activity.

consortia agreed the following: to work together in common protocols to share the experiences, to maintain a web page and a newsletter, to celebrate two meetings yearly and to promote the program with art contests, web chats, videoconferences, and other regional activities. The consortia also acknowledge the tremendous effort of Miguel Zimmerman, Adilia de

Quetzaltcoalt and Davis Station a Mexican Mix.

By Maria Lorraine de Ruiz-Alma

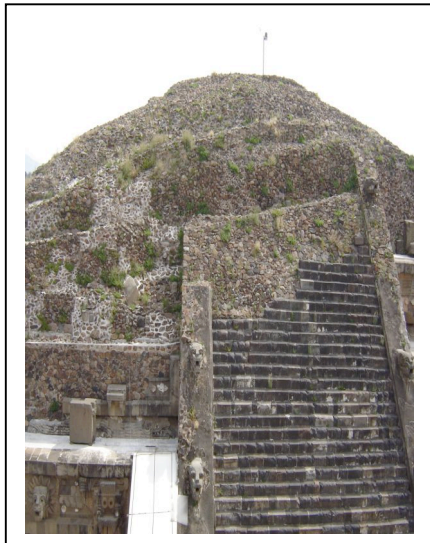
During the First teachers Conference in Mexico, D. F. I had the pleasure to attend Professor José Roberto Pablo Sánchez Alvarez advanced atmosphere protocols workshop, where he shared measurements taken in the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) by his team, and presented the benefits of advanced technology like the Davis Station.

Professor Sánchez is a professional biologist that had always let a hand to GLOBE in Mexico and in International Workshops overseas, its easy to be permeated by his enthusiasm, and difficult to accept that his presentations are finished, as the numerous participants that surrounded him after his workshops with questions and comments demonstrated.

After the Conference in Morelos we pay a visit to the Pyramids in Toetihuacán and Professor Sánchez or Pablo, as we all called

him, commented the efforts he had made trying to convinced the authorities to install an automatic weather station in one of them; “Can you imagine the data we can collect every second in this spot? It will be a great asset to the GLOBE program and to the city, knowing the high measurements in surface ozone, that mark more that 200 ppb in Mexico D.F., and the hard work the GLOBE team is doing training teachers and students to be aware of that” Pablo said.

He was so sad that he didn’t want to visit the Quetzalcoalt pyramid, by our insistence he did, and it was a great surprise for him to discover that a Davis station was standing tall at the top of it. Pablo couldn’t believe it, but there it was, collecting all that wonderful data for scientific purposes, a Mexican Mix of history, science, technology, and nature for the benefit of all human kind.



“...but there it was, collecting all that wonderful data for scientific purposes, a Mexican Mix of history, science, technology, and nature for the benefit of all human kind.”

Water Today, Thirst of Tomorrow.

By Dr. David Solano, Consejo Nacional del Ambiente (CONAM)

This is the name of the research project developed by the students of Teresa Gonzales de Fanning National School in Lima, Peru. They used the GLOBE Program Hydrology protocols to know the contamination grade of the Rimac river from his origin in the snowy Tielio (5,000 m.o.s.) to Lima. The “talking river” (translation from quechua) is one of the most contaminated of the country because of the solid and liquid industrial/mining wastes in it, this situation is a grave risk to the water supply in the capital city. The results of the investigation informed that the dissolved oxygen was 3 ppm (given that the minimum for living things is 6 ppm) so the river was declared dead.

The students proposed several alternatives to solve the serious situation of the Rimac River: To educate the people of Lima to generate a culture of protection for this resource, to teach the farmers the damages

produced by pesticides, fertilizers and chemical wastes, a low consumption of water campaig, to reinforce the treatment of residual waters by mines and industries, to promote water treatment plants, and to increase the participation of society in the control and measurement of the contaminated water.

Is important to mention that Teresa Gonzales de Fanning School won for two consecutive years the medal of honor from the GLOBE Program for their continuous hydrology measurements of the Rimac River.

San Ignacio de Recalde School, knowing the dangers for living things in the Villa swamps in Lima specially for the migratory birds, visited the area with GLOBE trainer Armando Arana, took measurements using the hydrology, soil and land cover protocols and are now preparing a paper with their conclusions to solve the problem.

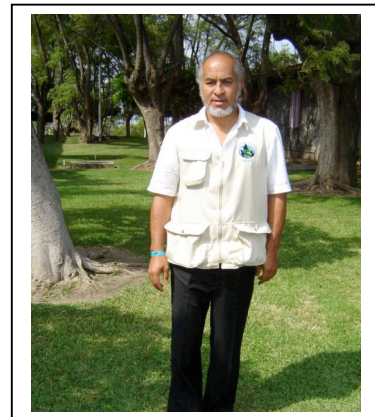


First GLOBE teacher in Mexico is a Successful School Director Today.

Professor Leopoldo Sanchez Chavez always knew that being an educator is a great responsibility, but also knew that knowledge is not only in books or labs, is every where so the environment can't be relegated out of the educators issues. When ten years ago he was invited to the first GLOBE workshop in Mexico at the Actualization Center of Patzcuaro, Michoacan, Mexico he discovered the means to promote in his students the awareness for the environmental topics and the tools to investigate the land around us. A weather station was provided and with the biologists Marth Ruth Chavez and Guadalupe Pardo the first measurements where taken in the school he worked. Prof. Sanchez students analyzed and collected data until their scientific approach gain the community confidence to ask of them the

study of Los Dinamos an ecologic reserve that used to be irrigated by several rivers and only had the Magdalena Contreras River left.

Building an environmentally oriented community among the school and the neighborhood the professor become a well known professional, and given his abilities as an educator and his international projection with the GLOBE Program, he escalated in the school administration pyramid. Today professor Leopoldo Sanchez is the principal at the Jose María Velazco Highschool in Mexico, D. F.; an example of a life dedicated to study, research and training for the benefit of his community and the world.

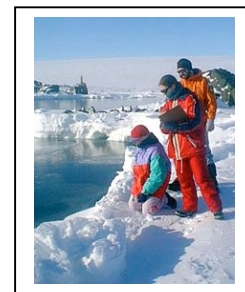


"Today professor Leopoldo Sánchez is the principal at the Jose Maria Velazco Highschool in Mexico, D. F.; an example of a life dedicated to study, research and training for the benefit of his community and the world."

International Polar Year (IPY) Videoconference and Web chats: A Big Step!

The pole-to-pole IPY videoconference on March 5, 2007 was an experience that began to rewrite the definition for community, we are a small world after all! Scientists and students from Fairbanks, Healy, Colorado, Washington D.C., Buenos Aires and Ushuaia exchange their experiences about Artic and Antarctic regions, satellites observations, research, scientific studies about climate change and polar science. As Ingeneer Tulio Del Bono from Argentina said: "...the International Polar Year Initiative is going to allow access to the scientific system, and to the international scientific community, with better information about climate change of the past and the present, and with a better understanding of this information it is surely going to lead the way for more appropriate measurements that ensure a more sustainable future for our planet." The webchat, that follows this main event, gather such an amount of questions the first day that it was really difficult to keep track of the conversations that were

taking place. Latin countries had an important participation from Dominican Republic, Mexico and Peru. With immense proud we noticed that our students inquiries were selected by the scientists to be answered, in the chats and the forum. The concern of most of the Latin students were about the ice melting in the poles, the future situation in 50 years from now, the increasing of the sea levels, effects on the oceans currents, a possible new Ice Age and the steps that must be taken to stop global warming. Transcripts of the videoconference, webchats and forum are available in the GLOBE site (www.globe.gov).



Many questions are yet in the air, but a big turn on the world's interest towards the poles actual situation has been made. Congratulations to all the GLOBE IPY team!

CLAG HERALD



CARIBBEAN & LATIN
AMERICA GLOBE (CLAG)
NEWS

Send your articles about your
projects and activities to:
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GLOBE Art Projects in Schools.

Beginning this month GLOBE Latin Consortia is going to announce the arts and crafts projects in all its member schools. The first one will be for the ongoing GLOBE at Night program that is so popular among our students.

Each school will choose the best works to be send to the country coordinator, the winners of each country

will received a certificate and a publication on the website.

The crafts that are shown at the top were made by the “Secundarias Técnicas” in the First National GLOBE Meeting in Oaxtepec, Morelos, Mexico, during the presentation of “GLOBE in your hands”.



A Regional Project for CLAG.

The Caribbean & Latin America GLOBE Consortia decided in the last meeting at Panama city to develop a common project among the countries: Seasons and Biomes.

The Project Commission for the region received from Dr. Elena Sparrow (Seasons and Biomes Principal Investigator) a few recommendations and announcements that we quote next: “There will be field campaigns announced later.” she wrote, “The GLOBE protocols that will be good for the Seasons and Biomes are: the Plant Phenology budburst, Green-up and Green-down protocols. Air and soil temperatures, precipitation, land cover, soils protocols are also good as well as hydrology. This first year we are concentrating on the Taiga and Tundra Biomes to coincide with the IPY 2007-2009 intense research and education activities . We will be testing the ice phenology protocols and perhaps the frost tube

protocols starting with a workshop here in Fairbanks in March. However GLOBE schools in other biomes can already get started by beginning Phenology protocols or continuing GLOBE measurements in the areas I mentioned above. Also we want to involve students in the International Polar Year to better understand what is going on in Polar regions and how changes in Polar regions affect climate of the world.”

The website is on the GLOBE site specifically:

<http://www.globe.gov/fsl/html/templ.cgi?seasons&lang=en&nav=1>, we all have our expectations at the highest level with this regional project for Latin America and the Caribbean, and hope it will serve as an international cooperation research as well.