# Latin America right on G-track

The XXII ESRI Latin America User Conference 2010 (LAUC 2010) was a spectacle providing an ideal platform for geospatial stakeholders from 16 countries of the region. Organised in Mexico City in association with Sistemas De Informacion Geografica, SA De CV (SIGSA), the three-day conference was an eclectic mix of government users, academia and private industry.

The conference opened with a presentation by Carlos Salman Gonzalez, Director General, SIGSA. Incidentally, the occasion marked the 30th anniversary of SIGSA. Carlos sketched the history of geospatial industry in Mexico and indicated that Mexico is adopting geospatial technologies in tourism, agriculture, forests, minerals and utilities segments.

Dean Angelides, Director, International Operations, ESRI, in his special address, discussed the significance of GIS as a foundation for a strong economy. What started with a few thousand professionals as a research project, GIS, today is all-pervasive, Dean opined and added that computing and networks, measurement, GIS software, GI Science and data policies are all coming together and providing greater geographic understanding of the world. This was followed by a detailed demonstration on ArcGIS 10, its functionalities and exclusive features.

The conference saw the coming together of about 950 delegates discussing various topics like planning, urban and rural cadastre, urban and rural development, public safety, disaster management, infrastructure, agriculture, tourism, natural resources and education. The conference also witnessed the presentation of geospatial excellence awards. A pre-conference workshop on education was well-represented by the local academia and research institutes. The one-day workshop had about 14 papers dealing with various science and applications related to geospatial technologies.

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