



General Information



*Comisión
Federal de
Telecomunicaciones*

VI Space Conference of the Americas (CEA¹)

The CEA is a continental forum of regional and international cooperation. It was created in the early 1990s by the United Nations General Assembly to achieve a convergence of positions on issues of common interest related to the peaceful use of outer space by its Member States, to agree on strategies to promote the practical use of **space applications** to support programs with a high degree of social content for the region, to encourage progress in and development of space law and to strengthen educational programs and training in space science and technology.

Another main goal of the CEA is to examine the possibilities for regional and international cooperation on space issues in order to accelerate social and economic development in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region through the creation of regional and multilateral projects by governmental officials and experts from the participating countries that encourage the use of space applications for the benefit of the developing countries in the LAC region, and to publicize the national and regional programs, the scientific interests and the degree of progress in the applications in Latin America.

Background

To date, five conferences have been held: the first in San José, Costa Rica (1990); the second in Santiago, Chile (1993); the third in Punta del Este, Uruguay (1996); the fourth in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia (2002) and the fifth in Quito, Ecuador (2006). All of the previous conferences have had the support of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) and the participation of the United Nations.

Throughout its existence, the CEA has discussed the various possibilities for regional and international cooperation on space issues by identifying regional strategies and actions that would encourage and promote space applications for environmental protection, the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters, telehealth programs, education and training and programs with a high social impact that would contribute to the economic growth and social development of the countries of the region.

The United Nations General Assembly recognizes the important role of the CEA in strengthening regional and international cooperation among States.

Theme, Location and Dates

The theme proposed by Mexico for the VI CEA is: ***Space and Development: Space Applications at the Service of Humanity and for the Development of the Americas***. The conference will be held in the city of *Pachuca*, in the *Tuzo Forum* of the Pachuca Convention Center from November 15-19, 2010.

¹ CEA is the Spanish acronym for the Space Conference of the Americas (Conferencia Espacial de las Américas).

Participants

All of the countries on the American continent, as States Parties to the CEA, will be invited. In addition, Mexico—as host country of the VI CEA—can invite countries from other continents to participate as **observers**. Furthermore, a large number of space agencies from within and outside of the Americas, United Nations agencies and other international and regional organizations, universities, nongovernmental organizations and representative public and private institutions will be invited.

Official Languages

The official languages of the VI CEA are: **Spanish and English**. These languages were adopted in previous conferences as the official languages.

Format, Preliminary Program and Schedule

The previous conferences were only for governments, which included academic representatives in their delegations. The VI CEA will innovate the traditional format by structuring it into three distinct **sectors: Intergovernmental; Industry and Services; Academia and Research**. A **youth sector** will also be included in the conference (**Youth Forum**) and in the official delegations, and it will open the series on **Space Camps**.

The conference will be organized into a **Plenary** body comprised of governments and **Committees** whose presidents and vice presidents will come from the governmental sector. The intergovernmental commission will negotiate the **Final Declaration** and the **VI CEA Plan of Action**. The **preliminary program** is annexed.

The conference will be held from 9:00 to 18:15 with two hours for lunch, from 13:00 to 15:00.

Structure of the VI CEA

During the conference, the various sectors—**Government, Industry and Services, and Academia and Research**—will meet simultaneously. The topics to be discussed will be addressed by specific **committees and subcommittees** that will be responsible for the important task of analyzing their assigned topics both before and during the conference.

The themes to be discussed include the challenges and prospects for space cooperation in Latin America; the path towards a regional space policy and the promotion of government – industry – academia synergies in research; aerospace science and technology; the progress made by national legislation in space law; the regulation of digital resources and telecommunications in the region; the environment and scientific monitoring to mitigate climate change; a regional system to manage natural disasters based on satellite systems; strengthening space education programs through cooperation; education for the development of systems of technological innovation and competitiveness; epidemiology (the prevention of pandemics); regional and international

cooperation to formulate development strategies for science and technology; strengthening the existing international mechanisms to improve the safety of space operations; innovation in space applications for the improved competitiveness of the region; an analysis of the space potential (industry and services) of the region's investment and business opportunities, the importance of academia and research in developing space technology and its applications; and the role of the younger generations in developing new space applications, among others.

In addition, two important events will be held during the VI CEA:

- ***The International Aerospace Industry and Telecommunications Fair (FIAT in Spanish)***, which brings together suppliers of products and services for the aerospace sector, remote sensing, GIS (Geographic Information System), GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite Systems) and other applications; and the
- ***Latin American Youth Forum on Space Policy***

The conference will provide a large number of public and private national and regional academic institutions with regional and international exposure for their research programs and their applications in the fields of space science and technology which, in turn, should attract more foreign investment in the aeronautics, aerospace and telecommunications industries, as well as the participation of these national and regional institutions in international cooperation programs.

During the conference, Mexico will present the ***Mexican Space Agency (AEXA)*** to the international community, given that the most important space agencies and scientific associations in the world will be present.

Presidency of the VI CEA

The *Presidency of the Conference* corresponds to the host country. For the VI CEA, the ***Presidency*** will be held by ***Ambassador Pablo Macedo Riba***, the Mexican Foreign Ministry's Director General for the United Nations. The Presidency and Vice Presidencies of the committees will be held by various countries of the Americas, in equitable geographic representation. The *President* and the *Vice Presidents* of the *committees* and *subcommittees* will guide the outcome of the conference.

Expected Results

It is hoped that the committees and subcommittees will produce concrete results and ***regional and international cooperation agreements*** on the various topics discussed, whose central component is the use of space applications in support of programs with a high level of social content for the region and that translate into direct benefits for the population (telemedicine, distance learning and prevention of natural disasters, among many other applications).

At the regional level, the VI CEA will be extremely important in helping to develop strategies for the harmonization of the activities of the CEA with those of the Regional

Center of Education in Space Science and Technology for Latin America and the Caribbean (CRECTEALC) within the framework of a ***Latin American space agenda*** with the goal of creating synergies and using the CEA process to give impetus to the adhesion of most of the Latin American and Caribbean countries to CRECTEALC.

The Pro Tempore Secretariat (PTS)

At the conclusion of the conference, Mexico will assume the ***Pro Tempore Secretariat*** (PTS) of the conference for a period of three years in order to preside over the *application of the Plan of Action*. The Foreign Ministers of the host countries have taken the responsibility of acting as the PTSs of the conferences, with the support of national institutions involved in space activities in carrying out their mandate.

With the collaboration of

