



MEMOIR OF THE FIRST NATIONAL MEETING ON HISTORY OF METEOROLOGY

SPONSORED BY THE METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CUBA

On the 3rd day of December in 2013, the First National Meeting on History of Meteorology was held in Havana, in conformity to an agreement of the Board of Directors of the **Meteorological Society of Cuba** (SOMETCUBA).

The meeting took place in Havana Libre Hotel, Salon de los Embajadores I (Ambassadors' Hall I). Eight presentations out of ten were approved by the **Commission of History of Meteorology** (CHM) from SOMETCUBA, after the revision and evaluation of the papers submitted.

Dr. Ismael Clark Arxer, President of the Academy of Science of Cuba, Dr. Maritza Ballester Pérez, Vice-President of de SOMETCUBA; and Professor Luis Enrique Ramos Guadalupe, President of CHM and member of the International Commission on History of the Meteorology (ICHM), presided at the inaugural session of the Meeting. Dr. Silvia Rodríguez Masó and B.Sc. Orfilio Peláez Mendoza from CHM-SOMETCUBA, co-presided the inaugural session.

Special guests that attended to the meeting were Professor Dr. José Luis Nieto Amada, academician and professor at the University of Zaragoza, Spain; Dr. René Esteban Arredondo, Chair of SOMETCUBA in Camaguey and Dr. Ramón Pérez Suarez, titular researcher at the Centro del Clima del Instituto de Meteorología (Meteorology Institute Climate Center). The last two specialists are concurrent members at the CHM-SOMETCUBA.

The attendance to the meeting included the presence of Dr. Lixión Ávila Tuma, Ph.D in Meteorology, senior hurricane specialist and weather forecaster of the National Hurricane Center. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States of America; Professor Bryan Norcross, Senior Hurricane Specialist of the Weather Channel Television Network (USA), Dr. Tomás Gutiérrez Pérez, General Director of the Institute of Meteorology of Cuba, Dr. Eugenio Mojena, researcher at the National Forecasts Center, La Habana, Cuba, and Luis Lecha Estela, researcher at the Meteorological Center in Santa Clara, Cuba.

The program of the Meeting had the following Schedule

1. **Confirmation of participation:** 12:00 h. a 12:45 h.
2. **Opening:** 13:00 h. – 13.15 h. Dr. Ismael Clark Arxer, President of the Academy of Science, Cuba, was in charge of the opening words.
3. **First Thematic Panel:**
 - 13:15-13:30 - **Ramón de la Sagra and his contributions to meteorology in Cuba**, by Ms. Mercedes Valero González, researcher member of the Group of Science Promoters of the Academy of Science of Cuba.
 - 13:30-13:45 – **Notes for a History of Meteorology in Camaguey**, by Dr. Roger Rivero Vega, researcher at the Meteorological Center of the Province of Camaguey.
 - 13:45-14:00 – **Historical summary of Meteorology in the territory currently called Sancti Spiritus**, by M.Sc Alfredo S. Ruiz Arias, Meteorological Center of the Province Sancti Spiritus.

14:00-14:15 – **Witnesses in time**, by Miss. Karen L. Viciado Lima, Mr. Orlando Peña Aurquíá and Mr. Yoel A. Cala Pérez, students in year four of the career Meteorology, at the Instituto Superior de Tecnología y Ciencias Aplicadas (Ins Tec), (Higher Institute of Technology and Applied Science, (Ins Tec) in Havana.

At the end of the Panel, Dr. Lixión Ávila Tuma congratulated the presenters of **Witnesses in time**, accomplished by a group of students of the career Meteorology, and pointed out that the presentation had given him the possibility of including the idea in a conference that he would dictate for a group of United States students in the following weeks.

B.Sc. Orfilio Pelaez acted as the moderator of the First Thematic Panel.

4. Second Thematic Panel:

14:35-14:50 – **Historical Synthesis of the Military Aeronautical Meteorology in Cuba (1918-1958)**, by M.Sc. Iván González Valdés, Instituto de Aeronáutica Civil de Cuba (IACC).

14:50-15:05 –**Polemical issues regarding the hurricane of 1948**, by Mr. Jorge Perez Doval, Member of the Meteorological Society of Cuba

15:05-15:20 – **Cuban meteorological, astronomical and geographical memoirs from a learned man faded into oblivion: J. J. Ferrer Cafranga**, by Professor Dr. Ofelia Lucía Gutiérrez Sosa. Ph.D. in Astronomy. Cátedra de Cultura Científica Félix Varela, Havana University.

15:20-15:35 – **Bastions for meteorological sciences**, by B.Sc. Nancy Aurea Ondarza Linares and B.Sc. Roberto Aroche Ramírez. Both of them are specialists at the Meteorological Center of the Province of Camaguey.

At the end of the Panel, Dr. Ramón Pérez Suárez proposed to present the historical wealth of Cuban meteorological patrimony in a series of television programmes. The series would make it possible to show the relation of Cuban meteorological patrimony with the lives and works of Cuban thinkers and intelligentsia that forged Cuban culture. Specifically, he proposed to carry out a project similar to our project “Universidad para Todos” (University for Everybody)

Dr. Rodríguez Masó acted as the moderator of the Second Thematic Panel.

This was the end of all the presentations.

5. CLOSURE OF THE FIRST NATIONAL MEETING ON HISTORY OF METEOROLOGY, Professor Luis Enrique Ramos Guadalupe, Chair of CHM-SOMETCUBA, was in charge of the final words. He asked the audience for a round of applause in order to evoke the memory of seven outstanding personalities in the history of meteorology in Cuba: José Z. González del Valle, Andrés F. Poey Aguirre, Benito C. Viñes Martorell, s. j., Luis García Carbonell, Mariano Gutiérrez-Lanza Diez, s. j., José Carlos Millás Hernández y Mario E. Rodríguez Ramírez.

The meeting finished at 15:50 h.

The inaugural session of the **VII Cuban Congress of Meteorology**, scheduled for 4:00pm, took place in the **Salón Solidaridad** in the same Hotel Habana Libre, at the end of the **FIRST NATIONAL MEETING ON HISTORY OF METEOROLOGY**

CHM-SOMETCUBA thanks everyone for the contributions to the successful development of the Meeting.

Commission of History of Meteorology.

SOMETCUBA

Havana, December 4, 2013.



Roger Rivero Vega, Ismael Clark Arxer, Alfredo Ruiz Arias, Jorge Pérez Doval, Luis E. Ramos Guadalupe, René Estevan Arredondo, Iván González Valdés, Roberto Aroche Ramírez, Ofelia L. Gutiérrez Sosa, Mercedes Valero González, Silvia Rodríguez Masó y Orfilio Peláez Mendoza.



First session of the Meeting



Dr. Maritza Balkester Pérez, Dr. Ismael Clark Arxer and Professor Luis E. Ramos Guadalupe