

Subject: [Coconet-update] COCONet Newsletter May 2013
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CC:

News From the Continuously Operating Caribbean Observational Network (COCONet) - May 2013

Project Highlight: British Virgin Islands and Anguilla

UNAVCO staff with local partners installed new continuous GPS and meteorological sites in [Virgin Gorda](#) (CN03) in the British Virgin Islands and [Anguilla](#) (CN02) as part of COCONet in February and April of 2013, respectively. The British Virgin Islands Department of Disaster Management produced a nice video about COCONet that is provided as part of the UNAVCO project highlight. More information about the new stations is available through the [UNAVCO Project Highlight](#) page.

PASI: Atmospheric Processes in Latin America and the Caribbean

The PASI (Pan American Advanced Studies Institute) Short Course: [Atmospheric Processes in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) will take place in Cartagena, Colombia, 27 May to 7 June 2013. The short course is full, but there will be opportunities for those who cannot attend the course in person to view some of the course materials and course discussions. Please visit the course webpage for more details. The course is supported by a grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation with additional support from the Colombian Geological Survey and COCONet.

PASI: Magma-Tectonic Interactions in the Americas – Materials

The PASI (Pan American Advanced Studies Institute) Short Course: Magma-Tectonic Interactions in the Americas took place in León, Nicaragua on 5-19 May 2013. In about two weeks, the presentations and other materials will be available on the [webpage](#). Please visit the webpage for more information.

AGU Meeting of the Americas – COCONet Sessions

The [AGU's Meeting of the Americas](#) was held in Cancun, Mexico from May 13-17, 2013. There was a full day of COCONet-related sessions on May 17. A poster session in the morning and an oral session in the afternoon covered research in the Earth and atmospheric sciences. Karl Feaux started the oral session with an overview of COCONet. He noted that there are about 30 stations operating and about 30 more stations to install. Researchers interested in COCONet can sign up to the list serv (coconet-alert AT [unavco.org](#)) and browse reports, other documents, project highlights and the newsletter on the [web page](#). Feaux noted that the UNAVCO facility and COCONet will need to consider ways to coordinate efforts in the near future. Chuck DeMets spoke about plate tectonic modeling in the circum-Caribbean. He noted that although there is more geodetic data available, because it is not accessible, the models are limited and cannot resolve motions enough to affect risk resiliency at this time. He focused on a more detailed model of about 5 microplates at the northern edge of the Caribbean plate, especially around Hispaniola.

Roberto De La Rosa discussed Caribbean plate motion around Colombia and concluded that the plate motion is partitioned between 2 microplates along the Bocono fault and along another fault. Franck Audemard discussed the complex tectonics of northern Venezuela and noted some faults are locked at depth and creeping at a shallow level. Carlos Reinoza provided a strain model of the El Pilar fault of northern Venezuela, showing that the fault is creeping, dipping at an angle and is asymmetric. Rocco Malservisi talked about the high rate GPS for the Nicoya earthquake of 5 September 2012. The data

shows co-seismic slip occurring over 5 hours and 2 different relaxation periods (30 days and 150 days). Marino Protti described the motion of the Cocos plate determined from GPS, especially a newer station on Cocos Island, which is the only part of the plate above water. John Braun concluded the oral session with an overview of the atmospheric applications of COCONet.

Nature Magazine News Story About COCONet

Alexandra Witze, a reporter for Nature, attended the AGU Meeting of the Americas and interviewed many COCONet partners. A news story about COCONet will be published in Nature soon.

UNAVCO's GAGE Proposal Recommended by National Science Board

The National Science Board, an advisory arm of the National Science Foundation has unanimously recommended the UNAVCO proposal, Geodesy Advancing Geoscience and EarthScope (GAGE), for support at its May 2013 [meeting](#). The proposal would fund the facility for a 5-year term beginning on October 1, 2013. The actual funding level still needs to be determined. The UNAVCO facility will need to integrate efforts on other projects including COCONet and consider long-term goals of ongoing projects with the integrated facility.

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