



## GUATEMALA CONVENES OVER 50 CLIMATE CHANGE EXPERTS AND SCIENTISTS

During three days Antigua Guatemala will be hosting the 26th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI).

The IAI is a regional intergovernmental organization that promotes research and capacity building to provide decision-makers in the continent and worldwide, with scientific information from several disciplines, particularly those related with climate change mitigation and climate change driven environmental changes, as well as to meet the demands of multilateral environmental agreements to IAI members. The major goal of the meeting is the exchange of knowledge among scientists and Party representatives to further strengthen collaboration bonds among each other in the area of science and technology.

Some of the IAI researchers, globally recognized for their contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), will share their knowledge on issues related to the importance of Nitrogen to mankind and the threats driven by inappropriate use, the response of tropical dry forests in the Americas to climate change and human activities, among others, as well as the achievements and next steps of an initiative aimed at strengthening water security in the Americas.

“The National Secretariat for Science and Technology volunteered at the IAI Conference of the Parties and the World climate Change Council to host this meeting in view of the high vulnerability of the country to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. Consequently, the National Secretariat for Science and Technology is responsible for organizing this meeting, which, among others, will introduce science and technology projects addressing these and other issues that are under way in Guatemala in order to position ourselves in the international arena” said Dr. Oscar Cobar, National Secretary for Science and Technology.

The IAI was established 25 years ago and has nineteen members: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, México, Panamá, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, United States of America and Venezuela.



Members of the Bureau of the Executive Council 2016-2018 are Chair, Dr. María Uhle (United States of America), First Vice-Chair, Dr. Fernando Méndez Gaona (Paraguay) and Second Vice-Chair, Dr. Gladys Santis (Chile).

“The IAI has the privilege and is grateful for being able to hold its Conference of the Parties in Guatemala. The Central American region is facing a number of urgent challenges related to global change and in particular climate change. This meeting will provide policy makers and scientists in the Americas the opportunity to discuss the research that is necessary to guide feasible actions towards the mitigation of the impacts of global changes in Guatemala and other countries in the Americas”, expressed the IAI Executive Director, Dr. Marcos Regis da Silva.