

TITAN - PLANETARY SCIENCE GROUP - NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBIA.
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Introduction. TITAN - Planetary Science Group of National University of Colombia (UN) is the first academic group on Planetary Science created in Colombia. From the Department of Geology at UN started this initiative to begin serious work on these topics. The strong interest within the academic campus to work in planetary topics caused that between teachers and students a working group and research supported by the university was created. Since the formation of this group has existed a partnership working of all academic population interested in geological, geophysical and geochemical phenomena of Solar System.



Fig 1. Part of Planetary Science Group members with a fragment meteorite found in Colombia.

Conformation. Among several members of the group combines extensive experience in geological themes applied to different Solar System bodies, mainly in planetary volcanism, satellite image processing, geomorphology and characterization of meteorites. According as the group was known in the local academic community, more people are interested to work and direct their academic activity to the Planetary Sciences. The creation of this academic group arose from the need to connect researchers, students and enthusiasts of these issues to begin serious work on these sciences from country's largest university. The group also aims to be a starting point for planetary research in Colombia.

Making Planetary Science in Colombia. Colombia is a country that has no experience in planetary issues, so the work to do is huge. Creating a group of Planetary Science is the first step, which we have done

successfully. Later on, start doing scientific research and produce quality material, which is our activity right now. To generate this quality scientific material, we rely on authoritative sources (mainly NASA and ESA), which we download data to subsequent processing and analyzing. We also make an arduous review of scientific articles previously published to compile current knowledge on the specific topic that is working, for each case.

B.Sc and M.Sc thesis. A very important part of the activity of TITAN - Planetary Science Group is the realization of degree works planetary topics and invite more students to do their degree work on these issues, not only from the Geology department but from other careers in science and engineering in the National University of Colombia. Right now several articles are finishing on volcanism, cryovolcanism, mars geomorphology, geochemistry and asteroid impacts.



Fig 2. Part of Planetary Science Group members with colombian planetary scientist Adriana Ocampo, PhD.

Educational Impact. Being the first group of Planetary Science in the country, the impact on its few months of existence has been great, generating great interest in the scientific community in Colombia.

Scientific Divulgation. TITAN conducts scientific divulgation activities directed primarily to college audiences. In 2014, we will begin a series of talks for the general public as part of the public outreach activities of the group.

Conclusions. TITAN - Planetary Science Group UN is the first group in Colombia that has started an academic and research work on planetary topics and brings together researchers, students and science writers in the country in a single path that leads to realization of Planetary Science in Colombia.