



papers published in 2008) with regard to publication growth rate during that period. France is Brazil's second largest partner in science publishing, after the US.

France and Brazil have a long history of cooperation, dating back to the days of Oswaldo Cruz (physician), Claude-Henri Gorceix (geologist), and Claude Levi-Strauss (ethnologist). The two countries recently collaborated in the field of biodiversity, through the creation of the Franco-Brazilian Center for Amazonian Biodiversity.

Brazil is CNRS's leading partner in Latin America. CNRS's involvement in the country dates back to 1975 when it signed its first agreement with the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq),³ which was extended in 2007 to include tools for structured cooperation.

CNRS currently operates an international joint unit (UMI)

with IMPA,⁴ in Rio de Janeiro, one of the top mathematics institutes in the world. The country also boasts two existing LIAs (International Associated Laboratory). The first, associating CNRS and FioCruz⁵ in Rio de Janeiro, focuses on immunology and biomedical research while the second, named IPAF,⁶ coupled with UESC⁷ and based in Ilhéus, specializes in chemical analyses.

A third LIA specialized in electromagnetism and magnetic modeling (called MAXWELL) should soon be launched. It will bring together CNRS, São Paulo University, UFSC⁸ in Florianópolis, and UFMG⁹ in Belo Horizonte.

CNRS and Brazilian institutions are involved in a number of other collabora-

01 Rio de Janeiro. **02** Ongoing research with the UFMG. Measurement of the electromagnetic effect of an electric cable on a maintenance electrician, on a colored scale from no effect (blue) to high effect (yellow).

tions including 9 PICS (International Programs for Scientific Cooperation), and 26 bilateral and 16 regional projects promoting researcher exchanges. CNRS is also part of an important Franco-Brazilian Network in mathematics.

In 2010, CNRS took its commitment further by establishing an office in Rio de Janeiro. This is the second CNRS office in Latin America, and the first in the region to be dedicated to a single country (see box). This should help to strengthen the numerous existing ties between the two countries.

- 01. Ministério de Ciência e Tecnologia.
- 02. Plano de Ação de Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação (CT&I) para o Desenvolvimento Nacional 2007-2010.
- 03. Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico.
- 04. Instituto Nacional de Matemática Pura e Aplicada.
- 05. Fundação Oswaldo Cruz.
- 06. Instituto de Pesquisa e Análises Físico-químicas.
- 07. Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz.
- 08. Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina.
- 09. Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais.

NEW RIO OFFICE FOR CNRS

Last June, the new CNRS office in Brazil was officially inaugurated in Rio de Janeiro. For the time being, CNRS Brazil is run single-handedly by bureau director Jean-Pierre Briot. Yet the establishment of the new office underlines CNRS's commitment to Brazil as a key partner in Latin America. Up to now,

all CNRS action in Latin America was coordinated by the regional office in Santiago de Chile. That office, which opened in 2002, continues to oversee CNRS activities in the region, now with the exception of Brazil. "Brazil is a country that has greatly increased its strategic importance in recent years," Briot explains.

The new director says his main objective is to help build more structured cooperative projects between the two countries. "There are strong links between the scientific communities in France and Brazil." While many joint projects already exist, he would like to see more of them develop formal

structures, like LIAs, GDRs, or UMIs. Briot sees his role as representing both CNRS in Brazil, and Brazil's scientific potential for CNRS. His objectives also include identifying collaboration opportunities and helping Brazilian and French scientists in ongoing cooperative projects.

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