# OSG – Americas

# Education and Training Initiative

The Open Science Grid consortium (OSG) provides end-to-end support for scientific research and educational organizations to build and access campus, national and community based distributed computational facilities.

As part of its international mission, the OSG provides education and outreach to enable and facilitate the building and operation of equivalent infrastructures locally, and engage local scientists and researchers in their use.

In 2009, the third year of the OSG five-year project, we are focusing on such outreach in countries of Central and South America. The main vehicles for the outreach are training events in international setting as well as in the US. For events hosted internationally the OSG contributes with specific training materials, presentation of classes and hands on workshops, and follow-up activities. In general the communities we work with have little or no background in distributed computing.

To date we have collaborations in progress with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and  Mexico.

There are two main goals of this initiative:

- first to provide training for information technologists to build their own locally distributed infrastructures  - campus, regional or national grids;
- and second, to train young Latin American scientists in the ability to use grids and grid computing in their research.

In both these activities OSG trains the information technologists and researchers how to install, configure and use the OSG and VDT software stacks.

Following the workshops, OSG also makes its resources available to the students to encourage continued use of the techniques they have learnt. The students access the OSG through OSG's Education Virtual Organization, and/or through other VOs for specific scientific projects, following the policies of the organizations involved.