CHILE AS AN ASTRONOMICAL PLATFORM; A CHALLENGE FOR DIPLOMACY

Gabriel Rodríguez
Director of Energy, Science & Technology and Innovation (DECYTI)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
State of astronomy in the region in 1985

1985

United States
Australia
Hawai
Chile

4M
Palomar
Lick
Kitt Peak
(WIYN)
(APO)
CFHT
WHT
CTIO
AAT
ESO3.6

La Palma
8 years ago...

- 8M
- Keck I & II
- Gemini N
- Subaru
- MMT
- (LBT)
- (GTC)

- VLT – 4
- Magellan – 2
- Gemini S

La Palma
Today
In 7 years Chile will have 70% of all the telescopes installed around the world.
• To make astronomical observations from the Southern Hemisphere.

• Clean skies (atmospheric transparency, importance of diminishing light pollution).

• Height, dry environment.

• Clear rules for astronomical centers.

• Promotion of the development of astronomical science.

• High quality of technological services and human capital resources.
Future Telescopes to be installed in Chile

- **Llano Chajnantor:** 66x 12m ALMA
- **Cerro Chajnantor:** 6.5m TAO
- **Cerro Pachón:** 8m LSST
Future Telescopes to be installed in Chile

Cerro Chajnantor: 25m CCAT
Cerro Las Campanas: 25m GMT
Cerro Armazones: 42m E-ELT
1. ASTRONOMICAL SCIENCE

- Cooperation with universities of prestige and academic excellence worldwide (USA, Japón, UE, etc).

- Development of advanced human capital in sciences related to astronomy: mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, optical engineering, and technical applications.

- Scientific funds for the development of astronomy (GEMINI, ESO, ALMA)

- Increase the number of astronomers from chilean universities.

- Strengthen doctoral programs in astronomy in chilean universities. Internationalization of these programs.

MAIN ACTION: Chilean candidacy to host the General Assembly of the IAU.
2. DEVELOPMENT OF ASTROENGINEERING

- Promote a national development of technology.
- Increase the participation of companies, investigation centers, and of institutions related with the creation, operation and maintenance of telescopes.
- Creation of the International Liasson Officer (ILO), Ministry of Economy.
- Promote the participation of chilean industry.

- MAIN ACTION: Second Workshop on Astroengineering
3. COUNTRY IMAGE AND TOURISM

- Reinforce a strategic axis of our country image based on astronomy.

- Create an infrastructure that articulates an important touristic offer based on astronomy.

- Keep and improve the protection of observation sites.

- **MAIN ACTION: Preservation of dark skies**
4. EDUCATION FOR SCIENCE AND CULTURE

- Promote astronomy as a vehicle for students to approach science.

- Foster astronomical science through its inclusion in academic programs in chilean schools.

- Creation of an Astronomical Network for Citizens.

- Bring astronomy closer to citizens.

- MAIN ACTION: Astronomical Network for Citizens
DECYTI

Diplomacy supports the leap towards development

- Natural Laboratories (Sismology, Polar Science, Astronomy, Vulcanology and Oceanography).
- Development of Advanced Human Capital
- Strategic Plans: Chile-California and Chile-Massachusetts
- Energy
Thank you