

# P.R. Seismic Network to set stations to monitor D.R.

By The STAR wire services

MAYAGUEZ

**T**he Puerto Rico Seismic Network based at the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez Campus will set up 12 provisional stations in the Dominican Republic to measure tremors and other seismic movements, it was announced Tuesday.

Christa G. Von Hillebrandt, the director of the network, said the equipment to be installed includes seismometers, seismographs, global positioning antenna systems, portable computers, solar panels, electric meters and cables.

On Sept. 22, a powerful earthquake shook the Dominican Republic was blamed in the deaths of 10 people and caused an estimated \$16 million in damages. Schools and hospitals in the country's northern region, particularly around Puerta Plata, were among the structures most heavily damaged in the quake, which registered 6.5 on the Richter scale.

"This study will be important for the Dominican Republic as well as Puerto Rico because Dominican seismic faults extend to Puerto Rico," Von Hillebrandt said.

The installation of the equipment will be carried out jointly with the Seismological Institute of the Autonomous University of the Dominican Republic, the government of Puerto Plata, and the Institute of Hydraulic Resources of the region. Víctor Huérfano and Juan Lugo of the Seismic Network in Puerto Rico will go to the Dominican Republic to take charge of the installation.

Von Hillebrandt said the operation of the temporary network will provide a more accurate determination of the seismic activity and from that, increase their understanding of the seismic faults.

During the months from October to December, the information gathered by the 12 stations will be used to obtain information that will be shared with interested scientists.