

**INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR  
GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH**



**EC-XVIII**

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## **Report of the IAI Directorate to the Executive Council 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

### **Introduction**

This report describes the activity of the Directorate and progress made since the last EC meeting in Boulder, in June 2003. We will mention the major highlights and you will hear more details directly from the Officers responsible.

The actions and activities described here were guided by the six major strategies proposed by the Scientific Advisory Committee and endorsed by the EC-XVI. For easy of reference we can recall that they are related to the:

- 1) consolidation and enlarging of the CRNs by encouraging integration, by increasing funding through external sources or in-kind support and by fostering links and interactions with other regional and international projects;
- 2) regular renewal for project requests and the definition of new science agenda giving priority to projects clearly focusing on integrating global change research with sustainable development;
- 3) targeting of scientifically weak member countries for more sustained and focused capacity-building efforts;
- 4) facilitation of studies synthesizing and assessing the state of knowledge of issues vital to the region and to under-studied sub-regions;
- 5) improvement of IAI's capabilities to disseminate research results – through more publications and media ensuring their regional availability to decision makers and the public;
- 6) increase of IAI profile by expansion of its activities to include offering of expertise, information contacts to other institutions in the region and offering to administer appropriate projects for outside agencies and organizations.

In addition to the consideration of the above mentioned strategies the Directorate, when implementing its actions, is also taking into account, as charged by EC-XVI, the recommendations made by the Working Group for Increasing Country Commitment to the IAI in its final report. In particular those related to the fostering and reactivation of Memoranda of Understanding/agreements and the diffusion of IAI activities.

### **Recommendations from the previous EC meeting**

EC-XVII asked the Directorate to study the implementation of a trust fund to cover delegate's travel to EC/CoP meetings, in case of a positive CoP decision. This has not been launched as CoP-X, in its Action 10 of the second day, reaffirmed a previous EC recommendation that "travel expenses of country Representatives to meetings of the EC and CoP continue to be the responsibility of country members".

Last EC also asked the Directorate to prepare national portfolios for all IAI member countries showing the benefits received by their countries in terms of research, training and education and capacity building. These portfolios, for every member country, are available through the IAI web site. Hard copies were provided to representatives of Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Dominican Republic.

EC-XVII charged the IAI Director with developing a strategy to solve the problem of outstanding contributions in a year term. At present the approach is to motivate the members in arrears by showing the advantages of being part of and supporting the IAI, particularly by showing the benefits received. The proposal of using a “debt swap” (canceling the arrears allocating part of the owed money in local activities coordinated with IAI) has been well received by some members: e.g. Colombia, Costa Rica, Argentina, and Paraguay. However this approach will not solve the issue of getting “real” funds (cash).

### **Visibility of IAI**

Regarding IAI’s visibility and interactions with other institutions and projects, IAI supported during this period several activities from sister institutions, the Directorate staff visited institutions and participated in various events presenting the activities and programs of the IAI with the aim of improving our visibility and disseminating our work. Furthermore a series of fundraising efforts to complement the funding of IAI training activities, which otherwise could not be developed without these complementary funds, have been successfully worked on. We should highlight, in particular, the positive response obtained from the OAS and the UNDP in supporting a Summer Institute.

Brief accounts of visits and participation in events are given below.

### ***Banff, Canada, June 23-25***

The SO attended the IGBP Congress, which actually started already on 18 June. The SO was invited to give a presentation of the role of Intergovernmental Networks in GEC research and to be panelist in a panel on Capacity Building.

### ***Campinas, July 10th***

An invitation was received from the Institute of Geosciences, through Dr Luci Hidalgo Nunes, for the Director to pay a visit to this Institute and to meet the Pro - Reitor de Pesquisas of the University. Advantage was taken of my presence in Campinas to partially attend a meeting, with the CRN Manager, organized by the HD group of the PROSUR Project. To this end a formal invitation was received from the PI of CRN-055, Dr. Mario N. Nuñez.

### ***San José, Costa Rica , July 24-25***

On private holidays in Costa Rica during this period the Director had the opportunity to deliver a lecture at the School of Physics of the University of Costa Rica, to visit the National Meteorological Institute (IMN) and the World Conservation Union Regional Office

for Mesoamerica (IUCN Meso-America - UICN Oficina Regional para Mesoamérica)

### ***Sao Jose dos Campos , August 5-6***

IAI lectures at the international course on Applications of Remote Sensing organized by CRECTEALC. This was an activity within the scope of the recent MoU signed between IAI and this institution. Two days were dedicated to IAI and four lecturers were delivered: Eng. Villalobos , Costa Rica ( a CoPI of one of the ISP projects), Mr. Eduardo Banus, Dr. Thelma Krug and the IAI Director. The attendance was 14 graduates in different disciplines related to the environment sciences and coming from the Latin-American region.

### ***Sao Paulo, August 21***

The Director attended a conference on “Carbon Soil Sequestration” by Prof. Rattan Lal, Ohio State University, USA at the "Secretaria do Meio Ambiente" SMA in Sao Paulo arranged through the US Consulate. The conference was attended by a small number of people and was chaired by Dr J. Goldemberg. Among the presents were officers from the Ministry of Environment, the US Consulate in Sao Paulo, and the US Embassy in Brasilia

### ***Itajaí, SC, September 2-3,***

Following an invitation from Dr. Edmo Campos the Director and the SO attended a two-day mini-workshop held at Itajaí, Santa Catarina, Brazil, from to 2 to 3 September 2003, to celebrate the closing of the observational phase of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Survey of the NICOP/LAPLATA project. The NICOP/LAPLATA project is an activity of the South Atlantic Climate Change (SACC) Consortium, co-sponsored by the IAI (CRN-061) and by the Office of Naval Research (ONR), USA. It started as an effort involving scientific institutions from Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and the United States and, today, it also includes the Navies of the three Latin American countries and the Uruguayan Air Force.

This was a truly outstanding example of a very fruitful cooperation between scientists and members of the Latin American armed forces in the common goal of improving the knowledge of the oceanic behavior in the South-eastern South Atlantic. It also involved the participation, at the oceanographic cruise, of several students and graduate students from the involved Latin American countries. It is hoped that this productive winter campaign could be followed by a similar summer campaign next year.

### ***Rio de Janeiro, September 8-10***

Following an invitation from PALIBER the Director attended the “3rd Green Meeting of the Americas: Conference of the Americas for the Environment and Sustainable Development “, received the Green Prize of the Americas in the area of climate change and delivered a lecture on Global Change. About 600 persons attended the ceremony in the presence of several federal and state authorities and foreign representatives. The Prize was established by PALÍBER, a non-profit environmental organization founded in 1990 and

hosted in Brasilia DF. It recognizes “dedicated work in environmental issues, upholding the responsibility to defend, preserve and protect nature in the hope of maintaining the planet’s environment balance”. H.E. Minister (Mrs.) Mitzi G. Valente, Head of the Environment Division, Itamaraty, Brazilian MRE, personally expressed her congratulations and greetings.

### ***Sao Paulo, September 16-18.***

The Director and the CRN Manager attended a series of lectures on the UNFCCC process and the Kyoto Protocol delivered by Dr Gylvan Meira Filho at the IEA, University of Sao Paulo.

### ***Buenos Aires, September 23***

Following an invitation received from SECyT, Argentina, the Director attended, on Tuesday 23 am, a meeting to discuss national priorities on Global Change research and met Ing. Tulio Del Bono to discuss IAI related matters. The deliberations of the meeting led to the definition of a national Science Agenda with the following global change priority themes: Water Cycle, Carbon cycle, Biodiversity, Effect of GEC on goods, services and health, Cross-cutting issues. Ing. del Bono showed considerable interest in IAI activities. Although the SECyT budget was not yet approved he was favorable to: consider the provision of support to the EC representative to attend the next EC meeting; study the possibility of hosting the next CoP meeting in Buenos; consider to take charge the distribution of the IAI Newsletter, the cost incurred to be compensated as a “debt swap” against the core budget contributions of Argentina.

### ***SJC, INPE, October 1<sup>st</sup>***

The Director was invited to lecture on Global Change (and IAI) to students at the Post Graduate Course in Space Geophysics (GES), organized by the Divisão de Geofísica Espacial (DGE), one of the divisions of the Coordenação Geral de Ciências Espaciais e Atmosféricas (CEA) of INPE. The lecture was not only attended by students but also by researchers from the CEA, interested in the subject of global change and, in particular, on the activities of IAI.

### ***Cruzeiro, October 6-7***

The Director and the CRN Manager attended the Fourth Meeting of the Principal Investigators of the Project - CRN055 - PROSUR – Cruzeiro. Meetings were held with PIs and Co PIs of the project. The meeting was very well attended and a number of presentations were made about present and future activities of the PROSUR Project.

### ***Brasilia, October 10***

The Director delivered a lecture on Global Environmental Change and Human Health at the PAHO (Pan American Health Organization) Office, following an invitation from its Regional Representative in Brazil, Dr Jacobo Finkelman. Among the audience there were several epidemiologists, as well as some representative of ONGs.

### ***Cachoeira Paulista, SP, October 12***

Invited by Dr Carlos Nobre, CPTEC, the Director participated at the opening of the IAI Summer Institute on Land Use and Cover Changes in the Amazonian Region: Patterns, Processes and Plausible Scenarios.

### ***Santiago de Chile, October 14-15***

Following an invitation from GCOS (Global Climate Observing System) the Director participated at the GCOS Regional Workshop for South America. He was invited to chair two sessions, one on "Atmosphere: Status, Deficiencies, and Needs" and a similar one on "Oceans: Status, Deficiencies, and Needs". He also delivered a lecture on "Observational needs for global change". The meeting also discussed a "Framework action plan for South America". The intent of this GCOS Action Plan is to ensure that GCOS needs for observational data are met by achieving improvements in climate system observing networks and related data management, archiving, data exchange and access systems in South America. IAI may play a role by offering open access to data through its DIS.

The opportunity was taken to pay a visit to Dr. Carlos Elgueta, Project Coordinator of the FONDECYT (National Fund for Scientific and Technological Development) Program, CONACYT to brief him on IAI structures, activities and opportunities. Dr Elgueta offered to distribute, through the FONDECYT network, the announcements of IAI calls.

### ***Montreal, Canada, October 16-18***

The TCO Officer participated at the Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community representing IAI and as member of the organizing committee of the event.

The meeting was co-sponsored by IAI, CIESIN, IHDP and the McGill University. The TCO Officer also participated at parallel sessions on National Committees in HD and on regional networks.

### ***Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, October 26-27***

The Director participated at the opening of the IAI Summer Institute on Vulnerability Associated with Climate Variability and Climate Change in Central America and the Caribbean. He had the opportunity to meet with the UNDP Representative Mr. Nicky

Fabianic, the OAS representative Mrs. Bertha Santoscoy and the Secretary of State (Environment and Natural Resources) Eng. Frank Moya Pons. The Director had some interviews with a local TV channel and a local newspaper on the subject of the Seminar and on activities of IAI.

### ***Cape Town, South Africa, October 29-31***

The Director participated at the Annual IGFA (International Group of Funding Agencies for Global Change) Meeting, delivering a presentation on IAI funding schemes and signing a Memorandum of Understanding IAI/IGBP with the IGBP Executive Director, Dr Will Steffen. He had meetings and discussions with several participants, among them: Dr David Allen, US CCSP; Mrs. Dawn Conway, Canadian Climate Change Program; Prof. Thomas Rosswall, ICSU Executive Director; Dr. Bob Corell; Dr. (Mrs.) Linda Stevenson, Scientific Officer, APN; Mrs. Anne Larigauderie, DIVERSITAS; Mrs. Barbara Goebel, IHDP; Dr David Carson, WCRP and Mr. Louis Brown, NSF.

### ***Sao Pedro, SP, November 10***

The Director participated at the opening of the “IAI Summer Institute on Global Warming and Climate Changes: Causes, mitigation alternatives and international actions”, delivering an opening lecture entitled “Promoting regional research networks on global change in the Americas: the IAI “

### ***Trieste, Italy, November 16-19 (planned)***

The Director and the SO will participate at the START International Young Scientists’ Global Change Conference. The Director of START invited the IAI Director to chair the first session of the Conference. The SO will also partially attend the 17<sup>th</sup> START Scientific Steering Committee Meeting immediately following the Conference. In his return travel the IAI Director will make a stop-over in Rome to have a meeting with the Latin-American Representatives of the Italo – Latin American Institute (ILLA), an organization supported by the Italian Government, in order to explore possible cooperation in the area on climate/global change.

### ***Rio de Janeiro, 19-21 (planned)***

The TCO Officer will participate at the opening of the “Inter American Workshop on the Use of Remote Sensing to Control Infectious Diseases” representing IAI (co-sponsor). The TCO Officer will also take this opportunity to discuss with and brief selected participants from the climate/health research community on IAI aims and activities and with representative of the funding agencies (e.g. USAID).

## **Local visibility**

A series of conferences was initiated on subjects related to global environmental changes issues and delivered, in Portuguese, by invited Brazilian scientists related to IAI and taking place at the INPE's Auditorium. The idea is mainly to encourage the interaction among these Brazilian scientists and to obtain more visibility of IAI within the Brazilian scientific community, in particular at INPE. Two conferences were announced through different means, including the INPE web site and Intranet. The first one took place on Friday 29 on the subject "O papel do IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) na Convenção - Quadro das Nações Unidas sobre Mudanças do Clima" and was delivered by Dr Thelma Krug. The second conference on the subject "Simulações do clima e sua variabilidade com o Modelo de Circulação geral do CPTEC - aplicações no projeto PROSUR / IAI" was delivered on 26 September by Dr. Iracema F.A. Cavalcanti, INPE/CPTEC. . Both conferences were attended by more than 40 professionals from INPE, CPTEC, UNICAMP and students. We are planning two more by March and April 2004 to be delivered by Dr. Luci Nunes, UNICAMP and Dr. Maria Assunção Dias (newly appointed Director of CPTEC).

## **Agreements with other organizations**

As reported in the previous session, following a recommendation from the SAC, a text of a Memorandum of Understanding between the IGBP and IAI was discussed and agreed with Dr. Will Steffen, IGBP Executive Director. This IGBP/IAI MoU was signed on November 30th during the IGFA Annual Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa.

A MoU is also under discussion with the OAS. Following the interest shown and the support provided by UNDP to IAI training and education activities we are also planning to formalize an agreement with UNDP for future similar activities.

## **Science Activities**

The SO will report on the science activities. He will provide an update on the projects under the first round of the Small Grant Program (SGP-I), the launching of the SGP-II and preparations for CRN-II and a possible continuation of SGPs. Information about the CRN program is given in EC Document 9. The report of the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), November 3-5, 2003, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, will be presented by the SAC Chair, Dr. Walter Fernandez. Among other initiatives the SAC made recommendations on the launching of a next round of CRNs (continued discussion from 18<sup>th</sup> SAC), future SGP rounds and the streamlining of the IAI proposal process.

## **Training, Communications and Outreach Activities**

The Training, Communications and Outreach Officer will report on her activities in detail. In particular the successful implementation of the three IAI Summer Institutes organized this year, as follows,



- 1) Land Cover-Land Use Change in the Amazonian Region: Patterns, Processes and [Plausible] Scenarios (October 13-24, 2003, Cachoeira Paulista, Brazil).
- 2) Vulnerability associated with Climate Change and Climate Variability in Central America and the Caribbean (October 26-November 8, 2003, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic);
- 3) Warming and Global Climate Changes: Causes and Mitigation Alternatives (November 10-22, 2003, Piracicaba, Brazil);

The Institute on vulnerability, in particular, received a considerable financial support from UNDP (60 K dollars) and from the OAS (20 K dollars).

In addition, initial contacts have been made to start planning T&E activities for 2004 with organizations in Costa Rica, Mexico, and other partner organizations such as IHDP.

The TCO Officer has also worked on the production of the Spanish version of the recently released IAI Anniversary Book to celebrate 10 years of the Institute and in the finalization of the IAI Annual Report 2002-2003.

### **Financial Matters**

The Financial and Administrative Officer will provide an overview of the financial status as of October 2003 and will discuss the Auditor's Report of the Financial Statement as of June 2003.

### **Newsletter**

The latest releases of the Newsletter were issued on time and included, in addition to the regular general information, a number of interesting technical articles on themes related to the IAI science agenda. Due to the escalating distribution costs some alternatives are being considered to reduce these costs and to improve the efficiency of distribution.

### **Internal Issues**

Regarding internal Directorate matters, the review of the staff job descriptions was finalized. In parallel, the staff annual objectives and related tasks for the fiscal year 2003/2004 form the basis for an annual performance appraisal scheme (PAR), simple but complete enough to allow for a proper evaluation of the staff performance and identification of their training needs. Based on the results on the evaluation of the training needs expressed by the staff a training plan is being developed to optimize the available funds for this purpose. Some procedures were also established for a better financial follow-up and control of activities as well as of staff travel. In the Financial and Administrative area, since last May the Directorate has a professional accountant working

with the Financial and Administrative Officer replacing the former Financial Assistant. This change allows increasing the involvement of the Administrative and Financial Officer in the financial monitoring of the research grants managed by the Directorate. The Directorate also worked in supporting the visit of NSF auditors and the regular annual financial audit.

### **Status of CRN Projects**

EC Document 9 includes a report presenting summaries and statistics of the CRN Projects prepared by the CRN Manager. Three CRN Projects merit special comments and need follow-up actions

- CRN-038: as reported in the previous EC this project is in an “impasse”. The PI and CoPIs have resigned, as they do not agree with the continuation of the grantee as the recipient institution, in spite of the reconciliation efforts made by the Directorate. With the resignation of all scientists involved there is no realistic possibility to continue this effort and we recommend to EC the termination of the project.
- CRN-062: the project faces some management problems: 8 months delay in submission of report Year 2 and 10 months delay in submission of report Year 3. A previous external (scientific) mid-term evaluation rated this project very good to excellent. The Chilean CoPIs withdrew from the Project. The SO joined the meeting of the project EC held in Lima, 28-29 October 2003, where the CoPIs agreed on major immediate improvements in order to assure the continuation of IAI support.
- CRN-031: this project also faces some delays. Unfortunately the PI, Dr. Eduardo Franco, has recently passed away and a meeting of CoPIs (with the participation of the CRN Manager) was held during the first week of November designating Dr Alan Lavell as the new PI and agreeing on the future work plan of the project.

### **Future activities**

The major planned activities for the year to come will be partly discussed by the IAI Officers.

In the Science area they will concentrate in the finalization of the SGP-I, the implementation of the SGP-II, the finalization of the CRN, the planning of the future CRN-II and the possibility of a continuation of the SGPs (with a revised aim, as this program should not address the creation of CRNs after launching CRN-II). The considerable amount of work involved in these activities and the present reduced IAI staff available to handle these issues will require a careful planning and timetable. The proposal, launched by the SAC for a Program Manager, has to be analyzed in deep.

The Training, Communications and Outreach area plans to implement a second institute on vulnerability for South America, another institute on urbanization and global change (to

be hosted probably by Mexico) and a joint activity with IHDP on food systems/security. A training event on administration of projects is also in the pipeline.

The ITC hardware and software is being updated. The updating of the DIS has suffered some delays and alternative plans were developed to have a reviewed system by the end of the first quarter of 2004.

The scientific synthesis of ISP-I and ISP-II is in process, thanks to the efforts of the IAI Detached Scientist, Dr. Thelma Krug. We expect to have a draft version by the end of this year.

There were some considerations in the last SAC meeting regarding the establishment of national priorities on global change by the IAI member representatives. We propose to use the next CoP to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the entry into force of the Agreement of Montevideo (1994) to organize, instead of a Science Forum, a day for high-level representatives and delegates from IAI member countries to take stock of the IAI activities during the last decade and to propose/discuss priorities for the future, taking into account national and regional needs. This can be complemented, in the science arena, by organizing the second 2004 SAC meeting in parallel with the next "Regional Conference on Global Change: the Latin American Perspective", being organized by USP in Sao Paulo from 10 to 13 November 2004. This may give an opportunity to SAC members, together with Latin American scientists attending the conference, to consider and discuss these priorities in the light of the national and regional scientific capabilities. The advice and comments from the Council on these proposals will be appreciated.