

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



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Report of the IAI Directorate

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This report describes the Directorate's activities, initiatives and related actions for the period May – August 2005, following the 20th EC/12th COP meeting held in Montreal, Canada, 2-6 May 2005.

Although a very short period of time, the past months have been extremely busy and very exciting with the finalization of the hiring process of the new IAI Director and also a new Program Manager. At the time this project is prepared the replacement process is ongoing for two of the Assistant positions, i.e. the Assistant to the Director and the Assistant to the Scientific Officer. The peer-review process of the 37 full proposals received under the second round of the IAI Collaborative Research Network (CRN II) program has been finalized and recommendations for funding will be made during this meeting. A major development was the approval of two IAI manuals, i.e., the IAI Employee Handbook and the IAI Program Management Manual. The IAI Directorate has initialized the process to become an observer to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change and is awaiting the UNFCCC decision to be taken at the upcoming UNFCCC CoP in Montreal.

Recommendations to/involving the IAI Directorate from the previous EC/CoP meeting, Montreal, 2-6 May 2005

From EC:

- I. The EC requested the IAI Directorate to schedule a joint EC-SAC meeting during the last quarter of 2005 or the first quarter of 2006
- II. The EC endorsed the proposal of Mexico to ask the IAI Directorate to schedule a science-policy activity (for example a meeting or a training institute) on an annual basis
- III. The EC endorsed the proposal of Mexico to register the IAI as observer to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to guarantee that IAI be represented at the annual CoP with side events or exhibits.
- IV. The EC endorsed the proposal of the Ad-Hoc Group on the IAI Newsletter issue to have 3 issues produced in 2005 and a new composition of the editorial board (adding a CoP representative in replacement of one of the SAC representatives)

From CoP:

- I. The CoP delegated to the EC the authority to approve the CRN II proposals in the next meeting
- II. Joint EC-SAC + CoP meeting. The CoP accepted the verbal offer of Venezuela to host this meeting in May 2006. Provided that no other proposals are received at the Directorate by 1st November 2005, the meeting will be held in Venezuela.
- III. The CoP approved the CPTEC/INPE proposal to become an Affiliated Institution of IAI for the Program on Climate Variability in the Americas.
- IV. The CoP agreed in principle with the proposal of Mexico to register IAI in the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC), depending availability of funds to guarantee that IAI be represented at the annual CoP with side events or exhibits.

- V. The CoP agreed in principle with the proposal from Mexico to hold a science-policy activity on an annual basis, depending on the availability of funds. Member countries and the IAI Directorate should seek resources different from those of the core budget.
- VI. The CoP decided that it was not the appropriate body to discuss the new membership of the FAC and the new composition of the IAI Newsletter Editorial Board and this would be left for the next EC meeting. It was suggested by the EC to add a CoP representative in replacement of one of the SAC representatives
- VII. The CoP elected Dr. Holm Tiessen as the new IAI Director for a three-year term.

Directorate activities May – August 2005

Personnel Searches

The first candidate chosen to be Program Manager eventually had to decline the position for personal reasons. The search was reopened and after the selection committee has interviewed 5 additional candidates on April 25th, 2005. The selection committee has offered the position to Mrs. Ione Anderson who has started working at the IAI Directorate on 1 July 2005.

The IAI Directorate is currently in the process to select/hire replacements for two of the Assistants positions (Luciana Queiroz Ribeiro and Isabel Cristina Vega de Maldonado).

Science Activities

The 22 projects funded under the SGP-II Program, which started in April 2004 are nearing the completion stage. 12 final reports have been received, 4 are pending and 6 projects have asked no-cost extensions until 31 August 2005 (reports due within 45 days of this date).

The first round of the Collaborative Research Network (CRN) program is in its final year. 3 final reports have been received. The last report is supposed to be received on 30 June 2006 at the latest.

CRN-I Synthesis

The planning of the meeting is progressing well. The meeting will bring together the CRN PIs and some other project PIs to a synthesis meeting under the title of “Bridging the gap between science and decision makers, integrating lessons from 10 years of IAI science projects”. A steering committee has been formed with representatives from IAI and SCOPE (Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment). The meeting will be held from 27 November – 2 December in Ubatuba, Brazil. The meeting is not anticipated as the scientific synthesis of CRN I, but attempts to deal with the missing links between science and governance that have been partially bridged in some IAI projects. As well there is a lack of connection in the knowledge and responses between levels of governance: local, regional, national, international and commercial. The task will be to design appropriate information flow from science to these levels. Levels of governance correspond also to scales of investigation, integration and knowledge on the science side

so that different types of scientific results are appropriate for different levels of governance. These scale issues are also important in the implementation of policy (responses).

The meeting will discuss crosscutting issues derived from the background papers dealing with topics such as: Science Policy - generating and steering science for policy relevance; Making science credible, practical and operationally valuable to policy and society; Stakeholders: identification and integration into the science process (and enhancing the north-south dialogue); Articulating science for different sectors of society.

CRN-II Proposals

The 37 full proposals received by the due date of March 23rd 2005 have gone through the 3-step peer-review included mail, panel and IAI-SAC review. The review panel was held in Sao Jose dos Campos from 19th to 22nd July 2005 followed by a SAC meeting 26th to 28th July at the same location. The SO will provide further details about the peer-review. The Chairman of the IAI SAC will propose a list of projects to be funded under CRN-II.

Financial & Administrative Matters

Invoice letters to all IAI member countries requesting the country contribution for 2005/2006 have been sent on 5 August 2005. Initial reactions have been received from 3 member countries (Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela). As of 19 August 2005 a payment has been received from Venezuela (US\$ 22,347.91).

On 11 July 2005 CATHALAC has paid the second (and last) installment (US\$ 26,712.30) of the outstanding CRN 031 funds.

A major step in the IAI administration has been concluded with the FAC (Financial Advisory Committee) approval of two IAI Manuals, i.e., the IAI Employee Handbook was approved on 24 June 2005 and the IAI Project Management Manual on 11 July 2005.

The status of the IAI member country contributions to the core budget as of 30 June 2005 is shown in Table 1, page 8 of this report.

Training Communications and Outreach Programs and Complementary Funding

IAI Training Institutes in 2004

TCOO has worked on the production of the publication of the Science-Policy Forum of the *IAI-IHDP Global Environmental Change Institute on Food Systems and Globalization - Scientific Workshop and Science-Policy Forum (October 24-November 6, 2004, Nicoya and San Jose, Costa Rica)*, which will include the proceedings of the Training Institute in addition to some papers on the theme of Food Systems and Globalization. Furthermore, important financial (US\$ 3K) and in-kind contributions have been obtained from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), which will cover the cost of printing and graphic design of this book in Spanish. The book will be available in

English to be distributed at the Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions Community, which will be held from October 9-13, 2005 in Bonn, Germany. The book will be available in Spanish at the end of October, 2005.

TCOO has also worked on the publication of the *IAI Training Institute on Urbanization and Global Environmental Change in Latin America (Mexico City, Mexico, September 27-October 8, 2004)*, which will include the proceedings of the Training Institute and papers on Urbanization in Latin America by invited guest writers and by participants of the Training Institute. IAI is also seeking support from UNEP-Latin America office for this publication. The plan is to have this book available in English and Spanish to be distributed at the Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions Community, which will be held from October 9-13, 2005 in Bonn, Germany.

IAI Training Institutes in 2005

Two Training Institutes are now in the final planning stages for 2005.

- *Training Institute on Vulnerability Associated with Climate Variability and Climate Change in the Americas, Asuncion, Paraguay from October 17-28, 2005.* This activity will be hosted by the Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences of the National University of Asuncion (Program Coordinator: Dr. Luis José Mata);
- *Training Institute on Climate and Health in the Americas, Kingston, Jamaica from November 7-18, 2005.* This activity will be hosted by the University of the West Indies (Science Program Coordinator: Dr. Joan Aron and Applications Program Coordinator Dr. Simon Young).

Program coordinators, who are experts on the themes of the TIs, have been identified and contracted to run the program. TCOO has worked with them to develop a program that is of interest to scientists, and policy and decision makers and to plan the Seed Grants Program that will be launched at the end of the TIs. In addition, TCOO has attempted to leverage additional resources with potential co-sponsors. Some potential organizations, which have been approached are HDP, WMO, PAHO, OAS, etc. Important in-kind collaboration has also been negotiated with the hosts and co-organizers of the activities in Asuncion, Paraguay (University of Asuncion) and in Kingston, Jamaica (The University of West Indies).

IAI Data and Information System (DIS)

General Matters

The IT Manager travelled to Miami (May 23 and 24) in order to discuss with Dr. Michael McClain, the CRN47 PI, about matters related with the integration of the AAGWP (Amazon Andean GIS Web Portal) with the IAI-DIS, since they have developed a complete DIS solution for their project. The integration was considered pertinent and important for the dissemination of project information. Consequent talks of the IT Manager with our Oak Ridge contact (by phone) confirmed that the integration is

possible. It will be included as part of the maintenance contract (2005-2006). Oak Ridge accepted to include this new item into the contract signed on 29 July 2005.

In July 2005, the electronic system for the submission of applications to the Paraguay and Jamaica Institutes was developed. The system is based on the CRN2 submission system, however with additional technical features, e.g. the possibility to save partial applications with the option to return for editing until the application is finalized and submitted.

Five new computers for the staff were purchased and installed.

In addition to the above activities, we looked after the Institutes submission processes, supplied technical support for the last SAC meeting hosted in Sao Jose dos Campos, updated DIS metadata, identified a Telecon solution for the IAI and conducted several daily activities in order to maintain the Network/Internet up, running and updated, giving special emphasis to security.

Expected actions to be done until June 2006

- Finalization of documents for the DIS portal. Also, prepare a new brochure and a poster for the system;
- DIS Training for the new PIs (CRN2);
- Continuously work with PIs in order to create metadata for their project;
- Identify a Collaboration and Document Management solution;
- Improve the control of scientific potential reviewers and events; and
- Implement a report system for the scientific programs.

Newsletter

The new composition of the IAI Newsletter Editorial Board will be discussed during this meeting. The 20th EC meeting suggested a CoP representative as replacement of one of the SAC representative

Future Activities

The new IAI Director will present his vision about IAI future activities

Appendix 1

Visits to international, regional and national institutions and participation in events

Director

12 – 14 May 2005, Manaus, Brazil, Rede Temática de Pesquisa, Em Modelagem Ambiental da Amazônia (Scientific Network for Environmental Modeling in Amazonia). The IAI Director was one of three external invitees who were asked to analyse the presentations and advise both on progress and possible next steps in the modeling process.

16-20 May 2005 IGFA/ICSU Meeting in Stockholm Sweden. The new IAI Director attended this important meeting of many of the National Funding Agencies (such as NSF, NSERC etc.). It also provided an important opportunity to meet as well many of the ICSU Science Committee chairs (including START), and Directors of DIVERSITAS and APN.

The incoming Director travelled to Sao Jose dos Campos in late July to participate in the CRN-II Panel and meet with the IAI SAC.

Scientific Officer

2-3 June 2005, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Earth Observation Partnership of the Americas (EOPA) Satellite Data Users Workshop, presentation on IAI. Workshop hosted by the Comision Nacional de Actividades Espaciales (CONAE), and co-sponsored by CONAE, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The event was a key first step to strengthening the efforts within the Americas to utilize each other's research and operational Earth observation data, both satellite and in situ, in support of regional economic, societal and environmental priorities.

23-25 May 2005, IAI – NCAR meeting, Boulder, USA Meeting to discuss the use of the NSF funds (US\$ 800K) at NCAR for joint activities between IAI and NCAR. IAI delegation included the SAC members Walter Fernandez and Luiz Legey.

26 June – 1 July, LOICZ Open Science Meeting, Egmond aan Zee, Netherlands and meetings at the University Goettingen, Germany. The LOICZ meeting was sponsored by IAI and talks were continued for a joint thematic IAI – LOICZ meeting in the IAI region to be held in 2006 or early 2007. The meeting would be jointly funded by IAI (up to US\$ 20K) and LOICZ. The meetings in Goettingen have been arranged to discuss the University of Goettingen Summer School and involvement of participants from the IAI region.

TCO Officer

May 23-27, 2005, New Orleans, USA: 2005 Joint Assembly of the American Geophysical (AGU). The IAI displayed in a booth its latest publications, announced its Training Institutes for 2005, presented its scientific activities, in addition to distributing informational material to the visitors. The IAI also used this opportunity to gather its PI's and co-PI's and IAI related people from several countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, USA, in an informal get together and update on everybody's latest activities.

July 24-25, 2005, Asuncion, Paraguay: Planning meeting of the IAI Training Institute on Vulnerability Associated with Climate Variability and Climate Change in the Americas with local organizers (Prof. Genaro Coronel and Fernando Pio) and the Dean of FACEN/UNA, Dr. Ruben Garcia, who is also the IAI representative.

Table 1. Status of the IAI member country contributions to the core budget as of 30 June 2005

Core Budget - 2004 / 2005

Status of Country Contributions as of June 30, 2005

	Due as of 30/jun/04	Contribution for FY 04/05	Paid Jul/04 - Jun/05	Due as of 30/jun/05
Argentina	155,025.00	45,000.00	(75,000.00)	125,025.00
Bolivia	10,000.00	5,000.00		15,000.00
Brazil	(21,735.88)	80,000.00	(39,100.00)	19,164.12
Canada	0.00	115,000.00	(115,000.00)	0.00
Chile	15,000.00	5,000.00	(10,000.00)	10,000.00
Colombia	40,000.00	10,000.00	(9,920.00)	40,080.00
Costa Rica	(8,008.36)	5,000.00		(3,008.36)
Cuba	10,066.56	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	10,066.56
Dominican Republic	35,000.00	5,000.00		40,000.00
Ecuador	15,000.00	5,000.00		20,000.00
Guatemala	35,000.00	5,000.00		40,000.00
Jamaica	5,000.00	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	5,000.00
Mexico	(373.49)	55,000.00	(108,866.06)	(54,239.55)
Panama	5,000.00	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	5,000.00
Paraguay	40,000.00	5,000.00		45,000.00
Peru	30,000.00	5,000.00		35,000.00
Uruguay	30,000.00	5,000.00		35,000.00
USA (*)	0.00	550,000.00	(550,000.00)	0.00
Venezuela	141,829.34	30,000.00	(12,500.00)	159,329.34
	536,803.17	945,000.00	(935,386.06)	546,417.11

% Received

99%