

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



EC-XXI
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Report of the SAC – XXII – S.J.Campos

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22nd MEETING OF THE IAI SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil 26-28 July 2005

Participants:

SAC Members:

Walter Fernandez (Chair), Vicente Barros, Michael Brklacich, Rene Capote, Alejandro Castellanos, Rana Fine, Silvia Garzoli, Luiz F. Legey.

Observers:

Paul Filmer, National Science Foundation, USA; Arnolando Matus Kramer, Instituto Nacional de Ecología, Mexico

IAI Directorate:

Holm Tiessen (IAI Director elect), Gerhard Breulmann (Scientific Officer), Ione Anderson (Program Manager), Isabel Vega (Assistant to the Scientific Officer).

Welcome to the new SAC members

The SAC Chair, Walter Fernandez, opened the meeting and welcomed the new SAC members, Telma Castro and Luis Mata.

Welcome to the new IAI Directorate staff members

The SAC Chair welcomed the new IAI Directorate staff members, Holm Tiessen, Director elect and Ione Anderson, Program Manager.

REMARKS BY THE IAI DIRECTOR ELECT, HOLM TIESEN

The IAI Director elect, Holm Tiessen, was invited to make a presentation about IAI.

He stressed that the success of IAI has so far been a result of its focus, such as its strategic science agenda; strategic plan for funding mechanisms; small grants that have helped the outreach components of major networks. He warned that despite this success, there has been a funding crisis in the past few years because of the low response from constituents and the need for that to change for IAI to survive. He highlighted the need for IAI to mend its ways to continue to achieve scientific excellence while making capacity-building a stronger component into the program and suggested several actions to demonstrate to the IAI nations a purpose of existence for the IAI with which they can identify.

EVALUATION OF FULL-PROPOSALS RECEIVED UNDER THE SECOND ROUND OF THE IAI COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH NETWORK (CRN II) PROGRAM

The Scientific Officer, Gerhard Breulmann, introduced the Matrix with final Panel ratings as well as Mail Review ratings.

It was noted that the Panel's overall rating sometimes differed from the mail reviews.

The SAC discussed first which proposals were fundable (F) or not (N) according to the rating given to each proposal or if the proposal needed further discussion (D).

Proposals which received "FF" ratings from the SAC primary and secondary reviewers were moved to a Fundable category.

Proposals that offered strong components to be considered for funding but not to be funded under CRN2 were moved to a "SEED" category.

The SAC proceeded to discuss those proposals under "D", for discussion).

The following criteria were suggested:

- Advancing CRN2 criteria
- Engaging in policy relevance
- Interdisciplinary
- New team
- Geographic, area specifically as well as location of institution
- Outreach, education
- Capacity-building
- Budget (including salaries, overhead, distribution)
- geographic distribution
- Gender
- Life after CRN2
- Policy relevance side, institute wide issue, the words in the Call, talking about regional relevance, regional context to it
- Link to other initiatives in the Americas.

The Group decided to have a matrix with all the themes identified in the list of criteria.

A proposal for ranking the proposals that were left, based on the following criteria: 80% would be committed to CRN2 and 20% allocated to new strategic areas at lower level and reserve fund.

The following recommendations were made:

CRN2-021: The SAC recommended that the Directorate clarifies the budget before CRN2 contract is signed.

CRN2-015: The SAC recommended that the Directorate seek an explanation regarding the salary for the PIs and the rationale, [call for proposal: exceptional circumstances for salaries] and the disproportionate distribution of budget given that they need to be establishing networks.

CRN2-060: The SAC agreed that this was an excellent proposal and recommended it as a Human Dimension flagship as a CRN2 project. In addition, the SAC recommended that IAI works closely with this team developing its outreach and education activities.

CRN2-047: The SAC considered this an excellent proposal and noted that it should become a CRN2 and that it should work closely with IAI.

CRN2-076: The SAC believed this was a great proposal, only one dealing with oceanography, if goes forward address budget concerns.

CRN2-031: The SAC recommended addressing the budget issues and in particular the involvement of Paraguay and considers this proposal a potential flagship for integrated regional study.

CRN2-085: The SAC believed this proposal was worthy of consideration but methods needed clarification before IAI can commit.

CRN2-034: The SAC recommended that this be considered under geographical issues and that it should be broaden with the inclusion of CRN2-064 (Wagner-Riddle), recommended to Directorate to build capacity building of this project with the inclusion of Riddle.

CRN2-017: The SAC recommended this proposal as a Flagship for urbanization.

CRN2-013: The SAC recommended consideration of this proposal taking into account geographical consideration and furthermore, that this project could be broaden to include CRN2-064, the Riddle proposal.

CRN2-050: The SAC believed this was a great innovative proposal that it fits the Caribbean niche and thus recommended that the Directorate ought to assist them along addressing policy engagement and outreach while fully integrating Caribbean partners in research and education

CRN2-025: The SAC agreed that this was an interesting but weak proposal in the Group, given the absence of policy engagement and interdisciplinarity.

CRN2-093: The SAC recognized that this proposal has excellent science but adds that it is a single-discipline focus, that of meteorology (one technical oceanographer) and it has no engagement of policy relevance and linkages are not there. Out of these proposals,

The Group requested that the budget of projects be cut by 10% in a strategic way. It was recommended that the IAI Director move 10% of the budget intelligently, in an efficient way, after the EC.

The SAC recognized that there was still a misbalance in the thematic distribution of proposals and that therefore the “Seed” funding should address the concern of themes that were underrepresented (themes 3 and 4 of the Science Agenda).

PRESENTATION ABOUT CRECTEALC

Dr. Jose Marques da Costa, Secretary General of the United Nations Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin American and the Caribbean, made a presentation about the activities of this institute.

IAI-SCOPE RAP MEETING, 28 NOVEMBER-2 DECEMBER 2005, UBATUBA, SP, BRAZIL

Holm Tiessen mentioned the meeting, which would address faults in CRN1 in Scope book, specifically to address topics underdeveloped in CRN1.

The SAC members were disappointed to know that this meeting was not going to be a synthesis of CRN1 as agreed by SAC as a result of a proposal of John Stewart.

UPDATE OF THE EC/COP MEETING, MONTREAL, MAY 2005

The SAC Chair made a summary of the EC and CoP meetings. He mentioned the offer of Venezuela to host the next EC / CoP in May 2006 and the possibility to hold a joint EC-SAC meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Chair thanked Alejandro Castellanos (SAC member) and Isabel Vega (IAI staff, assistant of the Scientific Officer) who are departing, with deep appreciation for their valuable work over the years.