

# **INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH (IAI)**

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## **Report of the Fourteenth Meeting of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)**

***November 27-28, 2000 Washington, DC, USA***

The Fourteenth Meeting of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) was held in Washington, DC, USA, during November 27-28, 2000, hosted by Dr. Margaret Leinen, NSF Deputy Director for Geosciences, Dr. Richard Ries, Deputy Director of NSF's Division of International Programs, and Dr. Paul Filmer, NSF Program Director for International Collaboration and Infrastructure Development.

Participating Members: John Stewart (chair), Ronald Woodman, Diana Liverman, Luis Bevilacqua, Omar Masera, Walter Fernandez.

Observers: Margaret Leinen, (NSF), Paul Filmer (NSF), Richard Ries (NSF), Harold Stolberg (NSF), Tianay Robinson (NSF), Jonathan Pundsack (NOAA), Roland Fuchs (START), Hassan Virji (START), Robert Corell (Harvard University), Evamaria Koch (University of Maryland), Ronald Scheman (OEA), Jerry Melillo (Marine Biological Laboratory) and Tom Malone (The Western Hemisphere Knowledge Partnership Initiative).

IAI Directorate Personnel: Armando Rabuffetti (Director), Marcella Ohira Schwarz (Communications and Training and Education Officer), Reynaldo Luiz Victoria (Interim Scientific Officer), Eduardo Banus (CRN Project Manager) and Luciana Queiroz Ribeiro (Secretary).

Dr. John Stewart, SAC Chair, briefly gave some general opening remarks and welcomed all participants, specially the newly appointed SAC members. In addition, Dr. M. Leinen, host of the meeting, welcomed the participants to Washington, D.C.

The agenda for the meeting (see annex1) was discussed and approved with the addition of a presentation by Dr. Robert Corell.

### *Presentation by Dr. M. Leinen - US Global Change Research Program:*

Dr. Leinen gave a presentation focused on the Long-Range Planning of the US Global Change Research Program. She stressed the importance of the congressional demand for research more closely linked to policy and management issues. The key challenge for the program is to develop Global Change Science that matters to decision makers; one of the most important overall theme is the Vulnerability and Resilience issues associated to Global Change. Several working groups have been working on the program elements to date. The Interdisciplinary Program for the next phase should include: climate variability and change, water cycle, carbon cycle, ecosystems/natural resources, land use/cover change (LUCC), atmospheric processes and composition. The key question to be addressed is how to get from the program elements to science that supports decision making. Of the several integrating tools and elements discussed, the role of Human Dimension (HD) was considered to be very important. The key question is how to integrate HD into global change issues and to develop the science of HD and several of its elements, such as industrial transformation, or linking specific kinds of HD problems

at global level such as LUCC. The goal is to start generating interdisciplinary communities and also to ask HD advisory groups to look at other science elements to tell us what kind of activities we should develop to link the communities. For other areas we need to develop a community that addresses other important issues of global change that promotes the integration. The tool that we have is money and we have realized that many agencies have invested in HD, such as NOAA and NASA and that is the trend. The budget of those programs will increase in the next decade. We have to, at least, start with the commitment.

After the presentation there were some discussions about the value of international cooperation in developing the program on HD, and how it could help in leveraging resources or promoting scientific collaboration. Dr. Leinen commented that it is a challenge to explain to the US congress and other high levels that in dealing with global change there are no boundaries. She also commented on the need for better articulation between agencies in the USA, especially for LUCC issues. The situation is particularly poor in the social sciences area. Scientists are generally afraid of getting involved with politics, but they are doing a better job in influencing the political agenda both at the regional or national/global levels.

Presentation by Dr. Richard Ries, NSF Division of International Programs:

Dr. Ries gave an overview of the NSF Division of International Programs (INT) activities. On the global arena, NSF plays a lead role in about two dozen projects and participate in many others, providing substantial financial support, playing also a major role in shaping, managing and coordinating programs. The INT main mission is to facilitate the advancement of NSF's overall goal through international activities. INT manages about 0.5% of NSF's budget and it is responsible for about 5% of the international expenditures. Programs supported have highly targeted objectives and integrated strategies.

INT is organized by geographic regions and have overseas offices in Paris and Tokyo. It has a staff of 42 persons (international and scientific experts) interacting extensively with all NSF programs, senior NSF management, foreign scientific organizations and personnel. With an annual budget of about US\$ 25M, it receives about 1200 proposals annually, funding about 400 of them, covering all fields of science and education, and all parts of the world. Main program thrusts are to provide young US researchers opportunity to gain international professional experience, and to enable US researchers to launch new international partnership.

The example of the Summer Programs for US Graduate Students in Japan and Korea was given. Dr. Ries finalized recognizing that there are many common interests between INT and IAI, and that a more close relation should be pursued, especially through NSF's Geosciences, that is primarily linked to IAI.

In the discussions that followed, Dr. Ries clarified that the funds for the Japan /Korea program comes primarily from Japan and Korea. He informed that the INT office would

be willing to promote communication and contact with the science community in the USA.

The SAC then welcomed the following presentations of invited guests:

Dr. Evamaria Koch, from the University of Maryland, who presented the results of the project “*The effect of UV-B Radiation on Salt-Marsh Vegetation along a Latitudinal Gradient*”. This was an ISPII project, that Dr. Koch was the PI.

Dr. Robert Corell, from the John Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University, discussed the need to develop a research agenda to address sustainability science. He proposed to have IAI involved in co-organizing a Sustainability Science workshop in Latin America.

Dr. Jerry Melillo, from the Marine Biological Laboratory, presented the experiences and lessons learned in the development of the US National Regional Assessment of Impacts of Global Changes. He suggested that SCOPPE could help and work with IAI in the development of regional assessment scenario for key regions of Latin America.

Dr. Roland Fuchs presented an overview of the Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training (START) and its major activities.

Dr. Tom Malone, from The Western Hemisphere Knowledge Partnership Initiative, discussed the concept of equitability, giving examples of scenarios useful if one is to choose a path toward an Environmentally Sustainable and Economically Prosperable and Equitable Society.

Dr. Ronald Scheman, from the Organization of American States (OAS)/Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) presented an overview of the objectives and activities of the agency. He gave examples of several financial mechanisms available to implement technical cooperation with developing countries and explored the issue of how to apply the concept to Science and Technology. Here IAI could be helpful in identifying the niches and what to do in Science. Maybe one good suggestion would be to support some activities on regional assessments. Dr Rabuffetti, Dr. Filmer, and Dr. Stewart will work together with the IAI-EC to prepare an official response to R. Scheman.

The SAC chair thanked the guests for their participation and contribution.

Dr. Armando Rabuffetti, IAI Director, gave a presentation on the overall institutional aspects, informing that Mr. Silvio Bianchi, from Uruguay, was hired for the position of Financial Officer, and Dr. Reynaldo Luiz Victoria, from Brazil, was appointed as the Interim Scientific Officer, until the position is permanently filled. Dr. Rabuffetti informed about the general status of the Initial Science Program (ISP) Program and its major accomplishments. Regarding institutional membership the Director informed the SAC that no new countries have joined IAI, but promising contacts have been made with El

Salvador and Honduras. Together with the new chair of the Executive Council, the Directorate will try to reenergize the institutional aspects and linkages. Both the chair and the Director will try their best to make new contacts and strengthen old ones.

Following, Mr. Eduardo Banus gave a presentation on the general status of the Collaborative Research Network (CRN) Program, Dr. Victoria presented his first impressions on the activities and accomplishments of the CRN Program, and Mrs. Marcella O. Schwarz presented the Training and Education activities, highlighting the results of the IAI/University of Miami Summer Institute on Interdisciplinary Sciences and other Regional Training Courses.

In the sequence Dr. Armando Rabuffetti gave an overview of the IAI relationship with other international organizations and programs such as START, IHDP, IGBP, WCRP, APN and LBA.

On the general discussions that followed, Dr. Paul Filmer made a comment about the coordination of the CRN projects. He reminded that in the May 2000 at the first CRN PIs meeting, there was a strong move toward self-organization in order to find out opportunities for collaboration. IAI should support this initiative and provide more opportunities for interactions.

Dr. H. Virji was pleased to hear about the relationships of IAI with other programs, and specifically commented about LBA. Dr. Victoria assured that the strengthening of the relationship between IAI and LBA will be one of the main goals of his interim time as Scientific Officer. Dr. Bevilacqua informed that he contacted Dr. Carlos Nobre, the LBA Scientific Coordinator, who demonstrated great interest to collaborate with IAI, and we should explore this opportunity.

There was a general discussion about the quantity and quality of publications. There was a general consensus that PIs and Co-PIs should be encouraged to publish in high quality journals. Dr. Liverman informed that some journals are quite open to receive articles from scientists. IAI should encourage PIs and Co-PIs to contact journals.

The SAC discussed the status of the CRN Program and made the following comments and suggestions:

The major issue discussed was the relationship between the PIs and the SAC members. Although some specific problems were discussed, it was felt that in general, the SAC experience with most PIs has been positive. The PIs were generally happy to receive comments and constructive criticisms. Nevertheless, it was felt that the SAC should always try to improve the communications with the PIs. The PIs should know that the SAC member's role in communicating with them is to strengthen the network.

Some of the CRN projects were then reassigned among the SAC members: H. Tiessen's project, originally assigned to Scoppa, was reassigned to Omar Masera; J. Silva's project originally assigned to Ortega was reassigned to Omar Masera and M. Nunez's project,

which was assigned to Diana Liverman was reassigned to Walter Fernandez. Eduardo Banus shall contact the PIs to let them know about the new liaisons.

Regarding progress report of CRN and ISP projects, the SAC feeling was that the reports should only be available to the IAI and SAC. Only final reports should be available openly on the Institute's web. Dr. Filmer suggested that the PI could be asked permission to post his/her report openly on the web and that the IAI should only do it if permission is granted.

The SAC also approved the report of its thirteenth meeting with no modifications.

The SAC chair informed the members about the Conflict of Interest Document, which was approved by the EC at its last meeting. The final document will be posted on the IAI web.

IAI Vision and Strategy Document was presented by Dr. Armando Rabuffetti. It was agreed that this document could be useful for the development of a strategy for several working groups of the IAI, such as fundraising and programmatic development. It was recommended that high priority should be given to seek other funding possibilities. For instance, integrated assessment projects clearly need to find joint support from different agencies. It was suggested that the Millenium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) initiative is a great opportunity for IAI to play a major role in taking the lead in Latin America. It was informed that IAI presented a project to the MEA, led by Dr. Osvaldo Sala. There was also the suggestion to support new programs with the involvement of new scientists, especially in the area of mitigation and adaptation issues. The SAC chair suggested that a small group should work with the Directorate to explore these ideas; Dr. Bevilacqua agreed to start up and will try to identify some on-going actions in Brazil and other countries.

NSF announced the possibility of considering a proposal from IAI for a new program, with funds of approximately US\$ 300,000.00 dollars. The SAC will wait for guidelines from the EC, after the announcement is official, to act on the development of the strategy for the announcement of opportunity.

The Directorate requested SAC guidelines about the continuation and future of the Summer Institute given that the grant expires in 2001. The SAC decided to further discuss this issue at its next meeting.

In addition, the SAC should discuss the terms and conditions that should be considered in the eventual need to terminate an IAI project.

Finally, it was agreed that the next SAC meeting could be tentatively scheduled for mid-April, 2001 in São Jose dos Campos, Brazil. The Directorate will investigate all members' availability and the most convenient site for the meeting.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

1. In connection to Dr. Scheman presentation there was a suggestion to support some activities on regional assessments. Dr Rabuffetti, Dr. Filmer, and Dr. Stewart will work together with the IAI-EC to prepare an official response to R. Scheman.
2. There were changes in the assignments of CRN projects to SAC Members. Eduardo Banus shall contact the PIs to let them know about the new liaisons.
3. Regarding the IAI Vision and Strategy Document, several ideas were presented. The SAC chair suggested that a small group should work with the Directorate to explore these ideas; Dr. Bevilacqua agreed to start up and will try to identify some on-going actions in Brazil and other countries.
4. Regarding NSF's announcement of funds, the SAC will wait for guidelines from the EC, after the announcement is official, to act on the development of the strategy for the announcement of opportunity.
5. The Directorate requested SAC guidelines about the continuation and future of the Summer Institute given that the grant expires in 2001. The SAC decided to further discuss this issue at its next meeting.
6. In the next meeting, the SAC should discuss the terms and conditions that should be considered in the eventual need to terminate an IAI project.
7. The next SAC meeting was tentatively scheduled for mid-April, 2001 in São Jose dos Campos, Brazil. The Directorate will investigate all members' availability and the most convenient site for the meeting.