

**REPORT OF THE
IAI SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) CHAIR
TO THE 20th EC – 12th CoP MEETINGS**

Walter Fernández

SAC Chair

Montreal, Canada , 2 - 6 May, 2005

**21ST MEETING OF THE IAI SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)
Santiago, Chile, 9-11 November 2004**

Participants:

SAC Members:

Walter Fernández (Chair), Vicente Barros, Michael Brklacich, René Capote, Alejandro Castellanos, Rana Fine, Silvia Garzoli, Luiz F. Legey, Maria Assuncao Silva Dias.

Observers:

Luiz Bevilacqua (former IAI SAC Chair), Paul Filmer (NSF), Shere Abbott (AAAS Chief International Officer), Peter Backlund (NCAR Director of Research Relations), Tom Bogdan (NCAR - SERE Associate Director), Tom Yoksas (UCAR Unidata)

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IAI Directorate:

Gerhard Breulmann (Scientific Officer), Marcella Ohira (Training, Education and Outreach Officer), Isabel Vega (Assistant to the SO), Paula Richter (Assistant).

The IAI Director, Dr. Gustavo Necco, was not able to attend the meeting. The SAC Chair read a letter from the IAI Director to the SAC.

WELCOME TO NEW SAC MEMBERS

The SAC Chair, Walter Fernandez opened the meeting welcoming specifically the new SAC members, **Vicente Barros** and **Rana Fine**.

**EVALUATION OF PRE-PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR THE SECOND ROUND
OF THE IAI COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH NETWORK (CRN II) PROGRAM**
(selection of pre-proposals to be invited for submission of full proposals)

In response to the IAI CRN II pre-proposals announcement, 93 eligible pre-proposals were received by the deadline (20 October 2004), involving 93 PIs and 829 Co-PIs, requesting a budget total of US\$ 80,141,275.

The SAC had decided at its 20th meeting that the review of the pre-proposals would be done by the committee itself. However, due to the large number of pre-proposals received and the thematic spread, some “external” reviewers were consulted.

Each pre-proposal was assigned to two reviewers (primary and secondary), who ranked them against the evaluation criteria as outlined in the CRN II Pre-proposal General Guidelines, i.e., Scientific excellence and technical soundness, relevance to the IAI Science Agenda, policy relevance, research gap- new topic, capacity building, integration of natural and social sciences, appropriate budget and in-kind contributions – in rank order. Different weighting factors were applied to each criterion. The rating scale applied was from 1 (= poor) to 5 (= excellent).

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Each proposal was introduced to the committee by the “primary” reviewer and then the ratings of primary and secondary reviewers were combined into an overall rating.

Applying a top-down approach under consideration of regional and thematic distribution, the SAC selected 35 pre-proposals to be invited for submission of full proposals in phase 2 of the CRN II proposals process.

NCAR – IDENTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE JOINT IAI-NCAR ACTIVITY

Peter Backlund and Tom Bogdan gave presentations on the structure, objectives and activities of NCAR and UCAR. The background for the NCAR/UCAR presence is that NCAR has received a NSF grant to support joint activities between NCAR and the IAI.

The main items of the presentations were:

NCAR/UCAR draft plan has 3 main elements:

- Visitor support
- Educational opportunities
- Seminars and colloquia

NCAR – IDENTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE JOINT IAI-NCAR ACTIVITY

NCAR/UCAR suggested topics for consideration:

- Weather modeling and data assimilation
- Land-surface-atmosphere interactions
- Regional climate modeling
- Water cycle science applications
- Risk, uncertainty and decision-making
- Applied mathematics
- Space weather
- New approaches to environmental education (curricula and IT)

NCAR – IDENTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE JOINT IAI-NCAR ACTIVITY

The above is a suggested list, completely open for discussion and inclusion of IAI suggestions and needs. The activities to be carried out under the NSF grant need to be identified, planned and coordinated jointly between NCAR and IAI. It was therefore decided that a steering committee be established, including two members of the IAI SAC.

In general the NCAR proposal was received very positively by the SAC which recommends that the proposal be further developed and modified according to the needs of IAI.

A first meeting of the Steering Committee will take place at NCAR in Boulder on 23-25 May 2005.

INTRODUCTION AND EXPLANATION ABOUT EXTERNAL REVIEW BY AAAS

Shere Abbott – AAAS Chief International Officer

Shere Abbott made a presentation on the IAI External Review, which will be focused on the institutional and programmatic development and impacts.

The scope of the review will be retrospective and it is supposed to provide future guidance as a model linking research with societal needs.

The preliminary report is due in February 2005, the final report in June 2005 and will be printed in September 2005.

The elements to be evaluated are the evolution of the IAI and its science agenda; networking and linkages; capacity building; research support; communications and mechanisms for decision-support.

INTRODUCTION AND EXPLANATION ABOUT EXTERNAL REVIEW BY AAAS

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The evaluation process will be held in two phases, i.e., data gathering and research (AAAS Synthesis Team) and review and assessment (International Assessment Committee).

Shere Abbot expressed her hope for the collaboration of the SAC members during the review, as they are a very important source of information in regard to IAI's scientific programs and its future development.

The SAC Chair expressed that the committee would be happy to provide any help needed.

DISCUSSION OF CRN II FULL PROPOSALS

The SAC requested the Scientific Officer to distribute the CRN II Full Proposal General Guidelines for comments before launching. It must be very clear to the PI's that there have been major changes in the guidelines concerning sections to include, format, budget etc.

It was noted that the IAI reviewer database needs to be expanded in order to be able to cope with future reviews. The SAC should be instrumental in providing names of potential reviewers.

REPORT ON EC/CoP MEETING AND IAI FORUM, BUENOS AIRES, JULY 2004

The SAC Chair and Co-Chair gave a brief report on their participation and presentation in the last EC-CoP meetings and the Forum in Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 2004.

During the presentations in Buenos Aires the SAC Chair confirmed to the EC/CoP that the SAC would greatly welcome a joint meeting with the EC and stressed the need to receive the results of the survey of national priorities in global change research.

MECHANISM OF CRN I SYNTHESIS

The Scientific Officer informed that the original 5-year period of the CRN program has finished and that the program was on the first no-cost extension. Considering the individual no-cost extension requests received from a number of PI's, a second no-cost extension will have to be requested.

The discussion on the CRN I synthesis had started at the 18th meeting of the IAI SAC in Mendoza, Argentina, January 2003.

Considering the advantages and disadvantages of the different options discussed, the SAC decided to use the SCOPE mechanism.

The funds for the CRN I synthesis including a working meeting of about 50 persons, publication and printing costs will need to be covered by IAI CRN funds.

As for the final technical project reports, it was stressed that policy relevant outcomes need to be highlighted.

PROGRAM MANAGER HIRE – UPDATE

The Scientific Officer informed that 49 applications were received for the Program Manager vacancy and personal interviews were held with 3 candidates just in advance to the SAC meeting in Santiago.

The top candidate identified by the selection committee was informed about her selection and was expected to start the appointment in January 2005. However, she declined the appointment and until now the position is vacant.

PROPOSAL: CPTEC AFFILIATED INSTITUTION OF IAI

CPTEC is interested in becoming an affiliated institution of IAI for the program on Climate Variability in the Americas. This proposal had been presented to the IAI EC/CoP in Buenos Aires, which decided to seek a SAC recommendation on the proposal before taking a decision.

Maria Assuncao Silva Dias gave a presentation on the CPTEC proposal for a joint IAI-CPTEC 2-year internship program.

PROPOSAL: CPTEC AFFILIATED INSTITUTION OF IAI

Suggested activities are:

- Internship at CPTEC: 2-year program (could be renewable).
- IAI will issue an annual call for proposals to select, in consultation with CPTEC, 3-6 proposals for a 6-months period of internship including travel and living expenses.
- CPTEC will provide computer time, expert mentorship, office facilities and low cost accommodation for the duration of the internship.
- Candidates will be required to submit a research proposal to IAI, CV and 2 letters of recommendation one of which should be from his/her employer.
- Budget/a: CPTEC US\$ 20.200; IAI US\$ 6000.

PROPOSAL: CPTEC AFFILIATED INSTITUTION OF IAI

Maria Assuncao left the meeting room during the discussion of the proposal.

The SAC considered the proposal very positively and has made an according recommendation to the CoP.

IAI INSTITUTES

The Training, Communication and Outreach Officer has described the activities in this area.

The SAC is very pleased with the training activities organized by the IAI.

The SAC Chair and the Training, Communication and Outreach Officer had a meeting with the Deputy Director General of FAO/Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, Chile, on November 8, 2004.

NEXT SAC MEETING

Santos, Brazil, 26-28 July 2005