

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

EC XIII - CoP VIII
July 17-20, 2001
Panama City, Panama

11_ECXIII/DID/English/July 16, 2001

**Report of the Fund Raising Working Group
May 18, 2001, São José dos Campos, Brazil**

Participants: Carlos Ereño (CE) (chair), Paul Filmer (PF), Armando Rabuffetti (AR), Eduardo Banús (EB), and Silvio Bianchi (SB).

As several members of the group were present at the IAI Directorate headquarters, in São José dos Campos, Brazil, on May 18 2001 an informal meeting of the FRWG was held. Because it was not a scheduled meeting, the following members were absent: Antonio Mac Dowell, Robert Corell, Tom Malone, Otis Brown, and John Robinson.

As it was not a scheduled meeting, CE, as the group chair, suggested an agenda in which different issues related to the group responsibilities to expand the funding basis for IAI programs and activities were discussed.

IAI Countries support: Two aspects related to the support given by the countries to IAI were discussed:

- **Contributions to the Core Budget:** (It was expressed that) the rise of the debt in country voluntary contributions, which affects IAI funding capacity to support essential IAI activities is a fact of concern. This is an old problem, which has been tried to solve by urging member countries by different ways to get up to date with their contributions, without success so far. The non-payment of the voluntary contributions of a high number of member countries do not help the strategies for obtaining external support for IAI activities and programs. Therefore, it was agreed to request the relevant Working Group, FAWG, to study a set of measures to be applied on debtors to reduce the overall owed amount. Among others, the possibility of cutting off their ability to vote or restricting their participation in future IAI program announcements were mentioned. This subject should be discussed in the next meeting of the Executive Council in order to have a concrete proposal to be forwarded to the Conference of the Parties.
- **Support to Programs:** The proximity of a new announcement by IAI, which will benefit its member countries is a good occasion to review already signed Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding. It will be necessary to identify co funding mechanisms that would allow adding funds provided by other countries to the contributions already made by the USA, through the NSF. It is also advisable to start negotiations with those countries that have not signed any agreements yet in order to sign JFAs. In case of obtaining multiple country collaboration for the next IAI announcement, it will be also necessary to reconcile the proceedings for the call and peer review according to the requirements of the funding agencies.

Donors: The possibility of obtaining support from some agencies that support activities related to the themes of the IAI scientific agenda was discussed:

- Global Environment Facility (GEF): The GEF is one of the main environmental project funding agencies, which has already funded IAI activities. After that, IAI has approached the GEF in several occasions, and even made a presentation, which has not been considered yet. New mechanisms to approach GEF were discussed. Particularly, the possibility of getting into partnership with one of the implementation agencies (WB, UNDP or UNEP) that could be interested in developing regional projects was considered. The chair of the group (CE) visited Nairobi, Kenya, and held conversations with UNEP staff members. He was informed that as UNEP (a GEF implementation agency) still has a low relative part of the GEF funded projects; they would be interested in expanding their participation in new projects. An approach to UNEP is proposed to discuss partnership possibilities for a regional project to be funded by GEF.
- Inter-American Development Bank (IADB): AR and PF recently visited the IADB headquarters to explore the possibilities for cooperation with this organization. There was a concrete proposal to IAI to organize a workshop on Climate Change for the Bank staff. In addition the Bank would receive a brief document from IAI describing potential proposals for cooperation.
- Organization of American States (OAS): The chair of the group had the opportunity of interviewing an OAS member of staff during a meeting held in Montevideo in March. The possibility of starting negotiations to obtain the OAS support for Training and Education initiatives arose while analyzing different possibilities of cooperation with this organization. A letter to OAS (R. Scheman) asking information on the procedures and opportunities of a joint work with OAS was sent on April 10, 2001
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): The regional course "Preparing to Face Climate Variability and Extreme Events in Central America. Practical Use of Forecasts" held on February 12-23, 2001 in San José, Costa Rica was a joint initiative of IAI and the NOAA US Office of Global Programs (NOAA/OGP). The Regional Committee of Water Resources of the Central American Isthmus/Central American Integration System (CRRH/SICA), the US National Science Foundation (NSF), the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance for Latin America and the Caribbean (OFDA/LAC), the NOAA-Mitch Program, and the University of Costa Rica also collaborated in funding this event. This course, organized with the collaborative effort of several institutions with common interests, has evidenced IAI capacity to generate such initiatives throughout the Americas. During the gestation process of the course, a similar experience for the Caribbean was planned. This and other regional Training initiatives with the collaboration of national, official, private, and regional interested institutions are planned to should be fostered.

- In general: the group analyzed the actions to be taken in order to access different funding initiatives for regional projects in a more effective way was made. It was noticed that the IAI Directorate has a limited capacity for writing attractive and strong enough proposals to arouse interest of potential donors. It was noticed that the actual beneficiaries of proposals (PIs and CoPIs of the different IAI programs) have not had an appropriate participation in this process. IAI should make use of the capacity for elaborating the required proposals shown by the researchers in the fundraising process for scientific projects.

International Agencies: Particular strategies to be followed regarding other international funding agencies not considered in the previous bullet were analyzed.

- European Commission: The result of the carried out survey indicate there is no possibility of cooperation agreements with the IAI.
- Spain/Portugal: Spanish governmental authorities have been contacted. A visit is planned in September, when meetings with different authorities of organizations interested in cooperating with the IAI will be held. Similar efforts will be made to contact the government of Portugal.
- IGFA/other European Agencies: The participation in the last meeting of the International Group of Funding Agencies for Global Change Research (IGFA) resulted in a series of contacts that made it easier to approach Spanish authorities and potential support from other individual European Union countries, among other benefits. After having analyzed the strategy to be followed regarding this countries, maintaining the link and participating in meetings organized by IGFA was considered a priority.
- Japan: Initial contacts have been established with Japanese funding agencies during the IGFA meeting at the end of last year. IAI participation in the next IGFA meeting will be an opportunity to continue searching for cooperation with agencies from that country.

Private Foundations: A concrete approach to private foundations has not been achieved yet. FRWG members, with the help of the IAI Directorate, will try to find the best way to obtain support from these organizations.

Fundraisers: PF held a meeting with the CMShaw Consulting Group directives, who elaborated a proposal for a feasibility study for the IAI to determine the scope of funding which may be available for increasing the grants and services of the organization. The proposal was analyzed, concluding that it is necessary to define the requirements the professional to be hired should meet more clearly. The CMShaw firm suggested a list of possible candidates with appropriate experience to satisfy IAI requirements. Because the functions proposed by CMShaw were in the end very similar to those of the FRWG itself, it was decided not to answer to the proposal.