

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH



EC-XXVII - CoP-XVI – EC-XXVIII

May 18-21, 2009

Bogotá, Colombia

Minutes of the EC-XXVI

December, 2008

**Minutes of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the IAI Executive Council (EC)
Buenos Aires, Argentina**

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Note: This report is not a strictly chronological record. For completeness, greater clarity and readability the IAI Directorate has grouped discussions of an agenda item together under the first occurrence of the topic.

**26th Meeting of the IAI Executive Council (EC)
17 and 18 June 2008 – Buenos Aires, Argentina**

AGENDA

Tuesday – 17 June 2008

Day 1

- Morning session (08:30 – 12:00)

08:30 - 9:00 Registration

Opening ceremony
Representative of Argentina
EC Bureau

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Report of the 25th Meeting of the EC

Progress Report of the EC: **EC Bureau**

- *Activities charged to the EC and its Bureau;*
- *Activities, actions, and decisions of the EC Bureau or its members;*
- *EC items to be forwarded to the CoP.*

Nomination of the Committee to recommend candidates for the election of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) members.

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee Break

Progress Report of the IAI Directorate: **Director and the IAI Staff**

- *Overview of Science and Capacity Building (H. Tiessen, G. Breulmann, M. Ohira);*
- *Overview of the Financial Status of the Core Budget for FY 2007-2008 and Auditors Report as of June 30, 2007 (Rafael Atmetlla);*
- *Overview of the Core Budget for FY 2008-2009 and Country Contribution for 2008-2009 (Rafael Atmetlla);*

12:30 Lunch Break

- Afternoon session (14:00 –18:00)

Planning for a joint IAI-SCOPE-UNESCO program on interdisciplinary and intersectoral capacity building for scientists and government departments involved in global change. (Introduced by **Holm Tiessen**)

Progress Report of the Working Groups/Task Forces/Committees:

- *Financial and Administrative Committee*..... *Louis Grittani*
- *Financial and Administrative matters (host country)* *Directorate + FAC*
- *Update on relations with Member States* *delegates + IAI Directorate*
- *CoP Quorum issue**Lou B. Brown*
- *Review Process of the EC and CoP Standing Rules**Lou B. Brown*

16:30 – 16:45 Coffee Break

Approval of the Auditors Report of the Financial Statement as of June 30, 2007

Wrap up session

Welcome Reception

Wednesday – 18 June 2008

Day 2

- Morning session (09:00 – 12:00)

Approval of the Action List of day 1

Report of the committee to recommend candidates for the election of the IAI SAC members.

Progress Report of the SAC Chair *Mike Brklacich*

IAI Strategic Planning

10:15 – 10:30 Coffee Break

Approval of the items to be forwarded to the CoP

Future sites and meetings

Adjourn

12:30 Lunch

- Afternoon session (14:00 – 18:00)

Special event - Presentations in the area of Science and Technology

1. Opening Session

Carlos Ereño, on behalf of the Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva, welcomed the participants and wished them a successful meeting.

Paul Filmer, Second Vice-Chair of the EC, chaired the EC XXVI. After the introductory remarks, the EC determined that the quorum was present and therefore decided to go ahead with its work.

Participants at the meeting were:

EC Country Representatives

Argentina: Carlos Ereño
Brazil: Maria Virgínia Alves
Canada: Louis Grittani
Costa Rica: Gabriela Sánchez Arrieta (first day)
Cuba: Bárbara Garea Moreda
Mexico: Gerardo Arroyo
Panama: Diana Laguna
United States: Paul Filmer (2nd EC Vice Chair), Louis B. Brown, Norman H. Barth, Chester Ropelewski, William M. Smith, Vanessa Richardson
Venezuela: Gladys Maggi

Observers – Member Countries:

Colombia: Álvaro Restrepo
Jamaica: Enrique Banuchi (first day)
Paraguay: Miguel Angel Vázquez (first day)

SAC Members:

Michael Brklacich (former SAC Chair)

IAI Directorate:

Holm Tiessen (Director), Gerhard Breulmann (SO), Rafael Atmetlla (FAO), Marcella Ohira (TO), Luciana Queiroz Ribeiro, Tania R. Freire Sánchez (Assistants to the Director), Paula Richter (IAI Newsletter & Communications), Elvira Gentile (IAI Directorate support).

Local staff

Magdalena Alvarez, Romina Iuso

2. Approval of the Agenda

The EC approved the Agenda of its Twenty Sixth Meeting with the following amendments:

- a) Because of the delay in the flight of the former SAC Chair, the Progress Report of the SAC Chair and the IAI Strategic Planning discussion were moved to Day 2, morning session. Consequently, presentations of Progress Reports of the Working Groups/Task Forces/Committees and the Approval of the Auditor's Report of the Financial Statement as of June 30, 2007 would take place in the afternoon session of Day 1.
- b) the FAC report would be presented by Louis Grittani instead of William Smith. (*Action 1, Day 1*)

3. Approval of the Report of the XXIV EC Meeting

The EC approved the Report of its Twenty Fifth Meeting with the following modifications:

- a) Spanish version, page 11, under *Comentarios, Argentina*

Where it is written: “Política de datos: como dentro del proyecto VAMOS Project se generó una gran cantidad de datos, tuvieron que generar una política para los países sudamericanos. Dicha política de datos está disponible para que el IAI la consulte.”

It should read: “Política de datos: el panel sobre la Variabilidad de los Monzones Americanos (VAMOS) del programa CLIVAR ha generado una gran cantidad de datos a lo largo de las Américas, como resultado de sus proyectos. Por tal motivo desarrolló una interesante política de datos que puede ser tomada como referencia por el IAI”.

b) English version, page 9, under *Comments, Argentina*

Where it is written: “Data policy: as within VAMOS project a huge amount of data was generated, they had to develop a data policy for South American countries. That policy is already available for the IAI for consultation.”

It should read: “Data policy: the panel on Variability of American Monsoons (VAMOS) of the CLIVAR program has generated a large amount of data throughout the Americas as a result of its projects. Consequently, they developed an interesting data policy, which the IAI can use as reference.”

c) English version, page 24, paragraph 1, line 3: delete “from USA to Paraguay and Bolivia”, and the corresponding deletion in the Spanish version.

d) Representatives of Venezuela and other countries will contact the Secretariat for minor corrections. (*Action 2, Day 1*)

4. Report of the EC Bureau

Paul Filmer, 2nd Vice Chair, referred participants to Document 5 (5.ECXXVI/DID/Eng/5.jun.08). He explained that usually this report is given by the EC Chair but as both the EC Chair and the First Vice Chair have resigned, he is the only remaining member in the EC Bureau.

Activities carried out by the 2nd Vice Chair since EC-24 (Manaus)

- Attended the OAS Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology, which met in Washington on September 20, 2007, and briefed the members on the activities of the IAI and the results of the AAAS External Review.
- Attended the SAC-26 (Arlington), see report in section 12.

Activities carried out since EC-25 (Arlington)

- Sent a letter to the IAI Director expressing concern about IAI staffing stability (17 December 2008).
- Attended the last 2 days of the Data and Information Management Training Workshop, held in Panama 25-29 February 2008. (See directorate report, section 6).
- Attended SAC-27 in Toronto (see report from SAC in section 12). This meeting was immediately followed by a meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee (also attended by the Representatives of Argentina & Mexico) (see section 13).

Director’s Contract: At CoP-14 in Manaus, unanimous approval was given for the re-election of the Director for a period of six years. Following precedent, the Financial and Administrative Committee drafted a new contract that would be signed during the meeting. The contract would be signed for the IAI by the EC Chair or any remaining member of the Bureau.

IAI Directorate Staffing issues: A letter from IAI Staff to the EC Bureau was sent in December 2007 following their receipt of dismissal notices from INPE. The 2nd Vice Chair consulted with the Director, and

absent any official Brazilian Representative, initiated contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brasilia, expressing concern over the ability of the Directorate to carry out its functions (see Director's report).

Cuba: thanked Paul Filmer for taking the responsibility of the whole EC Bureau and suggested thinking of a mechanism for replacing Bureau Members in case of resignation.

USA (Lou Brown): I believe that the time has come to completely rewrite the Rules of Procedure of EC and CoP. In doing so, the rules that deal with EC Bureau could be rethought in order to fill vacancies.

5. Nomination of the Committee to recommend candidates for the election of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) members

The 2nd Vice Chair explained this committee would give a report to the CoP. This process reflects the increased spirit of collaboration between EC and SAC. There had been two joint EC-SAC sessions (Isla Margarita and Arlington). The SAC is eager to engage more with the Executive Body of the IAI.

In the past this committee was conformed by two countries from the EC, two additional countries from the CoP, one member from Directorate, the SAC Chair and one local scientist. They took some time in one of the evenings to look over the CVs submitted by the CoP and the SAC in detail and specially gaps in scientific expertise that are needed in that Committee to fulfill its mission.

The IAI Director clarified that the current SAC Chair was not present but Mike Brklacich (former SAC Chair) could replace him.

USA (Lou Brown): As there is no formal deadline in the rules for nominations he encouraged Member Countries who had nominations for SAC positions to hand the documentation on to the Secretariat so that the mentioned Committee can consider all nominations.

The EC decided that members of the Committee to recommend candidates for the election of the IAI SAC members would be: Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, USA, Venezuela, the Scientific Officer, Carolina Vera (local scientist), and the former SAC Chair. (<i>Action 3, Day 1</i>)
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6. Report of the IAI Directorate

Dr. Holm Tiessen (IAI Director), Gerhard Breulmann (Scientific Officer) and Rafael Atmetlla (Financial and Administrative Officer), gave the report of the IAI Directorate (Document 6 - 6.ECXXVI/CoPXV /DID/Eng/28.April.2008)

The Scientific Officer reported on the Science Programs (CRN II, SGP-HD), the IDRC grant – La Plata Basin, the 2nd NCAR-IAI colloquium and the participation of IAI at UNFCCC SBSTA 28.

Science Programs:

- CRN II projects finalize Year 2, next reports due in Aug 08
- IAI approved a new CRN II project on climate change. The portfolio of the 12 approved projects did not have any project with a specific focus on climate change, though most of them have climate change components. The new CRN II project on climate change is on “*The Impact of Land Use and Cover Changes on the Hydroclimate in the La Plata Basin*”, the PI is Hugo BERBERY, CONICET & U. of Maryland and has participants from Argentina, Brazil and USA. The funding is of US\$ 459.500, through

Apr. 08 – Jun. 11. The main objectives are to develop 25 year (1980-2005) datasets from a Land Data Assimilation System; assess the impact of LCLU changes on the hydro-climate and regional hydrology of the La Plata Basin including the intensity and length of extreme events (floods droughts). The project is closely linked to the “La Plata Basin Regional Hydroclimate Project (LPB)” of CLIVAR, GEWEX (WCRP).

- SPG-HD projects started their activities in Sep 07 - This program had been launched to complement the CRN II portfolio in the human dimensions area.
- The CRN II – SGP-HD PI meeting was held in Panama City, Panama on 21-23 February 2008 with the local support of CATHALAC and back to back with *TI on ‘Data and Information Management’*. The meeting focused on networking opportunities, challenges and strategies; the different approaches to developing and maintaining science – stakeholder/policy dialogue. Initial discussions were held on the CRN II synthesis process, which is a responsibility of the IAI as a whole (*not only Directorate*). The process should develop in incremental steps along the way until 2011. The audience for the synthesis products also needs to be defined (scientists, funders, development agencies, decision makers), this means that multiple products will have to be issued (high visibility journals, (policy) briefs, education materials, presentations at major events (science & policy events)). The synthesis can be done on thematic and/or regional nodes (e.g., La Plata Basin; Environment & Human well-being; GEC & Biodiversity). Another recommendation was that the IAI develop a “slide bank” (similar to IPCC, MA); IAI PPT presentation (inst. & sci.). “Fact Sheets” will be prepared, i.e., two page documents highlighting the main goals and activities of the projects to be distributed to interested parties.

The IDRC grant on “**Land Use Change, Biofuels and Rural Development in the La Plata Basin**” started in March 1, 2008 and will end in September 2010. Countries involved are Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia. The level of funding is CAD 425.310. There is a strong stakeholder involvement since the project planning (AACREA, APRESID, IPNI). The project aims at understanding the interactions of *natural and human* components in agro-ecosystems in the La Plata Basin to provide guidance to actors and decision makers on the processes of land use and rural development. The five project components are coordinated by the IAI: 1) LU & Hydro (CRN & IDRC) 2) Data (IDRC) 3) Modeling (IDRC) 4) LU & rural development (SGP-HD & IDRC) 5) Climate & LU (CRN only). The objectives of the project are to document and analyze LUC over the past 25 years in the context of regional climate variations; analyze the social and economic drivers and impacts of this LUC; make socio-economic analyses of rural development and markets for industrial crops and biofuels; and prepare a synthesis, identify connections between climate – LU - development patterns; forecast trends in cooperation with and for use of land users and decision makers; gap analysis for future needs.

Following up on the Boulder 2006 colloquium on ‘Policy planning and decision making involving climate change and variability’ the **2nd NCAR-IAI colloquium, “Seasonality and Water Resources in the Western Hemisphere”**, is planned for 6 – 17 October 2008 in Mendoza, Argentina. Local host: IANGLIA, CRICYT (Pepe Bonisegna, Ricardo Villalba).

- The issues addressed are Changes in seasonality under climate change & regional impacts, considering the policy process under different modes of governance and legislation in the local, national and international context.
- The Announcement was delayed due to closure of NCAR-SERE Director’s Office (May 2008) the NCAR counterpart for the event. It was finally *launched on 12 June 08*
- Max. 25 participants, scientists & practitioners

In the beginning of June, the IAI participated in the **UNFCCC SBSTA meeting**. The Institute has Observer status since 2006 and has continued inputs since then. A side event on ‘Building joint capacities in science and policy sectors for environmental decision making’ was held on that occasion jointly with APN. During the side event presentations were given on science: interdisciplinarity (natural and social), science – decision making; decision support/management tools and governmental perspectives (by representatives from ID,

New Zealand, Brazil, and Mexico). There was also a research informal session (ESSP, APN, IAI) – research update.

Then *the Director provided an overview of how the described activities fit into the overall IAI science portfolio and science programs*. He presented the case of the La Plata Basin initiatives on Climate Change and Land Cover.

Climate change is a great concern in the La Plata Basin (includes Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, lower parts of Bolivia and a large portion of Brazil), but also the tremendous expansion of agriculture and land use of an industrial type. Agriculture is starting to affect the regional hydrology and scientists are asking themselves if there are feedbacks from the land surface to the regional climate system in terms of changed evapotranspirations, changed air movements and changed rainfall patterns.

In the context of global change, agriculture has a number of roles: it can mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, through internal functions within agriculture (biological N-fixation, conservation tillage practices and increasing productivity of already cultivated lands). Those are things that the agriculture Bureaus and research organizations are dealing with but the main focus now is using agriculture products to replace some of the fossil fuels. That is where the concern on *biofuels* comes from. The transformation of the La Plata Basin is driven to a large degree by the markets and market opportunities followed by biofuels. The discussion on biofuels is controversial and that is where an organization like the IAI, that has a proven science track record and does have an active political representation, comes in as a very important player.

The discussion on biofuels has to take care of the various aspects that are very often either separated or not brought into the discussion at all. Co-products should be considered (e.g. when maize is used for biofuel production, the residues of the fermentation are useful for cattle feed). In fact there is an opinion in the region of the La Plata Basin that the introduction of maize for biofuel is an opportunity for rural diversification relative to the green desert produced by soybean production (which is only soybean production and export). The idea behind this is that if we go into maize production, there will be biofuel production, there will be a process in industry for cattle feed, there may be regional cattle production, etc. The debate has to consider carefully which the purpose of the biofuel is; is it to reduce the overall greenhouse gases emissions? Is it to develop some independence from imported petroleum products? How far can those goals coexist with maintaining land quality and ecosystem services? Some of the projects in the LPB initiative are considering some of these issues such as water availability, runoff systems, regional climate change, in the context of land use change driven by biofuel production.

At the same time, there are serious concerns about maintaining food affordability looking at food prices around the world. At this point, the signal in food prices is to a very minor extent due to the diversion of land to biofuels, but there is a tremendous potential of driving that process in the wrong direction. And of course there are positive aspects of biofuel production. It diversifies rural income away from purely food products to other market sectors which are ruled by other market signals and therefore creates a tremendous opportunity for rural populations. That spectrum of consideration is increasingly being reflected in the IAI's program that gathers climate science, hydrology, agricultural sciences, as well as experts in economy, economics and rural development. They are all working together in the La Plata Basin project with very positive results.

Technological challenges are other important point. Paul Filmer in his introduction to CRN I Synthesis wrote that the basic sciences are in danger of missing the boat when the engineering and medical sciences are much quicker to respond to the demands of the society in the context of global change. The IAI has had medical projects linking medical sciences to global change, specifically malaria, fever, dengue that are spreading throughout the South American continent. Some important challenges have to do with engineering and technology. For instance, food crops are used in the production of biofuel (except in the case of Brazil who is

a major sugar cane producer). Food crops have been selected for being food crops, i.e. having a nutritional value and therefore high nitrogen content for many thousands of years. But now those plants are used for biofuel production in which basically carbon content matters and suddenly the rest becomes a contaminant in the process. That is where technological changes and biotechnology are needed to modify the outlook in the biofuel production.

There are still some technological challenges in the cost-effective depolymerization of celluloses for the generation of cellulosic alcohol. Biodiesel is a simpler issue in temperate zones. For example canola oil, rapeseed oil, are suitable for biodiesel. Soybean, which is the main product in the LPB, is not that fortunate. And some of the issues that need to be explored are: should refinement take place in the big refineries that are located along the coast where petroleum products have traditionally been refined? Or does it make sense to do some of the refining for local markets far away from the international markets (e.g. the interior in western regions of Brazil and Argentina).

Finally, there is an emerging industry of what may be called biorefineries where biological products are converted not only into biofuels but also into a number of other chemical industrial products.

The IAI strategic discussions over the next months are an excellent opportunity to explore to what degree and in what manner the IAI should interact with the technological side.

In terms of *adapting to climate change*, agriculture and various land use systems -including forestry- face tremendous challenges. In order to deal with adaptation, science as well as legal and programmatic frameworks are needed to achieve the integrated management of water basins. In that context, the La Plata Basin initiative, and hopefully others that will be developed soon, becomes important. The Caribbean, is an area with a strong potential for development, however it has limitations. For instance, the kinds of production units that Brazil has for sugar cane are very difficult to manage in small islands. Therefore it is necessary to find inclusive solutions for mitigation and adaptation to global change in these regions with particular characteristics.

Finally, Latin America and the Caribbean is a part of the world where *poverty and development* are very serious issues. There will never be adaptation and mitigation if the need for further development in the region is not taken into account. That is one of the divides between North and South and that has to be dealt not only in the science but also in the decision making process. The populations of Latin America and the Caribbean are in need of development, there needs are to be recognized and reconciled with the science the IAI is doing. That is why the IDRC project in the La Plata Basin is so important, because it is about development and research.

In its first 10 years the IAI has consolidated as a strong force for excellent science. Now it is time to communicate that science to decision makers and to the public as a whole, in order to put them in a position to rationally discuss the issue and come up with beneficial decisions.

The Director presented an example of an irrigation network planned in La Pampa (Argentina), where a river that drains outside the La Plata basin into the Atlantic Ocean will be diverted northwards to create irrigation nuclei in the agriculture area of a semi-arid region. On the other hand, in Alberta (Canada), there is an 80-year old irrigation system. The communication between the two regions is vital in order to be able to build on the experience of 80 years of such a project. There is another role for the IAI: *fomenting dialogue between the nations in sharing experiences*.

In the context of global change, *policy needs scientifically-informed decisions*, founded on understanding and knowledge. The scope of decisions should go beyond legislative periods to harmonize development with life-support systems for present and future societies. This is difficult to achieve in the political sector. At the

same time, it is difficult for the scientific sector to interact effectively with that kind of decision-making process. Making decisions becomes a learning process linked to science. That dialogue must be brought forward and fomented by the IAI.

Biodiversity is a major concern, societies have benefited from the conversion to managed ecosystems but losses in biodiversity and ecosystem services have reduced well-being, increased poverty and stifled development of some regions and groups. The *biodiversity assessment in the La Plata Basin* is a PETROBRAS-funded assessment jointly with SCOPE and with the participation of PETROBRAS ecosystem scientists. The initiative will analyze the impact of crop expansion in the LPB on ecosystems and ecosystem services, under the scenario of increasing land use change and biofuel production. Issues addressed will be biodiversity; quality and availability of water; land quality and landscape function; greenhouse gas budgets, and the feedback to social and economic wellbeing. This is the first industry-led project that the IAI has engaged in. The environmental record of PETROBRAS and other industries should not be taken into account if the idea is to foster dialogue across the sectors. The process of development is not driven by individual communities, but by large industries and large countries.

Another project the IAI is working on, under the leadership of the Capacity Building Officer is the *Assessment of climate effects on Andean biodiversity*. The pilot project is funded by MacArthur Foundation as a basis for future science programming, and will assess (with SCOPE) the current knowledge, research capacities, institutional opportunities and constraints. The project will evaluate the institutional capacities of tropical Andean countries to deal with these issues in the future in order to guide future investment by the MacArthur Foundation for further studies and implementation in the region. The IAI has established a steering committee composed of biodiversity and climate change experts from Andean countries to conduct the science and policy components of the project. This project was a great opportunity to re-engage the tropical Andean countries in the IAI.

The *IAI-INPE/CPTEC Research Internship Program* is another capacity building initiative in the current portfolio of the IAI. One Peruvian student has completed her internship on the adaptation of a global climate model to Andean agriculture. One Argentinean student is working on mesoscale models over the LPB. In January 2008, the IAI announced a call for new interns under the IAI-INPE/CPTEC Research Internship Program. The IAI and INPE/CPTEC expect to select new interns to start their program in 2008 and 2009.

The workshop on Climate Change & Climate Variability Research and their Impacts on Human Health in the Americas” (January, 2008, Cuernavaca, México), co-organized with Mexico’s National Institute of Public Health, was attended by 18 professionals from 6 countries. In addition to disseminating results of CRN I 048 on *Climate Variability and Human Health* it developed linkages with national and regional climate and health programs, in particular IDRC’s (Canada) Ecohealth Program for Latin America and the Caribbean. IDRC invited the CRN I 048 (and other participants) to prepare a pre-proposal based on the results and discussion of the meeting which will be considered for funding once IDRC’s Ecohealth Program takes shape. Based on the synthesis of the CRN I project, the investigators identified research priorities to guide future research in linking climate and public health issues and fostered communication with the policy-making community, as Mexican scientists strengthened their national collaboration with Health officials.

In order to do science for informed action, information has to be processed in a way that it can be used. The information needs to be linked in time and space. The IAI has to be able to present complex climate gradients, observations, models, scenarios; present information on a spatial scale, across maps (risk maps, overlaying agriculture development with climatic risk maps, perhaps overlaying it with political decision processes). All in order to provide information on the decision that is needed, i.e., evaluate trends, communicate risks and the opportunities we are facing within this context. The IAI charter states the free and open exchange of information and data to aid with informed decision making. That is one of the areas that still needs development. That is why the IAI organized the “*Training Institute on Information*

Management: free and open access to, and use of data and information –already mentioned- that brought together investigators & data managers of IAI projects and representatives from institutions dealing with data: CODATA, Oakridge NL, CPTEC/LBA. This point has to be revisited during the strategic planning process. The meeting established a working group to improve data integration, discovery, and interconnectivity; define protocols for data sharing among projects; develop metadata display and visualization tools; explore interdisciplinary thesaurus; consider data policy and intellectual property issues; and provide input to Strategic Planning.

As to the **DIS Directorate activities**, LBA and CPTEC are helping the IAI in terms of data management. Their computing capacities are greater than IAI's. IAI has also renewed relationship with Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and the Mercury Consortium for a new phase of the DIS. It is still working on the metadata editor for different types of data.

In terms of **science-policy dialogue**, the IAI followed the recommendation of Mexico to become an observer to **UNFCCC** and has become active in the **SBSTA meetings**. In the last session of June 2008, the IAI organized a side event to promote the science policy dialogue, already mentioned by the SO. Visions were presented for inter-sectorial dialogue in order to facilitate the insertion of scientific information in the policy sector

Though the IAI has moved forward into the dialogue that is needed, it is now limited as IAI scientists are not involved in the political process. The IAI as a whole has a political aspect which is represented in the CoP. The scientific side of the IAI has expressed its message at SBSTA and now the support of the political side is needed to move forward. The Director asked Member Countries for a political statement or recommendation, through their representations at SBSTA, the UNFCCC and UNESCO towards advancing the science-policy dialogue, and increasing the visibility of science.

Comments:

Cuba: We should discuss with more detail the proposals of the Director and the SO. Our countries have to see that the IAI is useful for decision making. The idea of the La Plata Basin program is very interesting and should be applied in other regions.

Argentina explained how the LPB program began. During the CRN II call for proposals, some of them did not receive funding due to regional and discipline balance. As there were preexistent projects (some funded by the IAI) and capacities in the region, the countries requested funds from organizations (UE, IDRC, etc.). It was a favorable scenario for the IAI to join what was there and helped these countries to develop a program.

Director: We took the opportunities that were offered to us and developed a program. In a similar way we are taking the opportunity for developing a program for the tropical Andean countries around the funding provided by the Mc Arthur Foundation. At this point, the two regions that still do not have a program of that sort are Central America-Mexico and the Caribbean. Both regions have very strong characteristics by themselves. Central America is like a climate change laboratory at a small scale –Atlantic and Pacific influences, strong precipitation gradients over very short distances, impacts of hurricanes, etc.). We should look for opportunities to develop programs for Central America and the Caribbean. IAI continues to be underrepresented in those regions, many nations are not members of the IAI, and however they suffer the impacts of climate change. We have made science presentations to promote the cause during the small island meeting of the UN Convention but we should focus on those regions and actively look for opportunities and needs.

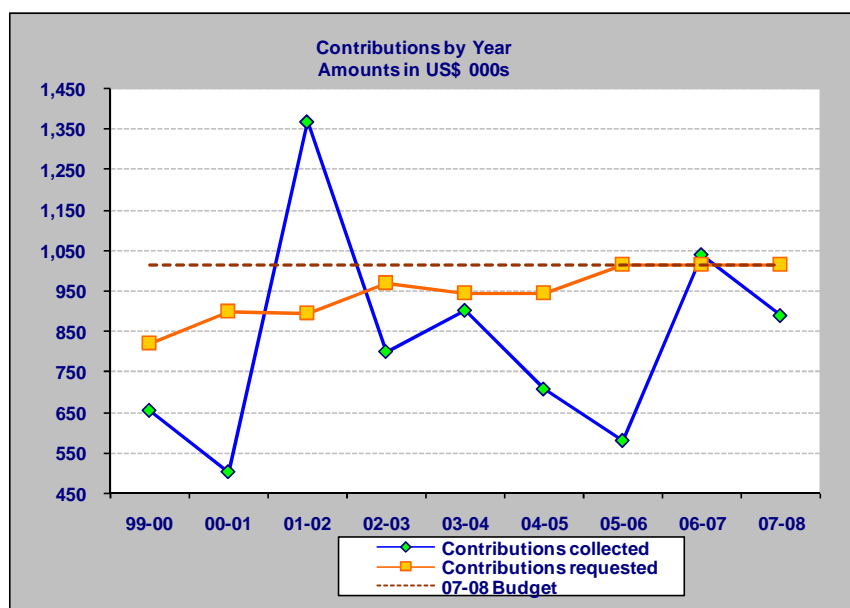
Overview of the Financial Status of the Core Budget for FY 2007-2008 and Auditors Report as of June 30, 2007

The Finance and Administration Officer presented on the Core Budget Status and the country contributions for FY 2008-2009. As of 31-May-08, funds collected represent 88% of the Core Budget for 2007/2008. The response from the countries to the IAI contacts has been very positive; Peru transferred the total of US\$26,649 and as part of the commitment to pay for previous contributions during 2008. Chile and Brazil paid their contributions for 08/09 in advance before the end of 2006/2007. The IAI Directorate expects to withdraw up to US\$450k of the US contribution for the current year before the end of June 2008, as the new grant has been recently approved and is ready for disbursement.

Table 1: Core Budget 2007/2008 – Status of country contributions as of May 31, 2008 (Amounts in US\$)

	Due as of 30-Jun-07	Contribution for FY 07/08	Paid - in 2007/2008 to be applied to:			Due as of 30-Jun-08
			Arrears	Current year	Advances	
Argentina	51,957	50,000	(50,000)			51,957
Bolivia	25,000	5,000				30,000
Brazil	(80,000)	85,000				5,000
Canada	-	125,000		(125,000)		-
Chile	(5,000)	5,000	-	-	(15,000)	(15,000)
Colombia	40,000	10,000				50,000
Costa Rica	6,992	5,000				11,992
Cuba	20,067	5,000				25,067
Dominican Republic	50,000	5,000				55,000
Ecuador	30,000	5,000				35,000
Guatemala	50,000	5,000				55,000
Jamaica	15,000	5,000				20,000
Mexico	-	60,000		(60,000)	-	-
Panama	-	5,000		(5,000)		-
Paraguay	55,000	5,000				60,000
Peru	35,000	5,000	(26,649)			13,351
Uruguay	45,000	5,000				50,000
USA (*)	595,000	595,000	(595,000)			595,000
Venezuela	184,521	30,000	(12,500)			202,021
Totals	1,118,537	1,015,000	(684,149)	(190,000)	(15,000)	1,244,388
				Total Revenues:		(874,149)
				Total Advances:		(15,000)
				Contributions not received:		(140,851)
				Difference:		-

Historical country contributions since 1999 present significant peaks and troughs, but as from FY 2006/2007 a leveling of contributions is observed. The Directorate expects to reach a level similar to that of 2001/2002 by the end of 2007/2008, by collecting about 130% of the contributions (in arrears, current and advanced).



The funding requests continue to involve all senior members of the IAI staff, with different strategies depending on the situation of each specific country. Important developments have been obtained in the cases of Colombia and Peru, to engage them with IAI activities and to collect their contributions in arrears. Talks with high-level government officials have taken place in Guatemala and Uruguay, but without tangible results so far.

As to the performance of the Core Budget, the Directorate was about 3% above budgeted expenses at the time of the meeting, with most of the variance coming in the categories of Operational Costs, partially offset by lower expenses in Salaries and Benefits, Equipment, Dissemination & Outreach. The increase of operational costs include US\$20k than were robbed from IAI coming back from Banco do Brasil, and additional expenses than planned for the SAC meeting. Some of the increased costs will be considered in the next budget. Nevertheless, the Directorate expects to close the fiscal year with this 3% extra expenses only. The Director's Special Fund is in line with the budget.

Table 2: Budget performance – July 2007/ May 2008 (amounts in US\$)

Category	Actuals 2007/2008	Budget (*) 2007/2008	Difference	%
Salaries & Benefits	682,852	692,937	(10,085)	-1.5%
Travel & Training	76,196	73,333	2,863	3.9%
Equipment	2,652	11,000	(8,348)	-75.9%
Operational Costs	149,023	80,300	68,723	85.6%
Dissemination & Outreach	14,001	39,417	(25,416)	-64.5%
Director's Fund	32,976	33,367	(390)	-1.2%
Total	957,700	930,354	27,347	2.9%

(*) 11 months of budget

Cash balance at the end of May 31, 2008 was 35.7% lower than the ending balance at the end of March 2007. This was done to avoid having high reserves at the end of quarterly periods, as agreed with the US, at

the end of the year reserves will be at the level of last year. The level of reserves (IAI CB Funds) would cover 4 months of operations with the current annual budget level of \$1,015,000. Considering other expected contributions for 2007/2008, the IAI Core Budget Funds would cover 9.8 months of operations.

Table 3: Cash reconciliation at the end of May 08 (in US\$)

Cash Reconciliation
At the end of May-08
Amounts in US\$

	Mar-07	May-08	Variance
Program Funds	458,140.66	316,601.09	-30.9%
IAI CB Funds	503,457.34	301,997.75	-40.0%
Total Cash	961,598.00	618,598.84	-35.7%

Continuous effort is made to increase funds by broadening the country base. Alternative funding has been obtained by the Directorate, with the MacArthur Foundation and the IDRC projects.

Among the challenges the FAO mentioned engaging more member countries for participation and funding; increase reach within the Americas by including more countries in IAI; extend current external projects after completion and get more external financing.

In the administrative area, the Employee manual is up-to-date; the Accounting manual preparation has been delayed and its need will be reviewed; Employee files have been improved as per the FAC suggestions; Attendance control system has been improved and is now web-based after in-house design. Internal controls were deemed appropriate, opportunity areas are addressed as recognized.

Cash management has been reviewed and new solutions considered, IAI cash currently withdrawn from Citibank (recently authorized to handle US\$ cash), other parallel options are being analyzed.

An update of the *Host Country Agreement* is crucial to define the relationship of IAI and Brazil and to lay the path for the future of the Institute. The Host Country Agreement is ambiguous. For a future guarantee of operations in Brazil, it must be updated to reflect new laws and realities, of both IAI and Brazil.

The *External Audit for 2006/2007* was conducted by BDO Trevisan in Sep. 2007 with positive results in terms of accounting practices, internal controls and legal compliance (Doc 10.ECXXVI/CoPXV/DID/Eng/). The next audit (2007/2008) is scheduled for August/2008.

Core Budget & Country Contributions for FY 2008-2009

The Core Budget Request for FY 2008/2009 (Doc 9.ECXXVI/CoPXV/DWD/Eng/6.June.08) reflects the increase in the budget with respect to the previous three years and will require changes in the existing contribution amounts by country while maintaining the participation percentages as per the OAS Schedule of Country Contributions. The proposed budget level allows IAI to continue with a steady level activities and services. The increase reflects the additional costs for the IAI operations, due to the effect of a weak US dollar in comparison to the Brazilian real.

As shown in Table 4 the request for the FY 2008-2009 proposes a change of 14.6% from the previous fiscal year. Budget was reviewed in detail with the FAC in Toronto, May 2008.

Table 4: Budget Comparison 2008/2009 - 2007/2008 (Amounts in US\$)

Summary by major category	Fiscal Year 2008/2009	Fiscal Year 2007/2008	Differences
Salaries & Benefits	826,932	755,931	71,001
Travel	84,200	80,000	4,200
Equipment	26,000	12,000	14,000
Operational Costs	138,330	87,600	50,730
Dissemination & Outreach	43,000	43,000	-
Director Fund	45,000	36,400	8,600
Total	1,163,462	1,014,931	148,531

Table 5: Current and Proposed Contribution to CB by country (Amounts in US\$)

Country	Part. %	Current US\$	Proposed US\$
Argentina	5.01%	50,000	57,000
Bolivia	0.07%	5,000	5,000
Brazil	8.73%	85,000	100,000
Canada	12.63%	125,000	143,000
Chile	0.55%	5,000	6,000
Colombia	0.96%	10,000	11,000
Costa Rica	0.13%	5,000	5,000
Cuba	0.00%	5,000	5,000
Dominican Republic	0.18%	5,000	5,000
Ecuador	0.18%	5,000	5,000
Guatemala	0.13%	5,000	5,000
Jamaica	0.18%	5,000	5,000
Mexico	6.21%	60,000	70,000
Panama	0.13%	5,000	5,000
Paraguay	0.20%	5,000	5,000
Peru	0.42%	5,000	5,000
United States	60.75%	595,000	691,000
Uruguay	0.27%	5,000	5,000
Venezuela	3.27%	30,000	37,000
FUND TOTAL	100.00%	1,015,000	1,170,000

(*): This percentage represents the participation of each member country in the distribution of the operational costs of the Directorate according to the OAS Table of Contributions for 2001. The EC 23 approved contributions in multiples of US\$1,000, was confirmed and implemented in 2007

Table 6: Three-year Core Budget (FY 08/09 / 09-10 / 10-11)

Budget by Year 2008/2009 - 2009/2010 - 2010/2011
Summary by major category

Amounts in US\$	Fiscal Year 2008-09	Fiscal Year 2009-10	Fiscal Year 2010-11
Salaries & Benefits	826,932	850,098	908,538
Travel	84,200	88,635	88,635
Equipment	26,000	25,000	10,500
Operational Costs	138,330	106,422	91,654
Dissemination & Outreach	43,000	35,000	36,000
Director's Fund	45,000	45,000	45,000
Total	1,163,462	1,150,155	1,180,327

The budget for 09/10 and 10/11 are for reference and planning purposes, and each year a three-year budget will be presented, however approval for each one is made yearly.

Comments:

2nd Vice Chair: as representative of the USA I recommend accepting the increment in the Budget.

Director: As to the Host Country Agreement, several of these issues include several of my privileges. I would like the EC or its Bureau set a small committee to help the Directorate to drive the process (to avoid conflict of interest).

Argentina: The renovation of the EC will give the opportunity of having a complete Bureau and then will be able to help in the process.

Jamaica: asked if the Host Agreement included tax benefits for the Organization.

The FAO and the Director answered that IAI had some limitations due to its location in a small city in the State of Sao Paulo. Other organizations have headquarters in Brasilia and everything is easier there. The IAI is not exempt from paying the VAT. In some cases is exempt from importation taxes but it is a complicated process.

The EC discussed the Core Budget request for 2008-09 and will forward it to the CoP for approval.
(Action 12, Day 1)

7. Planning for a joint IAI-SCOPE-UNESCO program on interdisciplinary and intersectoral capacity building for scientists and government departments involved in global change

The IAI Director reported on the talks he had had with UNESCO and the plans on developing a concrete activity to promote the dialogue between the policy and the science sectors. He referred the participants to Document 17 (17.ECXXVI/CoPXV/DWD/Eng/26.May.08) on *Building joint capacities in science and policy sectors for environmental decision making*.

The IAI has been making reasonable progress in developing interdisciplinary science, built some of the bridges between natural and social sciences, and was successful in bringing them together in hands on science and research work within the CRNs. The same kinds of divisions that we see between disciplines and sciences exist to the same degree –or possibly even worse- between the ministries of governments. The same lack of communication and shared languages exists between ministries and secretariats that theoretically should be working together in developing a global change policy. Some governments have

taken initial steps to promote the interministerial communication. For example, the Climate Change Office of the Spanish Government, which serves as a focal point for some of the networks in Latin America, is established in the Ministry of the Environment but has audibility in the ministries of Public Works, Science and Technology, Health, and some of the others. Mexico is working towards this kind of dialogue, Brazil has embarked on some of the connections, and the Climate Change Office in the Department of Commerce coordinates much of the activities within the US Government. But it is still a learning process in most of our constituent countries.

In order to feed into that learning process -the emerging science that SBSTA and the UN Convention are asking for, as well as the dialogue between science and the policy sector- the plan is to develop a program of capacity building that takes the shape of workshops (annual or perhaps more frequent) in which representatives from different ministries and scientific disciplines come together and discuss certain topics of regional interest that go across the disciplines and ministries. The representatives from the Canadian Government suggested the IAI Director taking an example of the management of the Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence River area as something that integrates regional development, industry, commerce, shipping, climate and so on across the many ministries and departments involved in the process. Obviously there would be parallels between the St Lawrence Great Lakes basin and the La Plata basin.

The Director also discussed the proposal with Jerry Melillo who is helping with the strategic planning and used to be advisor to the US president. In the past they had Summer Institutes for members of the US Congress. The rules were simple. It was a mutual learning experience.

This is a process for the future of the science. If we want dialogue, if we want science to be audible, visible, and applicable to the policy sector we need to build trust. As much as a capacity building exercise, this should be a trust building exercise. The ideal result of this meeting would be a recommendation to the CoP to become active in front of UNESCO. The political process is that countries make the suggestion to UNESCO for UNESCO's involvement and that will embark on such an activity with the help of UNESCO and potentially with the help of SCOPE that is increasingly getting interested together with the regional offices of ICSU to promote the science-policy dialogue.

Comments:

USA (Lou Brown): I support this idea. SCOPE is an ICSU activity. A new Executive Director of ICSU has just been named and the IAI staff should contact him as soon as possible to brief him on IAI current and planned activities. The present Director General of UNESCO is reaching the end of his term within next year and it is rumored that the Latin America region is high on the list to provide a candidate for his successor. The present Deputy Director General, Marcio Barbosa, is one of the funders of the IAI. So it is probably a good time for the IAI to try to improve its working relationships with both UNESCO and ICSU.

Director: We have discussed this with Thomas Rosswall, the current Executive Director of ICSU. Primary partnership will be with UNESCO. If the support from SCOPE and ICSU is still available when we embark on this, we will do it jointly because SCOPE has a lot to offer in terms of the science networks. But the last ICSU Executive Meeting has decided to make a recommendation to the General Assembly of SCOPE in October of this year to close SCOPE. That is a preliminary recommendation; SCOPE is currently redefining its role as a Scientific Committee on the policy of the environment rather than on the problems of the environment. It is redefining its mandate, therefore, the decision by the General Assembly of ICSU will be based on the new definition of that mandate. In any case I would not want to make such an important activity depending upon the success of the internal ICSU negotiations.

As to the second point, the person that I discussed this with was Marcio Barbosa and his staff and they will be supportive. The suggestion to bring this to the current EC-CoP actually is Barbosa's.

USA (Lou Brown): The ICSU delegate for Latin America could be a useful communication channel. ICSU has under its umbrella a number of environmental activities in addition to SCOPE and it has a strong potential for supporting what IAI is doing.

Director: I have also been in touch with Alicia Abreu, Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office of ICSU since she took office and we have discussed the science plan by the regional office.

The Director also announced that he had received a communication saying that the Director of UNESCO Montevideo would attend the CoP as an observer, particularly to be discussing this project.

The EC endorsed the proposal of the Director to develop a joint IAI-SCOPE-UNESCO program on interdisciplinary and intersectorial capacity building for scientists and government departments involved in global change. The proposal would be forwarded to the CoP with the recommendation that individual IAI representatives contact UNESCO representatives in their countries to advance this program. (*Action 4, Day 1*)

8. Report of the Financial and Administrative Committee (FAC)

Louis Grittani presented the report of the FAC (Document 12. ECXXVI/DID/Eng/27.May.08). He recalled the delegates that in Arlington, Virginia, USA (November 28-29, 2007), the EC had approved the FAC Charter for another two years, until January 2010, with USA (William Smith), Canada (Louis Grittani) and Brazil (Evair Sergio da Silva) continuing to comprise its membership. Since then, the FAC has been busy and had several teleconferences to deal with the issue of the post adjustment in salaries due to the decline in the value of the US dollar relative to the Brazilian Real. The FAC met on May 5-7, 2008 in Toronto. The timing of this meeting was principally dictated by the need for the FAC to meet, review, and discuss the IAI's proposed 2008/09 Core Budget Request ahead of the EC and CoP meetings.

The main topics discussed during the meeting were the following:

Unresolved situation of the four positions provided to the IAI under the Host Country Agreement.

This is not a new subject. The salaries of the affected staff continue to be significantly below the values of 4 years ago when their salaries and benefits were first reduced by around 30-40 %. Since then, the IAI has been supplementing their salaries while a permanent solution is being pursued.

When the FAC met in September 2007 was hopeful that a solution would be found soon. The situation looked encouraging at that time. The IAI had updated the work descriptions for these positions to better articulate the duties, qualifications, and responsibilities. The intent was to better inform the companies that would compete for the contract so that their bids would reflect the market values for these positions. Unfortunately that was not the case and the staff received notification that their contracts would be terminated at the end of May, 2008. An emergency contract has been put in place for a three month period. This unsatisfactory situation has reached a new level of frustration for the staff. It is the opinion of the FAC that the current procurement process as it is set up will only lead to the continuation of this unsatisfactory situation. The FAC believes an alternative way of securing this service to the IAI has to be found. The importance of this issue cannot be underestimated and a solution is to be found soon.

Privileges given to international and intergovernmental organizations operating in Brazil:

Since the IAI Host Country Agreement was put in place in 1990's, Brazilian has updated its standards, rules and laws for the treatment of these organizations. From that perspective the Host Country Agreement may be outdated and the IAI may benefit from a review of it.

The FAC recognizes that an amendment to the *Host Country Agreement* might be a lengthy process but believes that an update may enable the IAI to get a resolution to its support staff situation (for example IAI could have more control in the process of hiring them) and other issues as well (exemption of paying taxes, increasing office space, changing the position of IAI inside the Science and Technology Ministry; and having Brazil's IAI representative be from a political position rather than scientific, in order to have someone "empowered" to solve possible host country-related problems in the future).

Core Budget Request for 2008-09:

- The largest component is Salaries and Benefits and it has increased in proportion to the overall budget over the past few years peaking at 74 % in the current FY (2007/8). During the FAC presentation last year in Manaus, although it endorsed the budget, the FAC expressed reservation at the increasing proportion but it noted it was that high as the IAI deliberately delayed requesting an increase in the core budget country contributions. In the proposed budget for 2008-09 this component decreases to 71%. The FAC would like to see this proportion under 70%.
- An increase of 4,5 % to the salaries of international staff was approved to offset inflation, as discussed in September 2007. Changes in the exchange rate and rate of inflation have eroded the purchasing power of the international staff salaries and, to-date, only partial compensation has been awarded to restore the loss due to the weaker US dollar. This is the first inflation-based adjustment.
- The FAC has worked with IAI staff to develop final text on a more responsive post adjustment policy (text has yet to be finalized and FAC approval is pending). Since the system under discussion contains a +/- 5% threshold value, future changes are likely to be minor unless a major change in exchange rates justifies additional changes to the post adjustment.
- Dependents and education allowances: The FAC suggested maintaining the same amounts for the next 3 years, without adjustments due to inflation or exchange rates.
- US \$ 30K has been set apart for the purchase of a new vehicle. In case the car is not bought during the FY, the funds will be kept in reserve until the time of the purchase.
- The core budget request will increase 15% from 2007/08. This is the first increase since 2005/06 (3 years ago) which, in turn, was the first increase in 3 years.

The FAC considered that the proposed budget 2008-09 was very reasonable, taking into account the macroeconomic factors like the exchange rates that affects the budget scenario beyond everyone's control, and recommended its acceptance.

Independent Auditors Report as of June 30 2007: The Management Letter was more substantive than the one received the previous year. During its meeting in August in Sao Jose dos Campos the FAC will discuss the letter with the IAI along with any necessary follow up actions. The FAC Chair took the opportunity to invite the new Brazilian representative to join them. For the second consecutive year the IAI received an unqualified audit report. The FAC congratulated the Director, the FAO and the Financial Assistant for their job and recommended its approval.

The FAC will work with the IAI staff in a call for proposals to award a new contract for auditing services for the next three fiscal years.

The Director commented on the recent developments on the situation of the staff provided by the Host Country. He was pleased to report very positive moves in finally resolving this issue that has been inherited from previous administrations of INPE and IAI. Over the last 2 years there was very little progress in resolving the situation of the staff. They were on unsatisfactory contracts administered by a company that usually hires watchmen rather than trilingual executive secretaries and that created many problems of administration. The situation came to a head on the last day of May when the company under repeated pressures finally renounced and the staff received a final notice of no extension of contract. That fact prompted several meetings with INPE, signals to be sent from the Ministry to INPE and to IAI that the IAI continues to be welcome at INPE and in Brazil, and that they had the intention of resolving the issues at hand. The first meetings took place a couple of weeks ago and he had the first draft of an Agreement

between the Ministry of Science and Technology of Brazil, INPE and the IAI that –if they can remove the old legal wrinkles the Ministry and INPE are constrained by- will allow the IAI in future to administer its own staffing contracts based on a regularly adjusted grant from the Brazilian government that takes care of such increases as mandated by changes in Brazilian labor laws or labor law mandated adjustments for inflation or other things in Brazil. So in this very short period we have achieved a tremendous progress.

USA (Lou Brown): In the name of the US delegation and the others, we very much appreciate the support Brazil has given to IAI since the inception of the Institute. We realize that the recent problems have been very severe but we also realize that the amount of support reflects a very strong interest on the part of the Government of Brazil. Holm talked about solving the present problems. My question is if this will lead to long term stability that will enable the IAI and its staff to make long term plans for their future with the Directorate.

Director: During my recent talks with INPE I realized that INPE itself and the Ministry itself were operating under legal constraints within Brazil that make their own lives very difficult. Yes, I am confident of the Government's good will of hosting an international Institution and also of working together in solving the problems we are dealing with.

USA (Lou Brown) suggested the EC making recommendation to the CoP that they write a letter to the Brazilian Government and the IAI Directorate recognizing the efforts done, the successes to date and requesting them to continue these efforts.

Brazil: It would be very helpful. This letter should also be copied to the Director of INPE, -because it makes the access to the Ministry of Science and Technology easier- and to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well.

The EC recommended that the CoP draft a letter to the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology and to the Directorate with a copy to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the INPE Director commending the Brazilian Government for its support of the IAI and endorsing the negotiations to solve the issues related with the contract of IAI Brazilian staff and the Directorate headquarters. (*Action 5, Day 1*)

9. Approval of the Auditors Report of the Financial Statement as of June 30, 2007

The Second Vice-Chair recalled that the FAC expressed satisfaction with the Auditors Report and Management letter 2007-08. He added that in the past the IAI had had management letters that were extremely brief and not particularly useful to change practices at the Directorate. The present letter is more detailed. He suggested accepting the Report.

The EC discussed the Auditor's Report of the Financial Statement as of June 30, 2007, and will forward it to the CoP for approval. (*Action 11, Day 1*)

10. Update on relations with Member Countries

The IAI Director reported on the relations with Member States. There is a large number of Member States whose names never get mentioned because the relations as shown through the payment of voluntary country contributions require no comments.

There are a number of other initiatives that are worth mentioning. One of them is the renewed interest of some of the *tropical Andean countries*, partly precipitated through the opportunity of the Mac Arthur grant that facilitated the IAI activities in the region. Marcella Ohira (Capacity Building Officer) had the lead role

and has made use of the Mac Arthur program to make multiple contacts in those countries affected and reaching in this way the national representatives that had been unresponsive to previous activities. For example, Bolivia communicated that had initiated payment of two years (the first paid ever by this country). We were also fortunate to have additional interest from Ecuador. Important developments have been obtained in the cases of Colombia and Peru, to engage them with IAI activities and to collect their contributions in arrears.

Chile has paid its dues until 2011 and has given us a voluntary increase in the voluntary contributions in line with to the expected changes in the OAS schedules. Even though this country has a significant science capacity we have not seen a corresponding involvement in IAI scientific activities. Anyway, we look forward to seeing a higher participation in this area.

Paraguay has participated very actively in some of the recent scientific discussions. In fact within the context of the La Plata Basin we are having some solid Paraguayan science on board. We are seeing resurgence not only in willingness to pay dues but also in support by governments facilitating scientists their participation in science planning and science projects of the IAI.

In Uruguay, the people contacted last year are not in the government any more and in Guatemala the case is similar. The IAI Directorate is trying to rebuilding contacts.

The Director has asked Costa Rica and Panama if they could lead a Central American initiative. Both of them have a strong science program and have been very active within the IAI. We have had events in those countries recently with the support of local organizations. Through the help of those two countries the presence of IAI in Central America could be strengthened and make this a focal point.

Similarly, in the Caribbean there is a standing offer from Dominican Republic to help with and host the Strategic Planning events that has been delayed until later this year and hopefully will take some advice from the upcoming CoP. We are seeing a renewed interest by Cuba who has been a long standing supporter of the IAI and also a stronger participation in the science program. The SAC has a new member from Cuba who is very proactive. In Jamaica unfortunately the representative has gone into retirement and a replacement is needed. Those countries that have shown repeated interests in the science activities might be able to come together particularly if, with the help of Brazil, we are able to launch some specific scientific activities for Central America and the Caribbean based on the opportunities that Brazil can create for some of our Member Countries.

On the whole this is a slow process and has to be content driven. Nobody is going to pay dues to the IAI because it is the IAI. Countries need to be convinced that the work we are doing is worthwhile, it is valuable to those countries and we will see responses. Beyond that, there will always be administrative difficulties, communication between Ministries, changing governments and representatives, etc., but the IAI is on the right track.

Comments:

Cuba: I am glad to see the results of these many actions. Perhaps we should also take back the initiative of looking for new member countries of the region, for example some islands of the Caribbean (as Trinidad and Tobago).

Director: It is difficult for these small countries to join the IAI due to the membership fees. We need to think of the IAI's association options. There are of course Caribbean associations like CARICOM, but they are limited to the English speaking part of the Caribbean. I think within our constitution we have the opportunity

to promote other types of membership within the IAI that would be appropriate for these small Caribbean island nations.

Lou Brown: - As an example, APN has recently decided to explore ways in which they might improve their relationships with countries outside the region (of course bearing in mind that APN is a much less formal organization).

- I am wondering if we could find ways through electronic correspondence to establish communications with scientists and scientific organizations in these small countries of the Caribbean.
- It is clear that the IAI has been successful at improving its relationships with many of its present Member Countries. But, has the IAI been in similar communication with those IAI countries that have been regular contributors? This question is for a very practical reason: at NSF, we have a new person coming on board as the Assistant Director for Geosciences. We are hopeful that that person might take a strong interest in the IAI. In what we are thinking is that it might be possible that a letter from the CoP or the Director to the present US representative, expressing the IAI's appreciation for the long term support the US has provided, might not be very timely in encouraging this individual to become even more active. I am wondering if there may be other cases in which we focus so much on getting countries to pay past contributions that perhaps we might not have taken as much care as we could have with the countries that have been long term contributors.

Director: Currently the IAI's science and capacity building programs are in all 19 Member Countries. In terms of programming, none of the 19 countries is neglected. In terms of communications with Member Countries we have with US the activities in NCAR as well as other organizations in the country. We have been in contact with the Canadian government on a number of issues and I hope they will be one of the first takers of the initiatives of the Joint Training Program for Policy and Science. We have had many activities with Argentina, internships with CPTEC in Brazil as well as a direct participation of the IAI in a number of science activities in Brazil. So I do not think we are forgetting anybody over the efforts of concentrating on "underperforming" countries. In many of the other Member Countries of course there are very substantial science projects. Venezuela has the leadership in one of the projects for the South American continent, Chile is also leading a program, Venezuela has also supported the IAI during the Ayacucho meeting of the Association of Amazonian Treaty Countries and we hope that we can move those kinds of initiatives further as well. So there is a very broad spectrum of activities considering that we are only thirteen people at the IAI Directorate. Concerning the outside region activities, it is a very interesting point because one of the mandates of the IAI is to link its scientists to the science of the rest of the world. We were involved in the IGBP congress in Cape Town and we have had the first query of the Norwegian Government whether the affiliated status might be open to a European government because they see this as an opportunity to involve Norwegian scientists in tropical science. The Spanish network of climate change offices in Iberoamerica is a very active in cooperation. As the network excludes English and French speaking countries it has asked the support of the IAI for making this initiative more inclusive.

Argentina: I am interested in Lou's proposal of involving small Caribbean countries. Perhaps we could search for key institutions such as universities or meteorological services in these countries through the WMO and send them the IAI Newsletter. As a consequence, they will be able to contact the IAI through the webpage, subscribe to the IAI listserver, etc.

Second Vice Chair: I suggest that our representatives of the Caribbean (Jamaica, Cuba, Dominican Republic) in collaboration with the IAI newsletter start identifying these institutions to send them information on the IAI.

Jamaica: I commit myself to identify contact in CARICOM and submit the information.

The EC requested that IAI Caribbean member countries and the Newsletter identify institutions and contacts in non-member Caribbean countries to send the newsletter and other information on the IAI. Jamaica committed to identify contacts in CARICOM countries and submit the information. (*Action 6, Day 1*)

11. Report of the Committee established to analyze ways to solve the problem of quorum for the CoP meetings

During its meeting in Manaus, the EC established a committee to analyze ways to solve the problem of quorum for the CoP. Its members are the SCRP, Venezuela, and a member of the IAI Directorate (Director).

The Chair of the SCRP, Lou Brown, explained that his report would be very brief because, in fact, the SCRP is a committee of the CoP and therefore he had to report to the Conference. Anyway, he made some comments based on Document 15.ECXXVI/CoPXV/DWD/Eng/29.may.08

He said that Gladys Maggi, representative from Venezuela, was one of the most active members of the group. She raised some issues that are very important and that go far beyond the simple issue of the number of members that are needed to guarantee the quorum at a CoP meeting. She raised the basic issue of how important it is to encourage the fullest possible participation in IAI activities including the CoPs by the smaller countries with fewer resources to participate in the meetings.

In the report, the Chair of the SCRP basically tried to present some initial solution to the quorum issue that is based on the UN policy with respect to a quorum and some suggestions that might first help smaller countries to participate in CoPs and, second, suggested even stronger action than has been taken thus far with respect to outreach to the smaller countries.

He noted that changes in Rules are primarily changes to the Rules of the CoP. If the CoP accepts these changes other similar and parallel changes will be needed in the EC Rules.

Finally, he said that both set of Rules are seriously flawed. It is very difficult to try to improve individual rules without looking at the whole document. It is a complex process. Therefore he recommended rewriting the rules for EC and CoP as soon as possible.

He also expressed his gratitude for contributions made by Luciana Queiroz Ribeiro (Assistant to the IAI Director) who, in spite of not being a member of the group, made invaluable suggestions that are contained in the document.

The EC recommended that the CoP initiate a process to conduct a full review of the Rules of Procedure for the EC and the CoP. (*Action 8, Day 1*)

Director: There is point relevant to quorum and rules. In the wording that Lou Brown has provided us with, it says that in future, an official invitation to the CoP should be issued between the Directorate and the host country of the CoP some five months prior to the meeting. The reason for that is that several countries cannot arrange the travel budget with short notice. So we thought it would be very useful to have a rule so that the upcoming CoP gets firmed up with invitations and everything in the previous EC meeting. The meetings are held every six months, there is an EC alone and an EC + a CoP, so the EC alone would give the impulse for issuing an official invitation upon which country delegations can already act. If invitations are sent earlier, hopefully there will be fewer problems with quorum.

Lou Brown: In the recommendation that I put forward it is proposed that a second sentence be added to the new Rule 10 (dealing with invitations) requiring that at least a list of key issues be included with the

invitation. Such a simple list could be based on the Action Lists approved at the previous CoP and EC Meetings

The EC recommended that the CoP approve that invitations to CoP meetings be sent five months in advance, including a list of key items to be addressed at that meeting. (*Action 9, Day 1*)

Venezuela: There was not consensus during discussions about reducing quorum. Venezuela does not agree with such reduction. If the IAI has 19 members, it is not pertinent to take decisions with six members, as the proposal states. For example, other measures would be having the CoPs in cities where there are embassies.

Cuba: I agree with Venezuela. Even when we might have had problems with quorum in the past, that fact does not mean that we should look for desperate solutions. The city where the meeting will be held is an important point. An additional point is that we, as representatives, should be continuously informed of the activities of the Institute (through the website and other electronic means) and not only every 6 months. This would help promoting the activities of the IAI in our countries. Finally, I also support the motion of sending the invitation with more anticipation.

Second Vice- Chair: We have consensus on the early invitation to CoPs. The other point is the question of active engagement of representatives and communications with Directorate. We should reinvigorate communications and use more actively some of the resources the IAI already has. The Twiki can be used as 2-way communication. Perhaps the IAI Directorate can prepare some simple instructions on how to use those facilities that already exists. I encourage you to use these tools.

I would also like to see a re-engagement of countries in the question of Rules. Lou has been working on that for 10 years, some times alone, some times with the help of 2 or 3. Perhaps more than three are required now that we are going to revise the Rules.

Lou Brown: In the past we have sent letters asking for voluntaries at least three times without much success. This time I would prefer to make a recommendation to the CoP or to highlight this issue in the EC report to the CoP.

The EC decided to have a more active engagement in communication between country representatives and the Directorate, by more actively using IAI communication tools, e.g., website, twiki. The Directorate was requested to provide brief instructions on the use of those tools. (*Action 10, Day 1*).

The EC recommended that the CoP invite member states to nominate additional volunteers for the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures. (*Action 7, Day 1*)

12. Report of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

Mike Brklacich, the past SAC Chair, presented the report of the Committee (Document 8.ECXXVI/CoPXV/DID/Eng/15.may.2008). He explained he was representing the new Chair and Vice Chair who were not able to attend the meeting.

1) SAC's role and responsibilities

The IAI's mission ("*To develop the capacity of understanding the integrated impact of present and future global change on regional and continental environments in the Americas and to promote collaborative research and informed action at all levels.*") guides much of SAC activities.

The SAC, as the principal scientific advisory organ, has a triple Mandate:

- Make recommendations on long-range & annual science plans
- Establish peer-review panels for specific issues
- Assess scientific achievements

Over the last six years, the SAC spent the first 3 or 4 mainly devoted to establishing peer-review panels. There were good reasons for that, a lot of proposals to review. It was a major concern for the Institute. During the last two years the SAC shifted the emphasis and spent more time on the first item (long range and annual science plans).

2) *SAC renewal:*

The CoP is responsible for electing the SAC members. Last year four new members were elected by the CoP 14 in Manaus. The election of the SAC members by the CoP is crucial to enable the SAC; if the SAC has the wrong people, the SAC cannot function effectively.

The process established last year is as follows:

- The SAC identified its needs in terms of its current membership and the gaps to be filled
- The SAC Selection Committee established at EC 25 reviewed the nominations & presented a “slate of members” to the EC (to be forwarded to CoP 14)

The slate of candidates rather than separate individuals is very important because it has allowed the SAC to come together as a group to a greater extent. A slate is the best possible team. The SAC is no longer ten individuals, it is a solid team.

Results from EC25 - CoP14

- SAC members elected in Manaus June 2007
 - New members: Maria Carmen Lemos (BR-USA), Harold Mooney (USA), Ramón Pichs Madruga (CU), Carolina Vera (AR)
 - 2nd term members: Rana Fine (USA)
- Reinvigorated SAC
- Critical to SAC success

The former SAC Chair thanked the EC and the CoP for being part of the new process of SAC renewal. The collaboration among the SAC and the other bodies proved to be very important.

The factors the SAC Considers when identifying needs are:

- Fill scientific excellence in SAC defined areas
- Capacity to steer science as well as do science
- Able to work beyond the discipline & home country
- Integration – interdisciplinary appetite

Departing Members and vacant positions:

- 3 SAC Positions from nominations by the SAC
 - 2nd Term Completed: Brklacich & Garzoli
 - 1st Term Completed: Mata
- 1 SAC Position from nominations by the CoP
 - 1st Term Completed: Castro

The scientific themes that need to be filled are:

- Physical Oceanography
- Land cover, land use change, land management
- Anthropogenic emissions & urban dimensions of GEC
- Human vulnerability/adaptation to GEC

3) SAC Management: The SAC drafted Terms of reference for SAC Chair & Vice-Chair (See Annex II of SAC Report). The new SAC Chair is Juan Valdés (Arg. & USA) and the Vice-Chair Maria Carmen Lemos (BR & USA)

4) SAC Initiatives

The SAC established *three committees*:

- Integrating & Interdisciplinary Science (Term: + 3yrs)
- SAC Governance & Mandate (Term: 1 yr)
- Science-policy Interface (Term: 2 yrs)

CRN II – SPG-HD Science – Policy Initiative

- It is an extension of existing CRN – SGP-HD project
- Its objective is to Promote & evaluate policy relevance
- Additional funds required –2-3 projects will be funded that will look specifically at policy initiatives.
- Targeted but open call (i.e. all CRN – SGP projects eligible)
- RFP in mid-2008 with projects commencing in late 2008.

5) Take Home Messages from SAC to EC-CoP

- SAC renewal integral to on-going development of IAI as institute supporting advanced GEC science that is relevant to the region.
- CoP charged with enabling SAC
- SAC elections from CoP14 re-established & re-invigorated SAC
- At EC26-CoP15, maintain momentum and reinforce basis for SAC-CoP relationships

Comments:

Mexico: I would like to submit an additional candidate for the SAC, Dra Telma Castro.

Second Vice-Chair: clarified that Dr. Castro is a current member of the SAC, previously nominated by the Parties and will be nominated again by Mexico as one of the candidates for the Parties position.

13. Progress report of Strategic Planning

The Second Vice-Chair made a synthesis for the delegates on the activities on strategic planning so far. First, a committee was formed to draft the Terms of Reference for the Strategic Planning. That Committee was composed by representatives from Argentina, Mexico and Panama, as well as the former Chair of the SAC and the IAI Director. They used as input the discussions during the meetings of the EC, the SAC and the Joint EC-SAC session in Arlington (Nov 2007).

That document was used to begin the process of discussion of the Strategic Plan for a meeting that was held in Toronto at which Argentina, Mexico, Panama, USA, the SAC Chair as well as 2 SAC members and the Directorate brought together Document 14.

Director: clarified that due to the short time between the meeting in Toronto and the EC-CoP, Document 14 only reflects the main ideas of the discussions and not a structured report of the Strategic Planning Committee.

After this introduction, Mike Brklacich, the former SAC Chair, made a brief presentation on the strategic planning process.

He drew the attention of the EC members on 2 items:

- Doc 14. ECXXVI/CoPXV/DWD/Eng/ (a 2 pages summary of SPC meeting in Toronto)
- The last two pages of the SAC report (Doc 8.ECXXVI/CoPXV/DID/Eng) – it is a document made by the SAC on Strategic Planning in its last meeting in Arlington.

M. Brklacich explained that his presentation was a progress report, with the request that the CoP to assist with the SP process. The Strategic Planning is not a task for only one body within the IAI. It must involve all organs within the IAI. It is an opportunity to help reengage the CoP in IAI matters, to develop better linkages among IAI organs and to broaden the community within which the IAI works.

Two years ago the SAC thought it was time to work on the SP for the IAI and the main reason for that was that the original IAI Science Plan had been written approximately ten years ago. It has been a very effective plan. IAI is having many successes and the Science Plan has been at the foundation of the IAI. At the same time the nature of Global Environmental Change science, -in a large part because of IAI successes-, has changed. Does the IAI have the right plan for the next ten years? That has prompted the initial discussions. Since then, there has been a number of important items that came out:

- AAAS External Review (June 07), very complete consultative process;
- CoP 14, EC 25 & 26 (June & Nov 07) discussions;
- SAC 26 (Dec 07) short report.

The following are some key messages that emerged from those works and discussions:

- IAI's primary asset is highest caliber science
- GEC science is complex and dynamic. It has changed enormously as well as the context
- AAAS review and other reports provide guidance
- Build on IAI's success (e.g. integration, next generation of GEC scientists, improve societal relevance)
- Engage multiple constituencies, build alliances
- SP to consider next decade

Mike Brklacich emphasized that the Strategic Planning should build on this foundation

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) met in Toronto on 9-10 May, 2007. It was done in conjunction with the SAC meeting. The Committee members present were:

- CoP Representatives: Argentina, Mexico, Panama and USA
- Directorate: Director, Scientific Officer, Program Manager
- SAC: SAC Chair + 2 members to balance IAI science (Valdes, Mata, Pichs & Garzoli). In fact, the committee should have 3 SAC members, but as the SAC is in a transition, there were four members at that time.
- Two non-aligned members (Mike Brklacich, Jerry Melillo)

Some of the key messages from the SPC meeting (they are summarized in Document 14) were:

- SP set within changing GEC context
- SP provides dialogue opportunity among all IAI organs. It is not a document. It is a process.
- The SP should help the Institute, particularly the Directorate, to select which opportunities to pursue in terms of funding, alliances, and capacity building. The objective of the SP is to guide the decisions, not to make them. It is not a micromanagement tool. It can provide the context within which the Institute will flourish into the next 10 years.
- The SAC and the AAAS Review Committee have looked at IAI's Mission Statement and agreed that there was no reason to change it.
- Urgency of the task. It must be ready by the end of 2009.
- Input from EC 26 and CoP 15. SP will not work unless everybody is involved.

Science excellence breeds advances and new questions. In the IAI researchers are no longer asking questions simply about physical oceanography, instead, they ask how this affects human well-being. There is a whole new set of questions that are emerging. The proposal for a workshop in November 2008 is basically to identify what are these major challenges that IAI will be facing in the next decade and how will move forward.

GEC science involves networks, that is, collaboration among different countries, institutions and other stakeholders. IAI Mission Statement is about 3 main issues, understanding integrated impact, collaborative networks and informed action. IAI has been very successful on the first two but in the third it has not been very aggressive in pursuing that. Hence, in the next decade it needs to engage a broader range of stakeholders and increase the complexity.

IAI is moving away from an Institution that is primarily involved with Environmental Science to one where science is applied to answer questions the society is demanding to be addressed. IAI, like other institutions, is competing for funding. Therefore, identifying problems is very important but if it does not move towards solving problems, IAI position in the community of funding agencies will be eroded. Therefore, perhaps it is time to think if the four themes within IAI science agenda (basically oceanography, climate change & variability, terrestrial ecosystems and human dimensions) is the right scheme for the next 10 years.

The purpose of the Strategic Plan could be summarized as follows

- Guide IAI science & programmatic decisions over the 5-10 years
- Further develop IAI's capacity and expertise on inter-governmental perspectives on GEC. (*The IAI as an information broker between the science community and a number of national bodies that deal with GEC*).
- Enhance engagement in GEC dialogues within the Americas and abroad

The SPC proposed a workshop to be held in November 2008. Its objective is to obtain further input on GEC challenges over next 10 years and assist with defining an IAI vision statement. It will be a 2-day workshop followed by a 1-day meeting of the SPC. There will be up to 30 invitees (selected from IAI PIs, CoP reps, Development agencies, Foundations, National Environmental Agencies, etc). Some of the potential workshop themes are GEC Science, Knowledge Dialogues, GEC Governance for IAI, and Cross-cutting Issues.

Finally MB presented the SPC Agenda for 2009:

- JAN: Assessment of Fit (i.e. The Current Science Plan & the Next Generation of GEC Science)
- MAR: Revised science agenda & setting priorities
- JUN: IAI governance & delivery of the revised science agenda
- SEPT: Draft SP & review
- DEC: Final Strategic Plan

He concluded with the following take home messages from SPC to EC-CoP:

- SP is essential for IAI maintenance and growth
- Firm foundation as a catalyst
- Must complete by end of 2009
- Engagement and dialogue are crucial
- EC – CoP input welcome
- June 08: wide ranging discussions but confirm key messages to deliver to SPC.

Comments:

Cuba: congratulations to the group for its job. I would like that the report be ready by CoP 16 in 2009 and not by the end of 2009.

Ten years is a long period for setting themes. Could we make a Strategic Plan for 5 years? We can also include elements that may correspond to a 10 year term, but considering the number of emerging issues we could shorten the general period.

Second Vice-Chair: Perhaps we might consider some methods of exchanging information with the SPC and define points where we can provide progress information so that the other parties are kept informed of where we are. There are tools in place that we can all use. That requires that us as representatives be fully engaged with the institute.

Director: concerning the time frame, of a 5 or 10 year plan, there was some discussion in the Strategic Planning Committee about that. I think there will be some statements like a vision of what is going to be the role of the political representation of the IAI, how the CoP and the scientific part of the IAI will interact in the future. These may be things that have more durability in the future; they are in the level of mission and vision statement that needs some refinement. Below that there will be many things that would be more appropriate for a 5 year plan. But we are still lacking some of these broader statements that give us the direction as we are transitioning from a purely science-oriented institution to some institution that is taking care of its original mission, of the dialogue, of the scientifically informed policy on the continent.

Brazil: INPE has just finished the Strategic Plan approximately one year and a half ago. I know the difficulties of establishing the timing, the vision and how far we would go to make plans. One point that was not mentioned here was the budget. The Strategic Plan has to be somehow linked to the budget because it is not possible to make plans if you do not know how you will use the money.

Who will be responsible for the implementation of this plan? This is a very important point.

I would also like to mention a few things that are happening in Brazil and should be considered when we discuss this Strategic Plan:

China-Brazil Earth resources satellite: There is an Agreement of free distribution of images in Brazil. We are also taking care of the installation of antennas that will allow the distribution of images for Africa.

We are now discussing strategies for the free distribution of images for Central America and the Caribbean (thanks to the antenna that will be installed in Roraima). Therefore this might be taken into account in the discussions of the Strategic planning since it would be useful for the IAI.

INPE is establishing a new center for Earth System Sciences which will be coordinated by Carlos Nobre. The purpose of the center is to foster research on the complex interactions between natural and social systems and will provide information about sustainability of the living earth. We have allocated funds for this center that will have supercomputing systems to support Earth System modeling. INPE will be the leader but the computational services can be used by other institutions, it is not only for INPE.

INPE has at least two graduate programs. This resource could be used together with IAI.

Second Vice-Chair: The link to the budget is a very good point that we should take into consideration. The IAI operates with three different budgets (Core, Program and Project Budgets) and each of those has to be considered in the Strategic Plan. But certainly one thing that we have to keep in mind is the capacity that is needed at the Directorate to manage all of these activities and that does have a direct impact in the Core Budget.

As to who executes the SP, it is also a very important remark. The *Annual Program* (Document 11) is an existing mechanism which the Director is charged with producing every year and which the CoP reviews and approves. I think that an annual extraction from the Strategic Plan may lay out who is going to carry out the activities of the Strategic Plan at the Directorate or the extended community of the IAI.

Finally, I am very happy to hear the offers that Brazil brings to the table. They will be very useful for the IAI community.

Director: From my academic background, I have seen how integration between different academic institutions works in Europe. The IAI can promote opportunities and explore the exchange of credits for students on a case to case basis, country to country basis.

Project and program funding is in whole a peer review process where the IAI competes for other organizations' funds. Therefore there are considerations on what is funded that go beyond our control and our Strategic Plan. So there the S. Plan probably needs to give us the overall directions on what kind of activities we want to engage on, but the implementation is under the control of the funding agencies.

Venezuela: The Strategic Plan should take into account developments, transference and application of knowledge, not for a community but for a region. We should also define our goals in the short and long term and establish a periodic revision of the Strategic Plan whether it be to 5 or 10 years.

It would be very useful to have a draft plan for the next CoP. As to budget, if we are talking about development strategies, the SP does not have to be constrained by the existing budget. New sources have to be found through alliances with other organizations, etc.

Second Vice-Chair: The IAI has capacity building in many levels. The IAI also has a strong experience in the administration of international projects. That is a success that should be taken into account in the strategic plan.

USA (Lou Brown): Unfortunately the Science Agenda is in the Agreement Establishing the IAI. The Strategic Plan allows us to modify the Science Agenda without amending the Agreement.

One of its main objectives would be to help us find additional resources. It should provide us with the means for going out and soliciting more resources to enable us to expand our program.

Also, I am concerned because schedule proposed for the Strategic Plan does not match the IAI operations schedule.

Director: the wording in the Agreement gives an initial scientific agenda, but at the same time says that it is an evolving agenda that is open to modification. Therefore, we do not have to be scared about the Agreement in terms of our Strategic Planning.

SAC Member (Mike Brklacich): Unfortunately I do not think we can have a document within a year. The SAC will be working on the Strategic Plan and will take it as one of the main agenda items. As to the 10 year plan, it could have checks during the process (2-3 years).

Director: Brazil offered its facilities for the use of other Member Countries. I think it is an important point to consider when we go into the Strategic Plan because it is a revolutionary statement in that, for the first time since I have been in the IAI, a country is offering to the other members a program in which the IAI has the role of a broker or a facilitator. This role of the IAI can apply to all Member Countries. The idea is to use the IAI as a facilitator of Member Countries interactions.

Panamá: The proposal of Brazil fills important gaps in terms of data. One of the objectives of the IAI is to create a Data and Information System. Sometimes in our countries we do not know where to search for some data and we do not take all the profit we could from these networks. Panama can contribute with the SERVIR data station. However, images are never enough and it is necessary to buy more. On the other hand, the Office of Climate Change was established within the Ministry of the Environment 4 years ago and participates actively in the IPCC. We are also working in environmental strategies for the next ten years with indicators to evaluate performance. I suggest the development of indicators as a way to follow the Strategic Plan (every 3 years for example).

Argentina: The CoP could evaluate a first draft in June, 2009. With the input from the CoP the SPC would be ready to finish the report by the end of 2009. If the CoP empowers the EC to approve the Strategic Plan, we could have it by that time of the year.

Second Vice-Chair: In that case we should be very careful because in the CoP there are more members that would not be represented. We should try to engage all the Member States as much as we can, offering them opportunities to participate and give their opinion.

Cuba: suggested having the next 2008 EC meeting after the SPC meeting. One of the points in the EC agenda would be a presentation of the SPC.

Mike Brklacich: In the spirit of dialogue I think it is important that we take an update to the next EC. I will commit the committee to doing that.

The EC recommended that the CoP consider the possibility of inviting additional Member Countries to participate in the Strategic Planning Process. (*Action 2, Day 2*)

Second Vice-Chair: On behalf of the Executive Council, he thanked Mike Brklacich for his work not only in the SAC but also in the Strategic Planning Committee. He added that Mike has served as a member of the SAC for six years. Under his leadership the SAC has come together as a group working on the long term views of the Institute in a way that was originally laid out in the Agreement Establishing the IAI.

14. Approval of Action list of Day 1

The EC approved the Action List of Day 1 with some amendments already included in it. (*Action 1, Day 2*).

15. Report of the committee to recommend candidates for the election of the IAI SAC members

The composition of the SAC Selection Committee was as follows:

- From the CoP: Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, USA, and Venezuela
- From the Directorate: Scientific Officer
- From the SAC: (former) SAC Chair
- From Argentinean Science Community: C. Vera

The Committee reviewed CVs of nominees, identified the best nominee for each open position and developed a “best-available slate” relative to identified science gaps on the SAC and addressing broad range of balances.

The proposed slate was:

Drawn from SAC nominations

Physical Oceanography: FRANK MULLER-KARGER

Land cover, land use change, land management: WALTER BAETHGEN

Human vulnerability/adaptation to GEC: LUIS MATA

Drawn from CoP nominations

Anthropogenic emissions & urban dimensions of GEC: TELMA CASTRO

As to the implications of these suggested slate for the SAC, MB explained that key science themes were filled and that the regional balance improved slightly:

- South: Castro, Pichs, Vera

- North: Fine, Mooney
- South-North: Baethgen, Carmen-Lemos, Mata, Muller-Karger, Valdes

There were also improved linkages to other GEC constituencies (IRI, IPCC, etc). All the candidates are enthusiastic and in their mid to late career as scientists. The gender balance reduced slightly (6:4), as well as the socio-economic – biophysical (2:8) and the linkages science – policy strengthened

- *Recommendation to CoP and to SAC:* Need larger pool of nominees

Comments:

Cuba: In future, it would be desirable that candidates live in their native countries so that they can really experiment their national realities

The EC decided to forward the slate proposed by the Committee to recommend candidates for the election of SAC members to the CoP. The slate is composed of: Frank Muller-Karger, Walter Baethgen, Luis Mata, and Telma Castro. (*Action 4, Day 2*).

16. Approval of Items to be forwarded to the CoP

The EC approved the following items to be forwarded to the CoP: Actions 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 of Day 1. The EC will also inform the CoP about revisiting the Host Country Agreement and the discussions about the CoP quorum issue. (*Action 3, Day 2*)

The EC would also forward the slate of SAC candidates mentioned in the previous item.

17. Future sites and meetings

During the EC meeting there were no offers to host the next meeting. After the election of the new EC during the CoP 15, countries would be in a position to make the announcements and offers of future sites and meetings.

18. Adjournment

The EC Second Vice-Chair thanked Argentina for its hospitality and the delegates for their presence. He also thanked the IAI staff, the local support and the interpreters for their work. The meeting was adjourned.

19. Special Science Session

On the afternoon session of Day 2, there was a Science Session on *How interdisciplinary science can contribute to decision making - balancing hydrology, land-use, biodiversity and ecosystem services*.

Society and the worlds' ecosystem form an interdependent and dynamic system. On one hand intensive land use, extraction of natural resources and emissions into the environment are leading to loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems functioning worldwide. On the other hand natural ecosystems deliver goods and services of enormous value to the society. Climate change has increased the dynamics of this human-

environment interaction, and the need for adaptation in management of ecosystems is recognized. This session explored the links between hydrology and water availability, ecosystem uses, ecosystem services and societal decision processes illustrated by IAI-sponsored science projects in Argentina.

The presentations were the following:

Carolina Vera (*Centro de Investigaciones del Mar y de la Atmósfera CIMA, UBA-CONICET*)

Certainties and uncertainties in the climate projections for South America

Sandra Diaz (*IMBIV (CONICET - Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina - CRN 2015)*)

Links between biodiversity and ecosystem services

José Paruelo (*Laboratorio de Análisis Regional y Teledetección – IFEVA, Facultad de Agronomía, UBA-CONICET; CRN 2031*)

Mutual dependencies between agricultural production and ecosystem services

Esteban Tapella (*Universidad de San Juan - CRN II 2015*)

How are ecosystem services provided, perceived and valued?

Holm Tiessen (*IAI Director*)

How can we link knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services to land-use decision making?

Powerpoint files are available at the IAI Twiki site, <http://iaibr3.iai.int>, select topic 2 “EC/CoP Meetings”, and “26th Meeting of the Executive Council – 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties – Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-20 June 2008”.

**26th Meeting of the IAI Executive Council
June 17-18, 2008, Buenos Aires, Argentina**

Action List**Day 1: June 17**

- 1) The EC approved the Agenda of its Twenty Sixth Meeting with the following amendments:
 - a) Because of the delay in the flight of the former SAC Chair, the Progress Report of the SAC Chair and the IAI Strategic Planning discussion were moved to Day 2, morning session. Consequently, presentations of Progress Reports of the Working Groups/Task Forces/Committees and the Approval of the Auditor's Report of the Financial Statement as of June 30, 2007 would take place in the afternoon session of Day 1.
 - b) the FAC report would be presented by Louis Grittani instead of William Smith.

- 2) The EC approved the Report of its Twenty Fifth Meeting with the following modifications:
 - a) Spanish version, page 11, under *Comentarios, Argentina*
 - i. Where it is written: "Política de datos: como dentro del proyecto VAMOS Project se generó una gran cantidad de datos, tuvieron que generar una política para los países sudamericanos. Dicha política de datos está disponible para que el IAI la consulte."
 - ii. It should read: "Política de datos: el panel sobre la Variabilidad de los Monzones Americanos (VAMOS) del programa CLIVAR ha generado una gran cantidad de datos a lo largo de las Américas, como resultado de sus proyectos. Por tal motivo desarrolló una interesante política de datos que puede ser tomada como referencia por el IAI".
 - b) English version, page 9, under *Comments, Argentina*
 - i. Where it is written: "Data policy: as within VAMOS project a huge amount of data was generated, they had to develop a data policy for South American countries. That policy is already available for the IAI for consultation."
 - ii. It should read: "Data policy: the panel on Variability of American Monsoons (VAMOS) of the CLIVAR program has generated a large amount of data throughout the Americas as a result of its projects. Consequently, they developed an interesting data policy, which the IAI can use as reference."
 - c) English version, page 24, paragraph 1, line 3: delete "from USA to Paraguay and Bolivia", and the corresponding deletion in the Spanish version.
 - d) Representatives of Venezuela and other countries will contact the Secretariat for minor corrections.

- 3) The EC decided that members of the Committee to recommend candidates for the election of the IAI SAC members would be: Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, USA, Venezuela, the Scientific Officer, Carolina Vera (local scientist), and the former SAC Chair.

- 4) The EC endorsed the proposal of the Director to develop a joint IAI-SCOPE-UNESCO program on interdisciplinary and intersectoral capacity building for scientists and

government departments involved in global change. The proposal would be forwarded to the CoP with the recommendation that individual IAI representatives contact UNESCO representatives in their countries to advance this program.

- 5) The EC recommended that the CoP draft a letter to the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology and to the Directorate with a copy to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the INPE Director commending the Brazilian Government for its support of the IAI and endorsing the negotiations to solve the issues related with the contract of IAI Brazilian staff and the Directorate headquarters.
- 6) The EC requested that IAI Caribbean member countries and the Newsletter identify institutions and contacts in non-member Caribbean countries to send the newsletter and other information on the IAI. Jamaica committed to identify contacts in CARICOM countries and submit the information.
- 7) The EC recommended that the CoP invite member states to nominate additional volunteers for the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures.
- 8) The EC recommended that the CoP initiate a process to conduct a full review of the Rules of Procedure for the EC and the CoP.
- 9) The EC recommended that the CoP approve that invitations to CoP meetings be sent five months in advance, including a list of key items to be addressed at that meeting.
- 10) The EC decided to have a more active engagement in communication between country representatives and the Directorate, by more actively using IAI communication tools, e.g., website, twiki. The Directorate was requested to provide brief instructions on the use of those tools.
- 11) The EC discussed the Auditor's Report of the Financial Statement as of June 30, 2007, and will forward it to the CoP for approval.
- 12) The EC discussed the Core Budget request for 2008-09 and will forward it to the CoP for approval.

**26th Meeting of the IAI Executive Council
June 17-18, 2008, Buenos Aires, Argentina**

Action List

Day 2: June 18

- 1) The EC approved the Action List of Day 1 with some amendments already included in it.
- 2) The EC recommended that the CoP consider the possibility of inviting additional Member Countries to participate in the Strategic Planning Process.
- 3) The EC approved the following items to be forwarded to the CoP: Actions 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 of Day 1. The EC will also inform the CoP about revisiting the Host Country Agreement and the discussions about the CoP quorum issue.
- 4) The EC decided to forward the slate proposed by the Committee to recommend candidates for the election of SAC members to the CoP. The slate is composed of: Frank Muller-Karger, Walter Baethgen, Luis Mata, and Telma Castro.

ACRONYMS

AAAS	American Association for the Advancement of Science
AACREA	Asociación Argentina de Consorcios Regionales de Experimentación Agrícola
AIACC	Assessments of Impacts and Adaptations to Climate Change in Multiple Regions and Sectors
ANAM	Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente (Panama)
APN	The Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research
CATHALAC	Centro del Agua del Trópico Húmedo para América Latina y el Caribe
CCSP	Climate Change Science Program (US)
CODATA	Committee on Data for Science and Technology
CoP	Conference of the Parties
CPTEC/INPE	Centro de Previsão de Tempo e Estudos Climáticos / Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais
CRN	Collaborative Research Network Program
CYTED	Programa Iberoamericano de Ciencia y Tecnología para el Desarrollo
DAAD	German Academic Exchange Service
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DIS	Data and Information System
EC	Executive Council
ESSP	Earth System Science Partnership
EU / UE	European Union / Unión Europea
FAC	Financial and Administrative Committee (of the EC)
FAO	Financial and Administrative Officer
GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility
GEC	Global Environmental Change
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GEOSS	Global Earth Observation System of Systems
ICSU	International Council for Science
IDRC	International Development Research Center
IGBP	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme
IGFA	International Group of Funding Agencies

IHDP	International Human Dimensions Programme
IICA	Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura
INE	Instituto Nacional de Ecología (Mexico)
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPNI	International Plant Nutrition Institute
LBA	Large Scale Biosphere- Atmosphere Experiment in the Amazonia
LPB	La Plata Basin
NCAR	National Center for Atmospheric Research (USA)
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NOAA/OGP	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Organization/Office for Global Programs (USA)
NSF	National Science Foundation
OAS / OEA	Organization of American States / Organización de Estados Americanos
OTCA	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PI	Principal Investigator / Investigador Principal
RIOCC	Red Iberoamericana de Oficinas de Cambio Climático (Spain)
SAC	Scientific Advisory Committee / Comité Asesor Científico
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice
SCOPE	Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment
SCRP	Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures (of the CoP)
SENAMHI	Servicio Nacional de Meteorología e Hidrología (Perú)
SGP – HD	Small Grants Program – Human Dimensions Programa de Pequeños Subsidios – Dimensiones Humanas
SO	Scientific Officer
SPC	Strategic Planning Committee
START	System for Analysis, Research and Training
TI	Training Institute
TISG	Training Institute Seed Grant
TO	Training Officer
UN / NU	United Nations / Naciones Unidas
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change
UN-ISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
WCRP	World Climate Research Program
WMO	World Meteorological Organization