

**INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
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(IAI)**

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Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)
Report of the XVI Meeting of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee
(SAC)

October 5, 2001 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The XVI meeting of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee was held at the Gloria Hotel, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, October 5, 2001.

Participating members: John Stewart (Chair), Diana Liverman, Luiz Bevilacqua, Walter Fernandez, Ernesto Medina, Ronald Woodman, Lynne Hale, Rene Capote, Luiz Fernando Legey.

Observers: Paul Filmer (NSF)

IAI Directorate Personnel: Armando Rabuffetti, Gerhard Breulmann, Eduardo Banus, Luís Marcelo Achite, Isabel Cristina Vega.

The participants were welcomed by Dr. John Stewart, SAC Chair and Dr. Armando Rabuffetti, IAI Director.

All members briefly introduced themselves and their professional background.

The first item to be discussed was the approval of the agenda. Paul Filmer requested to include the DIS and Diane Liverman to include the creation of a virtual library. The additions were accepted and the agenda was approved.

The Chair informed the committee about the resignation of John Robinson as SAC member and asked for suggestions of potential candidates who could replace him and his expertise (HD, social policy).

The next COP will be held in March 2002.

It was suggested that in case a SAC member cannot attend 2 consecutive meetings, s/he should consider leaving the SAC. In this regard Diane Liverman suggested that telephone conferencing might be an alternative measure for SAC members who cannot travel to the meeting.

The minutes of the last SAC were adopted.

A discussion followed on the progress of the IAI science report. Eduardo Banus quoted that the report is based on information and recommendations from SAC, Armando Rabuffetti and Paul Filmer. Copies have been sent to all Principal Investigators. It was suggested that reports be in PDF format so that they are easily integrated into DIS. Lynne Hale recommended that in the beginning a brief on the major questions of each CRN should be included in order to verify whether the original questions are still relevant. Furthermore the Directorate should have copies of all presentations, published materials, posters etc.

Ernesto Medina stressed that some presentations during the CRN PI meeting were too general and not enough focussed on the respective CRN. In several cases the publications presented

were not directly CRN products. This problem needs to be addressed by the Directorate. The reports are available on the IAI homepage. It was suggested that the project reporting requirements should be reviewed by the Program Manager, the Scientific Officer and the SAC.

Paul Filmer raised the issue of how to deal with projects that go off-track. One PI could not participate at the meeting for unknown reasons. It was advised that at first the reason for the absence should be identified. The SAC member responsible for the respective CRN and also the IAI Director should investigate further.

The next item discussed was who will take-over the CRN advisory role in place of those SAC members whose second term is over. It was agreed that Lynne Hale would advise CRN- 047 (McClain) and CRN-031 (Franco); Rene Capote would advise CRN-012 (Osvaldo Sala), Luiz Fernando Legey would advise CRN-009 (Charles Wood) and CRN-048 (Ulisses Confalonieri); Julia Nogues Paegle would advise CRN-038 (Pilar Cornejo).

A discussion followed on the possibility to establish a virtual library and the linkage with other sources of scientific information. The DIS Manager should look into this possibility and the result will be presented on next SAC meeting. Luís Marcelo Achite (DIS Manager) gave a presentation on the progress of the DIS system. Diana Liverman recommended that the IAI mailing list be updated with all participants of the Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community, 6-8 October 2001.

The IAI is to launch a new grant program. The total grant is about US\$350,000, which will be divided into grants of up to US\$30K for research, up to US\$10K for workshops and up to US\$15K for technical reports. An external peer review backed-up by SAC will be utilized to assess the proposals. Final approval will be given by the EC. It was agreed to change the title into `Small Grants Program (SGP).

A discussion followed on the IAI Synthesis book (Montevideo +10). It was agreed that the book should have 4 chapters by theme according to the IAI science agenda. Clear guidance has to be given to the contributing Principal Investigators on what is expected from them. A science writer would then synthesize the contributions under each theme, appropriate persons for each theme are to be identified. It might be needed to have a lead person for each theme to support/guide the science writer. Each chapter should basically include a report, achievements and a future outlook. The emphasis should clearly be on the achievements and on how the IAI was able to advance certain research areas in order to point out what difference the IAI made during the last ten years. Several suggestions were made concerning the lead persons for each theme, i.e. Theme I: Henry Diaz, Edmo Campos; Theme II: John Day, Ernesto Medina, Osvaldo Sala. No immediate suggestions were made for Themes III and IV. The lead persons should receive an honorarium. It was agreed that the Editor-In-Chief of the synthesis book will be Armando Rabuffetti.

Luiz Bevilacqua is elected as the new SAC Chair to replace John Stewart. It was suggested to hold the next SAC meeting either in Miami, USA or in São José dos Campos, Brazil at the IAI Headquarters or in any other country that is willing to host the meeting.