

**INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH**



EC-XX & CoP-XII
May 2-6, 2005
Montreal, Canada

Report of the EC Chair

5_ECXX/DID/English/April 19, 2005

Report of the Chair of the Executive Council (EC) of the Inter American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)

Activities related to the EC Chair

1. The EC recommended the IAI Directorate to make a last effort to recover the Collaborative Research Network Program (CRN) 038 project funds before initiating legal action against the Centro del Agua del Trópico Húmedo para América Latina y el Caribe (CATHALAC) and inform the EC about the efforts made.

An initial contact for negotiation took place between the previous IAI Director, Gustavo Necco, and the CHATALAC Director, Dr. Sempris, during the AIACC meeting in Buenos Aires.

The Dr. Sempris assure that he would suggest the Executive Council of the CATHALAC, in their next meeting in December 2004, that the remaining funds of the IAI should be return.

The Chair of the EC sent a letter to Dr. Sempris in December 2004 reminding him of his informal agreement with Dr. Necco and asking him to contact as soon as possible the new interim Director, Dr. John Stewart, to proceed with the return of the funds.

Today, Dr. John Stewart has not received any communication from Dr. Sempris. The IAI via, his Financial Officer, Silvio Bianchi, has been constantly trying to contact him and there has been no answer. Dr. Stewart suggests that the IAI rescind the agreement with CATHALAC.

2. The IAI Director informed the EC that he would resign in December 2004.

The Chair of the EC received the formal resignation of Dr. Gustavo Necco the 2nd of August 2004 that states that Dr. Gustavo Necco would resign the 31st of December as Director of the IAI.

The 20th of September the Chair of the EC send a letter accepting the resignation of Dr. Necco to the post of IAI Director for the 31st of December 2004.

3. The IAI Interim Director was elected by in November 2004.

The 24th of November 2004 the Chair of the EC sent an announcement to the COP members telling about the election of Dr. John Stewart as Interim Director. Dr. Stewart took office as Interim Director of the IAI at the beginning of the year 2005.

4. The Conference of the Parties (CoP) elected Barbara Garea as the CoP member that would be part of the group composed to the IAI Newsletter Editorial Board, the Financial Officer and a CoP member to analyze the issue of the IAI Newsletter distribution and report back to the next EC.

There is a final document to be analyze in the EC-CoP meeting from the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Newsletter (Document 14)

5. The EC requested the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) to study different alternatives for the calculation of Country Contributions.

The Chair of the EC has received in April a final document with the proposal from the FAC to work with it during the 20th EC meeting (Document 13b).

6. The EC will forward to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) the proposal submitted by the delegate of Brazil requesting that the IAI consider accepting Centro de Previsao de Tempo e Estudos Climáticos (CPTEC) / Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE) as an Affiliated Institution.

On the 21st Meeting of the IAI SAC, held in Santiago, Chile, 9-11 November 2004, it was presented and discussed the proposal of CPTEC to become an Affiliated Institution of IAI.

At this SAC meeting, Maria Assuncao Silva Dias gave a presentation on the CPTEC proposal for a joint IAI-CPTEC 2-year internship program. CPTEC is interested in

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

The SAC considered the proposal very positively and recommends its approval to the EC/CoP.

7. The EC asked the IAI Directorate to inform the IAI national representatives about the proposals submitted to IAI calls by scientist from their countries.

The Directorate informed the IAI national representatives on the proposals submitted to IAI calls for the CRN II. So far, the Scientific Officer, Dr. Gerhard Breulmann, of the IAI Directorate sent details of the 93 pre-proposals for the CRN II. A later memo including the final 37 full proposals was send with the proposal number, PI name and country, proposal title, other countries involved and the funds requested.

The Scientific Officer will be reporting in Montreal about the procedures since the last Buenos Aires EC/COP meeting including the panel meeting and results.

8. The CoP decided that the delegates from Canada, Cuba, and the US would draft a letter to be submitted to the EC about the problem with the IAI local staff salaries. The letter will then be sent by the EC to the appropriate Brazilian authorities.

The 26th of October a letter was send to Mr. Eduardo Campos, Minister of Science and Technology from Brazil, in regard to the problems with the local IAI staff salaries, we kindly ask the Brazilian authorities to find a solution to this problem. The letter was elaborated with the ideas and collaboration of Michel Beland (Canada), Bárbara Garea (Cuba) and the Chair of the EC elaborating the final version of the letter. A copy of the letter was also send to Dr. Moura Miranda, Director of INPE, and the Minister Everton Vargas (Itamaraty).

9. The CoP asked the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures to draft rules pertaining to nomination procedures for the Scientific Advisory Committee and to present them to the EC at its next meeting.

The Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures has developed a report on this matter to be presented in the EC meeting (document 12).

The document approach the voting process, with the objective to eliminate (or at least minimize) the risk of an almost endless series of elections for any APN post offer, which there area large number of nominees.

First, there is a simple change to the rules that could at least minimize the number of elections would be to include in a second ballot only one (or two) more candidates than there are vacancies to fill.

Second, the CoP could implement immediately a change to a rule if the CoP approved the rule without objection (that is, either unanimously or by consensus). So, if there is consensus regarding one or more of the changes that are recommended, the CoP could apply them to the elections it plans to undertake at the Montreal meeting.