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GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH**



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Introduction

This report describes the activity of the Directorate and progress made in many fronts since the last EC meeting in Panama, in December 2002. We will mention the major highlights and you will hear more details directly from the Officers responsible.

As suggested at the previous EC meeting the Directorate actions and activities were based in the six major strategies proposed by the Scientific Advisory Committee and endorsed by the EC-XVI. For easy of reference we can recall that they are related to the:

- 1) consolidation and enlarging of the CRNs by encouraging integration, by increasing funding through external sources or in-kind support and by fostering links and interactions with other regional and international projects;
- 2) regular renewal for project requests and the definition of new science agenda giving priority to projects clearly focusing on integrating global change research with sustainable development;
- 3) targeting of scientifically weak member countries for more sustained and focused capacity-building efforts;
- 4) facilitation of studies synthesizing and assessing the state of knowledge of issues vital to the region and to under-studied sub-regions;
- 5) improvement of IAI's capabilities to disseminate research results – through more publications and media ensuring their regional availability to decision makers and the public;
- 6) increase of IAI profile by expansion of its activities to include offering of expertise, information contacts to other institutions in the region and offering to administer appropriate projects for outside agencies and organizations.

Recommendations from the previous EC meeting

As recommended by EC-XVI the Director sent letters to the IAI member countries part of the EC requesting them to formally nominate their corresponding representatives and alternates.

In addition to the consideration of the above mentioned strategies the Directorate, when implementing its actions, is also taking into account, as charged by EC-XVI, the recommendations made by the Working Group for Increasing Country Commitment to the IAI in its final report. In particular those related to the fostering and reactivation of MoU/agreements; the promotion of IAI meetings in countries that are not part of EC, and the diffusion of IAI activities.

Visibility of IAI

Regarding IAI's visibility and interactions with other institutions and projects (strategy one and six), the Directorate staff supported during this period several activities from sister institutions, visited institutions and participated in various events presenting the activities and programs of the

IAI with the aim of improving our visibility and disseminating our work. We look forward to continuing these supporting and outreach activities in the immediate future.

Brief accounts of these activities for each IAI staff are given below.

Director

- Meeting of stakeholders of the International Research Center on El Niño Phenomenon, Guayaquil, Ecuador, 9 to 10 January 2003.

An official invitation was received to attend the above-mentioned meeting, aimed at introducing the new center CIIFEN to the international community and to the related specialized agencies and institutions and to seek for possible collaborations. The Director had the opportunity to meet and present IAI activities to several participants, among them, Dr Salvano Briceño, Director ISDR; Dr Antonio Divino Moura, Representing IRI; Prof. G.O.P. Obasi, WMO SG; Mrs. Tania de Corrales, CAF/PREANDINO; Mrs Angeles Arenas, UNDP Regional Adviser on Disaster Reduction; Dr Michael Glantz, NCAR, USA; Mrs Aase Smedler, UN System Resident Coordinator; Mr Jean Luc Poncelet, PAHO Regional Office; Dr Ken Davidson, Director, WMO World Climate Program; Mr. Raul Michellini, Director, Uruguayan Meteorological Directorate; Dr Jose Luis Santos, Interim Director CIIFEN; Mrs. Elina Palm, ISDR Regional Officer, Costa Rica; Mr. Jesus Miranda de Larra, FAO representative in Ecuador and Dr Cesar Toro, IOCARIBE-UNESCO. Of particular interest were the discussions on possible collaboration of ISDR and the UNDP Regional Office (Mrs. Arenas) in the implementation of the IAI workshop of vulnerability planned for October 2003.

A local UHF TV Channel, "Costa Vision", reaching the cities of Quito and Guayaquil, interviewed the IAI Director. A presentation of the IAI activities and mission, with emphasis on El Niño phenomenon was made. Other participants interviewed at this moment were Dr K. Davidson, WMO, and S. Briceño, ISDR.

- IGBP Symposium on "Global change: towards a systemic view", Punta Arenas, Chile. 23-24 January 2003.

An official invitation was received from IGBP to attend the above-mentioned symposium, aiming at stimulating multidisciplinary global change studies in South America and at establishing stronger research links between the Chilean and the International Scientific Communities. This event took advantage of the visit of distinguished scientists participating at the previous IGBP SC, held in Punta Arenas. The symposium counted with the support of the Chilean Scientific Community, CONICYT and the Chilean Weather Service. The Director had the opportunity to discuss preliminary approaches about possible IAI – IGBP co-operation with Drs. Guy Brasseur (Chair IGBP SC) and Will Stefan (IGBP Executive Director). I also met, among other personalities, Dr Paul Crutzen (Nobel Prize), Gral. Hugo Oliva (Head of the Chilean Weather Service). Mrs. Araceli Jaqueih (CONICYT, Chile), Dr Roland Fuchs (START) and Prof. (Mrs.) Collen H. Vogel. (Chair, Scientific Committee IHDP.).

- X Latin American and Iberian Congress of Meteorology "Meteorology and sustainable development", La Habana, Cuba, 3-5 March 2003

The Director attended the above-mentioned congress, on the main theme “Meteorology and sustainable development”, and delivered an invited speech entitled: “Role of IAI in the sustainable development of the Americas” (in Spanish). The Cuban Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, the Ibero and Latin American Federation of Meteorological Societies and the World Meteorological Organization cosponsored the event. It was jointly organized with the 2nd. Cuban Congress of Meteorology and the 2nd. International Symposium of Tropical Cyclones “Padre Benito Viñes In Memoriam”.

Taking advantage of the Director’s presence in Cuba the EC Representative, Mrs. Barbara Garea, arranged for appointments with authorities and visits to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, the Environmental Agency, the Cuban Institute of Meteorology and the Cuban Academy of Science.

The following persons were met: Dr. Fabio Fajardo Moros, Vice-Minister CITMA, Dr. (Mrs.) America Santos Rivera, Vice-Minister CITMA: Mr. Michel Jarraud, DSG WMO, Mr. Anthony Chen, IAI Jamaica Representative, Dr (Mrs.) Marlen Palet Rabaza, Director, Institute of Tropical Geography (IGT), Dr. Sergio J. Pastrana, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Cuban Academy of Sciences, Dr. Juan M. Martinez Suarez (Director General) Environment Agency (AMA) and Dr Paulo L. Ortiz, PI of SGP-037.

- Visit to Dr Julio A. Luna, Secretary for Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (Argentinean Ministry for Education, Science and Technology), Buenos Aires, 26 March 2003
Discussions were held with the Secretary, Dr Luna, and his staff on present and future status of the participation of Argentina in IAI projects and activities.

Advantage was taken of the Director’s presence in Buenos Aires to partially attend a “Seminar on the National Strategic Study (NSS) to make use of Kyoto mechanisms” held in the same premises; to meet PIs and CoPIs of CRN programs, to pay a visit to Ambassador Estrada Oyuela, Director Environmental Issues at the Argentinean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to meet the Newsletter Editor, Lic. Carlos Ereño.

- Informal Planning Meeting on the WMO Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP) and related technical cooperation programmes (IPM/VCP), Brasilia, 10 to 13 March 2003

An official invitation was received from World Meteorological Organization to attend this meeting and to present the IAI activities on the afternoon of Tuesday 11, during the item related to “Presentation by other organizations”. Persons met were: Dr Augusto Vaz Athayde, Director, INMET, Mr Harouna Diallo, and Director WMO Technical Cooperation Department. Mr. Marty Yerg Jr., International Activities Office, NOAA/NWS, Dr Ven Tsui, Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Chairman IPM/VCP, Dr Shinji Nakagawa, Head International Affairs, Japan Meteorological Agency, Dr Hans Bauer, International Affairs Officer, Deutscher Wetterdienst. Germany, Mr. F. Sheng, International Cooperation, China Meteorological Administration, Mr. Y. Chung, Director, International Cooperation, Korea Met. Administration, Mr. Juan Segovia, Chief, International Relations, INM Spain, Mr. François Duvernet, International Relations Manager, Meteo-France, Mr. Stephen Palmer, Technical coordinator Manage, UK Met. Office, Mr. Mats Wiljander, International Project Manager, Finnish Met. Institute, Mr. Edelberto Rousseau, Senior Programme Manager, WMO/TCO, Mrs. Pierina D’Amico, WMO Programme Officer, Brasilia.

Advantage was taken of the Director's presence in Brasilia to have a discussion with the Regional Environmental Unit, US Embassy staff in Brasilia on matters of common interest. A meeting was held with Mr. Andrew Dowdy, South America Regional Environmental Officer, US Department of State; Mrs. Dulce Mesquita Castleton, Counsellor, Regional Office-Environment and Mrs. C. Sherry Hong, Second Secretary for Scientific, Technological and Environmental Affairs.

- Madrid, Spain, 21-25 April (during a private visit)

On private holidays in Madrid during this period the Director took the opportunity to visit Mr. Miguel Autray, one of the Sub Directors of AECI (Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional), the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, and to brief him on the IAI mission, structures and activities, providing a set of brochures and documents. Mr. Autray showed interest as his unit deals with cultural and scientific activities in Latin America, however he mentioned that due to limited funds they were putting much more emphasis on the cultural side (e.g. cinema, literature). He suggested exploring the Spanish National Meteorological Institute and the European Union, as recently they have approved a program for environmental research with considerable funding support.

The IAI Director also met the newly appointed Director of the Spanish National Meteorological Institute, Mrs. Milagros Couchoud. She is a very energetic lady, with a strong background in hydrology and goods contacts with Latin America. After being briefed on IAI Mrs. Couchoud was highly enthusiastic about IAI activities as the INM develops some climate change research in a special unit. She wanted to explore a future formal agreement between IAI and INM involving Ibero American countries.

- European institutions (end May 2003)

In his travel to Boulder the Director plans an extensive visit to Institutions related to global change located in Switzerland and Germany. In Geneva, from 13 to 17 May he will partially participate at the WMO XIV Congress representing IAI (as an invited institution). This will give the possibility to interact with some of the more than 200 delegates and institutions participating at this Congress. Visits were booked with institutions located in Geneva, in particular the IPCC Secretariat, the GCOS (Global Climate Observing System) Department, the WCRP (World Climate Research Programme) and the ISDR Secretariat. In Germany, from 19 to 30 May, the following visits are planned: in Bonn, the UNFCCC Secretariat, the IHDP Secretariat, the UNCCD Facilitation Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, the ZEF Uni-Bonn (Dr. L.J. Mata) and the UNV (UN Volunteers) Co-ordinator; in Leipzig the UFZ (Umweltforschungszentrum)-Centre for Environmental Research; in Bremen the ZMT (Centre for Tropical Marine Ecology) and in Bremerhaven the AWI (Alfred Wegener Institut für Polar und Meeresforschung). All the mentioned institutes in Germany sent formal invitations and are interested in discussing common undertakings with IAI. An oral presentation summarizing the results of these visits will be given at the meeting.

Scientific Officer

- SCOPE Meeting "Toward CO2 Stabilisation: Issues, Strategies and Consequences" – a SCOPE/GCP Rapid Assessment Project, Ubatuba, Brazil, 6-7 February. The IAI Scientific Officer attended the scientific discussions during the final days of this event.

- APN Meeting, 10-14 March 2003, Hanoi, Vietnam

The SO attended the annual APN – Scientific Planning Group Meeting (SPG), 10-11 March, the APN Symposium, on 12 March, and the APN Intergovernmental Meeting, 13 March.

Persons met: Roland Fuchs: START, Will Steffen (IGBP), Barbara Goebel (IHDP), Christian Pattermann (ENRICH), Jariya Boonjavat/ (APN SAC representative for Thailand) ,Anond Snidvongs (Director START South East Asia) and Koshy (Director START Oceania):

The communication between APN and IAI has improved significantly over the past one and half years. The SO had attended the previous APN meeting in Manila and introduced the idea of a joint activity between the two networks. As a result the APN had sent a representative to attend the 3rd CRN/IAI-IGBP Meeting “Building Global Change Networks in the Americas, Mendoza, Argentina, 27-28 January 2003 and the following IAI SAC meeting, 29-30 January 2003. The APN has shown interest in collaboration, however, the different strategies regarding project implications make such collaboration a difficult task

- The SO attended the LBA Scientific Steering Committee Meeting, 16 May in Cuiaba, Brazil and gave a presentation about IAI and options for collaboration with LBA.

- During a private visit to Japan the SO, on 23 April 2003, gave a presentation on IAI structure/organization, IAI agreements, IAI Science and the External Evaluation at the APN Secretariat in Kobe, Japan.

Training, Education and Communication Officer

- Several presentations about IAI and the importance of global change research in the past 6-9 months to college students in International Affairs and International Law from the University Tancredo Neves (São Paulo), University Vale do Paraíba (São José dos Campos) and University of Campinas (Campinas).

- SCOPE GCP Carbon Meeting, Ubatuba, Brazil, February 4-7, 2003

IAI committed two staff people (Marcella Ohira Schwarz and Luis Marcelo Achite) to assist the SCOPE Secretariat in the local arrangements for its GCP Carbon Meeting. Main activities performed on Feb. 4-5: help in logistical arrangements and speak with a few participants. Main activities performed on Feb. 6-7: attend the conclusion and wrap-up session of the meeting. During the meeting discussions were held with Paulo Artaxo from the University of São Paulo and a member of the State of São Paulo funding agency (FAPESP) committee on Global Change Program, Patricia Romero Lankau, a human dimension scientists from Mexico... who has participated in previous IAI activities, Reynaldo Victoria, director of CENA, and Pep Canadell about the join IAI-CENA workshop on Carbon.

- Bonn, Germany – April 24-25, 2003 (during a private visit)

Meeting with Dr. Luis Jose Mata, ZEF Uni-Bonn, co-ordinator of the IAI training course on Vulnerability associated with Climate Change and climate Variability in Central America and the Caribbean to work on course program and overall arrangements.

Meeting with Barbara Goebel, new executive director of IHDP to talk about the planning of the upcoming Open Meeting of the International Human Dimensions Community (October 16-18, 2003, Montreal, Canada) and to discuss potential collaboration between IAI and IHDP in human dimensions activities in Latin America.

CRN Manager

- Visits to the University of Bremen (Centre for Tropical Marine Ecology-ZMT), the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research(AWI) in Bremerhaven, and the Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig-Halle, Germany, 10 to 13 December 2002.

The CRN Program Manager lectured on the IAI activities at the following events:

- Workshop on the South Atlantic Climate Observing System (SACOS). CLIVAR/IAI/OOPC. Brazil, Angra dos Reis, 6/8 February 2003 (co-sponsored by IAI).
- Workshop SGP-027 : "Soil moisture variability in the La Plata Basin: Assessments of the impacts of its variability and Forecast Applications for End Users", 18 March 2003 - INPE - CPTEC, Cachoeira Paulista, SP, Brazil.
- The UNFCCC Workshop on the use of the guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties. Port Louis, Mauritius, April 8-11, 2003. The following paragraph, mentioning the IAI and APN networks, was included in the Report of the workshop "Participants noted that significant capacity building activities are being undertaken by bodies like the Inter American Institute (IAI) for Latin America and the Caribbean region and by the Asian Pacific Network (APN) for countries in that region and recommended that a similar organization in Africa replicate this assistance for the African region."

DIS Manager

- SCOPE GCP Carbon Meeting, Ubatuba, Brazil, February 4-7, 2003
Mr. Luis M. Achite provided a considerable IT support to the meeting.

Secretaries

Mrs. Luciana Q. Ribeiro offered presentations about IAI, in cooperation with the Training, Education and Communication Officer, in the past 6-9 months to college students in International Affairs and International Law from the University Tancredo Neves (São Paulo), University Vale do Paraíba (São José dos Campos) and University of Campinas (Campinas).

Mrs. Isabel C. Vega, at the request from INPE, supported the Brazilian Symposium of Remote Sensing, Belo Horizonte – MG, April 5-10, 2003. She was responsible for the Technical Secretariat having two other people to assist her.

Agreements with other organizations

A Memorandum of Understanding with our neighbor center (UN affiliated) CRETEALC (Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Latin America and the

Caribbean) was finalized and officially signed on 14 April at the INPE Auditorium, with the presence of the Secretary General of CREATEALC, Dr. Jose Marcos da Costa; the Director of INPE, Dr. Luiz Carlos Moura Miranda; a Representative of the President of the AEB and the Director of the Campus Brazil of CREATEALC, Dr. (Mrs.) Tania Maria Sausen. The major areas touching this agreement are the joint organization of conferences, symposia, workshops, seminars and other scientific meetings on subject of common interests; and joint initiatives and promotion of fund rising for a common new building in the premises of INPE.

Following a recommendation from the SAC a text of a Memorandum of Understanding between the IGBP and IAI was discussed and agreed with Dr. Will Steffen, IGBP Executive Director. The possibility for a signature during the next Science Forum in Boulder was suggested. Unfortunately Dr. Steffen is already committed for these dates and we are exploring other opportunities for an official signature before the end of this year.

Two groups of European and South American researchers preparing ENRICH bids (about one million Euro each) to the EU Framework 6 for a Specific Support Action project requested the endorsement and eventual collaboration of IAI. The first Project entitled “An Integrated Pan-Amazonian Contribution to the ENRICH” (PANAMAZONIA)” aims at building and strengthening the European co-operation with Latin American partners to develop the critical mass of human capacity and techniques for monitoring and understanding the Amazon ecosystem’s role in climate change and maintenance of biodiversity and the effects of global change on the Amazon ecosystem. Moreover, the Project’s main activities are related to training, standardization of methods, database development, and supporting the emergence of regional-level Amazon research networks that transcend national boundaries.

The second one, called CLARIS Project, aims at strengthening collaborations between Europe and South America to develop common research strategies on climate change and sustainable development issues in the subtropical region of South America, through a multi-scale integrated approach (continental-regional-local).

After consultations with interested IAI PIs and the SAC Chairman, letters were sent confirming the IAI interest in exploring collaboration, if the opportunity arises, in the implementation of the project activities when researchers from the Americas are involved. The areas of training and education, database development and the furthering of regional research networks were indicated as of particular appeal to IAI. We also offered to provide administrative support for activities or projects involving researchers from one or more American countries (strategy six).

Fund rising activities

The Director and the Training, Education and Communications Officer have successfully worked on a series of fundraising efforts to complement the funding of IAI training activities, which otherwise could not be developed without these complementary funds:

- Organization of American States (OAS)/Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD): will support airfare of 20 participants from Central America and the Caribbean to the IAI course in the Dominican Republic. This contribution will be approximately US\$ 20K.

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/ BCPR, Panama: is willing to support travel of speakers, per diem of participants and simultaneous interpretation of the IAI course in the Dominican Republic. This contribution will be up to US\$ 50K.
- Additional contacts have been made and are under negotiation for co-sponsorship of the activity mentioned above with the following organizations: U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/Office of Global Programs (OGP); U.S.AID; United Nations International Strategy for Disasters Reduction (ISDR); Economic Council for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Center of Investigation and Superior Studies in Social Anthropology (CIESAS), Mexico.
- Brazil's Instituto Nacional de Pesquisa Espaciais (INPE) will contribute with in kind contribution to the IAI course in Cachoeira Paulista, Brazil. This contribution will cover lodging of participants and local arrangements.
- The University of São Paulo/CENA and France's Institute for Research and Development (IRD) will contribute with in kind contributions to the IAI course in Piracicaba, Brazil. This contribution will cover the work of a full time assistant to work on the development of the program, as well as the local arrangements.

Science Activities

The SO will report on the science activities. He will provide an update on the IAI Science Programs (PESCA, ISP 3, Small Grants Program), the IAI-IGBP meeting in Mendoza (January 2003 in Mendoza, Argentina), the review of the IAI Science Agenda and developments concerning a joint APN - IAI activity. He will also provide an update on the 1st Young Scientists Conference to be held in November 2003 in Trieste, Italy. The CRN program will be reported separately by the CRN Program Manager. The report of the 18th meeting of the IAI SAC, 29-30 January 2003 in Mendoza will be presented by the SAC Chair Walter Fernandez. The SAC, although confirming the validity of the current four themes of the Science Agenda, proposed a review to be presented to EC and CoP for consideration and endorsement (see Addendum to Document 7). Among other initiatives the SAC recommended to launch a second round of the Small Grant Program (SGP) and a second round of CRNs in late 2004 or early 2005.

Training, Education and Communications Activities

The Training, Education and Communications Officer will report on her activities in detail. Since the end of last year the TEC Officer has worked on the planning and fundraising of three capacity building activities in Latin America in collaboration with partner organizations. The goal is to promote capacity building in several themes of importance of the IAI science agenda with strong human dimensions approach:

- 1) Land Cover-Land Use Change in the Amazonian Region: Patterns, Processes and [Plausible] Scenarios (October 13-24, 2003, Cachoeira Paulista, Brazil).
- 2) Vulnerability associated with Climate Change and Climate Variability in Central America and the Caribbean (October 26-November 8, 2003, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic);

3) Warming and Global Climate Changes: Causes and Mitigation Alternatives (November 10-22, 2003, Piracicaba, Brazil);

In addition, initial contacts have been made to start planning T&E activities for 2004 with organizations in Costa Rica, Mexico, and other partner organizations such as IHDP.

The TEC Officer has also worked on the production of the IAI Anniversary Book to celebrate 10 years of the Institute. The book introduces the IAI from its early years and presents a decade of achievements in institutional development, implementation of scientific programs, scientific and capacity building productivity, as well as the benefits of the participation of member countries, the scientific community and policy makers in the activities of the IAI Anniversary book (strategy five).

Financial Matters

The Financial Officer will provide an overview of the financial status of the Core Budget for the Fiscal Year 2002/2003, the budget for the next Fiscal Year 2003/2004 and the proposed Voluntary Contributions for 2003/2006 where, in order to maintain an adequate operational capacity of the Directorate, it was found necessary to have an 8% increase of the level of contributions.

Annual Program 2003/2004

The proposed Annual Program for the next fiscal year, integrating suggestions from different IAI bodies, is presented in Document 11. The institutional section foresees support for the Directorate activities, the holding of EC, CoP, SAC and Working Group meetings, EC Chair and Director's missions, and external auditing reviews, when applicable. For scientific programs it is planned to conduct the synthesis of the ISP and PESCA scientific achievements and the dissemination of results, to continue with the implementation of the CRN Program and to initiate a Second Round of the Small Grant Program (SGP-II).

In the area of capacity building three short courses, Summer Institute type, were foreseen as well as the implementation of "ad-hoc" training or advice in the administration of projects.

Activities of co-sponsorship are also foreseen, in particular to support the attendance of scientists involved in IAI projects and activities to the START Young Scientist Conference, and to meetings and training events of relevance to the IAI mission.

Finally, for communications and outreach, in order to insure the dissemination of relevant institutional, scientific and assessment information the production of the following material is planned: the regular IAI Newsletter, the Annual Report 2002/2003, the 10th Anniversary Book and some new InfoSheets. It is also planned to continue with the update of the IAI web site and the Data and Information System (DIS).

Newsletter

Following discussions with the Newsletter Editor a new set of Roles and Duties for the Newsletter Editorial Board and the Editor were finalized and agreed. The present membership of the Newsletter Editorial Board is as follows: IAI Director (Chair), Newsletter Editor, IAI Scientific Officer, IAI Training, Education and Communications Officer, and two SAC Members (at present Drs. Maria Assunção F. da Silva Dias and Alejandro Castellanos) (strategy five).

Detachment of Dr (Mrs.) Thelma Krug

The Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology kindly proposed a two-year partial detachment of Dr. Thelma Krug to IAI to assist in scientific activities, financially supported by Brazil. Dr. Krug is the is the Co-Chair of the IPCC Bureau of the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and is a well-recognized scientist in the area of climate change. She was very welcomed to IAI and it was agreed that she will work at present in the synthesis of the scientific results of ISP-III (strategy four). She will also act as a link between IAI and IPCC.

Internal Issues

Regarding internal Directorate matters, a full review of the present job descriptions of the staff is under implementation to adjust them to a proper accomplishment of the above-mentioned strategies. In parallel, the annual Directorate objectives are being designed for the fiscal year 2003/2004 (based on the Annual Program presented for consideration of this EC) to be cascaded-down to the staff annual objectives and the related annual tasks and duties. The staff annual objectives and related tasks will form the basis for an annual performance appraisal scheme (PAR), simple but complete enough to allow for a proper evaluation of the staff performance and identification of their training needs. The proposed Directorate structure, with appropriate dependence relations, will consist of the Director, the Scientific Officer, the Administrative and Financial Officer, the Training, Communications and Outreach Officer, the CRN Manager, the Information Technology Manager, the Secretary to the Director, two Secretaries, the Financial Assistant, a Clerk and a Computer intern. Cross cutting and human dimension issues will constitute a strong part of the Scientific Officer and the Training, Communications and Outreach Officer duties. It is planned to have additional interns to help in the implementation of future Summer Institutes and related training. Following previous suggestions the need is foreseen for having senior visiting scientists, on sabbatical leave, to help in synthesizing the scientific results of different IAI Programs, particularly the CRN. The Directorate is also working at present in supporting the IAI external evaluation, the visit of NSF auditors and the regular annual financial audit.

Status of CRN-038

The project CRN-38 is at present in an “impasse”. Long and unacceptable delays in presenting the financial report for the second year (due in March 2002) and a negative report from an auditing company on the financial and administrative management processes of the grantee led IAI to suspend the grantee as the responsible of the administration of the project, beginning

October 2002. The situation required fact-finding missions from the IAI Financial and Scientific Officers, implemented by mid-November 2002. Although the scientific aspects of the project were proved to be sound and valuable, serious anomalies in the administrative aspects were earmarked. Immediately after these missions a letter from the President of the Executive Board of the grantee institution presented a partial financial report, commenting about the weak administrative and financial management of the project by the PI and CoPI and their “lack of professional ethics”. Given the seriousness of the situation and the contractual administrative accountability of the PI and one of the CoPIs, Executive Director of the grantee institution till June 2002, the Directorate suspended without notice the PI and CoPI and requested an interim PI to conduct the scientific activities of the project until these administrative issues were solved. The suspension of the PI and CoPI were interpreted by the scientific community as a direct accusation and very passionate communications were sent to the Directorate. IAI decided to hire an external audit company in order to produce a special audit report of the CRN-038 expenses since its commencement until October 2002. As this audit review included the evaluation of internal controls applied to this project, it was expected to have the alleged anomalies to be substantiated. In addition, the grantee was requested to return the remaining funds. The audit company produced a report by with 17 “findings” to be explained or clarified. In order to provide an opportunity to the different actors in the project (the grantee, the PI and CoPI) to explain and clarify the different “findings” and to finalize the financial report, an explanatory meeting on the administrative/financial situation of CRN-038 was called by end February 2002, at the IAI HQ, including the participation, as observers, of the EC Chairman, one member of the Project Suspension and Termination Task Force and the SAC member advising on CRN-038. In this meeting the 17 points were addressed, after two days of lively discussions and exchange of information and documents between the grantee, PI and CoPI. Even though not all points were fully clarified the Directorate, after consultation with the EC Chair, the member of the Project Suspension and Termination Task Force and the SAC advisor to CRN-038 decided, in order to continue with the scientific work of the project, to offer an opportunity to all parties by revoking the PI and CoPI suspensions and by giving a probatory six-month period to the grantee. At the moment of writing these lines resignations were received by the EC Chairman from the PI and several CoPIs, as they do not agree with the continuation of the grantee as the recipient institution.

Final Comments

As described in this report the Directorate has been very active in implementing, within the human and financial resources available, the most important suggestions and proposals from the different IAI bodies and groups, taking as a basic guidance the six strategies described in the Introduction.

A big effort has been made in trying to improve the visibility of our institution and we are pleased to report that the general response from the institutions and individuals contacted has been extremely positive and cooperative towards IAI, resulting in some cases in a concrete support for several IAI activities.

We are also launching initiatives to consolidate the IAI internal structures and procedures, aiming at establishing clear and solid guidance to the staff in order to properly discharge their everyday duties in the most profitable way.

Finally, we are totally open to EC's suggestions and recommendations on the above issues regarding present and future IAI activities as well on any point that the EC may consider appropriate, particularly regarding the delicate issue of the present "impasse" of the project CRN-038.