

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



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21st Meeting of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

Santiago, Chile, 9-11 November 2004

Participants:

SAC Members: Walter Fernandez (Chair), Vicente Barros, Michael Brklacich, Rene Capote, Alejandro Castellanos, Rana Fine, Silvia Garzoli, Luiz F. Legey, Maria Assuncao Silva Dias.

Observers: Luiz Bevilacqua (former IAI SAC Chair), Paul Filmer (NSF), Shere Abbott (AAAS Chief International Officer), Peter Backlund (NCAR Director of Research Relations), Tom Bogdan (NCAR - SERE Associate Director), Tom Yoksas (UCAR Unidata)

IAI Directorate: Gerhard Breulmann (Scientific Officer), Marcella Ohira (Training, Education and Outreach Officer), Isabel Vega (Assistant to the SO), Paula Richter (Assistant). The IAI Director was not able to attend the meeting.

Note: This was the first SAC meeting attended by ALL members since May 2000 (Miami)

1. Opening by SAC Chair

The SAC Chair, Walter Fernandez opened the meeting welcoming specifically the new SAC members. The participants at the meeting briefly introduced themselves. The SAC Chair read a letter from the IAI Director to the SAC.

2. Approval of the Minutes of SAC XX

The Minutes of the previous SAC meeting were approved without modifications.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda of the 21st SAC Meeting was approved without modifications.

4. Evaluation of pre-proposals received for the second round of the IAI Collaborative Research Network (CRN II) program

(selection of pre-proposals to be invited for submission of full proposals)

In response to the IAI CRN II pre-proposals announcement, 93 eligible pre-proposals were received by the deadline (20 Oct 2004), involving 93 PIs and 829 Co-PIs, requesting a budget total of US\$ 80,141,275. The SAC had decided at its 20th meeting that the review of the pre-proposals would be done by the committee itself. Conflict of Interest forms were distributed to the SAC members before the review. Due to the large number of pre-proposals received and the thematic spread, some 'external' reviewers were consulted.

Each pre-proposal was assigned to two reviewers (primary & secondary), who ranked them against the evaluation criteria as outlined in the CRN II Pre-proposal General Guidelines, i.e., Scientific excellence and technical soundness, relevance to the IAI Science Agenda, policy relevance, research gap- new

topic, capacity building, integration of natural and social sciences, appropriate budget and in-kind contributions. Different weighting factors were applied to each criterion. The rating scale applied was from 1 (= poor) to 5 (= excellent).

Each proposal was introduced to the committee by the 'primary' reviewer and then the ratings of primary and secondary reviewers were combined into an overall rating. Applying a top-down approach under consideration of regional and thematic distribution, the SAC selected 35 pre-proposals to be invited for submission of full proposals in phase 2 of the CRN II proposals process. Mike Brklacich had to leave the meeting at this point due to commitments at his home institution.

5. NCAR – identification of appropriate joint IAI-NCAR activity

Peter Backlund and Tom Bogdan gave presentations on the structure, objectives and activities of NCAR and UCAR. The background for the NCAR/UCAR presence is that NCAR has received a NSF grant to support joint activities between NCAR and the IAI. The main items of the presentations were:

NCAR/UCAR draft plan has 3 main elements:

- Visitor support
- Educational opportunities
- Seminars and colloquia

NCAR/UCAR suggested topics for consideration:

- Weather modeling and data assimilation
- Land-surface-atmosphere interactions
- Regional climate modeling
- Water cycle science applications
- Risk, uncertainty and decision-making
- Applied mathematics
- Space weather
- New approaches to environmental education (curricula and IT)

The above is a suggested list, completely open for discussion and inclusion of IAI suggestions and needs. The activities to be carried out under the NSF grant need to be identified, planned and coordinated jointly between NCAR and IAI. It was therefore suggested that a steering committee be established, including two members of the IAI SAC.

The SAC discussed the proposal of NCAR and two members, M. A. Silva Dias and Walter Fernandez volunteered to be part of the committee. Before leaving, Mike Brklacich had also volunteered to be part of the committee. Several SAC members noted that the relationship between the SAC and the steering committee was not very clear to them and that this rather seemed to be an issue to be addressed by the IAI Directorate. It was also noted that the IAI Directorate could modify the composition of the steering committee at any time and that IAI Directorate staff, in particular the SO should be part of it. The SAC Chair shared this view and stressed that the establishment and composition of such committee would be pending the decision of the IAI Director, Gustavo Necco. He asked the SO to inform Gustavo about this issue, requesting a written statement on how to proceed. The Committee may need to visit the

NCAR facilities in early 2005 in order to gain a better sense of the organization and facilities, and to chart the next steps for joint activities.

In general the NCAR proposal was received very positively by the SAC which recommends that the proposal be further developed and modified according to the needs of IAI.

6. Introduction and explanation about the IAI External Review by AAAS

Shere Abbott – AAAS Chief International Officer

Shere Abbott made a presentation on the IAI External Review, which will be focused on the institutional and programmatic development and impacts. The scope of the review will be retrospective and it is supposed to provide future guidance as a model linking research with societal needs. The preliminary report is due in February 2005, the final report in June 2005 and will be printed in September 2005. The elements to be evaluated are the evolution of the IAI and its science agenda; networking and linkages; capacity building; research support; communications and mechanisms for decision-support. The evaluation process will be held in two phases, i.e., data gathering and research (AAAS Synthesis Team) and review and assessment (International Assessment Committee). Shere expressed her hope for the collaboration of the SAC members during the review, as they are a very important source of information in regard to IAI's scientific programs and its future development. The SAC Chair expressed that the committee would be happy to provide any help needed.

7. Discussion of CRN II full proposals

The SAC requested the SO to distribute the CRN II Full Proposal General Guidelines for comments before launching. It must be very clear to the PI's that there have been major changes in the guidelines concerning sections to include, format, budget, etc. It was noted that the IAI reviewer database needs to be expanded in order to be able to cope with future reviews. The SAC should be instrumental in providing names of potential reviewers.

8. Report on EC/CoP meeting and IAI Forum, Buenos Aires, July 2004

The SAC Chair and Co-Chair gave a brief report on their participation and presentation in the last EC-CoP meeting and the Forum in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Jul 2004. During the presentations in Buenos Aires the SAC Chair confirmed to the EC/CoP that the SAC would greatly welcome a joint meeting with the EC and stressed the need to receive the results of the survey of national priorities in global change research. In Buenos Aires Alejandro Castellanos was introduced as the new SAC Co-Chair. The letter prepared by the SAC at the 20th meeting in Ottawa, Canada was read to the EC/CoP.

9. Mechanism of CRN I Synthesis

The SO informed that the original 5-year period of the CRN program has finished and that the program was on the first no-cost extension. Considering the individual no-cost extension requests received from a number of PI's, a second no-cost extension will have to be requested.

The discussion on the CRN I synthesis had started at the 18th meeting of the IAI SAC in Mendoza, Argentina, January 2003. Considering the advantages and disadvantages of the different options discussed, the SAC decided to use the SCOPE mechanism. The SO will contact John Stewart, SCOPE

Editor-In-Chief about this decision so that it can be presented (by John Stewart) to the next SCOPE General Assembly in India, February 2005. The funds for the CRN I (including other programs) synthesis including a working meeting of about 50 persons, publication and printing costs will need to be covered by IAI CRN funds.

As for the final technical project reports, it was stressed that policy relevant outcomes need to be highlighted. The SO confirmed that such section is included in the reporting format to be followed by all IAI projects. It was suggested to additionally include into the FINAL technical report a ‘summary for non-scientific audiences’. The IAI country representatives should then be informed about the contribution of any (CRN) project to that country’s Science Agenda. This would require that IAI be informed about each country’s agenda.

10. Program Manager hire – update

The SO informed that 49 applications had been received for the Program Manager vacancy and personal interviews had been held with 3 candidates just in advance to this SAC meeting at the IAI Directorate in Sao Jose dos Campos. The top candidate has been identified by the selection committee and will be informed about her/his selection immediately after the SAC meeting. Ideally the new Program Manager would start the appointment in January 2005.

11. Proposal: CPTEC Affiliated Institution of IAI

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. Suggested activities are:

- Internship at CPTEC: 2-year program (could be renewable)
- IAI will issue an annual call for proposals to select, in consultation with CPTEC, 3-6 proposals for a 6-months period of internship including travel and living expenses.
- CPTEC will provide computer time, expert mentorship, office facilities and low cost accommodation for the duration of the internship
- Candidates will be required to submit a research proposal to IAI, CV and 2 letters of recommendation one of which should be from his/her employer
- Budget/a: CPTEC US\$ 20.200; IAI US\$ 6000

Maria Assuncao left the meeting room during the discussion of the proposal. The SAC considered the proposal very positively and will make an according recommendation to the CoP. The SAC Chair will need to produce a recommendation letter to the IAI Director or the EC Chair.

12. Any other business

Alejandro Castellanos reminded about the SAC decision that country representatives and/or institution representatives from countries where SAC meetings are held be invited to meet with the SAC members.

13. Next meeting

The next meeting was tentatively suggested for early June 2005 however the date will greatly depend on the CRN II schedule. Possible locations highlighted were Quito, Ecuador or Sao Jose dos Campos & Atibaia, Brazil.

The SAC thanked Isabel Vega de Maldonado, Paula Richter, Gerhard Breulmann and Walter Fernandez for their work.

The meeting adjourned.