

Eleventh Meeting of the IAI Conference of the Parties

The Eleventh Meeting of the IAI Conference of the Parties (CoP) was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on June 30 and July 2, 2004. The meeting was hosted by the Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovative Production (SECyT), the Office for Environmental Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Secretariat for Environment and Sustainable Development. Member countries represented at the meeting were: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay, the USA, and Venezuela. Members of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) were invited to attend the meeting: Walter Fernandez Rojas (IAI SAC Chair) and Alejandro Castellanos Villegas. Observers at the meeting were: Carolina Vera (VAMOS Co-Chair), Jorge V. Crisci (DIVERSITAS), Benedito Rosa Do Espirito Santo (IICA), Armando Rabuffetti (Regional Director - INIA), and Ramón Agustín Sonzini (OMM Director for the Americas).

The IAI Director and the Ambassador Ms. Maria Esther Bondanza, Director General of Environmental Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, opened the meeting. Ing. Agueda Menvielle, SECyT International Relations Director, was elected Chair of the Conference, Nuris Orihuela from Venezuela, First Vice-Chair, and Michel Béland, from Canada, Second Vice-Chair.

After the presentation of the activities of the IAI Directorate made by the IAI Director and Officers, the Conference approved the following documents among others forwarded by the IAI Executive Council: the Alternative Core Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2004/2005, the Proposed Principles regarding In-kind Contributions, and the IAI Annual Program 2004/2005. The CoP also decided to maintain the values of current Member Country Contributions for the next period 2004/2005 and to continue with the work of the IAI External Evaluation Committee.

The CoP elected the following scientists to be part of the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC): Walter Fernandez Rojas, Luiz Fernando Legey, Rana A. Fine, Vicente Ricardo Barros, and René Pablo Capote López.

The CoP elected the following Parties to compose the IAI Executive Council (EC) for the period July 2004-June 2006: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico, USA, and Venezuela.

The CoP recommended approving the projects to be funded under a second round of the IAI Collaborative Research Network (CRN) program at the EC meeting to be held in June/July 2005. Accordingly, a call for 'Letters of Intent' will have to be launched by the IAI Directorate as soon as possible - likely sometime in September 2004 - in order to be able to have the peer review finalized in time. The implementation of the projects will depend on a successful funding application to the US National Science Foundation (NSF).

The CoP accepted the offer of the delegate from Canada to host the twentieth meeting of the EC and twelfth meeting of the CoP in Montreal or Quebec. The dates of the meetings will depend on the IAI Director Recruitment Process.