

Nineteenth Meeting of the IAI Executive Council

The Nineteenth Meeting of the IAI Executive Council (EC) was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on June 29-30, 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. The following EC Member Countries were present: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Panama, Uruguay, the United States of America, and Venezuela. Representatives from Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Paraguay also attended as observers. Ing. Tulio del Bono, Secretary of Science, Technology and Innovative Production, and Amb. Raúl Estrada Oyuela, Special Representative for International Environmental Negotiations, opened the meeting, which was chaired by Prof. Antônio Mac Dowell (Brazil), and co-chaired by Dr. Margaret Leinen (USA), and Dr. Bárbara Garea (Cuba).

During the meeting, the EC received the reports of the EC Chair, the IAI Directorate staff, the IAI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Chair, and the EC working groups. The report of the Directorate staff provided an update regarding the institutional, programmatic, and capacity building activities since the last EC Meeting (December 2003). The main activities comprised the visits of the Director to several countries in the region, the Institute's joint initiatives with other international organizations, the current IAI scientific programs, the IAI Training Institutes, and the creation of the new position of the IAI Program Manager.

During the IAI Director report, he informed the EC he would resign in December 2004. Consequently, the EC Bureau prepared a document on the IAI Recruitment process to discuss with the EC the appropriate timeline to select the new IAI Director.

A set of decisions and actions were discussed after a very fruitful half-day meeting. The most important were:

- The EC approved the *Auditor's Report of the Financial Statements as of June 30, 2003*.
- The EC approved the reduction in the frequency of the IAI Newsletter (from 4 to 3 issues per year) for the current year.
- The EC will forward to the SAC the proposal submitted by the delegate of Brazil requesting that the IAI consider accepting the Center for Weather Forecast and Climate Studies of the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (CPTEC/INPE) as an Affiliated Research Institution.

Among others, the EC approved the following issues and forwarded them to the CoP XI:

- *The Alternative Core Budget Request for fiscal year 2004/2005* distributed during the meeting.
- the recommendation of its Bureau to maintain the values of current Member Country Contributions for the next period 2004/2005.
- the *Annual Program 2004/2005*.
- the Document Proposed Principles regarding In-kind Contributions