

**REPORT OF THE
IAI SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) CHAIR
TO THE 19th MEETING OF THE IAI EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC)**

Walter Fernández

Chairman of SAC

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 29-30 June, 2004

20th MEETING OF THE IAI SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

1-2 April, Ottawa, Canada

SAC Members:

Walter Fernandez (Chair), Michael Brklacich, René Capote, Alejandro Castellanos, Silvia Garzoli, Lynne Hale, Luiz F. Legey.

Absent: Julia Paegle, Maria A. Silva Dias, Gary Yohe.

Observers:

Antonio Mc Dowell (IAI EC Chair), Paul Filmer (NSF).

IAI Directorate:

Gerhard Breulman (Scientific Officer), Eduardo Banus (CRN Program Manager), Paula Richter (Assistant).

Note: The IAI Director was not able to attend the meeting.

The SAC is deeply acknowledged with Mike Brklacich and Maureen Woodrow for the help they provided in organizing the meeting in Canada.

UPDATE ON SGP I AND SGP II

SGP I:

The Scientific Officer (SC) reported about the program. One PI is not responding to enquiries about his final report and the SC suggests to apply the “Suspension and Termination Procedures for IAI Projects” in case of no-response to reminders. The SAC discussed the issue and confirmed that this is the correct procedure to apply in such case.

SGP II:

The 22 proposals recommended for funding by the SAC were approved by the EC. Projects started to operate in February./March. 2004.

UPDATE ON CRN I

As requested at the last SAC meeting, the CRN Program Manager Eduardo Banus prepared a report on the program, including:

- Number of students supported by CRN projects. The CRN Program Manager will need to follow-up with the PIs to obtain information on how many students were actually supported financially by IAI, but also how many students participated in the science without receiving financial support.
- Publications listed by the PIs will only be considered by the IAI if its support is acknowledged. This policy is now strictly applied and followed by the PIs.
- External funds: The statistics show that the projects have support not only from national or regional organizations, but some of them received funds through agencies outside the region (UK, Germany, EU).
- The capacity building component of the CRNs is very strong; new people get involved continuously and expand the networks; CRNs build lasting collaborations, e.g. students who start working in the networks continue publishing with the PIs/Co-PIs.

SYNTHESIS AND FINAL REPORT OF CRN I

The final report should be a synthesis of the program as a whole.

The SAC analyzed different possibilities:

- The Scientific Officer could prepare a synthesis of CRN I with the help of the SAC members.
- The Synthesis could be in form of an edited book. Each PI could be the author of one chapter. The book should be published by the IAI and not a publishing company. Chapterization could follow the Themes of the IAI Science Agenda (although the themes are not balanced in the CRN program).
- Funds from the terminated CRN project could be relocated to prepare the synthesis.
- The Scientific Officer will prepare a list of alternatives for the publication for the next meeting.
- CRN Synthesis meeting would be useful to show the achievements of the program and attract new sponsors.

SYNTHESIS AND FINAL REPORT OF CRN I

(continuation)

- IAI could try to have special sessions at meetings of relevant organizations with invited talks by the PIs making a presentation on their projects and one PI summarizing the program.
- The Scientific Officer had been in contact with John Stewart about the possibility of synthesizing CRN using the SCOPE mechanism.
- Policy relevant outcomes should be highlighted in Final Project Reports.
- Each country should be informed about the contribution of any (CRN) project to that country's Science Agenda (this does require that IAI be informed about each country's agenda).

REVISED IAI REPORTING FORMAT, QUESTIONNAIRE TO CRN PI'S/CO-PI'S

The Scientific Officer has prepared a new format for Final Technical Project Reports to be followed by the PIs. Besides others it includes sections on:

- Policy relevant results.
- A section 'Lessons learned' will be included where the PIs can express their opinion on how to improve the process.

MAIN EC RESOLUTIONS OF CONCERN TO SAC

- Joint EC/SAC meeting: The SAC Chair informed about his meeting with the EC Chair. A letter will be sent to the country representatives requesting information about their priorities in Global Change. Should there be no reply, the leaders of the research organizations will be invited to provide this information.
- IAI Program Manager Position (for all IAI programs): The opening of the position announcement has to be approved by the CoP.
- The EC Chair was informed on the open SAC positions. A letter will be sent to EC/CoP with the recommended areas of expertise needed

SAC ACTIONS TO HELP RE-COMMIT AND RE-ENGAGE THE IAI MEMBER COUNTRIES

- Highlight awards received by IAI scientists (e.g. Crutzen Award in Young Scientists conference). It was suggested that letters be sent to the country representatives informing them on such facts.
- The SAC continued the discussion started in Santo Domingo about a presentation of the IAI scientific contributions to member countries and the connection between the IAI Science Agenda and the countries scientific needs. The data presented by the Program Manager provide valuable additional information for such presentation. The work on such presentation should start as soon as the country priorities have been specified.

CRN II and/or SGP III

A Call for Proposals is being prepared by the Scientific Officer with input from SAC members. The call should specifically encourage applied science proposals.

More details will be presented by the Scientific Officer.

PROFILES OF SAC MEMBER POSITIONS TO BE ELECTED OR RE-ELECTED AT CoP JULY 2004

The SAC recommends the following areas of expertise for candidates to be nominated:

- Oceanic and atmospheric variability: physical and chemical processes.
- Coastal and estuarine processes, coastal vulnerability, fisheries (food security).
- Variability of cultivated systems (crop systems), Food Systems, Food Security.
- Climate Change and atmospheric physics or physical meteorology.
- Forestry and applied ecology, LUCC, Carbon.
- Economics, urban issues, human health.

SAC CO-CHAIR

Previous Co-Chair, Lynne Hale will not be available for re-election due to too many commitments in her new position at TNC.

Alejandro Castellanos was elected as her successor.

POTENTIAL IAI PARTNERS

Silvia Garzoli (member of SAC) introduced several programs of US organizations, e.g. Ocean US, NOAA, (ARGO, AOML) with the potential for partnerships with the IAI specifically for observation and monitoring systems.

Such partnerships could be of great value for both sides, with the financial support coming from the US institution using the IAI's network.

Regional Institutions could greatly benefit from such a partnership.

IAI WEB SITE

The SAC has recommended that a Calendar of Events (relevant workshops/ conferences) be included in the IAI web site.

Paul Filmer suggested to make available in public domain on the IAI website all non-confidential IAI meeting reports (EC, CoP, SAC).

CLOSED SESSION

SAC members held a closed session. A letter was prepared and respectfully submitted to the EC Chair, Mr. Antonio Mac Dowell.

“The SAC was unanimous in its opinion that the current state of affairs and the uncertainty it creates is placing the IAI’s scientific achievements in jeopardy, and that action must be taken now if we are to sustain progress and achievement.”

“We therefore strongly urge the Executive Council Bureau to instruct the IAI Director to:

- 1. Take the necessary steps to ensure the continuity of the Institute’s scientific programs;*
- 2. Develop a short term action plan immediately, to be presented to the Conference of the Parties at their next meeting in June;*
- 3. Fully implement the Action Plan during the second half of 2004.*

As a Committee and as individuals we stand ready to continue to work with the Director and the member countries to ensure the continuity of excellence in the IAI science program.”

21ST MEETING OF THE SAC

The 21st Meeting of the SAC will take place in Santiago, Chile, on 9-10 November 2004.

To increase IAI visibility, the SAC recommends that the EC/CoP representative of the country where a SAC meeting will take place be invited as observer to attend the meeting and that half day be dedicated to discussions with him/her and the interested local scientific community.