

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



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Report of the Director and Scientific Officer

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Report of the Director and Scientific Officer

The current transformations of the IAI involve (1) administrative and internal policy changes, and (2) the development of the scientific program to increase the IAI's relevance and impact in regional global change and adaptation research. The principal internal changes aim at a consolidation of work groups and closer cooperation among all IAI staff. The scientific developments aim at the inclusion of strategic considerations into the science program. The incoming Director has therefore cooperated closely with the Scientific Officer, and the present report has been jointly prepared to reflect these new initiatives.

HT arrival from the EC in Puerto Vallarta (Sep.11, 2005).

Meetings and conferences:

- Sept. 15 - Meeting with INPE Director to establish contact important for the future development of the IAI in Brazil (HT);
- Sept. 21 - development of seed funding program for Training workshops in Jamaica and Paraguay (HT);
- Sept. 22-24 - African Network for Global Environmental Change Research Planning Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya (GB);
- Sept. 27 - First of several meetings with prospective or rejected CRN II PIs to plan cross-linkage of networks.(HT);
- Oct. 7-13 - 6th IHDP Open Meeting, Bonn, Germany (GB);
- Oct. 10-11 - Meeting in Montevideo with three prospective CRN II PIs, PIs of projects recommended for seed funding and representatives from INPE-CPTEC, INTA, Univ. Buenos Aires and the University of Montevideo to initiate CRN-networking for an integrated La Plata Initiative (HT);
- Oct. 24-25 - Meetings with OAS, State Department, Dept. Commerce, NOAA, NSF, AAAS in Washington (HT);
- Oct. 26-28 - IGFA meeting in Virginia (HT);
- Oct. 31 – Nov. 3 - NSF site visit in SJC (HT);
- Nov. 6-8 - IAI presentation at Global change meeting in São Paulo, meetings with Institute for Advanced Studies USP, and Minister of the Environment SP State (HT);
- Nov. 14-18 - LBA SSC meeting, Sao Paulo, Brazil (GB);
- Nov. 21 - Meetings with Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Foreign Relations in Brasilia (HT);
- Nov. 24 - Meeting/Workshop at Sao Paulo State Science Funding Agency (FAPESP) to initiate a Global Change funding program (HT);
- Nov. 26 – Dec. 2 SCOPE-IAI workshop in Ubatuba (HT, GB);
- March 20-23 - FAC meeting, SJC (HT);
- Mar 22-24 - APN Intergovernmental & Scientific Planning Group Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand (GB), MoU signed;
- Mar 28-30 - IHDP Scientific Steering Committee Meeting, Norwich, UK (GB);
- Apr. 4-6 - CONCORD (Cordillera network) meeting, initiating linkage between hydrology CRNs and LBA. IAI presentation (HT);
- Apr. 10-13 - CRN II start-up meeting, linking CRNs on below ground biodiversity and dry forests, inclusion of C-isotope flux technology (HT);
- Apr. 19 - IAI SAC, Toronto, Canada strategy meeting (HT);
- Apr. 19-21 - IAI SAC, Toronto, Canada (GB);
- Apr. 20-21 - meetings and IAI presentations at Foreign Affairs Canada, Environment Canada,

- Privy Council and IDRC (HT);
- UNFCCC COP-MOP meeting in Montreal 26.11 – 09.12 2005 (Ione Anderson) ;
 - UNCBD COP-8 and GBF meetings Curitiba, Brazil, 21 to 27 March 2006 (Ione Anderson).

Internal Initiatives:

Mining of the IAI data bases with the following goals:

- 1) Generate an “alumni” data base that includes contact information and science expertise
- 2) Develop country profiles with cost-benefit analysis.
- 3) Complete country profiles which include details of science achievements.

Re-establish working groups within the directorate, re-define responsibilities, reformat performance appraisals to reflect group functionality and communication needs within the directorate.

Re-work core budget proposal to the USA for the next three years to reflect new demands on IAI function and performance.

Review of the IT system and design of critical data base linkages to link financial and scientific internal program controls.

Finalize operations manuals and match the CRN II and other grant agreements to them in order to create a unified legal and operational framework for the IAI and its funding initiatives. The template agreement has already served well as a basis for seed grants associated with training activities. In the future only the template will have to be monitored and updated and all other contracts will be derived from it.

Unification and streamlining of protocols and forms for internal administration was moved forward to facilitate IAI operations. This eases time keeping, accounting procedures and reporting.

Institutional cooperations:

An agreement is being finalized by the legal department with INPE to admit it to Associate status of the IAI. This follows a recommendation by the Montreal CoP/EC to establish a link with CPTEC. CPTEC is a unit of INPE. The umbrella agreement with INPE will be followed by specific agreements with CPTEC to implement the IAI internships and other joint activities planned for 2006. With these steps, the IAI establishes for the first time close and formal relations with its host institution. Joint initiatives for funding by Brazilian agencies are already being evaluated.

The 2006-2007 INPE-IAI Research Internship Program has been launched by Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE) through the Center for Weather Forecast and Climate Studies (CPTEC) and the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI). The program will provide 6 internship positions over three years focusing on climate variability in the Americas.

First contacts were made with the São Paulo science funding agency, with IDRC and several Federal Canadian institutions and ministries to develop joint initiatives. This is part of the crucial process of country engagement, and also broadens the IAI's impact in different areas of Global Change and its societal impacts.

An MoU was signed with APN to pursue concrete goals of project cooperation and joint strategy development.

The IAI has obtained observer status at the UNFCCC, attended the Montreal CoP and was involved in a side-event (organized by the Canadian delegation) at the UNCBD in Curitiba. Its involvement in international conventions has become very active, with a strong programmatic presence at the 24th SBSTTA in Bonn. The UNFCCC note for the SBSTTA provides for a specific role of IAI in regional research and program implementation.

Agreements were reached for several activities to take place in 2006/07:
- with IGBP/IHDP to hold a joint workshop to showcase regional GEC science back-to-back with the joint IGBP/IHDP SSC meeting in Rio, March 2007;

- sponsorship of selected CRN participants at the International Human Dimensions Workshop in ChiangMai, Thailand, October 2006 – Water Trade and Environment; sponsorship of the Second START Young Scientists Conference in Beijing, China, Nov 2006;
- a special IAI session jointly with SCOPE and NSF at the ESSP Open Science Meeting in Beijing, Nov. 2006;
- participation in the GCP Urban & Regional Carbon Management Conference, Mexico – which will serve as a forum to plan and implement an IAI urban strategy under CRN II. Both IHDP and Health Canada are interested in developing joint activities with the IAI. Health Canada has expressed interest in improving the human health component of the CRN II proposals and projects;
- a joint IAI-LOICZ joint regional meeting in connection with the McClain CRN II project in order to enhance the IAI's Caribbean presence.
- close cooperation with NCAR in developing a colloquium on the Science-Policy interface in September in Boulder, Colorado.
- implementation of joint internships and post-doctoral fellowships with NCAR and CPTEC on climate studies.

SGP II:

The 22 projects under the second round of the IAI Small Grant Program are closed. All final reports have been received. The final program report will be submitted to the NSF by the end of May 2006. Twelve out of the 22 projects had submitted proposals under CRN II and three have been approved for funding.

CRN I:

CRN I final reports are coming in documenting the excellent science work done in the different projects. The review of this materials has prompted 3 new initiatives to synthesize the CRN I effort. This is an exercise of fundamental importance since the IAI will not be able to continue operating simply as a funding conduit, but needs to become active in value-added activities. Three universally important cross-cutting issues were identified: (1) policy relevance, (2) water as a major factor in global change ecosystem function and human societies, (3) Risk in its environmental and social contexts.

These cross-cutting issues are being addressed in 3 workshops:

- (1) Together with SCOPE, the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment, the IAI organized a workshop for all CRNI principal investigators and selected specialists from the policy, social science and communication areas, as well as industry. The workshop produced several articles on important issues of the science-policy interface, which together with prepared background chapters will be published in 2006 as part of the SCOPE series of books. The IAI director was the convener of the workshop, is the principal editor and contributes to the book chapters. The work is co-edited by the Science Officer, the chair of the SAC, and one CRN I co-PI.
- (2) The exploration of the water issue will be in cooperation with Environment Canada. The workshop is planned for the second half of 2006, and will follow a similar format as the policy initiative, albeit at a smaller scale. The initiative has also provided an opportunity for cooperation with an important IAI partner organization.
- (3) The theme of risk will be explored jointly with the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (based in Geneva), which has just opened Latin American facilities in Panama. An MoU is ready to be signed. Marcella Ohira will develop this initiative further.

Although the original concept of CRN I include “networks of networks” the necessary integration was not implemented. The current synthesis efforts will provide an integration of the considerable scientific achievements of the program and further develop the IAI as a unique and valuable institution in the field of global and environmental change and its impacts on societies.

CRN II:

The CRN II process had been on hold when the new director took office. Administrative procedures (see above) were improved. The recommendations by the SAC “that the directorate work with PIs to improve approved projects” were followed. The idea of “networks of networks, that had been reinforced by the outcome of the IAI-SCOPE workshop was implemented. The first package of CRN II projects will be initiated between May and July of 2006. The process that lead to this implementation demanded a more proactive role by the Directorate than in the past, linking projects, balancing the program and initiating regional and topical cooperations.

Within the CRN program, there is now a Caribbean initiative that combines the funded paleo-tempestology CRN with the seed-funded coastal scenarios CRN, and links these to other regional programs. The aim is to greatly strengthen the IAI presence in the Caribbean. For the first time it has also become possible to provide major funding to Cuban participants in two other CRN projects, further strengthening the Caribbean activities. A strong link with LOICZ is planned and will commence with a joint workshop in the Caribbean.

A program link has been negotiated for the Canadian dry-forest and the Brazilian below-ground biology projects. The two projects now share protocols and sites – as well as pursuing their own original objectives. The program link has made it possible to channel Canadian funding to the Cuban components of both projects and has generated substantial additional funding for scholarships. First contacts with the Venezuelan ecosystem CRN are promising further co-operation. The Directorate had substantially reduced the budget of the Brazilian project, which was initially recommended with some cautions because of its relatively narrow focus. The new broader co-operation has greatly strengthened the proposal and will now be funded at a level close to the original proposed budget, yet with a much stronger science program. The proposal indicated for seed funding on C emissions from soils by Wagner Riddle will join the Dry Forest, Below-ground and landuse groups in 2007.

Based on three proposals received, the Directorate has begun to develop an integrated program linking three CRN proposals on landuse climate modelling and risk in the La Plata basin. Additional components of this initiative are: development of a joint proposal with INPE and USP for funding by FAPESP; organization of a training course for 2006 on links between climate models and landuse decision making, including climate risk analysis – hosted by INPE-CPTEC; coordination with the WB-funded La Plata initiative in consultation with Vicente Barros, and with Lars Bromley of AAAS who developed a previous NSF-funded initiative for the Basin. We are pursuing Brazilian co-funding opportunities for the initiative.

The CRN project on Cordillera hydrology (Luckman, Canada) has been teamed with the Upper Amazon Group of Galarraga, which will bring together the upper Amazon countries. This link will provide a formal collaboration of the IAI CRN II with LBA – Phase II.

Additional links will be explored in the second of the PI and AIR meetings to be held in May in Buenos Aires.

Training:

Within the context of the La Plata proposals, first contacts with administrators of M.Sc. courses by the Universities of Buenos Aires, Montevideo and Sao Paulo, as well as the UN institution CRECTEALC at INPE to permit the integration of climate and landuse courses into “for-credit” university programs. There is interest to link this M.Sc. initiative to new INPE training facilities in Santa Maria (RS), which will open in 2006. Santa Maria is in the La Plata basin and is easily reached by partners from Uruguay and Argentina.

Outlook:

Several current initiatives are consolidating the program development, which adds value to the individual science projects. Another emphasis is on a broad scientific synthesis of the achievements of the science projects. Science and training are being aligned and coordinated with other international fora and programs. Based on a solid foundation in excellent science achievements, these initiatives consolidate the IAI's institutional commitment to integrated regional activities of relevance to Global Change issues, which cannot be carried out by individual nations. Most initiatives also aim at co-funding of activities to broaden the support base of the IAI's science program.

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Appendix

Annual Report for training and outreach including IT developments

IAI Training Institutes 2005 - development of the Training Institute Seed Grants

Two Training Institutes were held in 2005: Vulnerability associated with Climate Change and Climate Variability, held in Asuncion, Paraguay, October 17-28, 2005. This activity was co-organized with the National University of Asuncion. The second IAI TI the theme of Climate and Health was held in Kingston, Jamaica from November 7 to 18, 2005 with the collaboration of the University of West Indies.

Several partner organizations supported the IAI TIs with financial resources or in-kind contributions: Canada's IDRC, WMO, IHDP, START/AIACC. Other collaborating organizations were IRI, ISDR, GWSP, the Technical Planning Secretary of the Presidency of the Government of Paraguay, Environment Canada, the Health Canada, the Johns Hopkins University, NOAA/OGP, PAHO and the Ministry of Health of Jamaica.

Forty four participants from 14 countries attended the TIs in Paraguay and Jamaica. All participants evaluated the IAI TIs highly. A Seed Grants (TISG) program was launched to encourage network building and multinational and multidisciplinary collaboration. Eight proposals were submitted to the TISG program. Proposals were reviewed in two steps: 1) by mail review; 2) by a review committee. The review committee approved 8 proposals for funding on the basis of scientific excellence, technical soundness, multinational and multidisciplinary collaboration, contribution to capacity building, policy relevance, appropriateness of the budget requested and in-kind contributions. As a result of these grants, the proponents are (often for the first time) exposed to the negotiation of a grant agreement and administration of international research grants. This serves as a capacity building in several of the small countries involved.

Publications of the IAI Training Institutes 2004

The TCOO has worked on the publication of the Science-Policy Forum of the *IAI-IHDP Global Environmental Change Institute on Food Systems and Globalization - Scientific Workshop and Science-Policy Forum (October 24-November 6, 2004, Nicoya and San Jose, Costa Rica)*. The book was published in English in 2005 and the Spanish version is just out funded by IICA (contribution of US\$ 3K). The book includes the proceedings of the TI and papers about Food Systems and Security. Also, TCOO has worked on the publication of a book on Urbanization in Latin America as a result of the *IAI Training Institute on Urbanization and Global Environmental Change in Latin America (Mexico City, Mexico, September 27-October 8, 2004)*, which will include the proceedings of the TI and papers on Urbanization by invited guest writers and participants. IAI is developing a MoU with UNEP-Latin America. UNEP will provide IAI with approximately US\$ 10K for the publication of this book in English. The plan is to have the book available in English and Spanish in 2006.

IAI Support of Other Capacity Building Activities:

-2006-2007 INPE-IAI Research Internship Positions has been announced: a program for 6 research internship positions in Climate Variability in the Americas at Brazil's CPTEC program provides an opportunity for Masters, PhDs and young scientists to continue to

pursue their research interest in Climate Change and Climate Variability in the Americas and related sciences and to apply their training to research.

- IAI-NCAR program for post-doctoral support in the atmospheric and related sciences at NCAR. Two scientists (from Ecuador and Brazil) have been selected to start their post-doc program at NCAR in 2006.

- The University of Goettingen in partnership with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) has collaborated with the IAI in a summer school on “Integrated Resource Management in the Tropics” held in Goettingen, Germany for students and researchers from Latin America. This year will be the second summer school (July 17-28, 2006) launched in collaboration with IAI.

- Planning for the IAI-NCAR Joint Colloquium on Policy Planning and Decision making involving Climate Variability, September 11-22, 2006, Boulder, Colorado, USA. The overall objective is to introduce participants to the use of climate information in decision making, learning from experts of the physical, social and policy arenas from both the US and broader Americas.

TCOO’s visits

- January 11, 2006, São Paulo, Brazil: meeting with A. Falconer, Coordinator of Associação Brasileira para o Desenvolvimento de Lideranças (ABDL)/LEAD. TCOO introduced IAI to LEAD Brazil (hosted by the University of São Paulo) and its capacity building programs and network of 1400 professionals (policy and decision makers in government, NGOs, media, private sector, civil society). LEAD’s goal is to develop leadership for environment and development. There is great potential for cooperation between IAI and LEAD in training and policy activities.

- April 25, 2006, São José dos Campos, Brazil: meeting with Antônio S. Teixeira Jr., Vice-Rector of the University of Vale do Paraíba (UNIVAP) and Celso Ribeiro, advisor to UNIVAP council and head of strategic planning of INPE. The meeting focused on university training initiatives and efforts in linking academia-science-policy, and a preliminary discussion about collaboration in capacity building and outreach (media communication) relying on UNIVAP’s academic expertise, infrastructure and facilities. In addition joint activities involving local companies (potential fundraising) and regional decision makers were explored.

- May 18-19, 2006, Panama City, Panama: planning meeting of the IAI Training Institute on Vulnerability, Risk Management and Disaster Reduction in the context of Hydro-meteorological Hazards particularly associated with ENSO, Climate Variability and Climate Change. Moreover, meetings are being scheduled with Ligia Castro, director of ANAM, Emilio Sempris, director of CATHALAC, and Angeles Arenas, program officer, UNDP Panama to involve Panamanian organizations in the training event and to fundraise.

IAI Training Institutes for 2006 in preparation

- IAI Training Institute on Vulnerability, Risk Management and Disaster Reduction in the context of Hydro-meteorological Hazards particularly under ENSO, Climate Variability and Climate Change - combines and synthesizes research information from the IAI CRN I program and ISDR projects, October 22-28, 2006, Panama City, Panama. This activity will be hosted by the ISDR-Latin America in Panama.

- IAI Training Institute on Climate, Land Use and Modeling - training activity that combines and synthesizes research information from the IAI CRN I program, August 14-18, 2006, Cachoeira Paulista, Brazil. This activity will be hosted by INPE/CPTEC.

Outreach and communication activities supported by the IT sector

1) Twiki installation at the IAI servers in order to allow collaborative work and dynamic content update. This will serve as a work and discussion platform, and as a work space for the Newsletter production. A Twiki alternative to the main Website has been installed.

2) Redesign of the DIS site to work with Twiki features, in order to facilitate data harvesting. A procedure to submit real data to the DIS server using a Twiki interface is now in place. A DIS Data Policy and Researcher's Checklist have been developed. The DIS brochure was re-designed to match the new DIS

3) A platform for on-line training modules has been installed based on moodle. This will support all future training institutes and make material available on the web.