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Report of the IAI Directorate

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IAI Directorate Report for the period May 2006 - May 2007 to the 24th Meeting of the IAI Executive Council (EC) and the 14th Conference of the Parties (CoP), Manaus, Brazil, 12-15 June 2007

Report by the Director and Scientific Officer

Meetings and conferences:

In February 2007 the Director was invited by IDRC, Canada to make a presentation to Canadian funding councils and researchers on opportunities for international cooperation. On this opportunity, future collaboration between IAI, IDRC and DFID (the UK development agency) was discussed. First initiatives have since come to fruition (see below on the La Plata initiative).

On the occasion of the German President's visit to São Paulo (March 8, 2007) the Director took part in a discussion round with the President in which he presented perspectives on the European demand for biofuels and their impact on Latin-American ecosystems. The discussions were further developed during the following convention of the Humboldt Foundation in Porto Alegre. An article in the Journal da Ciencia (appended) and an interview for German publications resulted.

On May 8, 2007, the Director gave a presentation on the IAI's needs in data and information management at the CODATA (ICSU's data and information organization) workshop in Atibaia. During working group sessions open access, open source programs, creative commons licensing and the conservation commons were discussed. The results will guide the IAI's data and information strategy. The CODATA link will be maintained, also as part of the IAI-ICSU cooperation (below).

Additional meetings and workshops will be mentioned below.

Science program development:

In September the IAI co-sponsored a meeting of the La Plata Basin initiative of CLIVAR and VAMOS in order to coordinate its own program development in the region with these climate research groups.

The IAI Director developed a concept note for an international and interdisciplinary research and policy development program to examine landuse change, and rural transformation in the La Plata Basin and Central Brazil in the context of the increasing world demand for biofuels. The objectives are:

- to initiate an assessment, research and policy-development effort in South America to address unprecedented rates of landuse change affecting large areas of dry forest, savannah and grazing lands.

- to develop an interdisciplinary, multi-agency, international program to address the complex interactions between the use of biofuels, the production of industrial crops, land use change, rural development and the value of biodiversity and land quality.
- to assess the climatic risks associated with rural development and land use change across the broad gradient of climate in the regions affected by the current land transformations, addressing such issues as increased run-off and flooding in the eastern La Plata basin and drought risk in the west.
- to join agencies that provide expertise in scientific assessment, science and research, and program administration across disciplines and jurisdictions, and that will promote a balanced evaluation and research program on the risks, costs and benefits of land use conversion, rural development and the substitution of fossil fuels by renewable biofuels.

This note was presented to representatives of the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC), the Spanish Ministry of the Environment and the German Ministry of Science and Education.

A grant from IDRC, and IAI core funding provided by Argentina then facilitated a workshop of several research teams from the La Plata region. The workshop also united representatives of the climate research networks CLIVAR and VAMOS and the European program on Sustainability Impact Assessment which has launched a pilot project in the La Plata Basin. The workshop laid the foundation for a proposal to IDRC for a program on rural development and land use change that will be administered by the IAI.

The IAI Director has also joined the SENSOR steering committee and made a presentation at the start-up meeting for the SENSOR Latin-American and Asian programs. The meeting was held in Vienna on April 16, and the address was given via internet.

The SO attended the following meetings:

Meeting with APN Director and Executive Manager, Kobe, Japan, 11 Aug 2006. Discussion on potential inter-regional collaborations; delivery of signed MoU.

Carbon Management urban & regional, Mexico City, 6-8 Sep 2006. Brainstorming session on IAI 'urban initiative'. A proposal prepared by participants of the session has been submitted to complement the funded urban CRN2 project.

Joint IAI-NCAR colloquium "Policy planning and Decision making involving Climate Variability", 11-15 Sep 2006, delivered keynote, participation in program.

2nd START Young Scientists Conference, 6-8 Nov 2006, Beijing, China; chaired session on GEC priorities.

START SSC meeting, 8 Nov 2006; update on IAI activities.

2nd Open Meeting of the ESSP, Beijing, China, 9-12 Nov 2006; IAI info booth, Co-convenor (with M. Brklacich) of IAI-NSF-SCOPE session "Collaborative Regional GEC Networks in the Americas: Opportunities for Stakeholders and Governance".

24th meeting of the IAI SAC, Cuernavaca, Mexico, 6-8 Dec 2006, see report SAC Chair.

IAI-IIICA-SCOPE synthesis meeting on the application of ecological knowledge to landuse decision, IICA, San Jose, Costa Rica, 12-15 Dec 2006, see report IAI Director.

Workshop on landuse planning and adaptation to global change in the La Plata Basin and Central Brazil, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 28-31 Mar 2007, see report IAI Director.

Science Activities

The already closed CRN I program has been re-opened. A final no-cost extension with deadline November 2007 has been approved by the US-NSF, permitting the use of remaining funds for synthesis and dissemination activities in addition to the previously reported activities. Main activities include the translation of the SCOPE/IAI book into Spanish and the publication of several papers and special issues resulting from CRN I activities.

Projects under CRN II are now fully implemented and first reports have been received. The SO will provide an update on the status of the projects during the CoP.

The latest IAI Call for Proposals, the “Small Grants for the Human Dimensions, SGP-HD” has been finalized, 14 proposals have been received and recommendations for funding will be presented by the SO and the SAC chair during the EC/CoP.

From 11-22 September 2006 the first joint IAI-NCAR colloquium was held at the NCAR MESA lab in Boulder, Colorado, USA. The colloquium with the title “Policy Planning and Decision Making Involving Climate Change and Variability” was organized jointly by IAI and NCAR funded through an NSF grant. The SO attended the first week of the colloquium and delivered a keynote on behalf of the IAI Director. The colloquium was attended by 21 participants (scientists and professionals) from 13 countries across the Americas. Detailed information including list of participants & speakers, presentations and resulting participant statements is available at <http://www.sere.ucar.edu/iai/>.

The two fellows selected under the NCAR/IAI post-doc fellowship have started their work at NCAR in Boulder, USA. The two fellows selected are:

Dra. Mercy Borbor-Cordova, Ecuador working on “Air Pollution and Climate variability: their impact on human health in Latin America; and

Dra. Luciana Rizzo, Brazil working on “Biogenic aerosol emissions and secondary organic aerosol formation”.

IAI is looking for opportunities to involve the fellows in CRN II/SGP-HD activities.

The 2nd START Young Scientists Conference (YSC), the START Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) and the 2nd Open Meeting of the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) were held back to back in Beijing, China from 6 – 12 November 2006. Over one thousand expressions of interest were received for the YSC and 700 abstracts were

submitted. Finally, 100 young scientists from over 35 countries around the world participated in the conference. IAI sponsored the participation of 13 selected regional young scientists. The participants were from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia and Mexico and also participated at the ESSP Open Meeting. The SO provided an overview of IAI activities to the START SSC.

The IAI, the US-NSF and SCOPE, held a joint session on “Collaborative Regional Global Environmental Change (GEC) Networks in the Americas Opportunities for Stakeholders and Governance”, during the Earth Systems Science Partnership (ESSP) Open Science Conference, held from 9 to 12 November 2006 in Beijing, China. The session provided a forum for discussing GEC science changes throughout the Americas, focusing on the changing context of GEC science funding and governance; new partnerships required to enhance GEC science relevance within the policy, resource management and education communities; and mechanisms to establish and maintain engagement with diverse stakeholders. The list of speakers and the oral & poster presentations are available at <http://www.iai.int/meetings/scientific/essp.htm>

Institutional cooperations and initiatives:

Visits with representatives of the Red Ibero-Americana de Oficinas de Cambio Climatico (RIOCC) resulted in important cooperations. RIOCC made available to the IAI its survey of country priorities in climate and global change research and activities. The data were re-analyzed and presented at the 23rd EC. RIOCC and IAI are also cooperating closely in the context of the UNFCCC SBSTA. RIOCC will be establishing a base at CATHALAC, creating a further institutional link to an IAI associate. We expect that the resulting networks will provide a stable environment for global change science and decision making.

Since obtaining observer status at the UNFCCC, the IAI has been invited to contribute to the SBSTA. Of the global change institutions and global programs, only ESSP and the IAI have prepared statements to SBSTA. The IAI presented its “Views on how SBSTA might facilitate a more effective dialogue between Parties and regional and international global change research programs”. The communication is appended to this report. It refers to the importance of communicating science into the decision process and establishing reliable channels of communication to and between governance units concerned with decision making on global change.

The IAI Director remains on the executive board of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment, SCOPE, one of the ICSU organizations. SCOPE was involved in the science-policy assessment of CRN1 and the resulting book published by Island Press (with an expected publication date of June 12). The cooperation will be further developed with assessments of biodiversity and climate change. Following the SCOPE executive meeting in October 2006, new assessments are planned between IAI and SCOPE. Scope facilitated the process of assessing ecological knowledge in landuse decisions at a workshop held at IICA, San José, Costa Rica (see below).

ICSU has opened its American office in Rio de Janeiro on April 18, and on the occasion of the opening, the incoming ICSU regional director (Alice Abreu) and the IAI director affirmed plans for future cooperation in the areas of global change and capacity building.

The IAI director attended the International Group of Funding Agencies, IGFA, meeting in Nov. 2006. Discussions in this informal group concern funding strategies, future research and development directions and the distinct roles of regional institutions and global programs. Amongst the many constructive discussions has been an evaluation of funding distribution and sources, which has led to a re-evaluation by the IAI of the support it has in the past given to global program initiatives. Since the IAI is funded from much the same sources as the global programs, re-routing funding through the IAI for global program activities is only sensible when such activities are truly beneficial to both parties and support the IAI's mandate. The limited director's funding available makes a prudent use of these funds for IAI mandates imperative. This has been reflected in the past years funding decisions by the Directorate.

Joint activities with INPE and CPTEC have started, but the planned MoU is still being evaluated at ministerial levels. The IAI participated in the Brazilian Congress on Remote Sensing, SBSR organized by INPE in April 2007. The IAI sponsored the prizes, and its Director awarded the prizes for the best posters at the closing ceremony. An additional special IAI prize was awarded for the best visual communication by a poster.

CPTEC has also become a partner in the search for improvements in the Data and Information System (DIS) of the IAI.

During a visits to Canada in 2006, contacts were established to the Canadian office of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA). IICA subsequently hosted a workshop on the application of ecological knowledge to landuse decisions, which was one of the IAI's synthesis workshops analyzing 7 years of CRN1 science. Closer cooperation with IICA is foreseen in the future, since IICA is increasingly concerned with global change and agriculture is an important part of the IAI's mandate. As a result of these links, the IAI Director has been invited to address a conference of Agriculture Ministers of the Americas in July of 2007.

A MOU was signed with the Asia-Pacific Network to cover strategic cooperations. One principal deterrent for project of program cooperation with APN are the high transaction costs. Topics of common interest are Urbanization and Coastal Zones. A more strategic issue that affects both the Asian and American networks is development and its constraints under global change. This was followed up at the IGFA meeting in Montreal.

The Canadian company Pyxis has developed a new spatially explicit data management system based on a global "tile" (rather than grid) addressing mode. This allows the management and reference to areas of any kind data in a unique way. After initial military applications Pyxis is now cooperating with the Conservation Commons, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and the IAI. A pilot project is already running as part of CRN2021, and the IAI will be included in the free license program of

Pyxis. This and the CODATA initiative will form a point of departure for a more comprehensive data and information policy of the IAI.

Publications:

A major effort has gone into the editing of the contributions from the IAI-SCOPE workshop in Ubatuba (Nov. 2006). The final chapters were delivered to Island Press on December 31, 2006. “Communicating Global Change Science to Society, SCOPE 68, edited by H. Tiessen, M. Brklacich, G. Breulmann and R.S.C. Menezes, Island Press, Washington is to be off the press on June 11 2007.

The discussion on Science, Society and Policy has received a lot of attention. As a result SCOPE and UNESCO have published a policy brief, based on the synthesis of the book by H. Tiessen for distribution throughout the ICSU, UNESCO, SCOPE and IAI networks. The brief be available at the CoP meeting.

Combined training-science programs:

In June 2006, the IAI supported and guided a workshop jointly with the Brazilian Climate Research and Weather Service, CPTEC in which specialists on landuse change and land management, and climate researchers provided lectures and seminars and developed strategies for interdisciplinary research and modelling. This was an important first step towards bridging the gap between these disciplines and facilitating future joint projects that can explore issues of landuse decisions and climate risk. Young scientists from the Training Institutes’ seed grants program were also invited to the workshop.

Between July 17 and 28, 2006, the second IAI-DAAD (major funder: German Academic Exchange Service, DAAD) summer school was held. The topic was “Impact of Global Change on Land Use Management in Latin American Tropical Ecosystems”. The program included

- Scenarios of Global Change
- Managing humid and semi-arid ecosystems under changing soil and climate conditions
- Concepts of natural conservation
- Impact of a changing environment on livelihoods
- Developing land use decision tools and models

Participants came from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Venezuela and Germany, and included several scientists from CRN2 projects. Working papers were prepared on stakeholder hierarchies, capacity building and constraints on land management, all issues of relevance in the science of CRN2. The participants prepared a proposal for IAI to spearhead an association of NGO and government agencies involved in environmental management which would develop links with universities and provide opportunities for practice-oriented postgraduate theses.

On several occasions, the IAI participated in activities of the University of São Paulo (USP). The ensuing loose cooperation has resulted in important academic resources for

program planning and may lead to a more formal link with the Institute of Advanced Studies (IEA). The IAI director has also joined the planning group for the Brazilian Global Change Congress at USP.

In September the IAI-NCAR Colloquium on climate change was held. Intensive planning over several months, prior to the event changed the format and content of the traditionally academic Colloquium to an event involving, scientists, students and practitioners, including watershed managers and NGO representatives.

Internal Initiatives:

A new Financial and Administrative Officer was selected. Rafael Atmettla from Costa Rica began his work in November 2006. Many of the remaining financial and administrative issues have since been resolved, the IAI has a clean audit and the management letter indicates that the management changes over the past year have been successful and positive.

In January 07, the Director visited the IAI publications office at the University of Buenos Aires, as well as the graphic designers and printers who have been involved in the IAI Newsletter publication in Buenos Aires. Since the last Newsletter the design is done in-house by Paula Richter. Printing of the Newsletter and other IAI publications has been further streamlined by new technology that allows printing directly from high-quality PDFs provided by the IAI publication office which is hosted by the University of Buenos Aires Science Faculty. Contracts were reviewed. A new computer and software were installed that allow direct interfacing with printers and provide state-of-the-art publishing.

Report by the Training Officer

Training Institutes 2006

Two Training Institutes (TIs) were held in 2006: Training Institute on Climate, Land Use and Modeling (August 13-18, 2006, Cachoeira Paulista, Brazil); and Meeting and Science & Policy Forum on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction associated with Climate Change and Variability (November 19-24, 2006, Panama City, Panama).

In 2006, the focus of the TIs was to promote collaboration, integration, explore synergies, and encourage the development of integrated and multidisciplinary projects in the context of CRN I and II programs. The objective was to strengthen current programs and promote inter- and intra- project collaboration, particularly combining disciplines and expertise.

The immediate feedback received from participants was that this approach was a new initiative in promoting “Science Integration” and most people were highly satisfied with the proposed approach and methodology. Two interesting results were: 1) first time IAI was able to combine PIs, co-PIs from 3 programs (CRN I, CRN II and TISG) at the Cachoeira Paulista TI with positive interactions; and 2) engage several NGOs and civil

society in IAI events (Red Cross, IUCN, ASTPA, Catholic Church, Indigenous groups, etc) at the Panama's event.

Further details on these activities were presented by the TO at the EC XXIII meeting (December, 2006, Panama City, Panama).

Training Activities 2007-2008

The TO is preparing a proposal for NSF (to be submitted by the end of June) to support new Training Institutes. The proposal will request US\$ 300,000 for 3 Training Institutes for the period 2008-2010. The TIs will explore science themes that are policy relevant to promote the science-policy interface. Furthermore, the activities would seek the participation of new professionals, institutions and strengthen the relationship between IAI and member countries. The TIs will also seek to leverage additional funding from partner organizations to augment the initial funding.

Some potential themes and collaborators for future TIs are:

- TI for stakeholders on Urbanization, Global Environmental Change and Sustainable Development in Latin America. This activity will follow up on the initial TI of 2004, given the positive feedback of that activity; advertise the IAI book that has been recently published; combine this training with a CRN II project on mega-cities; and take advantage of new programs that have been launched by UNDP and UNEP on related topics;
- TI on Communications (or communications to be developed as a major component of thematic training institutes) to improve interactions and dialogue between the science and policy communities. An example is a training activity targeting the press and other public dissemination groups;
- TI on Biofuels and implications for LUCC in Latin America;
- TI on Data Management;
- TI on Vulnerability and Adaptation associated with Climate Change; an example is a series of technical meetings for the development and evaluation of tools for risk of disasters in Central America. This initiative has been led by the World Bank (WB) together with UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). IAI may have an opportunity to partner up with WB and ISDR to expand this effort to South America and focus on training;
- TI on Conservation linking research and results to local, national, regional and global policy by convening dialogues between governments, civil society and the private sector. This activity may be developed in collaboration with IUCN. Initial talks have been discussed about a potential collaboration with IUCN Mesoamerica's office in Costa Rica.

Implementation of the IAI – Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE)/Center for Weather Forecast and Climate Studies (CPTEC) Research Internship Program. The Candidates have been selected, and are awaiting administrative clearance to begin their program. In 2006 the IAI and INPE/CPTEC announced the Research Internship Program in Climate Variability in the Americas. The program will support 6 (2 per year during a 3 year period) young researchers from Latin America. The positions are one time awards of

6 months duration and must be related to “Understanding Climate Change and Variability in the Americas” and must look at ways to promote multinational collaboration among Latin American countries.

The first two young scientists to participate in the program are Ana Graciela Ulke from the University of Buenos Aires/Department of Atmospheric and Oceans Sciences, Argentina, and Jannet Sanabria Quispe from the National Meteorological and Hidrological Service (SENAMHI), Peru. The interns will start their program in 2007. CPTEC/INPE is in the process of handling all necessary legal arrangements with Brazilian authorities for the implementation of the program and arrival of the 2 scientists in Brazil. IAI plans to announce the second call for 2008 in the second semester of this year.

Training Institute Seed Grants Program (TISG)

The TISG program associated with the 2005 Training Institutes terminated in February of 2007. For the period February 2006-February 2007 the IAI supported 8 Training Institute Seed Grants at a level of US\$ 9,000-15,000/each (total IAI investment of US\$ 110,000).

IAI has received 8 final reports and the TO has worked on the review and approval of final reports. TO is also preparing a final technical report to be submitted to NSF with an initial assessment of the program.

Initial results of the program can be summarized below:

- More than 44 scientists from 19 countries (Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Dutch Antilles, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, USA and Venezuela) participated in TISG. After 2 years of their initial participation in the IAI TI in 2005, the original 44 scientists plus new collaborators, are still working together after the initial establishment of 8 new networks;
- Most TISG groups are planning new activities and contacting IAI and other national and regional institutions for further support; the groups have submitted proposals to IAI, IDCR, CYTED, EMBRAPA, CONACYT, etc;
- Canada’s IDRC sponsored 1 TISG (IAI grant sponsored with joint sponsorship);
- IAI signed a grant agreement with 8 institutions in the region to administer the seed grants. Seven of the 8 grants have followed the grant agreement and submitted a financial report, which was approved by the IAI. This activity has contributed to developing institutional capacity in managing international research projects;
- One seed grant was terminated due to lack of leadership of the PI and his institution in coordinating the project. IAI has asked the PI to return the funds, but has worked with the 2 leading co-PIs to combine and synthesize the results of the project activities;
- TISG explored opportunities for networking with CRNs: PIs and co-PIs of TISG participated in the “IAI Training Institute on Climate, Land Use and Modeling” (August, 2006, Cachoeira Paulista, Brazil) and had an opportunity to interact with

- CRN I and II projects. This has resulted in an interesting outcome: several TISG groups have submitted a proposal for the IAI SGP-HD Program. Submission must be connected with a CRN project. This has indicated the high level of interest of the groups, further work in seeking support for strengthening initial networks;
- Most TISG research teams were a mix of social and natural scientists that worked together in the context of seed grants. This has given the scientists an interesting experience in multidisciplinary research and different approaches to addressing global change;
 - In Colombia, the IAI TISG group will now coordinate the program on dengue surveillance, prevention, and control in the city of Medellin; In Bolivia, the IAI group will participate in and be supported by the National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change funded by GEF and will extend the initial work developed by the IAI network in other regions of Bolivia;
 - Two other TISGs dealing with climate change, climate variability and vulnerability have organized meetings with farmers and rural associations in Uruguay and Paraguay. In Paraguay the meeting was held with Paraguay's Camara de Productores de Cereales y Oleaginosas, the principal organization for soybean producers in Paraguay;
 - TISG have leveraged new funds, approximately US\$ 31,510, and about US\$ 161,462 as in-kind contributions (based on information provided by 6 of the 8 PIs);
 - TISG have produced several articles that have been submitted to scientific journals and magazines, and participants have presented their research results and papers at several national and international seminars and conferences;
 - TISG have carried out social surveys and produced brochures for stakeholders and the civil society;
 - TISG have organized meetings with stakeholders groups, such as farmers and cattle ranchers associations, health secretaries, Catholic Church, NGOs, and other groups of the civil society. Other benefited entities include ministries of agriculture and health to promote the interface between science and policy;
 - TISG have supported more than 15 students from social and natural sciences (biology, entomology, sociology, medical sciences, climatology, agronomy, etc) in several countries, and in various degrees;
 - TISG have organized training workshops, which have benefited an additional number of students and professionals, for example: in one training workshop on the use of remote sensing and GIS for health professionals given by a co-PI from Argentina, more than 100 students were trained in Colombia;
 - TISG have developed initial collaboration with other regional networks (e.g. RUPSUR, CATHALAC; CIP; CRN projects);
 - TISG have produced websites, CD ROMs with news, data and results of the projects.

TO will present further details about the results of the TISG program at the 14th EC in Manaus, concerning strengths and weaknesses of the program, lessons learned, and what could be done differently in the future.

Training Institutes Publication

1) The IAI book on “Urbanization, Global Environmental Change, and Sustainable Development in Latin America” a product of the IAI *Training Institute in Mexico City, Mexico, September 27-October 8, 2004* is the first one published linking Urbanization and Global Change in Latin America. The book contains chapters written by TI speakers and participants and explores case studies in 5 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and Puerto Rico/USA). The book is available in English and Spanish. The English edition of the book was co-sponsored by UNEP with US\$ 10,000 administered by the IAI.

2) The “Meeting and Science & Policy Forum on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction related to Climate Change and Variability” and an associated Press Conference are being summarized to share the major conclusions and recommendations with the broader public. The summary will include feedback from the stakeholder community regarding ways to encourage dialogue, connectivity and interaction among the scientific, political and civil society. The summary should be available in English and Spanish by July 2007.

Communication and Outreach

1) American Geophysical Union (AGU) 2007 Joint Assembly TO is organizing, together with UCAR, a session on Education at the first AGU assembly held in Latin America (May 22-25, 2007, Acapulco, Mexico). Marcella Ohira (IAI Training Officer) and Roberta Johnson (Director of UCAR Education and Outreach) will co-chair a session entitled “*Global Change Education in the Americas: Opportunities for Interhemispheric Collaboration in Science and Education*”.

TO has invited CRN I, II PIs to present their projects’ main contributions to training and inter-hemispheric collaboration. The first 5 presentations will be based on IAI sponsored projects and training activities. The session will include the following talks:

- http://www.agu.org/cgi-bin/wais?ii=ED24Ahttp://www.agu.org/meetings/sm07/sm07-sessions/sm07_ED24A.html IAI Capacity Building Activities in the Americas: Fostering Multinational and Multidisciplinary Research (*M Ohira*);
- Capacity Building in the IAI Collaborative Research Network Program- Experience from CRN03 (*B H Luckman*);
- IAI Training in Climate and Health in the Americas, (*J L Aron*);
- IAI Global Change Agenda and Support of Higher Education in the Andean Amazon countries (*R Galarraga, M McClain, V Fierro*);
- Global Change science in Latin America: How can we get more scientists doing it at home? (*E G Jobbagy, G Piñero*);
- Building Inter-hemispheric Climate and Global Change Education Programs for Students, Teachers, and the Public (*R Johnson, M LaGrave, J Bergman, L Carbone, S*

Foster, L Gardiner, J Genyuk, S Henderson, R Russell, D Ward); - A Perspective on Climate Change Education and Directions Forward (E C Cordero, A Todd).

2) Newsletter

The first Newsletter issue of 2007 will focus on IAI Capacity Building. It will present various IAI activities in training (diverse nature, approaches, components and participating groups), and an initial assessment of their contribution to augmenting capacity in the region, at various levels.

Partner organizations (e.g. Canada's IDRC), students and young scientists, who have been involved with IAI activities (CRN I, TIs, TISG) and IAI staff members will contribute with their personal and institutional experiences. One article was written by 5 young scientists from various backgrounds (climatology, geography, health and biology), who were students supported by IAI in various CRN I projects. They participated in the IAI Meeting and Forum on Disasters Management, Risk Reduction associated with Climate Change and Variability (November, 2006, Panama City, Panama). At the meeting, they were given the task of discussing and preparing a paper on how to foster multidisciplinary research, given their current work, and their previous association with the IAI. This article is an example of how IAI can encourage the development of a new cadre of scientists, who have been exposed to natural and social sciences approaches, and the challenge of how to integrate several disciplines in addressing global change issues.

Fundraising Efforts and Institutional Collaboration

In an effort to obtain new financial resources for the IAI and for training activities, TO has approached the MacArthur Foundation, which has launched a program on Conservation and Sustainable Development. TO has provided institutional and programmatic information about the Institute's experience in fostering research in global change in the Americas. MacArthur has announced a call for proposals inviting and targeting specific institutions to work with. The Foundation has invited 3 organizations to submit a proposal to conduct an assessment of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity in the Andes. IAI is one of the 3 institutions invited to submit a proposal. MacArthur will support 1 proposal, for up to 2 years, with a level of funding of US\$ 350,000-450,000.

A meeting to develop a proposal for the MacArthur Foundation at the IAI Directorate was held May 14-16, 2007 in São José dos Campos, Brazil. Nine experts on climate and biodiversity from 7 countries (Andean countries plus Argentina, Brazil and Chile) discussed current knowledge and brainstormed ideas and activities regarding impacts of climate change on the biodiversity of Andean countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) with the aim to initiate the proposal for the MacArthur Foundation.

The proposal to be submitted to the MacArthur Foundation will be prepared jointly by IAI staff and identify opportunities and synergies for future collaboration. It will also

include recommendations for future IAI scientific and training programs in biodiversity. As a result, the IAI will further involve Andean countries in IAI programs; develop links between climate change, biodiversity and adaptation; develop a new research network in the Andes; and obtain funding from new sources and donor agencies. MacArthur has announced that it will launch a second phase of the program to actually support research, training and policy activities that will complement the assessment study.