

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH



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EC Report

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EC progress report: EC Chair

- Activities charged to the EC and the EC Bureau

The 20th Conference of the Parties decided to establish an ad hoc Committee to oversee the implementation of the Tripartite IAI Directorate and to set up a procedure for an electronic election in order to select candidates for vacant positions on the SAC.

Implementation of the tripartite structure

The Implementation Committee for the Tripartite IAI Directorate is composed of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, USA, and Uruguay. The representative of USA acts as chair and Ecuador as co-chair.

The tripartite proposal approved by the 20th Conference of the Parties establishes a structure of roles and responsibilities shared among Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. The main objective of the Committee is to accomplish the transition from the Directorate in Sao José dos Campos, Brazil, to the new structure of three Directorates: the *Science-Policy Liaison Directorate*, located in Buenos Aires, Argentina, *Science Development Directorate* in Sao José dos Campos, Brazil and the *Integrated Operations and Finance Directorate*, in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The implementation of each new Directorate implies a series of activities that are overseen by the ad hoc Committee, such as the establishment of a legal agreement between the Directorates' host countries and the IAI, and the preparation of a procedure for the selection and contract of the Directors. This process is detailed in the Report of the Implementation Committee for the Tripartite IAI Directorate.

Summary of the implementation process:

Science-Policy Liaison Directorate, Buenos Aires, Argentina

On October 30th, 2012 the Minister of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation of Argentina and the IAI Director signed the host country Agreement. Since Argentinean legislation does not require any further ratification, the agreement is in force since that date. The Directorate has been provided with office space in the MinCyT and is currently engaged in developing the space for its purposes. In mid-November there was an open call for the position of Science-Policy Liaison Director that closed on December 10th 2012. A selection committee composed of Ing. Águeda Menvielle on behalf of the host country, Dr. Holm Tiessen on behalf of the IAI and the EC Chair on behalf of the Parties analyzed the curricula of fourteen candidates and selected five of them for personal interviews that were held on December 28th, 2012. After the interviews, Dr. Tomás Lindemann was elected as Director and Dr. Nicolás Lucas as Deputy Director. Nicolás Lucas is already working and Tomas Lindemann, currently FAO officer in en Rome, Italy, is making final arrangements for his move to Buenos Aires.

Integrated Operations and Finance Directorate, Montevideo, Uruguay

The host country agreement between the IAI and Uruguay has been signed on November 13th, 2012 by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the IAI Director and the EC Chair, in

representation of the Parties. This Agreement requires ratification by Parliament, which received the approved treaty on April 2, 2013 from the Government. Meanwhile the Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment (MVOTMA) of Uruguay is co-operating with the IAI on finishing the future premises for the IAI Directorate at the national laboratories, LATU.

Science Development Directorate, Sao José dos Campos, Brazil

The new host country agreement between Brazil and the IAI is under review. The EC is confident that this process will finish successfully incorporating the Science Development Directorate into the tripartite structure already advanced in Argentina and Uruguay.

Electronic voting procedure and selection of a candidate for the SAC vacant position

During the last CoP only one of the two SAC vacancies was filled because the selection committee had suggested having more nominations before making a recommendation for the second vacancy. Additionally, during 2012 there was another resignation in the SAC and therefore the committee had to operate with only 8 of its 10 members.

This circumstance was evaluated by the last CoP which decided to conduct an election during the intersession. The EC and the IAI Directorate were charged with the defining the procedure for electronic elections. The voting procedure was developed successfully and the countries were invited to designate representatives for voting. Unfortunately, and in spite of having the procedure in place, the voting could not be conducted because at the voting date in November not enough countries registered for the secret ballot to provide quorum. Even though the expected result was not achieved, the experience was useful to realize that the mechanism for decision making between CoPs needs to be better defined. The Executive Council is the body in charge of implementing the resolutions adopted by the CoP, but under the present rules, it has not been engaged to accomplish some actions that are fundamental for the Institute, such as the election of SAC members.

The next CoP will have to consider the extraordinary situation that is about to take place in the SAC and which has motivated the letter sent to the Parties last April. In addition to the 2 vacancies in 2012 which are still not filled, in June 2013 4 SAC members will end a three-year membership term. For 3 of these it will be the 2nd term, which, according to the Agreement Establishing the IAI, should be their final term. 1 member is coming to the end of the 1st term and maybe re-elected. In 2014, 4 further SAC members will complete a term. For 2 of those, this will be their 2nd, final term.

As a consequence, the SAC is facing an almost complete lack of continuity in its membership. This issue will require special consideration by the Executive Council and the Conference of the Parties.

- Activities, actions and decisions of the EC Bureau or its members

In addition to participating in the signature of the Agreements between the IAI and Argentina and Uruguay already mentioned, the EC Chair has represented the Council in the Conference on “Science and Policy in the Urban Responses to Climate Change”, held at the Argentinean Parliament, in Buenos Aires, on October 30 2012.

In September 2012, the IAI was invited by the Minister of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation of Argentina (MinCyT) to join an international consortium of Latin American and European countries to submit a proposal to the 7th Framework Program of the European Community. The main objective of this project, named ENSOCIO-LA, is to establish a sustainable and integrated cooperation in research and innovation among EU and Latin American countries in the environmental area, particularly climate change, resource efficiency and raw materials. Institutions from France, Czech Republic, Spain, Germany, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, México, Sweden, Trinidad & Tobago, Germany, and Brazil participate in this project which was approved in March and will start in June 2013.

In March 2013, the EC Chair and the IAI Director participated in the kick-off meeting of the Scientific Steering Committee of the World Climate Research Program (WCRP) Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Buenos Aires. Under the title “Developing, linking and applying climate knowledge”, the WCRP Conference is aimed at identifying gaps and ways to overcome limitations in the knowledge networks that include basic and applied climate science for informing policy and decisions that are particularly relevant for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Conference will be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on March 17 – 21, 2014. The first announcement will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Finally, by a special invitation of the Chair of the SAC, the EC Chair has been participating in the monthly tele-conferences of the SAC. The interaction with this body has been very positive and enriching, and it opens the door to increase the relationship between the SAC and the Conference of the Parties. We have an excellent group of scientists representing the entire region and willing to contribute to the greatest extent to the objectives of the IAI; we need to find the most appropriate mechanism to achieve this interaction.