

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH



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EC progress report

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EC progress report: EC Chair

- Activities charged to the EC and the EC Bureau

The 21^a Conference of the Parties approved the renewal of the term of the Implementation Committee for the Tripartite Structure of the IAI until this CoP. During the meeting we will receive a progress report.

The CoP approved the establishment of an Advisory Committee on Science-Policy Liaison. The committee will provide advice to the CoP and the IAI Directorates on how to use and design science for policy and decision-making. Additionally, The CoP charged the EC and the Directorate with the drafting of the terms of reference for this committee as well as the preparation of a list of possible candidates to be considered by the next CoP. The SAC was part of the process.

To comply with this action, the EC 36 established an ad hoc committee to elaborate the Terms of Reference for the CoP Advisory Committee for Science-Policy Liaison. Members of this committee are Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Uruguay, and the USA. The Chair of the Standing Committee for Rules and Procedures, the Assistant Director for Science-Policy Liaison and the Chair of the SAC will participate as ex officio members. The CE decided that Argentina would serve as chair and USA as co-chair.

The EC debated ideas for the Terms of Reference of the CoP Advisory Committee for Science-Policy Liaison. The main ideas to guide the design of the ToRs were: provide input to the IAI on effective science-policy integration on global change without interference in internal political processes of member states; help the IAI to make science useful for decision and policy making in global change related issues from multiple sectors; members of the Advisory Committee should be representative of multiple sectors and regions, membership in the committee should be by invitation and should not involve a voting process

During the intersession the ad hoc committee drafted the Terms of Reference and a list of nominations for the Advisory Committee, which will be considered by this EC to be submitted to CoP 22 later.

Additionally to those mandates from the CoP, the EC 36 made a brainstorming exercise regarding strategies for strengthening member country involvement and IAI funding. Some of the ideas discussed were: engage members of the SAC in different IAI activities; using bilateral agreements with national funding agencies to help develop multilateral co-funding of IAI research projects, have scientists from CoP member countries be invited to be observers on the SAC, facilitate regional dialogues on funding global change science between national funding agencies including countries that do not have funding agencies; support national efforts to support young scientists in high-level universities through IAI scientific networks.

In the agenda of this meeting we have assigned time to follow up on these suggestions and go on with this dialogue.

Finally, the last EC also suggested reviewing the IAI Strategic Plan in the light of the new initiatives arising in the IAI and the global environmental research landscape (with new funding strategies such as Future Earth and/or associations of regional funding agencies. There will be a meeting of funding agencies prior to the EC/CoP meetings, and the IAI Director will present a report.

Last year we considered the extraordinary situation of the SAC regarding the lack continuity in its membership. The measures adopted by CoP 21 allowed to improve the situation, but as the SAC Chair has expressed in his recent note to CoP members, some problems still persist. With the aim

of maintaining the continuity in the actions of the SAC, it will be necessary to consider the exceptional reappointment of some members that are finishing their second term.

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

Last year I announced the participation of the IAI in an international consortium of Latin American and European countries under 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, resources efficiency and raw materials. Institutions from France, Czech Republic, Spain, Germany, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, México, Sweden, Trinidad & Tobago, Germany, and Brazil.

On June 20-21, 2013, I participated in the Kick Off Meeting of this project in the Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic, Prague. After this meeting and with the input of all participating institutions, a data base was made including the list of all international projects in LAC regarding the areas of resources efficiency, climate change and raw materials financed by the European Union, or by regional mechanisms such as the IAI programs or those of the Interamerican Development Bank, etc. This database is composed of 186 projects on climate change, 261 on resources efficiency and 87 on raw materials.

The 534 projects were peer reviewed through a series of meetings held in Buenos Aires, organized by the MINCYT in November 2013, in Stuttgart, organized by the Fraunhofer Institute in November 2013, Berlin, organized by the German Aerospace Establishment (DLR - Deutsches Zentrum für Luft). 36 projects were selected as the most relevant to participate in activities aiming the establishment of more focused networks. In March 2014 a new meeting was held at MINCYT in Buenos Aires. The IAI Assistant Director on Science Programs participated in this meeting, which was preparatory for the International Workshop ENSOCIO-LAC, 30 June –July 1st. At this meeting the most promising areas for Europe-Latin-American cooperation were identified and three main groups were established: Biodiversity, land use change and climate services, Urban and rural Hydrology, and raw materials (waste). Three projects funded by the IAI participated at the Cancun Workshop and were considered as potential applicants of a proposal to be funded within the framework of Horizon 2020.

Another activity mentioned last year was the participation of the EC Chair and the IAI Director in the organization of the Conference of the World Climate Research Program (WCRP) for Latin America and the Caribbean: “Developing, linking and applying climate knowledge” held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on March 17- 22 d 2014. The title of the Conference was suggested to make emphasis in the main objective of the meeting: define a research agenda to contribute to the provision of climate services in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean. About 220 experts from 19 countries of the Americas and other regions of the world discussed strategies and made suggestions about the translation of climatic information and knowledge for different sectors such as health, hydrology, energy, agriculture, ecosystems and coastal and urban environments.

The different "actors" (researchers, service providers and decision makers) that attended the Conference expressed their enthusiasm about joint activities for capacity building in climate services. There were several examples about the role of social sciences in the establishment of climate services for LAC region. Finally, the need of working in an interdisciplinary fashion in capacity building and the importance of institutional innovations to channel new challenges were recognized. For more information on the conference you can visit <http://www.cima.fcen.uba.ar/WCRP/>.