



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

Science, Technology, Policy Fellowship Program: Fostering Science Advise ment

Program Overview

The Science, Technology, Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program is intended to be an innovative landmark program of the IAI. STeP will enhance science communication in policy making and strengthen scientific input into the work of government agencies in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

IAI STeP fellows will be top early career scientists interested in how science can help address national and regional challenges and contribute to the development of urgently needed solutions. The program will provide a platform for early to mid-career scientists (with emphasis on post-doctoral candidates) to apply their scientific expertise on pressing global change challenges by facilitating the incorporation of scientific knowledge and methodologies in policy and decision-making. Additionally, the Fellowship will be a key training mechanism to support early career scientists learning to navigate their role providing advice to policy- and decision-makers in government and in the private sector. It will enhance the development of other mechanisms to provide scientific advice to governments in LAC and promote the use of such advice in the development of public policy on pressing global challenges.

The multinational network established by early career scientists participating in this program will create the means to integrate diverse knowledge and expertise across different sectors and countries in response to critical global change challenges in the Americas.

I. General objective: Build human and institutional capacities in IAI Parties to provide expert scientific advice for the development of public policy on global change.

II. Specific objectives:

1. Encourage practical experience for early career scientists in policy and decision-making;
2. Build expertise in the provision of scientific advice in different IAI Parties;
3. Promote transdisciplinary approaches to problem solving as a more effective strategy to address complex global change problems;
4. Facilitate the use and incorporation of scientific knowledge in government work;
5. Develop a platform for professional development and networking for Fellows and IAI Alumni to enhance lessons learned and to share science-policy experiences and best practices;
6. Promote the work of the IAI in host organizations.

III. Work Plan

Phase One: Program Design

- Secure initial funding for management of the program
- Establish an informal advisory committee¹ to support the design and implementation of the IAI STeP Fellowship Program
- Develop Program Description

Phase Two: Host Organizations

- Fundraise through Focal Points
- Outreach to potential Host Organizations
- Select Host Organizations and identify priority areas for fellowships
- Construct Institutional agreements and legal framework

Phase Three: Fellows

- Develop Fellow profile and eligibility criteria
- Outreach to Fellows with an open call for applications
- Select Fellows and match with Host Organization
- Construct Fellowship agreements with Host Organization

Phase Four: Fellowship Activities

- Develop Fellowship Work and Impact Plan
- Design Fellow orientation and training opportunities including career development
- Check out potential exchange possibilities with similar programs such as AAAS

Phase Five: Program Evaluation and Sustainability (with fellows and host organizations)

- Monitor and evaluate with annual meetings, site visits, surveys, etc.
- Establish an international IAI Fellows alumni network
- Produce success stories and disseminate outcomes and outputs

IV. Fellowship impact and outcomes:

For the Fellows:

1. Increase understanding of policy and decision-making processes, the role of science in policy and evidence-informed decision making, and the role of transdisciplinary collaboration;
2. Enhance knowledge on how to connect research and expertise to address pressing global challenges;
3. Increase awareness and sensitivity to societal problems and national priorities that require science input;
4. Improve skills to communicate science more effectively to broad audiences;

¹ *Nominees from Parties:* Dr. Apurva Dave, United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), USA; Dr. Fernando Méndez, National University of Asuncion (UNA), Paraguay; Eng. Violetta Cumberbatch, Director of Science and Technology Management, National Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation (SENACYT), Panama. *SAC members:* Dr. Carlos Joly, State University of Sao Paulo (UNICAMP) and the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP); Brazil; Dr. Josh Tewksbury, Future Earth Colorado Global Hub; USA. *Associate of the IAI:* Dr. Jennifer Pearl, Director, AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellowships, USA; *IAI Directorate staff:* Marcella Ohira, Director for Capacity Building; Susanna Ehlers, Science-Policy Program Officer

5. Broaden career development by participation in policy making through the provision of scientific advice with hands-on experience outside of academia;
6. Enhance professional development (unique training opportunities, leadership skills, science communication, etc.);
7. Increase participation in an international professional network and IAI Fellows alumni.

For the Host Organizations:

1. Improve high-level scientific advice and access to specialized expertise;
2. Greater interest and capacity in science-informed policy and decision-making;
3. Broaden connections, networks, and collaborations across sectors and countries;
4. Enhance policy making capacity through a growing network of scientists and researchers with unique insights on the role of science in policy- and decision-making challenges;
5. Improve communication of complex scientific information in ways that are tailored and relevant to diverse audiences;
6. Generate space for the repatriation of national scientists living abroad.

For the IAI Parties:

1. Greater potential to bring highly-qualified national early career scientists living abroad back to the home country to work in government agencies, thereby addressing the loss of scientific expertise (scientific diaspora) critical to addressing national priorities;
2. Strengthen national and institutional capacities in the science-policy interface;
3. Enhance policy development processes with scientific input;
4. Create new opportunities for international collaboration in science-policy;
5. Increase programmatic participation and ownership in IAI capacity building and science-policy programs;
6. Enhance and establish a reputation in the Americas through the development of an innovative and unique Fellowship program.

For the IAI:

1. Enhance IAI added value to Parties in strengthening human and institutional capacities;
2. Increase in early-career scientists from LAC countries trained in hands-on policy processes and mechanisms and in transdisciplinary approaches;
3. Strengthen institutional capacities in science-policy in government agencies in LAC;
4. Government agencies from LAC benefit from the work of highly educated early-career scientists to support policy making and implementation;
5. Develop a manual of good practices, experiences and lessons learned based on the IAI fellows' experience, which will improve the program and help the IAI develop future programs;
6. Provide the opportunity to establish co-funding mechanisms to support STeP fellows in various IAI Parties through institutional, programmatic and financial partnerships with government institutions (host organizations);
7. Increase participation of IAI Parties in IAI programs;
8. Establish an alumni network of early career scientists and policy makers from the Americas;
9. Create IAI science ambassadors through the Fellows as they serve to disseminate the work of the IAI in global change science and policy.