

**IANAS Workshop on “Inventing a Better Future:
A Strategy for Building Regional Capacities in Science and Technology”**

Preliminary Plan

Under the invitation of the InterAcademy Panel on International Issues (IAP) and the InterAcademy Council (IAC), the Interamerican Network of Academies of Sciences (IANAS) organized the IANAS Workshop “Toward a Sustainable Energy Future”, which was hosted by the National Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences of Argentina, in Buenos Aires, on 30-31 October 2008. Now, in a partnership with the Regional Offices for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) and of the International Council for Science (ICSU), the Mexican Academy of Sciences will be hosting, on behalf of IANAS, a second IAP/IAC workshop focused on the “Women for Science” IAC report, to be held in Mexico City on 20-21 April 2009,

After receiving the Call for Proposal for new IAC/IAP workshops, the IANAS Executive Committee has decided to propose the organization of a workshop focussed on the “Inventing a Better Future: A Strategy for Building Worldwide Capacities in Science and Technology” IAC report. IANAS is currently structuring its Capacity Building Programme, which will be launched in the “Science Funding Landscape Workshop” that will be held in Guatemala coming July. This workshop, that is being organized by the Academy of Medical, Physical and Natural Sciences of Guatemala, is being supported by IAP, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the National Council for Science and Technology of Guatemala (CONCYT).

The proposed IANAS “Inventing a Better Future: A Strategy for Building Regional Capacities in Science and Technology” perfectly matches the momentum of the IANAS Capacity Building Programme, representing a coherent follow-up activity to the “Science Funding Landscape Workshop”. The proposal is to hold this workshop in the second semester of 2009. At the next meeting of its Executive Committee, which will be held in Irvine, USA, coming 14-15 March, IANAS will discuss possible venues for this workshop as well as potential partners that might be willing to help fund this activity.

Initial suggestions

The workshop would focus on the challenges to promote regional science and technology capacity in countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, and on the special role Academies of sciences should play on this process. The goals are:

1. To advise countries in the region as to policy priorities for the promotion of science and technology capacity;
2. To consider how decision-makers might adopt measures to strengthen the scientific and technological capacity of their countries;
3. To discuss integration and synergy of local actions and coordination among the countries of IANAS member Academies and other partner institutions.

The basic structure of the workshop would cover the different clusters in the IAC report, dealing with policy, human resources, institutions, the public/private interface, and finance:

1. Innaugural session with key lecture by one of the co-chairs of the IAC study to provide the general background for discussion and present reccomendations;
2. Policy for S&T, S&T for Policy, and Dissemination of Knowledge
3. Human Resources and Institutional Capacity Building
4. Public and Private Partnerships and S&T Funding Mechanisms

Preliminary Plan

The “Science Funding Landscape” Workshop will provide an important opportunity for the increase of the level of information of the S&T-lagging countries in the region on funding opportunities and mechanisms, and to promote and strengthen the linkages between the regional scientific community and existing programs and opportunities. But the workshop itself will only represent a moment of exchange of views, contacts and experiences. Much more important will be the opportunities that will be opened and the actions that will be taken to struncture effective capacity building initiatives in the region.

The opportunity to interact during the meeting in Guatemala with the leadership of regional National Research Councils, multilateral organizations, private foundations and academic organizations will allow IANAS to assemble a privilged array of S&T stakeholders for an initial discussion on possibilities of joit collaboration and work towards the regional strentghening of S&T. These actors will be stimulated to become partners in the organization of the IANAS “Inventing a Better Future: A Strategy for Building Regional Capacities in Science and Technology” Workshop.

IANAS member Academies will also be invited to provide inputs on national capacity building initiatives that had made a difference within their countries. They will be asked identify Academies of engineering or equivalent organizations from their country or sub-region that should be involved. IANAS Academies will suggest appropriate participants for the workshop, including policy makers, senior officials, politicians, and journalists, scientists and engineers.

The duration of the workshop will be three days. The attendance will be approximately 100 to 150 persons, including all categories of attendee mentioned above.

Budget

The host Academy will arrange for the meeting facilities, secretarial assistance, lunches and refreshments. The host Academy will also work with the Organizing Committee to produce and print a proceedings document.

Remaining budgetary questions primarily relate to travel and accommodations, and at least one evening dinner event. It is expected that each of the 17 IANAS Academies will send in the range of 4 to 5 attendees (including policy makers, officials, press, etc). Academies and

other attendees able to do so, including government officials and private sector participants, will pay for their travel and lodging.

The budget request to IAP is for \$30,000, to cover the travel and accommodation costs for approximately 30 participants, determined on the basis of need (permitting all interested IANAS Academies at least a minimum level of participation), contribution to the program, and potential benefit from attendance.

The remaining funding will need to come from other sources, to be negotiated by IANAS and its member Academies as mentioned above.