

IANAS/TWAS/ICSU Workshop on Women for Science: Preliminary Proposal

This proposal is a follow-up of the agreement to organize regional workshops on Energy, as well as on Women for Science, reached by NASAC, IANAS, AASA-FASAS and ALLEA during the Meeting of Regional Networks that took place at the Australian Academy of Science on September 2007. The agreement was included in the agenda of the IANAS Executive Committee Meeting held in Antigua, Guatemala, on Nov 30 – Dec 1 of 2007, due to a letter sent by the IAP co-chairs to IANAS, proposing the organization of two regional workshops focused on the latest IAC reports. Funding for these workshops will be provided by IAP and IAC; the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S.A. could also provide additional support.

The Executive Committee of IANAS decided to organize both workshops. The first will be focused on the Energy study and will take place in Argentina. The second regional workshop on Women for Science will be possibly held in Mexico City, as a satellite event of the 19th TWAS General Meeting and 25th Anniversary Celebration, to be carried out on November 2008

The proposal of partnership (IANAS-TWAS) will be presented by Dr. Juan Pedro Lacllette (president of the Mexican Academy of Sciences and Co-Chair of IANAS), during his attendance to the meeting of the TWAS officers, to be held in Trieste on January 25 and 26, where the details of the TWAS 19th General Meeting will be established.

Drs. C. Samayoa (president of the Academy of Medical, Physical and Natural Sciences of Guatemala and member of the ICSU Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean) and R. Ruiz (vice-president of the Mexican Academy of Sciences) would be in charge of the organization of this workshop, aided by a committee to be designated, that would include representation from ICSU-LAC and the Brazilian Committee of the Gender Advisory Board, as well as of the Vice Presidency for Latin America and the Caribbean of the of TWOWS (Third World Organization for Women in Science).

Initial suggestions

The workshop would focus on the challenges to strengthen participation of women in scientific careers in countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, and on the special role academies of sciences should have. The goals are:

1. To advise those countries as to policy priorities for strengthening the participation of women scientists in the development of scientific and technological knowledge.;
2. To consider how decision-makers might adopt measures to increase women participation in the scientific and technological development of their country;
3. To discuss integration and synergy of local actions and coordination among the countries of IANAS member academies and of the partner institutions

The workshop would consist of four sessions:

I - [Improving gender equity in science and technology education.](#)

II - Removing the obstacles to women in scientific and technological careers

III - Increasing the visibility of women in science: role models, mentoring and awards – the international experience

IV - Improving the collection of gender disaggregated data for policy makers- making decision making in science and technology more gender aware

Preliminary Plan

For this workshop, IANAS will work together with ICSU-LAC and the Brazilian Committee of the Gender Advisory Board, and TWOWS (Third World Organization for Women in Science). As a contribution to the workshop, IANAS will ask its member academies to provide information on the situation of women scientists in their respective countries. Outstanding women scientists will be included in the program of the workshop, paying special attention to a equitable participation of the countries in the hemisphere. IANAS academies together with the co-sponsors will suggest appropriate participants for the workshop, including policy makers, senior officials, and politicians including finance ministers, and science and other journalists.

The duration of the workshop will be one day. If associated to the TWAS General Meeting, attendance to the workshop will surpass 200 persons, including all categories of attendee mentioned above.

Budget

The host academy will arrange for the meeting facilities, secretarial assistance, and lunches and refreshments. The host academy will also work with the Scientific Committee, as stated above, 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 10 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 \$40,000, to cover the travel and accommodation costs for approximately 40 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 be from other sources, to be identified by IANAS academies and the co-sponsors.