

A Word from the Co-chairs. ▶

Since our meeting in Santiago, we have been working relentlessly to take the InterAmerican Network of Science Academies from the formal to the action state. Once we were back from Chile, we summarized the discussions and decisions from our inaugural meeting in an Executive Report. To announce the launch of this new initiative, the report was circulated to member Academies and to affiliated international organizations. Ever since, work has been increasing and we are proud to affirm that IANAS has already become a reality.

The first edition of our bulletin will highlight the actions that have been developed in the first three months of IANAS' existence. We will tell you the reasons that led us to change our acronym (remember that we called ourselves IANSA before); introduce you to the official Steering Committee; and share with you the evolution of the two established programmes, the development of our web page, and the organization's logo.

We are planning to send one bulletin per trimester. We hope that this bulletin proves to be a dynamic tool for updating our members with the actions of IANAS and also for disseminating news and initiatives from the participating Academies. The success of this enterprise depends on the active engagement of all, not only in the disclosure of our actions, but chiefly in the building up of our daily work.

In closing, we reaffirm our conviction that IANAS has a key role to play. Acting as a catalyst, we can increase the synergy between the Science Academies of the Americas, contributing to the strengthening of science and technology in the hemisphere and, consequently, to the enhancement of the quality of life in the Americas.

Hernan Chaimovich

Howard Alper



▶ Why IANAS and not IANSA

After the Chile meeting, while discussing the implementation of IANSA we noticed that two organizations already use the acronym IANSA. One is in the food business (<http://www.empresasiansa.cl>) and the other is a global network of civil society organizations working to stop the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons (www.iansa.org). Both of them have a strong presence in Latin and South America and use IANSA as part of their logo and website address.

Concerned with the possibility of false affiliations with a commercial or political organization - besides the fact that the web domain IANSA had already been registered - the co-chairs decided to consult the Steering Committee on this issue. The Steering Committee unanimously endorsed a cautious position: the adoption of the new acronym IANAS (InterAmerican Network of Academies of Sciences). This decision would preserve the spirit of IANSA and, at the same time, prevent unpleasant surprises in the future.





Representation at the Steering Committee is now Official ■►

During the IANAS meeting held in May, besides the co-chairs - which were appointed as named individuals in accordance to section III.2 of our Statutes - the Academies of Chile, the US, Mexico, Venezuela and the Caribbean Scientific Union were elected to form the Steering Committee of the network. In accordance with section III.6 of the Statutes, which states that the "members of the Steering Committee are Academy representatives rather than named individuals", the co-chairs invited these Academies to name official representatives for the IANAS Steering Committee.

We now have a Steering Committee, which will be working closely with the co-chairs.

IANAS Steering Committee (2004-2006):

Co-chairs

Professor Hernan Chaimovich (Brazilian Academy of Sciences)
Professor Howard Alper (Royal Society of Canada)



Hernan Chaimovich

Members

Chile: Professor Juan Asenjo
Chilean Academy of Sciences

CAS: Professor Harold Ramkissoon
Caribbean Scientific Union

USA: Professor Michael Clegg
National Academy of Sciences

Mexico: Professor Octavio Paredes
Mexican Academy of Sciences

Venezuela: Professor Claudio Bifano
Academy of Physical, Mathematical and Natural Sciences of Venezuela



Howard Alper

The first meeting of the IANAS Steering Committee will be held in Ottawa, Canada, on the 5th and 6th of November.

■► Logo: A Joint Product of the Brazilian and Canadian Academies

Networking the Academies for the development of joint projects has been a most successful experience in the development of the IANAS logo. Two professional designers hired by the Brazilian and the Canadian Academies, working in their respective countries, harmoniously interacted in the development of the logo.

After hearing the co-chairs on the general concepts, the Canadian professional drafted an initial proposal, which the Brazilian designer fine-tuned. Many comings and goings occurred before a final product was reached, but once there, all involved in the development process were convinced that the effort had been worthwhile.

IANAS now has a mark. This gray/orange logo can become a recognizable symbol for S&T in the Americas. It all depends on us.

IANAS Receives Grant from IAP

IANAS was invited by IAP to present a Plan of Action for 2004, by the deadline of June 30. Since the deadline was only 5 days after the arrival of the demand (June 25), the co-chairs expeditiously developed a proposal and accomplished to submit it in due time. We have just received a letter from TWAS granting US\$30,000.00 to IANAS, under the IAP Capacity Building Programme for Young Academies.

In the proposal drafted by the co-chairs, IANAS expenses will mostly be devoted to programmes and communication. The breakdown of the proposal is as follows:

(In US\$)

Activity	Total
Web-page development and maintenance	10,000.00
Operational Expenses	6,000.00
Science Education Programme	7,000.00
Water Programme	7,000.00
TOTAL	30,000.00



IANAS will have to seek additional funding to cover its demands, but certainly the generous grant from IAP represents an important contribution for the implementation of the network and its initial actions. IAP has already given us important support for the funding of our founding meeting in Santiago. The present grant only proves that IAP is effectively doing its part in networking the Academies and in helping in the building of local and regional capacities.

IANAS on the Internet

At the request of the co-chairs, the IANAS web page is currently being developed by a group of Brazilian web designers. This project is still in its initial phase, but we expect the site to go live by October (www.ianas.org). To avoid any surprises with the domain name, we have already registered both ianas.org and ianas.com.

Academies will be invited to contribute information for the building of the website. The goal is to make the site an important reference for information on Science and Technology in the Americas in the near future. Evidently the quality of information on the web site greatly depends on the input provided by the member Academies. We kindly ask support from all of you for this initiative.

IAP Programmes and Initiatives for 2004

IAP is sending to its member Academies the *Work Plan for the IAP Programmes and Initiatives in 2004*. At the present, a general outline of these can also be found on the IAP website.

IANAS strongly encourages its members to get involved. Through the active engagement of the Academies of the Americas and the Caribbean region, we will not only reinforce IAP's actions in the hemisphere, but also strengthen IANAS as a regional network.



See below the planned actions and interested IANAS Academies.

Capacity Building for Young Academies

Lead Academy – TWAS

Contact Person – Prof. M.H.A. Hassan

IANAS Academies – Brazilian Academy of Sciences; Royal Society of Canada; Caribbean Academy of Sciences; Colombian Academy of Sciences; Academy of Sciences of the Dominican Republic; Academy of Sciences of Guatemala; US National Academy of Sciences.

Health Education of Women

Lead Academy – French Academy of Sciences

Contact Person – Prof. André Capron

IANAS Academies – Brazilian Academy of Sciences; Royal Society of Canada; Caribbean Academy of Sciences; Academy of Sciences of Guatemala; US National Academy of Sciences.

Science Education

Lead Academy – Chilean Academy of Sciences

Contact Person – Prof. Jorge Allende

IANAS Academies – National Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences of Argentina; Brazilian Academy of Sciences; Royal Society of Canada; Caribbean Academy of Sciences; Chilean Academy of Sciences; Colombian Academy of Sciences; Academy of Sciences of the Dominican Republic; Academy of Sciences of Guatemala; Latin American Academy of Sciences; US National Academy of Sciences.

Water

Lead Academy – Brazilian Academy of Sciences

Contact Person – Prof. José Galizia Tundisi

IANAS Academies – National Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences of Argentina; Brazilian Academy of Sciences; Royal Society of Canada; Caribbean Academy of Sciences; Colombian Academy of Sciences; Academy of Sciences of Guatemala; US National Academy of Sciences.

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's)

Lead Academy – Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities

Contact Person – Prof. H. Heldt

IANAS Academies – Brazilian Academy of Sciences; Royal Society of Canada; Colombian Academy of Sciences; Academy of Sciences of the Dominican Republic; Academy of Sciences of Guatemala; US National Academy of Sciences.

Biosecurity

Lead Academy – Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei

Contact Person – Prof. E. Vesentini; Prof. A. Falaschi

IANAS Academies – Brazilian Academy of Sciences; Colombian Academy of Sciences; Academy of Sciences of the Dominican Republic; Academy of Sciences of Guatemala; US National Academy of Sciences.

Access to Scientific Information / Digital Divide

Lead Academy – US National Academy of Sciences

Contact Person – Prof. Michael Clegg; Dr. John Boright

IANAS Academies – Brazilian Academy of Sciences; Caribbean Academy of Sciences; Academy of Sciences of Guatemala; Latin American Academy of Sciences; US National Academy of Sciences.



Science Education Programme ■ ▸

Through the action of Mr. Sergio Bitar, Minister of Education of Chile, Dr. Jorge E. Allende, coordinator of the IAP/IANAS Program in Science Education, was invited to address a meeting that convened 20 Ministers of Education of Latin America with the Inter American Development Bank. This meeting was held in Santiago, on August 27, and Dr. Allende's message was to ask support for a Regional Program on Science Education.

The Science Education Programme has scheduled three important activities for the next 6 months:



1. Meeting of IANAS Academy Focal Point Persons

Santiago, Chile, October 29-30, 2004

Contact person: Jorge Allende (jallende@abello.dic.uchile.cl)

The general objective of this programme is to improve the level and the relevance of science education in the hemisphere through the active participation of science academies and the most prominent scientists in the nations of the Americas, working together with teachers and educational authorities.

Specific objectives are: to promote collaboration and synergism in the implementation of science education projects sponsored by science academies in the countries of the Americas; to stimulate the sharing of materials and experiences among projects dedicated to Inquiry-Based Science Education (IBSE); to generate common methods, mechanisms and guidelines to evaluate the progress of the individual projects; to create a forum for the discussion of the optimal materials and methods that should be used in science education; and to stimulate collaboration among academies in the organization of science fairs, scientific Olympics and science prizes to children.

The initial main focus of the programme will be on elementary level science education. However, worthwhile activities on secondary and tertiary science education will be considered. This meeting will be funded by IAP and IANAS.

2. Workshop on Strategic Planning for the Initiation of Inquiry-Based Science Education Projects

Santiago, Chile, October 25-29, 2004

Contact person: Jorge Allende (jallende@abello.dic.uchile.cl)

This workshop will train 8 teams (3 from Chile and 5 from other countries of Latin America) on the main questions regarding the initiation of IBSE projects. It is organized jointly by the Chilean Academy and NSRC (USA) and funded by UNESCO, NSRC (USA), IAP, and the Andes Foundation.

3. InterAmerican Course on Molecular Biology and Genetics for Secondary School Teachers

Buenos Aires, February, 2005

Contact person: Lic. Nora Bahamonde (naturales@me.gov.ar)

Organized by the Ministry of Education of Argentina, the Faculty of Exact Sciences of the University of Buenos Aires and the Argentinean Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences, the course will be funded by IAP, RELAB, the Fundación Antorchas and the Argentinean Ministry of Education. This programme awards 12 fellowships to secondary school teachers from Latin-American countries.

Water Programme ■▶

Considering that access to clean water is one of the major problems faced by humanity at the beginning of the 21st century, IANAS decided to establish a Water Programme as one of its initial actions. During the founding meeting in Santiago, the Brazilian and the Mexican Academies of Sciences were chosen to coordinate this programme, which would be co-chaired by Prof. José Tundisi (Brazil) and Prof. Luis Marín (Mexico). To work with the co-chairs a steering committee was established. The members of this committee are: Dr. Raúl Lopardo (Argentina); Dr. Fernando Urquidi (Bolivia); Dr. Winston Mellowes (Caribbean Academy of Sciences); Dr. Gabriel Roldán (Colombia); and Dr. Ignacio Benavente Trullenque (Peru).

The water programme steering committee is currently discussing the design of this initiative and we expect to receive an update soon.

Inter-American Collaboration in Materials Research ■▶

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) has issued a Request for Proposals for Inter-American Collaboration in Materials Research. This funding opportunity is for collaborative activities in materials research among investigators from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Jamaica, Mexico, Trinidad & Tobago and the United States. Applications should be received at NSERC by October 15, 2004.

For NSERC support, eligible researchers may propose bilateral projects with collaborators from one participating Latin American country, or multilateral projects. Proposals to NSERC that involve collaborators from the USA must also include researchers from at least one other participating country in the Americas. In addition, projects may also involve collaborators from countries outside the hemisphere (e.g., Spain) where their research expertise or access to facilities are clearly complementary to that of the proposed CIAM collaborative team, so as to justify a broader network. Details and deadlines on this opportunity at www.nserc.gc.ca/programs/intcoop/inter-american_e.htm.

Chilean Academy of Sciences Elects a New Board ■▶

A new Board of Directors was elected in the Extraordinary Session of the Chilean Academy of Sciences, held in May 12. The new Board will hold office in the period of 2004-2006 and is composed of the following academics:

President:	Dr. Servet Martínez Aguilera
Vice-Presidents:	Dr. Juan A. Asenjo Dr. Rafael Benguria
Treasurer:	Dr. Edgar Kausel
Secretary:	Dr. Tito Ureta
2 nd Secretary:	Dr. Rafael Vicuña



Chilean Academy of Sciences

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