

Supporting the IAP Global Science Education Programme

Lead academy: *Académie
des Sciences, France*

The IAP Science Education Programme (SEP) aims, in part, to promote the diffusion of Inquiry-based Science Education (IBSE) in primary schools around the world. In 2013, funding received from IAP was used to support a meeting of the SEP Global Council in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

On 23 May, the *Akademi Sains Malaysia* hosted a meeting of the IAP SEP Global Council, kindly covering local expenses for all participants. The meeting was attended by: Derek Bell (UK), Hubert Dyasi (USA), Guillermo Fernandez (Mexico), Jenny Graves (Australia), Pierre Léna (chair, France), Odile Macchi (France), Norma Nudelman (Argentina), Elly Sabiti (Uganda), Petra Skiebe-Corrette (Germany), Ahmadou Wague (Senegal), and Zhou Jiangzhong (China, representing He Zhu). Other invited participants included Dato Lee Yee Cheong (Malaysia, chair, International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC)), and Yves Quéré, (France, former IAP co-chair).

Regional reviews

Science education programmes in Latin America (with IANAS), Europe (with the federation of All European Academies, ALLEA), Africa (with NASAC), and the Asia-Pacific region (with AASSA) were discussed and reviewed. A new chair is leading the Asia-Pacific region (Jenny Graves, Australian Academy of Science) and this programme will develop in the direction of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO group of Islamic Republics in Central Asia) with an IBSE conference planned for 2014 or 2015. The African programme now has both an anglophone (led by Elly Sabiti, Uganda National Academy of Sciences) and a francophone component (led by Ahmadou Wague, *Académie Nationale des Sciences et Techniques du Sénégal*). The Europe programme is also moving ahead with a Europe-Africa conference planned at the *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei* (Italy) in May 2014 that will involve academies linked through the African-European-Mediterranean Academies for Science Education (AEMASE) network. Meanwhile, the Latin America programme keeps implementing IBSE on the continent, having initiated many successful pilot projects during the past decade.

Assessing IBSE

An 'IBSE Assessment Guide', an output of the 2012 IBSE conference held in Helsinki, Finland, has been published online (see www.interacademies.net/News/22653.aspx). Translations (also available on the IAP website) are available in French, Serbian and Spanish. The document provides a fundamental resource for future roll-outs of IBSE.

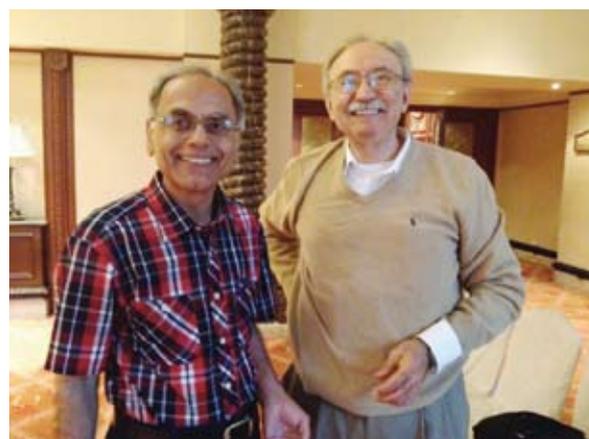
2014 SEP biennial conference

Preparations are under way for the October 2014 SEP conference in Beijing, China, at the invitation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST). The conference will focus on 'Grand Challenges for IBSE', with subtopics likely to include the assessment and progression of IBSE, as well as its scaling-up and sustainability, and interdisciplinary links with mathematics, technology, engineering and other disciplines.

New chair

Finally, Pierre Léna completed his term of office as chair of the IAP SEP. Dato Lee Yee Cheong (*Akademi Sains Malaysia* and ISTIC) was unanimously selected to replace him – a selection subsequently endorsed by the IAP co-chairs. Lee Cheong, who attended part of the meeting, stressed the importance of collaborating with the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO), noting that UNESCO is in a permanent dialogue with ministries of education, and thus could provide the link for expanding the number of countries and the number of schools implementing IBSE.

At the October-November 2013 IAP Executive Committee meeting in Australia, it was also decided that the IAP SEP should expand its remit to take into account the more holistic theme of science literacy.



Two prominent promoters of science education, Manzoor Samroo (left), a scientist from Pakistan instrumental in IBSE implementation, and Guillermo Fernandez de la Garza (right), founder of Innovec, an institution which has brought IBSE to millions of children in Mexico, met during the meeting of the IAP Science Education Programme in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in May 2013.



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Scenes from the Global Council meeting of the IAP Science Education Programme, hosted by the *Akademi Sains Malaysia* in Kuala Lumpur.