

the

# INTERACADEMY PANEL ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

iap

## Bulletin

Number 12

June 2003

Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome, hosted the 6th executive committee (EC) meeting of IAP. Lincei, which is celebrating its 400th anniversary this year, is one of the world's oldest science academies. For a complete list of the year-long events to mark the anniversary, see: [www.lincei-celebrazioni.it](http://www.lincei-celebrazioni.it).

Among the discussions that took place in Rome, here are a few highlights:

- The EC finalized the programme for the IAP Conference on "Science for Society" and General Assembly, scheduled to take place in Mexico City from 1-4 December 2003. José Antonio De la Peña, president of the Mexican Academy of Sciences, the member academy that will host the event, attended the Rome meeting as a special guest and described the excellent facilities available in Mexico City.
- Under the IAP capacity building initiative, the EC agreed to explore ways to help rebuild science academies in Afghanistan and Iraq. As a first step, IAP members will be asked to send the IAP secretariat names of prominent Afghan and Iraqi scientists living in the country or abroad who may be able to help IAP develop an effective response to the countries' scientific needs within the framework of international reconstruction programmes.
- Representatives of The Royal Society presented the EC with a draft statement calling for a total ban on human reproductive cloning but continued support for research-related cloning. EC agreed to endorse the draft and circulate it to the IAP membership asking them to sign it if they concur. Deadline for receipt of endorsements is 29 August 2003.
- EC was informed that the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has approved IAP's budget for 2002. The co-chairs, E. Vesentini, president of the Lincei and a TWAS delegation, visited R. Antonione, Under Secretary of State of the Italian Foreign Ministry, to discuss future support for IAP and its programmes.

Current IAP programmes were also discussed extensively and may be found in separate sections of this bulletin. A summary of the EC meeting is available to members on the IAP website.

Yves Quéré and Eduardo Krieger

### Calendar 2003

- 1-4 December 2003: IAP Conference "Science for Society" and General Assembly, Mexico City

5-6 December 2003: satellite symposia on water management; science education.

### IAP Programmes

#### Capacity Building:

- *Africa*: Representatives from African science academies including Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda, and the African Academy of Sciences, visited the US NAS in Washington, D.C. from 1-11 April 2003. The NAS hosted the event and supported local costs. One of the most successful sessions related to the issues of fund-raising and proposal writing.

- *Latin America and the Caribbean*: Following the IAP workshop organized by the Brazilian Academy of Sciences for science academies in Latin America and the Caribbean region in September 2002, a follow-up activity is scheduled to take place in Mexico City, 11-12 August 2003, for representatives from the same academies of science. Participants will examine progress made on the recommendations issued at the previous workshop.

**Science Education:** *International Conference on K-12 Science Education* (Monterrey, 11-13 May 2003) gathered top representatives from the private sector, government, science academies and schools, to

discuss strategies for enhancing hands-on science education. A number of representatives from IAP were in attendance. The report is available at: [www4.nationalacademies.org/iap/iaphome.nsf/webli nks/WWWWW-5NMH5W?OpenDocument](http://www4.nationalacademies.org/iap/iaphome.nsf/webli nks/WWWWW-5NMH5W?OpenDocument).

Report on the *Asian Regional Seminar on Science Education* held in New Delhi from 24-25 October 2002 can be downloaded at: [www4.nationalacademies.org/iap/iaphome.nsf/webli nks/MGLY-4VQVEY?OpenDocument](http://www4.nationalacademies.org/iap/iaphome.nsf/webli nks/MGLY-4VQVEY?OpenDocument), under IAP activities in 2002. The seminar, organized by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) as part of IAP's science education programme, focussed on issues related to science teaching and learning. Workshop proceedings will be published this year.

The Library of Alexandria, Egypt, organized a conference on *Science and Maths Education for the 21st Century*, in collaboration with IAP. The conference took place from 20-23 June 2003. A detailed programme is available at: [www4.nationalacademies.org/iap/iaphome.nsf/webli nks/WWWWW-5MQBB5?OpenDocument](http://www4.nationalacademies.org/iap/iaphome.nsf/webli nks/WWWWW-5MQBB5?OpenDocument).

#### IAP General Assembly:

Registration for the IAP General Assembly in December currently exceeds 100. Member academies who would like to be represented at the event and have yet to register should inform the secretariat immediately.

Poster sessions for the IAP members will be held on 2 December. More than 43 members have requested to participate in this session.

Draft statements are being prepared on IAP's principal programmes: capacity building; science and the media; science education; access to scientific information; and mother and child health issues. The statements will be circulated to member academies by the end of the summer for examination and endorsement. The documents will be formally presented at the general assembly.

**Satellite Symposia:** Two parallel sessions will take place in conjunction with the assembly: on water management and science education. The Mexican Academy of Sciences is finalizing the programme for these side events.

### Notice Board

The **French Academy of Sciences** and **The Royal Society, UK**, have co-sponsored a "Prix Franco-Britannique" or "British-French Prize" since 1985 for young outstanding scientists. The prize, now in its 18th year, carries a reward of 6000 euros for travel. Christl Donnelly, a young British mathematician, working on epidemiology, is this year's winner.

**Chinese Academy of Sciences** has launched a research project for the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of serious acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). For more information, see: [www.cashq.ac.cn/English](http://www.cashq.ac.cn/English).

*Scidev.net* at a recent meeting in Sao Paulo, launched a regional network *SciDev.net América Latina*. The launch coincided with a call from the president of the **Brazilian Academy of Science**, Eduardo Krieger (IAP co-chair) to the media to help promote dialogue between science and society in Latin America. For more information, see: [www.scidev.net](http://www.scidev.net).

*Nature* has featured two IAP members in recent issues - the Accademia dei Lincei, on 4th April, and the Polish Academy of Sciences, on 17th April. The articles are available at: [www.nature.com/nature](http://www.nature.com/nature).

Senegalese President Wade attended a recent ceremony on 6th June in Dakar of the **Académie des Sciences et Techniques du Sénégal** devoted to science education. Y. Quéré, IAP co-chair, gave a keynote lecture on *Science Teaching for Children*.

### From the Secretariat

EC has approved the application of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters for membership to the Panel. That brings IAP's membership to 90. EC also extended observer status to the Caribbean Scientific Union. The full membership is expected to formally welcome both institutions in December 2003.

### Announcements

TWAS founding fellow, Thomas R. Odhiambo, died on 26 May 2003. In the mid 1980s, Odhiambo's leadership proved instrumental in the creation of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS). He then served as its first president. For a full obituary, see: [www.twas.org](http://www.twas.org).

### Snapshots



African Academy of Sciences (AAS)  
[www.sas.upenn.edu/African\\_Studies/Hornet/menu\\_aas.html](http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/Hornet/menu_aas.html)

### Appointments/Honours

S.E. Vizi has replaced Ferenc Glatz as president of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The new vice presidents are: Laszlo Keviczky, Jozsef Hamori, and Erno Marosi.

Andrzej B. Legocki has been elected president of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He replaces acting president Jerzy Kolodziejczak. Janusz Lipkowski, Emil Nalborczyk, and Jan Strelau have been elected vice presidents.

Werner Stauffacher has been elected president of the Council of the Swiss Scientific Academies (CASS). He replaces Bernard Hauck.

Rajaona Andriamananjara has been elected president of the Académie Nationale Malgache. He replaces acting president Gabriel Ramalanjaona. Gabriel Ramalanjaona, Marcel Razanamparany, Juliette Ratsimandrava, and Mrs Razoharinoro, have been elected vice presidents, and Henri Raharijaona as chancellor.

Khalid M. Khan has been elected secretary general of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences. He replaces M.D. Sharmi.

Nicolas Matsaniotis has been re-elected secretary general of the Academy of Athens for a second term.

### Networking Update

Albanian Academy of Sciences: new fax number: +355 423-0305

Uganda National Academy of Sciences (UNAS): [unas@uncst.go.ug](mailto:unas@uncst.go.ug) (replacing [unas@imul.com](mailto:unas@imul.com)).

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**Contributions for next issue of the bulletin  
should be in by 5 September 2003**