

IANAS CAPACITY BUILDING



STRENGTHENING SCIENCE ACADEMIES IN THE AMERICAS

What is Capacity Building for IANAS?

The IANAS Capacity Building Program aims to strengthen science academies by supporting activities that strengthen institutional capacity and that empower science communities in IANAS countries.

Vision

IANAS aspires to make the academies of the Americas more effective instruments in providing science advice to governments, in engaging society in implementing S&T based solutions to pressing problems, and in so doing, to contribute to social and economic development in the hemisphere.

The goals of IANAS are:

- To strengthen and empower science communities in the American hemisphere by enhancing the capacities of academies and science associations.
- To serve as formal and informal sources of S&T advice and expertise to all levels of government and civil society in the Americas.
- To develop programs on scientific capacity building, science education, science communication and other science-related issues of significance to the Americas.
- To collaborate with the Global Network of Science Academies (IAP), the Inter Academy Council (IAC) and allied organizations such as ICSU and TWAS in advancing science based solutions to global and regional challenges.

Accomplishments

Since its inception IANAS has initiated active programs in academy capacity building, science education, water resources, energy, and women for science. Each of these programs has as a central purpose the strengthening of the capacities of science academies to be valuable national assets in the Americas. Capacity building achievements in the past five years include:

- A new level of cooperation has been reached by the academies of the Americas on actions to address pressing societal challenges.
- New Academies have been established in Nicaragua, Uruguay and Ecuador.
- Programs on scientific exchange have been developed for young to mid career level investigators. To date 28 scientists from Latin America and the Caribbean have participated in the program.
- Organized a workshop on the science funding landscape hosted by the Guatemalan Academy.
- A partnership with the Organization of American States (OAS) has been initiated.
- Organized a workshop with science journalists and academy leaders from throughout the Americas to enhance the communication of science to the public.
- Organized a meeting of young to mid-career scientists from Mexico, Cuba, the US and Caribbean states to plan a major symposium.
- IANAS has developed significant linkages with UNESCO, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and with the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM).
- IANAS has developed an informative web site (www.ianas.org) that provides linkages to science policy reports from a number of sources.