

IANAS WATER PROGRAM



ENHANCING ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN THE AMERICAS

Our commitment

Access to clean water is one of the major problems faced by humanity at the beginning of the 21st Century. To cope with this problem, the Science Academies of the Americas have established a regional program to aid national governments in addressing this issue.

In response to a call by IANAS, several Science Academies of the Americas have also established National Water Committees that are helping local governments and society to enhance access to water and sanitation in the Americas.

Our Achievements

- As a result of this process, and as part of the celebration of International Water Day 2012, the program published the book “Water Diagnosis in the Americas” providing a comprehensive assessment of water resources in the continent. This publication was launched simultaneously in 15 countries on Water Day. Some Academies have also produced or are now working on national water books.
- Through the Water Committees, IANAS Academies are playing a more active role in policy and decision making processes in water related issues within their countries.
- Through the volunteer work of national focal points of the program, training courses for high-level water managers have been organized in several countries, benefitting more than 500 professionals from all over the Americas. These courses have assembled water managers coming from major public and private companies in Latin America, as well as water authorities from the different levels of government.
- Permanent collaboration with Academies of the region throughout annual meetings (Colombia 2005, Brazil 2006, Dominican Republic 2008, Nicaragua 2009, Argentina 2010, Bolivia 2011 and Guatemala 2012, Peru 2013).
- IANAS Water Program has been also part of three very important international symposiums networking with other international organizations. In 2010: “Improving Access to Safe Water: Perspectives from Africa and the Americas”, in collaboration with NASAC; and “Water for the Americas: Challenges and Opportunities”, organized in coordination with the 7th Rosenberg International Forum. In 2012: “Enhancing Water Management Capacity in a Changing World: Science Academies Working Together to Increase Global Access to Water and Sanitation”, in collaboration with IAP and the Brazilian Academy of Sciences.

Goals for 2014-2016:

- Complete the production of a new book, focusing on “Urban Waters in the Americas”. Growing urbanization and the advent of megacities –a global and regional problem– represent an enormous challenge to water management.
- Academies will convene National water meetings and capacity building activities, helping to bridge the gap between Science and water management.

