

IANAS EC Virtual Meeting – Wednesday, April 28 2021

Participants: Jeremy McNeil and Helena Nader IANAS Co - Chairs; Beatriz Caputto, Executive Director; John Hildebrand and John Boright (NAS); Susana Lizano (Mexican Academy of Sciences); Enrique Forero (Colombian Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences); Marcos Cortesao (Brazilian Academy of Sciences); Edgar Franco Rivera (Academy of Medical, Physical and Natural Sciences of Guatemala); Nicole Bernex (National Academy of Sciences of Peru); Winston Mellowes (Caribbean Scientific Union); Victor Ramos (National Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences of Argentina).

Introduction. Jeremy McNeil began the meeting by noting that due to Covid-19 pandemics it was not possible for IANAS EC members to meet in person. Nevertheless, a virtual meeting was organized to provide the EC with an update on IANAS current activities and projects for the future.

1. Jeremy McNeil gave an update on budget 2020 - 2021. The portion of the budget attributed to travel was not used. Consequently, IANAS submitted a revised budget to cover all costs of ongoing activities, which was approved by IAP. Due to currency issues the funds will be handled by the Brazilian academy. IANAS reduced its budget to meet what it could actually be done.

2. Beatriz Caputto gave a short review on IANAS programs activities. The **Women for Science program** (WfS) have been working on a project interviewing prominent women with a background training in science but now have other careers. WfS program co-chairs, Frances Henry (Canada) and Ana Denicola (Uruguay) are revising the interviews, and it is expected that the final document will be finished between May and June 2021. The program co-chairs are also working on the next Anneke Levelt Sengers Prize, With respect to the Anneke Levelt Sengers

The **Water Program** are working on publishing a series of policy briefs. One, written by Dr. Pedro Depetris (focal point from Argentina), is about to be published. Henry Vaux and Katherine Vammen (Water program co-chairs) prepared a new publication, a new summary on the Water Quality book, that is currently being edited and translated prior to printing. The water program members participated on a webinar with the National Council of Science and Technology of Peru, and the presentations are being compiled in a book, sponsored by CONCYTEC – Peru, IANAS and IAP.

The **Energy Program** has been working on a project called “Rethinking Cities”. Anthony Clayton (Energy program co-chair) is in charge of this project. The program have requested funds to hire someone to prepare a 2022 face-to-face meeting with experts from all over the world.

The **Science Education Program** that had been inactive since 2017. The National Academy of Sciences of Argentina gathered a group of experts from different parts of the Americas to discuss the teaching of science in schools. The participants were Bonnie Schmidt from Canada; Carol O'Donnell from United States; Ismael Duque Escobar and Margarita Gomez Sarmiento from Colombia; Uldarico Malaspina from Peru; Carols Bosch from Mexico; Roseli de Deus Lopes and Debora Foguel from Brazil; and Norma Nudelman and Silvina Ponce Dawson from Argentina. A document with recommendations for academies is being produced and when finished will be distributed to the academies participating in the project for their approval; subsequently the other academies will be asked if there are any points to add before general distribution.

There were a number of comments about the high quality of the new IANAS website which has been up and running for a few months.

4. There was a discussion about the somewhat negative perception that IAP seems to have of IANAS. We believe this is unwarranted, given the only difficulty is related to the complications of transferring funds.

5. The lack of vaccines in Latin-American countries as well as the Caribbean region was raised. John Hildebrand mentioned reaching policy makers on this issue is difficult. However, it was agreed get in touch with authorities in health ministries.

6. John Boright gave a short report on an NAS and the Lounsbery Foundation project. One aspect is dedicated to helping early-career scientists Latin-America through special events. For this component, a committee of 12 people from Latin-American countries is being established and the composition will be announced soon. The other component involves ACAL putting together a "Clearing House" a website where early career scientist can find content of interest such as webinars, online courses, directories, etc. A team that the ACAL put together is working on this, and has made considerable progress.

7. Marcos Cortesao mentioned the case of the Haitian academy who applied to IAP, but were unsuccessful because they are not members of IANAS. It agreed the IANAS should to get in touch with the Haitian Academy to discuss them joining IANAS, and later apply to be members of IAP.

8. Jeremy McNeil gave a short report on the Climate Change and Health project. A Steering Committee was formed with representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rico, Canada, Guatemala and the United States. Due to COVID there were no in face meeting a but after several virtual contacts an outline was prepared and a text is being written. The first draft and will soon be distributed among the members of the steering committee for review. It is expected to have a face-to-face meeting with experts before the final document is prepared, hopefully by the end of the year.

Another subject mentioned related to Forest Biofuels. EASAC is very interested to set up an EASAC - IANAS Collaboration to address this issue as forests are being cut to get woodchip as biofuels. The idea is to make a statement on this regard, mainly with the participation of United States and Canada, where this problem is located. Experts from these countries are going to meet virtually to see how this might move forward.

9. Several points of information were presented

- A meeting with the program's co-chairs took place in order to discuss activities status and new projects;
- IANAS is in the process to get registered as an organization in order to be able to better manage the funds. Everybody was in favor of the suggested plan.

- It is expected to have the IANAS General Assembly in 2022. There's no host offering at the moment, but probably IANAS will put out a call for this in sight there are a lot of expenses and organizing to be covered by the host.

The meeting ended with a discussion on writing a statement on the impact of covid in Latin-America with an emphasis on underlining inequities with respect a diversity of factors including food security, education, and access to health care. Enrique Forero indicated there was a report written last year and this could serve as a starting point. It was also noted that documents addressing these points had been prepared by the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and the Global Young Academy. Everyone was asked to send any pertinent documents to the Secretariat in the next week, so they could then be distributed to the EC.