

InterAcademy Panel on International Issues

The InterAcademy Panel on International Issues (IAP), a global network of the world's science academies, was launched in 1993. The Panel's goal is to help member academies work together to advise citizens and public officials on the scientific aspects of critical global issues. It is especially interested in assisting young and small academies achieve these goals.

IAP programs involve interdisciplinary activities and studies on critical issues related to science and technology. The IAP hopes to broaden its agenda by serving as a hub of activities for science academies interested in gaining a greater public presence within their nation and region. To this end, IAP organises international conferences, sponsors workshops, issues statements and serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences among academies. The 2004–07 agenda addressed:

- capacity building for young academies
- health education for women
- science education
- water research and management.

The IAP also has several initiatives focusing on genetically modified organisms, biosecurity, access to scientific information and natural disaster mitigation. The Australian Academy of Science is a member of the IAP Executive Committee.

The InterAcademy Panel in 2007

The InterAcademy Panel established a number of committees in the areas of fundraising and finance, evaluation, programs and strategic planning, publications and public relations, and membership. The President of the Australian Academy of Science, Professor Kurt Lambeck, is Chair of the IAP Publications and Public Relations Committee. Other members of this committee are the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities, the Académie des Sciences et Techniques du Sénégal and the United National Academy of Sciences. This group of Academies has recently put together terms of reference for the Committee.

The Academy was pleased to host the IAP Executive Committee Meeting in Canberra on 25 and 26 September 2007. The meeting was attended by representatives from eleven academies and scientific societies as well as a number of observers and guests, including the International Council for Science and the Federation of Asian Scientific Academies and Societies (FASAS).

Under the direction of the IAP Co-Chairs, Professor Chen Zhu, Minister for Health in China and Professor Howard Alper, Past-President and Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society of Canada, delegates discussed the implementation of the IAP strategic plan, membership issues and reports by a number of sub-committees.

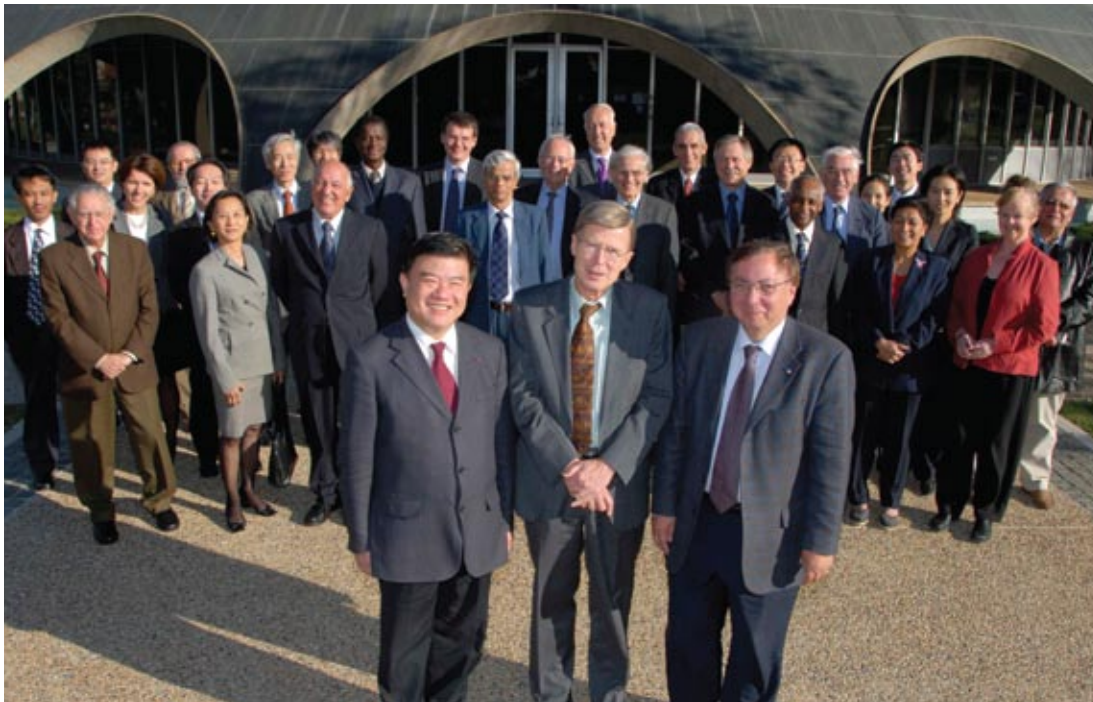


Photo: © Irene Dowdy

A meeting of the IAP Executive Committee: Professor Kurt Lambeck with IAP co-chairs, Professors Chen Zhu and Howard Alper

IAP in 2008

Professor Kurt Lambeck attended the Executive Committee Meeting held in Amsterdam on 30 and 31 January 2008, which included a joint session with the InterAcademy Council. The meeting was hosted by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The IAP meeting dealt with issues related to membership, financial reports and budgets for 2008 and 2009. Australia chairs the publications and public relations committee. A new IAP brochure was presented. The committee agreed to collect past statements made by IAP and will publish them in a booklet form as part of the record of its 15th anniversary, in September 2008. Statements on GMOs and biofuels were discussed as was an IAP Young Scientists Conference proposed for late 2008.

IAP enjoys some financial support from the Italian Government. This has enabled IAP to provide greater support for regional groupings in the developing world, such as support for FASAS and its education program.

Further information
about IAP is available at:
www.interacademies.net