

InterAcademy Panel on International Issues

The InterAcademy Panel on International Issues (IAP) is a global network of the world's science academies, launched in 1993. Its goal is to help member academies work together to advise citizens and public officials on the scientific aspects of critical global issues. IAP is particularly interested in assisting young and small academies achieve these goals and, through the communication links and networks created by IAP activities.

IAP programs involve interdisciplinary activities and studies on critical issues related to science and technology. 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 nations and regions. IAP, to this end, organises international conferences, sponsors workshops, issues statements, and serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences among academies. The 2008 and 2009 science agenda addresses the following themes:

- capacity building for young academies;
- science education;
- water research and management;
- biosecurity;
- digital knowledge resources and infrastructure in developing countries; and
- natural disaster mitigation.

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

The Academy has been involved in the IAP Science Education Program, led by the Chilean Academy of Sciences, due to its expertise in science education. In 2008 the Academy was successful in attracting funding from IAP for the primary education project *Primary Connections: Linking science with literacy* which is expected to foster collaborations with Asian countries.

Professor Kurt Lambeck attended the IAP executive committee meeting hosted by the Academies of Arts, Humanities and Sciences of Canada, in Ottawa on 8 and 9 September, and the IAP executive committee meeting held in Amsterdam, from 22 to 25 March. Professor Lambeck is also chair of the IAP publications and public relations committee that oversaw the publishing of a special 15th anniversary celebration publication containing the eleven statements that the IAP has produced since 1993 (www.interacademies.net/Object.File/Master/8/487/IAP%20StatementsPRINT-1.pdf).

The Academy has been elected to the Board of the InterAcademy Council (IAC) for the term 2009 to 2013. The IAC produces reports on scientific, technological, and health issues related to the great global challenges of our time, providing knowledge and advice to national governments and international organisations.

The 18 member IAC is composed of the presidents of 15 academies of science and equivalent organisations and representatives of the IAP of scientific academies, the International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences and the InterAcademy Medical Panel of medical academies.

The IAC secretariat is hosted by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.