

Report on the IAP Global Activities Committee Science Education Meeting French Academy of Sciences, Paris, 2 April 2011

The IAP GAC meeting in Paris was attended by Professor Kurt Lambeck, President of FASAS (Federation of Asian Scientific Academies and Societies) and Ms Shelley Peers, Project Director of Primary Connections as an invited guest.

Agenda attached

Attendance list attached

Major discussion points:

- Reports of the four regional Co-ordinators were presented.

Professor Lambeck gave a presentation on activities in the Asia-Pacific region and Ms Peers made a presentation on the current activities of Primary Connections and an update on Science by Doing.

Professor Lambeck outlined key factors for a successful science education initiative for the Asia-Pacific region: the need to train facilitators as well as introduce educative resources which promote new ways of teaching; the need for support for networks of facilitators and teachers; the need for communication between government agencies and teachers to build on existing structures; the role of academies at various stages in the process; and the need for independent evaluation of initiatives. He also outlined the importance of links with literacy and numeracy education and the emphasis on scientific literacy for all, not just the scientific elite.

There was positive feedback, in particular, on the rate of uptake of Primary Connections in Australian schools in a relatively short timeframe, and the research component of the project.

- The Draft Report of the York Conference held in October 2010 was distributed and discussed. It was decided it will be published on line, on CD and x 500 hard copies. The details of the translations required and the funding for this activity was discussed. It may be possible to include links to relevant websites (eg AAS site for Primary Connections and Science by Doing) to provide foundational work for positive impact of such projects.
- Future Global activities of the IAP GAC were discussed:
 - Mohamed Hassan retired from his position as Co-Chair of the IAP as of yesterday
 - an Asian region workshop for Primary Connections in 2012 is under consideration
 - South African focus on girls and Inquiry-Based Science Education (IBSE)
 - transitioning of IBSE into the secondary school in some regions.
- Minutes of the meeting of the AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) were distributed. Professor Lambeck was appointed Lead Organiser of the proposed 90 minute IAP Symposium to be held at the next AAAS Annual meeting in

Vancouver, Canada 16 – 20 February 2012, where Education in one of the priority areas for discussion. A funding proposal is to be submitted to the IAP as soon as possible with a Draft Agenda for the Education Symposium to include several 15 minute presentations or case studies (eg Primary Connections /Science by Doing, La Main a la Pate, African initiatives) and time for discussion. April 26, 2011 is the deadline for submissions.

- Closed Business Session:
 - seeking funding remains a key issue in developing countries who see science education as a top priority because of its importance to their future.
 - it was proposed that someone needs to make it their task to seek such funding, which should include plans for what will occur at the end of funded projects so that the initiative is sustainable

Implications and actions arising for AAS:

- Jenny Graves to be asked about her availability to attend the Vancouver Conference February 2012 to present on the Academy Education programs.
- Primary Connections and Science by Doing need to be put on the international science education scene at every opportunity
- The Mexico representative is keen to investigate the suitability of Primary Connections for their context
- The New York City representative will forward to AAS a request from East Timor for support in primary science education.

Professor Kurt Lambeck, President FASAS
Ms Shelley Peers, Project Director, Primary Connections,

Attachments:

- Attachment 1: Agenda
- Attachment 2: Attendance list

Attachment 1: Agenda, InterAcademyPanel Education Program Global Activities Committee (IAP-GAC) Paris meeting, 2 April 2011

InterAcademyPanel Education program

**Global Activities Committee
(IAP-GAC)**

Paris meeting, April 2nd, 2011

Agenda

April the 1st

1.-8. pm : Arrival and installation in Hôtel

7. pm : Dinner (optional)

April the 2nd :

Académie des sciences, Institut de France 23 quai de Conti 75006

9. am - 1. pm : Working session I, Chair: Jorge Allende

- Short reports from the 4 Regional Coordinators about the Science Education Activities organized in the Americas, Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Europe (30 minutes each).
- The translation and publication of the York Conference Report. Distribution in printed and CD formats

1. pm : Lunch

2. pm - 5.30 pm Working session II

- Discussion and preparation of Future Global Activities for 2012
- closed GAC Session with IAP Co-Chair: Revision of the Structure and Function of the Science Education Program (SEP) and the Role of the GAC as an instrument for coordination and planning of the SEP.

5. pm : Any other points & Conclusions

5.30 pm End of the meeting.

9. pm : Concert : Eglise de la Madeleine, Paris – *Requiem*, W.A. Mozart

Attachment 2: Participants to IAP-GAC meeting, Paris, April 2nd, 2011

IAP Co-chair

Mohamed HASSAN, TWAS Executive Director

Global Activities Committee members

Jorge	ALLENDE Facultad de Medicina - Universidad de Chile
Hubert	DYASI City University of New York, USA
Guillermo	FERNANDEZ de la GARZA Fundación México-estados Unidos por la Ciencia (FUMEC) Executive Director, Mexico
Wynne	HARLEN Visiting Professor at the University of Bristol Editor of <i>Primary Science Review</i> , Scotland - U.K
Kurt	LAMBECK President of Federation of Asian Scientific Academies and Societies (FASAS), Australian Academy of Science & Australian National University, Canberra
Pierre	LENA Académie des sciences, France
Norma Sbarbati	NUDELMAN Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
Patricia	ROWELL University of Alberta, Canada
Elly	SABITI TWAS Research Professor, Vice President School of Agricultural Sciences, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

Invited guests

Ruediger	KLEIN Executive Director, European Federation of National Academies, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Odile	MACCHI Académie des sciences, France
Ah. Lamine	NDIAYE Académie Nationale des Sciences et Techniques du Sénégal (ANSTS)
Jackie	OLANG The Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) Nairobi, Kenya
Shelley	PEERS Project Director Primary Connections, Australian Academy of Science
Yves	QUÈRE Académie des sciences, France