Meeting Report:

IANAS Science Funding Landscape Workshop

Guatemala City, Guatemala 26-28 July 2009

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Receipients	CAS Executive Committee

1. Introduction

1.1 The meeting was held at the Hotel Princess conference and meeting premises in Guatemala City in Guatemala on 26 and 28 July 2009.

1.2 It was attended by seventy participants from 23 countries of the Americas: Argentina; Barbados; Bolivia, Brazil; Canada; Chile; Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala,. Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico; Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Venezuela. (See list of participants in Appendix 2). The participant body included Presidents or high-level officials of 13 National S&T Councils (or equivalent organizations); 11 Rectors or official representatives from major national universities; 11 high-level officials of regional and international granting agencies and programs; and outstanding young scientists from a range of scientific disciplines.

The meeting was divided into two sessions. The first on Monday 27th July consisted of four plenary sessions with eight presentations outlining the current situation of funding and scientific outlook in Latin America and the Caribbean and representatives of CAPES, IDRC, NSF, CONACYT, UNEP AND NSERC which gave funding options available to scientists in this region. The second day Tuesday 28th July consisted of two roundtable sessions where the young scientist representatives heard presentations from representatives of TWAS, CNPq, ICSU and OAS and interacted face to face and discussed the funding options available to and challenges young scientists face.

2. Objectives

2.1 The specific objectives are:

- Increase the linkages between the National Academies of Sciences in the region, National S&T Councils (or equivalent organizations) and granting agencies and programs that provide support to S&T in the Americas.
- Provide guidance and grantsmanship support to optimize opportunities, in particular for early and mid-career scientists.

2.2 The agenda is attached (see Appendix 1).

3. Overview of Presentations in Plenary Sessions

3.1 Hernan Chaimovich stated that we are in a global crisis and that knowledge based countries although the first to suffer are the first to recover. Currently Latin American countries contribute only 3% of published papers? But a country's ability to produce papers depends on how politicians view the importance of science and technology. This can be alleviated by building stronger universities (academically) in science and technologically lagging countries and identify national priorities not only at a tertiary level.

3.2 Gabriel Macaya's presentation focused on science funding strategies where Latin American countries that produced large numbers of publications collaborated with scientists from developed countries who had access to more sources of funding. Points raised including making far ranging goals and monitor its progress,

cooperation rather than competition between scientific communities in the country and there needs to be large and active participation in research and development by the private sector.

3.3 The current funding situation in the Americas was addressed in the presentations in the third plenary session. Jorge Guimarães looked at funding in Brazil which comes from two government sources; state and federal. He identified some weaknesses like large inequalities in economics, social and educational area, poor science education for children and low motivation for science in many industrial sectors. A majority (89%) of higher educational institutions in Brazil are private. CAPES provide funding for post graduate, young and senior scientists and for individual and institutional research. He also presented the Brazilian model for science, technology and innovation which included initiation of scientific research and formation of research groups, strong post graduate programs, international cooperation ad full access to international literature (virtual library).
David O'Brien represented the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) which is funded by the Canadian government. This institution can provide funding to low to medium income countries and encourages collaborations. They are more involved in projects that involve society, such as health, agriculture and aquaculture and policy development. Halrold Stolberg represented the National Science Foundation (NSF) which provides funding to North American applicants however; scientists from this region are eligible through collaborations with North American scientists.

José de la Peña spoke on behalf of International Council of Science (ICSU) and started off his presentation by outlining the scientific grogrammes in Latin America and the Caribbean that ICSU is developing in priority areas such as natural hazards, biodiversity, alternative energy and mathematics. These programmes have gotten support from CONACYT and the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, with recommendations for these programmes being presented to governments. He also stressed the development of networks, which will connect research groups with similar interests, promotes collaboration with experts in different areas, share equipment and resources, planning, decision making and developing stronger and more competitive groups.

3.4 Graciela Metternicht representing the United Nations Educational Program (UNEP/ROLAC) emphasized UNEP's focus was on basic research geared towards current research and breaking it down to a basic level to facilitate non-scientists such as policy makers and government.

3.5 Margaret McCuiag-Johnston (NSERC)'s presentation was on funding opportunities in Canada. NSERC's main goal is advancing Canada's science and engineering knowledge thereby making Canada's scientists leaders and key players in global research. Another goal is to attract outstanding scientists including early career scientists through a series of chairs, international scholarships, collaborations between young scientists and internationally known ones.

3.6 The dinner lecture was given by Dr. Howard Alper (STI) who emphasized that most of Canada's funding is either government or from the private sector. Most of the research and development done in Canada is by the private sector and the higher education system. The Science, Technology and Innovation council was creted to address such matters. It deals with the major needs of science and technology, such as, the need for greater businees investment, use of knowledge to competitive advantage and better use of talented workforce. One such matter is dealing with the four priority research areas in science and technology; science and technology as it deals with the environment, natural resources and energy, health and related life sciences technologies and information and communicating technology.

4. Roundtable session

The roundtable sessions chaired by Dr. Juan P. Laclette co-chair of IANAS provided the young scientist representatives to interact one-on-one with representatives from major funding organisations and voice the challenges they faced as young scientists in obtaining funding and collaborating.

4.1 Marcelo Viana represented TWAS-ROLAC and gave information on the job of the regional office which included enhancing the communication between TWAS and it member in Latin America and the Caribbean, coordination of the activities and it national chapters in the region, and to support the launching of new activities for the promotion of science in the region. He also outlined activities and opportunities for young scientists like conferences for young scientists, the Young Scientist and TWAS-ROLAC awards, and the TWAS-CNPq fellowship programmes.

4.2 Dr Oscar Harasic defined the OAS and described its functions, which included policy validation, coordinating and supporting international organisations and civil society and specific functions like training and institutional strengthening. He went on to outline the function of the Department of science, technology and innovation (DSTI) which provides support to member countries in formulating national policies and strategies in science, technology, engineering and innovation (STEI). It also promotes national capacity building and institutional strengthening in science and technology and facilitates regional cooperation in STI. He also looked at some regional challenges in STEI such as ob creation, need for investment in science and technology and research and development, need for improved education in STEI, better management and protection of natural resources, ensuring food security and sustainability and increased competitiveness of economics.

4.3 CNPq was represented by José Oswaldo Siqueira who outlined the organisation's goals which included policy and funding for scientific and technological development, human resources qualification to create critical mass and scientific competence, and novel knowledge for technological innovation and social development. He assured that all proposals for research submitted to CNPq were reviewed in a far, transparent, competitive and in depth manner through its merit review process. CNPq also helps researchers at all levels of their career and research technical support staff like lab assistants. Currently their investment in research and development includes providing special programs to establish and expand research networks and collaborations as well as centres of research excellence and partnerships with state agencies for regional development and with other government sectors and organisations for projects in science and technology, and to provide funding for knowledge and technology transfer to enhance life quality and social development.

Future strategies with respect to international cooperation include promotion of human resources capacity in science and technology to expand national competence, supporting of scientific and technological development and innovation, collaboration with capacity building of undeveloped countries, and to contribute to inclusion of Brazilian groups and institutions at international scientific and technological communities.

4.4 In José de la Peña's presentation for CONACYT he outlined some of the problems in the Latin American and Caribbean region with respect to science such as, low levels of science assessments of students' achievements and investment in science and technology. There is also a low number of scientists which leave for other countries (brain drain) which has better opportunities. Brazil leads the region in numbers of scientific papers produced, and although there is an increasing number of joint publications and networking in the region, scientists in this region tend to collaborate more with colleagues in the United States of America and Europe rather than with each other. He then went on to explain CONACYT's contributions to strengthening science in this region, which included "sandwich" doctoral scholarships between two universities basic science programs integrating Mexican, central American or Caribbean researchers, creation of doctoral and postdoctoral colleges

of nanotechnology and biotechnology between Mexico and Brazil and scholarships open to students of any nationality registered at high quality graduate programs in Mexican IHES.

6. Issues raised in roundtable discussions

Many of the funding opportunities available are long-term grants lasting a number of years for large sums of money, which is intimidating for many early career scientists.
Many funding opportunities require collaboration with scientists which most scientists at the start of their career might not have any experience with.
There is an overload of information on many of the websites of the major funding institutions that presented which is distracting and overwhelming to young scientists.

Possible solutions posed:

Introduction of short-term grants for small projects.
Make it mandatory for some grants that experiences scientists must collaborate with young scientists.
Introduction of short courses and funding to attend these courses; the purpose of which is to train young scientists in certain skills or to visit institutions to receive short-term training.
Development of an IANAS website focused on young scientists, where relevant information is easily accessible.

7. Main meeting results

There is a need for emphasizing the importance of science to governments and the private sector to obtain funding in some countries.
Increase collaborations with foreign scientists in developed countries who have access to for funding opportunities.

8. Post meeting update

8.1 After discussing with IANAS co-chair Juan Laclette, Jo-Anne Nina Sewlal (Trinidad and Tobago) volunteered to head the IANAS Young Scientists Website committee based on her experience in website design as well as involvement in the American Arachnological Society's Website committee.

Appendix 1: Meeting Agenda

Sunday July, 26th 2009

Keynote Conference

19:00 – 19:45 "The Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences: Promoting S&T for Development"

- Juan Pedro Laclette; IANAS Co-Chair

20:00 Dinner

Monday July, 27th 2009

Opening Ceremony

08:30 – 09:00 Welcome Address

- Carmen Samayoa; President of the Academy of Medical, Physical and Natural Sciences of Guatemala;
- Juan Pedro Laclette – IANAS Co-Chair;
- Hernan Chaimovich; IANAS Co-Chair;
- Estuardo Galvez, Rector of the University San Carlos de Guatemala

Plenary session 1

09:00 – 09:45 "Science Funding Landscape in the Scientifically Lagging Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean Region"

- Hernan Chaimovich; IANAS Co-Chair, Vice-President of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences

Plenary session 2

09:45 – 10:30 "Science Funding Landscape in Latin America and the Caribbean Region

- Gabriel Macaya; President of the National Academy of Sciences of Costa Rica

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

Plenary Session 3

11:00 – 12:30 "Funding Science in the Americas"

Brazilian Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education (CAPES)
- Jorge Almeida Guimarães, President

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- David O'Brien, Senior Program Officer - Innovation, Policy and Science / Challenge Fund

National Science Foundation (NSF)
- Harold Stolberg, Regional coordinator, Office of International Science and Engineering (OD/OISE)

12:30 – 14:30 Lunch

Plenary Session 4

14:30 – 16:00 "Funding Science in the Americas"

ICSU Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean
- José Antonio De La Peña Mena, Chair

United Nations Environment Programme/Regional Office for latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP/ROLAC)
- Graciela Metternicht, Regional coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, Division of Early Warning and Assessment

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)
- Margaret McCuaig-Johnston, Executive Vice-President

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

16:30 – 18:00 Exchange time

18:00 – 18:45 Dinner Lecture "STI: Opportunities for Research, Development and Societal Benefit"
- Howard Alper; IAP Co-Chair

19:00 – 20:00 Marimba Concert

Tuesday July, 28th 2009

July, 28th - Morning session (9:00 - 11:00) Roundtable 1			July, 28th - Afternoon session (14:30 - 16:30) Roundtable 2		
Roundtable A	**Roundtable B**	**Roundtable C**	**Roundtable D**	**Roundtable E**	**Roundtable F**

Chair: Hernan Chaimovich **The World Bank** ▪ representative **Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas - CONICET** ▪ Marta Graciela Rovira, President RECTOR ONCyT Y SCIENTIST **BOLIVIA** **COLOMBIA** **COSTA RICA** **CUBA** **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**	Chair: Marcos Cortesão **Pan American Health Organization(PAHO/ WHO)** ▪ ....., PAHO representative in Guatemala **Comisión Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Tecnológicas (CONICYT)** ▪ Paula González, , Director of Studies and Planning Program RECTOR ONCyT Y SCIENTIST **ECUADOR** **EL SALVADOR** **GUATEMALA** **HAITI** **HONDURAS** **JAMAICA**	Chair: Juan P. Laclette **TWAS Regional Office for latin America and the Caribbean (TWAS/ROLAC)** ▪ Rafel Vicuña **Cooperation Support economic and social development of countries of the Americas (OAS)** ▪ Oscar Harasic RECTOR ONCyT Y SCIENTIST **NICARAGUA** **PANAMA** **PARAGUAY** **PERU** **TRINIDAD&TOBAGO** **VENEZUELA**	Chair: Hernan Chaimovich **Fogarty International Center/National Institutes of Health - NIH** ▪ Roger I. Glass, Director, Fogarty International Center/Associate Director for International Research, NIH RECTOR ONCyT Y SCIENTIST **BOLIVIA** **COLOMBIA** **COSTA RICA** **CUBA** **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**	Chair: Marcos Cortesão **United Nations Development Programme UNDP RBLAC** ▪ Emma Torres, Senior Adviser, UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean RECTOR ONCyT Y SCIENTIST **ECUADOR** **EL SALVADOR** **GUATEMALA** **HAITI** **HONDURAS** **JAMAICA**	Chair: Juan P. Laclette **National Counsel of Technological and Scientific Development (CNPq)** ▪ José Oswaldo de Siqueira, Diretor de Programas Temáticos e Setoriais - DPT **ICSU Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean** ▪ José Antonio De La Peña Mena, Deputy Director for Science, Conacyt Mexico RECTOR ONCyT Y SCIENTIST **NICARAGUA** **PANAMA** **PARAGUAY** **PERU** **TRINIDAD&TOBAGO** **VENEZUELA**

			16:30-17:00	Coffee break
			17:00 - 19:00	Exchange Time
11:00-11:30	Coffee break		19:00 - 19:45	Dinner Lecture
11:30-12:30	Exchange time			
12:30-14:30	Lunch		19:45 - 20:00	Closing Ceremony

Note

The RoundTables will gather the Representatives of the Funding Organizations and the Scientificaly Lagging Countries. The final Schedules for these Round Tables, as well as the composition and details for participation will be delivered June 30th, final registration date. The participants (list will be ready before the Meeting) will be divided in three groups (three separate rooms), and each group will be chaired by one member of the Organizing Committee. In round Table 1 the Funding organizations will have (up to) twenty minutes to make their presentation (60 min.,ca. three per Round Table excluding those that made presentations the first day) this will be followed by 7 min. presentations by the countries (4 countries). A detailed folder will contain instructions for the presentations by the country representatives. Round Table 2 (three separate rooms) will contain the same participants and will consist of: a) finishing, if needed, the Country presentations and starting to focus on areas of coincidence between the stated needs and the Donor´s missions. Round Table 3 (depending on the total number of participants) will center on proposals for ways ahead between countries and donors (excluding new workshops) and concrete suggestions for IANAS

Appendix 2. Final list of participants

country	name	position	Institution	email
ARGENTINA	Marta Graciela Rovira	President	National Council of Scientific and Technological Research (CONICET)	presidencia@conicet.gov.ar
BOLIVIA	Beatriz Barrera	Head of Institutional Planning	Royal Major University and Pontifficial of San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca	bbarrea@hotmail.com
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