

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.

Its 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 2004–06 science agenda addressed:

- Capacity building for young academies
- Health education for women
- Science education
- Water research and management

The Panel also has several new initiatives focussing on genetically modified organisms, biosecurity, access to scientific information and natural disaster mitigation.

Academy President Professor Kurt Lambeck attended IAP's fifth General Assembly and the triennial conference, which was devoted to The Unity of Science. Representatives from more than 60 member academies attended the event from 1–5 December at the new Alexandria Library. At the meeting, the Academy was elected to the IAP Executive Committee for 2007–09.

Evaluation of inquiry-based science education

Academy Secretary for Education and Public Awareness Professor Julie Campbell co-chaired the IAP working group evaluating inquiry-based science education (IBSE) for primary school students around the world. The working group delivered its report at a meeting in Santiago, Chile in September and subsequently to the IAP meeting in Alexandria, Egypt in December. The report outlines a process whereby those interested can undertake an evaluation process of their IBSE programs overseen by an international panel.

Professor Campbell attended the meeting in Chile with *Primary Connections* Managing Director Shelley Peers, who delivered a presentation on the *Primary Connections* project and evaluation challenges for Australia. From this meeting it was clear that *Primary Connections* is a quality, world-class project and that Australia is very well advanced in IBSE.

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