

INTER-ACADEMY PANEL : GENESIS AND EVOLUTION

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Chronology of Events

- 24th March, 1992** : Letter to Prof. P.N. Tandon, President, Indian National Science Academy from Sir Michael Atiyah, President, The Royal Society, London and Dr. Frank Press, President, National Academy of Sciences, USA asking if INSA will co-sponsor an “International Scientific Conference on the complex issue of population, resource consumption and sustainable development. [Letter available]
- 6th May, 1992** : Planning Meeting : “Population Conference, 1993 at the Royal Society, London.
- Participants : (List) : The Royal Society; US National Academy of Sciences, Australian Academy of Science, Chinese Academy of Science, INSA, The Royal Netherlands Academy of Art & Sciences, The Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Russian Academy of Science, The Royal Swedish Academy, Third World Academy (The name of participants available). (INSA’s invitation to hold the conference at Delhi unanimously approved)
- 24th – 27th October, 1993** : “Population Summit of the World’s Science Academies” – New Delhi – A Joint statement by Fifty Eight World’s Scientific Academies was issued at the end of the conference.

Sir Crispin Tickell, Green College, Oxford : in his valedictory lecture “Where do we go from here?” Excerpts from the talk. “Academies should continue through some loose association to build on the initiative of the Population Summit”.

It seems to me that the World’s Scientific Academies have today a unique opportunity if they are able to grasp it.We must recognize that continuing co-operation and co-ordination are essential if our voice is to be heard.For this purpose, I suggest that a small standing body should be established, known perhaps as the Inter – Academy Panel What would the Inter – Academy Panel do ?

It could set up working parties which would advise Academy members, Governments, UN Agencies and public opinion on scientific problems.....it could be available to take on other subjects of global and interdisciplinary character as may seem desirable in the future.

24th – 27th
October, 1993

Sir Crispin Tickell reminded the (Population) Summit that it would be sad and wrong – for the voices raised at the conference to die on the wind. There should be continuing means by which world scientists make their views known to the decision makers at all levels, including the United Nations Populations Fund.

1994 : Proceedings of the above conference edited by Sir Francis Graham Smith, Physical Secretary, The Royal Society published : “Population the Complex Reality” by the Royal Society.

26th January, 1994 : Letter by Dr. Anne McLaren : Foreign Secretary and Vice President, The Royal Society – London to 78 Science Academies across the world to elicit their views : “Would your Academy be interested as in being kept informed of the activities of a proposed Inter-Academy Panel for Population and Development (IAPPD), (b) in taking an active part in these activities. [Copy of the letter available]

29th April, 1994 : Reply received from 34 academies. It was decided to constitute a “Steering Group” of 8 – 10 members including the four lead academies. (The Royal Society, The US National Academy of Sciences, The Royal Swedish Academy and the Indian National Science Academy). (Document Available).

August, 1994 : IAPPD provided a platform (at a Plenary Session of the Conference) to present the Population Summit Statement at the UN Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) at Cairo : 5 – 13 September, 1994. (P.N. Tandon presented the statement at (Statement Available).

6th January, 1995 : On the invitation of Prof. S.K. Joshi, President, INSA first Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Inter Academy Panel on Population and Development (IAPPD). The name of the

Panel was changed from IAPPD to “Inter-Academy Panel on International Issue” was held at the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi.

(Agenda Papers – Available. Draft – Decision Summary – Available)

[16 Academies : originally constituted the Membership of the “ad hoc” steering committee : (Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Caribbean, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Iran, Nigeria, Kenya, TWAS, FASAS, United States, Royal Society, Sweden. Prof. Menon the President of ICSU was an invited participant. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the underlined ones plus China]

Decided the following:

- : • Two Co-chairs: P.N. Tandon, Former President, INSA and F. Sherwood Rowland, Foreign Secretary, National Academy of Sciences, USA.**
- Secretariat: The Royal Society, London.**
- News Letter: To be edited by the Royal Swedish Academy along with an academy representing a developing country. (TWAS volunteered)**

14th June, 1995

- Letter sent to all science academies by two Co-chairs : “Communications Survey” and “Programmatic Survey” along with “Draft minutes of 6th January, 1995 meeting” formally establishing the Inter Academy Panel for International Affairs. (Copy Available)**
- At the January meeting at Delhi as a follows-up action, French Academy undertook to explore possible activities in the field of reproductive health, maternal and child health and Conference of German Academies offered to host a working group meetings to help formulate an action plan in these broad fields. US National Academy decided to hold a meeting in connection with the forthcoming UN conference Habitat II.**

18th Sept. 1995

- : 7th August, 1995: Letter to all academies from Co-Chairs informing that the Royal Society has accepted to host the Secretariat of IAP.**

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- 19th Sept. 1995** **A meeting of some of the members of the Steering Committee Anne McLaren (the Royal Society. London) Sherwood Rowland (USNAS) Carl Olaf Jacobson (the Royal Swedish Academy) and M. Fortes (Mexican Academy) was held at Cambridge – wherein a decision was taken to hold the next meeting of the Steering Committee Meeting at Washington in January, 1996. On the request of Mr. Wally N’dow, the Secretary General of 1996, UN Habitat II Conference to provide inputs to this conference on the lines of Population Conference, it was decided to organize a workshop on Habitat, on the day following the Steering Committee Meeting and examine the Interim Draft “Global Plan of Action” prepared by the Preparatory Committee for the UN Conference on Human Settlements.**
- 22nd January, 1996** **: Meeting of the Steering Committee at Washington. The agenda included : Report on Plans for IAP Participation in Habitat – II Conference at Istanbul, Planning for IAP activities in Population and Development; Report on IAP Communications Survey & IAP Issue Survey, Inter Academy Electronic Communication, Proposals for New IAP activities. At this meeting a draft on The Sustainability Transition prepared by the Board of Sustainable Development of the National Research Council (USNAS) was discussed.**
- Besides other things, it was decided to hold a 2000 IAP Conference on the Sustainability Transition. French Academy proposed for a study on Energy Resources & Consumption, US Academy’s project on Global commons and inputs from regional conferences on the subject would form the basis of the proposed conference. Swedish Academy proposed initiating discussion on capacity building in developing countries which may constitute an input to UNESCO proposed summit on higher education. (List of Steering Committee Members available and the Minutes of the meeting available).**
- 23rd – 24th January, 1996** **: Washington : Workshop on Science and Technology and the Future of Cities. (Agenda with background paper available also list of participants and draft prepared by the USNAS, Copy of short note to N’Dow and a draft prepared by 15 academies for circulation to all academies).**
- March, 1996** **: First IAP New Letter published. (Copy available)**

- 14th March, 1996** : **Statement on UN Habitat Conference circulated for endorsement by the IAP member academies.**
(Copy available)
This was compiled on the basis of inputs received from 30 academies on the January, 1996 draft.
- 31st May – 1st June, 1996** : **Habitat – II Forum of National Academies of Science and Engineering; Co-sponsored by IAP, Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences. Hosted by the Turkish Academy of Sciences : Istanbul.**

[Agenda, List of Participants and Recommendations to the UN Habitat – II Conference held at Istanbul a few days later – available.

IAP Co-chairs Drs. Sherry Rowland, P.N. Tandon and Hans Forsberg, President CAETS made a presentation of a statement on behalf of 72 member academies of IAP to a plenary session of the UN Conference.
- July 1996** : **Francois Gros, Secetaire Perpetual, Institut De France, Academies Des Sciences informed that the French Academy was starting a collaborative action with IAP on <Maternal and Child Health in Developing Countries > based on the recommendation of a meeting organized in Paris on May 23rd & 24th in the name of the IAP. (Papers of this meeting available).**
- 28th September, 1996** : **Meeting of the Steering Committee at USNAS, Washington. Constitution of a Sustainability Transition Coordinating Committee (STCC) consisting of the following academies : Brazilian, Caribbean, Chinese, Hungarian, Indian, Science Council Japan, Malaysian, South Africa, Swedish, TWAS, Royal Society, USNAS). (Text of memorandum issued available). Discussion on ICSU Programme of Capacity Building.**
- November, 1996.** : **Second New Letter Issued. (Copy Available)**
- 12th – 13th September, 1997** : **Rio de Janeiro : 12.9.97 1st Meeting of the STCC and Steering Committee Meeting of IAP (Related papers available along with framework of Core Issues for the 2000 conference)**
- January, 1998** : **IAP Newsletter Issued. (Copy Available)**

- 27th September, 1998** : Meeting of the Steering Committee of IAP held at Tobago on the invitation of the Caribbean Academy of Sciences (Following a meeting of the 10th anniversary Caribbean Academy of Trinidad).
- (Minutes available along with a discussion paper prepared by Peter Collins of the Royal Society, “The Role of Academies in Advising National Governments”).
- 28th May, 1999** : Invitation received from Organizers of the World Conference on Science (UNESCO & ICSU) to be held at Budapest 26 June – 1 July, 1999 for participation of IAP. – Copy of the letter available.
- 27th June, 1999** : IAP organized a Round Table on Sustainable Development during the World Conference on Science at Budapest. (Agenda with abstracts of talks available).
- 25th June – 1st July, 1999** : Budapest – (It was during this meeting that informal consultations regarding a proposal by Bruce Alberts, President, US-NAS to constitute an Inter Academy Council were initiated).
- 27th September, 1999** : Steering Committee Meeting at CAIRO and meeting of STCC in conjunction with the ICSU General Assembly – (September 25 – 30).
- (Agenda : Update on Transition to Sustainability Project, French and Swedish Academy project on Mother and Child Health, Future of IAP and its relation to other bodies : ICSU, UNESCO, ALLEA. Informal discussion continued on the proposed Inter Academy Council) -(Copies Available).
- 20th December, 1999** : Formal note on Proposed Inter Academy Council circulated to all Member Academies of IAP by the two Co-chairs. (Copy Available)
- 30th January, 2000** : Zurich – Davos : Meeting of the President of Ten Scientific Academy along with IAP Co-chairs on the invitation of the World Economic Forum. (Discussions on Challenges of the 21st Century : Role of S&T, Proposed Inter Academy Council, IAP Draft Statement on Transition to Sustainability to be issued after the Tokyo Conference. (Papers connected with these meetings in a separate file).

- 14th May, 2000** : **IAP Steering Committee at Tokyo** : A constitution committee (IAC – CC) to be Chaired by Prof. Yves Quere and consisting of Prof. Eduardo Kreger, Prof. P.N. Tandon and Dr. Winnacker was constituted during the meetings at Zurich – Davos. It presented the proposed constitution of IAC for consideration by the IAP Steering Committee. In the meanwhile a questionnaire was sent to all members of IAP to which 37 members had responded. There was a strong support both for IAP to continue and IAC to be established closely associated with IAP. It was decided that the following would constitute the initial membership of the IAC Board : Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, TWAS, UK, USA. Peter Collins provided a summary of the work of IAP up-to-date – (Copy Available).
- 15th – 18th May, 2000** : A very successful Conference of the World Scientific Academies on “Transition to Sustainability: in the 21st Century was organized at the Tokyo International Forum. The Conference was opened by the Emperor of Japan and a key-note address was delivered by Dr. Amartya Sen NL. The Conference had six major sessions on (1) Energy (2) Food (3) Water (4) Population and Health (5) Consumption (6) Education and Information. Distinguished experts in the field from all over the world gave invited lectures and in-depth discussions. Mr. Kofi Annen, Secretary General, United Nations sent a message to the Conference. (Copy Available). A statement approved by nearly 80 science academies was released on the occasion.
- 19th May, 2000** : **Plenary Meeting of the IAP** : Representatives of over 40 academies attended the meeting, 35 of whom were proposed or volunteered to serve on the Steering Committee. However, after detailed discussion it was decided to abolish the Steering Committee in its present form and to create a “Consultative Committee” with whom the IAP leadership would interact (by email, if possible) from time to time. By secret ballot, those present, elected Professor Eduardo Krieger (Brazil) and Professor Yves Quere (France) as the two Co-chairs to succeed P.N. Tandon (India) and Sheery Rowland (USA). It was also decided to shift the secretariat to TWAS at Trieste – Italy. A new provisional Executive Committee was also constituted. (Ex-Officio : Two Co-Chairmen, Members, Caribbean, China, India, Sweden, UK and One IAC Co-Chairman (Ex-officio : Bruce Albert) and Host Academy : TWAS (ex-officio). It was agreed that now IAP needed a minimalist constitution – a set of operating procedures : USNAS reported that it would continue to develop IAP website.

