

### The InterAcademy Partnership in 2023 Highlights for Policymakers

The InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) is a global network of some 150 academies of science, engineering and medicine working together to provide independent expert advice on scientific, technological and health issues.

#### IAP as an Independent Advisor

In August 2023, the UN Secretary General invited IAP to be part of the system of networks that are associated with the newly constituted **Scientific Advisory Board**. IAP stands ready to work with the advisory board to provide independent insights on science, engineering and medicine to achieve sustainable development.

#### Scientific Advisory Board's Design and Membership



#### **Strategic Priorities**

Following a process of review, development and consultation with member academies, the **2024-2026 IAP Strategic Plan** was finalized with four updated Strategic Priorities:

- **Build** the capacity of and empower academies, including young academies and global or regional networks of academies, to provide reliable, independent, authoritative advice on global, regional and national issues.
- **Promote** education, research, science literacy, public discourse and engagement in science, engineering and medicine to support global sustainability.
- **Partner** with international scientific and other organizations in addressing important global issues and to respond in a timely manner during crises.
- **Expand** visibility, accessibility, outreach and impact of reports, statements and other activities of the IAP, its regional networks and its member academies.



Also, in support of the role of scholarly academies in providing credible, independent advice, IAP collaborated with the International Science Council (ISC) to produce the **ISC-IAP Joint Statement on threats to the autonomy of academies of science as mechanisms for science advice**. The Joint Statement, available <u>here</u>, is an outcome of a meeting between the leadership of the two organizations that took place in Paris, France, in May 2023.



## Key IAP events in 2023

Since 2003, IAP has been implementing a global **Science Education Programme (SEP)** with the objective of improving science education in primary and secondary schools around the globe, specifically by promoting the inquiry-based science education (IBSE) approach.

On 15-16 March, the IAP SEP held its **triennial science education conference**, hosted by the Hassan II Academy of Sciences and Technology in Rabat, Morocco. The invited experts, together with guests from the Moroccan Ministry of Education, discussed the latest developments in promoting IBSE and progress in establishing science centres/museums in Africa, where they are lacking in many countries. IAP issued four small grants to support the establishment of such centres in Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana and Sudan. Morocco is also developing a science centre without IAP support.

IAP completed the 'Climate Change and Health' regional-to global project in 2022. This project followed the IAP signature model of four independent regional studies and reports for Europe (in 2019), Asia and Oceania (2021) and Africa and the Americas (2022), contributing content to IAP's 2022 global synthesis report. In 2023, with funding from Save the Children, IAP carried out a follow-on project to develop a book on 'Climate Change Adaptation for Health: Systems-based approaches to formulating solutions and guiding policy'. Following an open call, the authors of 15 case studies were selected to attend a workshop in Trieste, Italy, in September, to share their case studies and discuss the policy implications. A summary of the workshop deliberations was published as a science policy brief and presented at COP28 in Dubai.

A second IAP-led session at **COP28** focused on <u>'The Role of Academies in Climate Policy</u> <u>Advice'</u>. The six speakers, including one from the collaborating partner, the New Voices programme of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.



Above: members of the IAP SEP Global Council at the <u>Hassan II Academy of Sciences and</u> <u>Technology (H2AST)</u> in Rabat, Morocco. Below: postcard and group photo for the two IAP side-events at COP28 in Dubai.





Through these two events at COP28, IAP has not only raised its profile at the highest levels of global decision-making on climate issues, but has highlighted the critical need of credible science and the requirement of the latest scientific information to influence policy.



### Key IAP events in 2023









The 2023 cohort the IAP **Young Physician Leaders (YPL) programme**, comprising 18 emerging leaders working in medicine and public health from 15 countries, convened in Berlin, Germany, at the World Health Summit (WHS) in October. Following two days of leadership training and peer learning, the YPL prepared a session for <u>presentation at the WHS</u>. IAP now has 253 alumni of this programme.

IAP launched a new **webinar series** with the goal to share lessons learned on topics of regional and global interest across its member academies. The first webinar, 'Promoting Ethics and Integrity in Scientific Research and Practice' was held in October, co-hosted with the Royal Irish Academy. The recording of the webinar is available for viewing <u>here</u>.

IAP-co-president, Peggy Hamburg participated at the **STS Forum** in October in Kyoto, Japan, where she introduced the Koji Omi Memorial Lecture presented by Svante Pääbo, Director of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany, a global leader on ancient DNA and the genomics of human evolution. Hamburg also participated in the STS Forum side event, the Academy of Science Presidents' Meeting, which this year focused on 'Recovery and Conservation of the Ocean's Ecosystems and Biodiversity'.

IAP Coordinator, Peter McGrath, was invited to the Second Working Group Meeting on **Science and Technology of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC)** in Geneva, Switzerland, in August 2023, where he gave two presentations to States Parties' delegates: on 'Capacity Building Programmes for Science and Technology in the Global South' in the session on 'International Cooperation and Assistance', and on IAP's experience of mechanisms of policy advice in the session on 'Scientific and Technological Developments'.

IAP co-president Masresha Fetene is a member of the **Steering Committee for the World Science Forum (WSF)** scheduled for November 2024 in Hungary. The WSF is hosted by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, while other entities such as UNESCO, ISC and EASAC are also involved in the Steering Committee.



# **Key publications**

'<u>Climate Change Adaptation for Health:</u> <u>Systems-based approaches to</u> <u>formulating solutions and guiding</u> <u>policy</u>' Science Policy Brief – released during COP28 – see page 2.

'<u>The Future of Research Evaluation: A</u> <u>Synthesis of Current Debates and</u> <u>Developments</u>' – This collaboration between IAP, the International Science Council (ISC) and the Global Young Academy (GYA) sets the scene for ongoing deliberations on how scientists and their careers are assessed.

Based on its <u>'Food and Nutrition</u> <u>Security and Agriculture</u>' (FNSA) project, IAP contributed to five chapters to the Springer publication 'Science and Innovations for Food Systems Transformation'

The '<u>IAP Annual Report 2022</u>' provides more detail of IAP's major activities.



Joachim von Braun Kaosar Afsana Louise O. Fresco <u>Moh</u>amed Hag Ali Hassan *Editors* 

Science and Innovations for Food Systems Transformation





## **Grants provided**

Following the success of the IAP report on '<u>Combatting Predatory</u> <u>Academic Journals and Conferences</u>' (2022), IAP continued work on the topic and provided support to a consortium of four member academies to create awareness-raising campaigns and develop training and mentorship resources.

IAP provided a contribution to the GYA to support the participation of its members from low- and middle-income countries to the annual conference and Annual General Meeting, held in Kigali, Rwanda, in June. A <u>conference statement and report</u> are now available.

The Australian Academy of Science -in collaboration with the Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia and Oceania (AASSA) and with financial support from IAP-, implemented the <u>STEM Women Global</u> network, an international portal that aims to highlight the expertise and achievements of women scientists from around the world, including making them available to journalists for interviews. Currently it hosts the profiles of 1,194 women scientists from 92 countries, and during 2023 received nearly 5,000 unique visits.







## **IAP's Regional Networks**

Four Regional Networks of academies – the Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia and Oceania (AASSA), the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC), the Inter-American Network of Academies of Science (IANAS) and the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) – are integral to IAP's operations. They ensure that the work IAP implements at the global level includes regional perspectives and relevance, and also that our work is effectively disseminated. 2023 highlights from the Regional Networks include:

**AASSA** through its member academies in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Turkiye, supported a series of four workshops at the science-policy interface. The event, hosted by the National Academy of Sciences Sri Lanka, focused on 'Institutionalizing Science Advice to Governments', the deliberations of which were presented in the '<u>Colombo Declaration</u>'.



**EASAC** released a 'Statement on <u>Deep Sea Mining</u>' and a major report on '<u>The Future of Gas</u>', both of which were presented in Brussels, Belgium, to members of the European Commission, among other constituents.

**IANAS** published a report on '<u>Water and Health in the Americas</u>' and launched a new project on "Science for and by the Amazon" with a high-level inaugural meeting and publication of the <u>Manaus Letter</u>, which sets out the intention of the academies in Amazonian countries to work together to bring attention to issues relating to the Amazon biome.

**NASAC** organized the Annual Meeting of Africa Science Academies (AMASA-2023) in partnership with the Academy of Sciences of South Africa and GenderInSITE on the topic 'Integrating Gender Equity in STEM Education: The Role of Science Academies'. NASAC also continues to work collaboratively with IAP on the study titled '<u>Decarbonisation of</u> <u>Transport in Africa</u>'; a report is expected to be released in the second quarter of 2024.



The working group of the Decarbonisation of Transport study met in June 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. In the photo, IAP and NASAC with WG members from Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia.





Water and Health in the Americas IANAS Water Program EDITORS Ricardo Izurieta Katherine Vammen Adriana Campos Ismael Hoare Enrique Teran



### **Other contributions to Science and Policy**

IAP has an ongoing project with the **Smithsonian Science Education Center (SSEC)** to produce a series of community educational guides based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – the '<u>Science for Global Goals</u>' project. According to SSEC director, Carol O'Donnell, a member of the IAP SEP Global Council: "From an idea originally proposed at the 2016 Global Council meeting in Chile, eight such guides have been produced, with three more in preparation. With our outreach efforts, we estimate to have reached 41,000 educators and 4.7 million students in 88 countries."

Based on her contributions to the IAP **'Food and Nutrition Security and Agriculture' (FNSA)** project and its follow-on activities, including contributions to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, Elizabeth Hodson de Jaramillo (Colombia) has been appointed to the Scientific Advisory Committee to the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, created as an outcome of the Food Systems Summit and hosted by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).



The IAP Board and Advisory Committee convened in Rome, Italy, on 30-31 October, hosted by the *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei*.



#### Social media numbers/growth:

IAP's communications strategy centres around its website and social media interactions. In numbers (comparing 2022 and 2023): IAP website **visitor sessions** increased from 295,520 to 458,693, and the **number of users** from 275,016 to 431,957.

In 2023, 67 **news items** were published on the IAP website to highlight IAP activities, news and opportunities from our network.

IAP continued to expand its social media presence: Followers of IAP's X (formerly Twitter) profile (*@*IAPartnership) increased by 18% (from 5,437 to 5,761). IAP's <u>LinkedIn</u> page increased its number of followers during the year from 2,365 to 3,179 (a growth of almost 30%). IAP's <u>YouTube</u> channel is also an integral part of IAP's social communication strategy. It now hosts 68 videos and has reached 203 subscribers. The IAP e-bulletin (two issues in 2023) and the IAP Young Physician Leaders (YPL) newsletter also continue to be important assets for IAP's communication activities, with a total of 2,476 subscribers.

The IAP Secretariat in Trieste is hosted by: The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) ICTP Campus, c/o TWAS Strada Costiera 11 - 34151 Trieste, Italy

The IAP Secretariat in Washington DC is hosted by: The U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine 500 Fifth St. NW - Washington, DC 20001, United States

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