

## Chairperson's Summary

### Second Inter-Governmental Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)

March 27-28, 1997, Tokyo, Japan

#### Summary Report from the Chairperson, Mr. Hironori Hamanaka

This Meeting was attended by representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United States of America, and observers from [IHDP](#), [ENRICH](#), [SASCOM](#), [TEACOM](#), and the International [START](#) Secretariat.

#### 1. Opening

Welcome and opening remarks were given by Mr. Tsuneo Suzuki, Parliamentary Vice Minister of the Environment Agency of Japan, on behalf of Ms. Michiko Ishii, Minister of State, Director-General of the Environment Agency. He emphasized:

- Japan's commitment to helping solve global change problems, including the holding of the Third Conference of the Parties for the Framework Convention on Climate Change in Kyoto in December this year, and
- the necessity of integration of natural science with social sciences, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

He expressed the hope that the APN can help strengthen collaboration on global change research in the APN countries.

#### 2. Selection of Chair and Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Hironori Hamanaka of Japan was selected as Chairperson, and Mr. Aca Sugandhy of Indonesia was selected as Vice-Chairperson. The agenda was adopted as proposed.

#### 3. Report from the Scientific Planning Group Meeting

The Director of the Interim Secretariat introduced the Summary Report from the Co-chairpersons of the SPG. He indicated that the SPG had proposed support for several projects, and that its conclusions left room for consideration of proposals by the APN Steering Group, e.g. on the climate issues raised at the very recent meetings in Indonesia.

The Director of the International START Secretariat suggested that a good approach for the proposed 1999 Open Meeting on Human Dimensions would be

to embed it in a more broadly based Global Change Forum as a means of bringing all the different elements of global change research together.

The Chairman of the IHDP Scientific Committee endorsed the SPG proposals. He said they would be good for human dimensions development in the region, that it would be useful to inform the IHDP Secretariat of the developing activities as it may be able to help with their progress, and suggested suitable text be included in the next IHDP newsletter.

An Indonesian representative pointed out that the APN was emerging as one of the strong global change research groups in the human dimensions field and reminded the meeting of the need to take account of several common issues as these activities developed: (1) ensuring a clear focus for each activity (2) geographical representation, and (3) capacity building involving cooperative efforts and partnerships. A representative from Japan indicated that these proposals confirmed that a streamlined development had occurred over a couple of years. A suggestion from the representative from Malaysia that assessment arrangements would have to be built into the programme was accepted.

The Meeting endorsed the Co-chairpersons' Report of the SPG and authorized the Interim Secretariat to support projects in accordance with its suggestions.

#### **4. Procedures for Selecting Research Topics**

Some drafting suggestions for the draft Procedures for Selection of Research Topics and Workshop Activities were made and accepted. These are included in the attached Procedures document. In discussion there was suggestion of the need to develop criteria and guidelines as soon as possible, and to make sure that these draw on and are consistent with previous APN discussions, especially on APN research fields. The Director indicated that the Interim Secretariat intended to send a draft to all SPG members soon, so that criteria and guidelines, including on who can apply, can be promulgated well before September, the proposed deadline for proposals.

There was some discussion about the problems that may arise where both APN and national programme funds are sought. There was a suggestion that using an endorsement process involving national global change committees might help. There were other suggestions on criteria and guidelines that the Interim Secretariat indicated it would take into account. These covered issues such as ensuring benefit for developing countries, cooperation and partnerships, collaboration between developing and developed countries, and the need for a common reporting format. A representative of the United States advised that it would be possible to work with the [IAI](#) in this development phase, as it already had considerable relevant experience.

## **5. Revisions in Mandate of Steering Group**

The Director in introducing the proposed new mandate indicated that the major change involved giving the Steering Group the task of assisting with development of APN funding arrangements. The proposals were accepted.

## **6. Financial Report and Budget**

The Director presented the APN financial report for the fiscal year 1996-97 and explained the draft budget for fiscal year 1997-98. He and the Chair explained that the Japanese national budgetary process had not been completed, but this might occur within a week. There were some minor changes suggested to the report documents, for example, to reflect the contributions from SASCOM and India's National Physical Laboratory to the Human Dimensions Workshop and START contributions to the Lucc workshop. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the Environment Agency of Japan for the generous support illustrated by the report.

There was recognition that there will be requests to accommodate some as yet unfunded initiatives in the SPG report, such as the proposed workshops on land use issues and climate issues. It was pointed out that some of last year's contribution from the United States could be available to help with these. There was also recognition that the Steering Group may need to review priorities as the year developed, and that consideration of the budget proposals suggested that in future, greater clarity may be needed about possible matching of funds to activities accepted by the SPG.

A representative from Japan proposed that in the future items be grouped together under a limited number of categories, such as operations and research themes. He said this would be helpful for potential donors.

The Director indicated that the various points made can be taken into account in the future.

A representative from the United States advised that on behalf of the United States Global Change Program, he could confirm continued support involving \$250,000 (approximately 30 million yen) for the fiscal year 1997-98 to support the broadening of participation by developing countries in APN activities. He said he would discuss the details of how this might be applied to the APN activities with the APN Interim Secretariat and the International START Secretariat. The Meeting thanked the United States for its continued generous support.

## **7. Financing for APN**

In introducing this topic, the Chairperson said that it covered a very important issue. The paper could stimulate thoughts for the Steering Group to consider, and there need be no attempt to draw conclusions at the Meeting. Representatives raised and discussed the following issues:

- establishing links with political processes and international conventions would provide a sound basis for securing greater funding,
- securing adequate political backing for APN will make fundraising easier,
- some more attention by APN to technology transfer and applied research, some of which would be marketable, could help attract private sector involvement; the private sector could even be involved in APN meetings,
- making APN arrangements easily accessible to the private sector, e.g. through the Homepage could indicate to private companies involved in research where there is potential for mutually satisfactory joint arrangements between them and APN interests,
- the APN could usefully link research, government, and private sector interests, thereby becoming more attractive for financing,
- reliance on funding from the Global Environment Facility alone may not be enough,
- consideration of levy possibilities inevitably raises institutional issues such as membership and participation rules,
- the lack of formality in APN arrangements is probably a constraint on raising funds from member countries,
- there should be clear recognition that investment in national programmes relating to global change research can be an effective way to support international efforts such as those of APN, and
- a more systematic approach to financing and institutional arrangements would help overcome the fairly ad hoc decision making that has occurred on this occasion.

A representative of the United States provided some elaboration of the approach taken by the IAI, which has a system involving core, programme, and project funds, and levy arrangements. It was noted that although the APN would no doubt develop its individual approach, there would be much to learn from the IAI experience. The Director confirmed that the IAI is routinely invited to APN meetings, and that IAI similarly invites the APN to send representatives to its meetings, but so far it has been difficult for regular attendance to be arranged. A representative of the United States advised that some IAI representatives could visit to work with the Steering Group if desired.

Further work is to be done by the Steering Group and Interim Secretariat during the coming year so that options can be circulated during the year and considered at the 1998 Inter-Governmental Meeting.

## **8. Rules of Procedure of IGM and SPG**

## 1. Rules of Procedure of IGM

The Director introduced the draft Rules, explaining that the APN had reached a point where establishment of rules for meetings seemed desirable. The drafts were based on provisions in some existing international arrangements.

A representative of the United States suggested that the two sets of Rules and the provisions on the mandate of the Steering Group might be combined into one document.

Many suggestions about the Rules were made. They are to be taken into account in revised drafts that the Interim Secretariat will circulate and review again in the light of any further comments received, with a view to sending out final versions before the next IGM. The Rules prepared on this basis could be used at the next IGM and SPG, with any further changes made in the light of experience.

The points made at the meeting that would be taken into account in the revision process were:

- include a preamble, perhaps based on reference to United Nations activities (Indonesia undertook to provide some suggested words),
- the term "nominate" could be replaced by "designate,"
- the Rule might encourage the inclusion of SPG members in country delegations,
- clarify the rights and obligations of country representatives and observers,
- provisions should be made for attendance by the Co-chairpersons from the SPG,
- the reference to other international organizations should be broadened to cover any international organizations considered relevant, especially for APN research activities,
- donors should be invited as observers,
- provision should be made for private sector observers,
- consideration needs to be given to whether there should be one or two Vice Chairs; a continuing role between meetings for the office holders supports two,
- provisions should be made for the election of officers for a term, to recognize the need for a continuing role, e.g. the Chair on the Steering Group,
- the detailed provisions of Rules of Order and Debate could be omitted,
- the provision on decision making could be worded differently to emphasize the consensus element,

- a mechanism for dealing with situations where a decision was needed where there was not consensus should be developed, without departing from the general spirit that consensus should be the basic principle,
  - the provision on Summary Records could be reworded and provision made in the Rules for the keeping of records and associated documents generally by the Secretariat,
  - an "Entry into Force" provision would be preferable to "Enforcement," and
  - a reference to Liaison Officers could be included.
2. **Rules of Procedure of SPG**
- It was accepted that many of the points made on the Rules of the IGM would be applicable when revising the Rules for the SPG. The following points apply specifically to the SPG:
- the tasks for the SPG could be included,
  - the reference throughout should be to 'members',
  - the membership provisions should reflect the position that members act for a term in a personal capacity, and that the selection of members by countries should include the criterion that the person is knowledgeable about global change research activities generally so that they can contribute positively to a wide range of APN interests,
  - provision could be made for alternates,
  - consideration could be given to what, if any, provision should be made should a member continue to fail to attend,
  - the provision for Co-chairs should involve a term covering at least two successive meetings,
  - provision is needed to refer to the obligation of the SPG to report to the IGM, and
  - records of SPG meetings need to be circulated more widely than to the members, in particular to the APN governments.

## 8. Other Business

### 1. Name of Secretariat

The Meeting endorsed the suggestion from the Director that the Interim Secretariat henceforth be permanently described as the Secretariat. A representative from Japan confirmed that this change reflected a positive and active position of support by the Environment Agency of Japan for the long term development of the APN.

The Meeting unanimously expressed its highest appreciation for this generous offer.

### 2. Co-chairpersons of the Next SPG

The Director raised the need to clarify the question of Co-

chairpersons of the SPG over the coming year. He proposed that Dr. Aprilani Soegiarto and Prof. Keiji Higuchi continue in the roles. The meeting endorsed this proposal, which was accepted by the Co-chairpersons with appreciation for the confidence of the delegates.

### 3. **Australian Comments**

The Australian representative advised that the Australian contribution to the meeting had been limited because of the need to await the outcome of several reviews under way in Australia about the scope, scale, organization, and management of publicly funded research activities. He went on to relate some positions taken by the Australian Environment Department in the review process that seemed to be relevant to APN activities, such as:

- change, including global change, is inevitable and should not be seen as simply a negative,
- human dimensions elements of global change are extremely important,
- a transdisciplinary approach should be encouraged, and
- researchers should convey their research outcomes to the general public by putting them into easily understandable contexts, such as bio-cultural landscape concepts.

### 4. **IHDP Report**

The Chairman of the IHDP Scientific Committee provided an update on IHDP developments. He informed the Meeting of a calendar of likely events, including proposed activities at the Open Meeting at Laxenburg, Austria, in June 1997. He said that at the moment, the points underlying IHDP development were:

- the need to study interactions between nature and society,
- a bottom-up approach,
- the use of programmes already underway or in preparation at the national or regional level as a main focus of IHDP,
- modesty and reluctance about developing its own large scale programmes,
- a primary role as a service institution,
- high priority for achieving a stronger profile and greater involvement by social science in global change research, and
- a special emphasis on regional and cultural diversity.

## **9. Chairperson's Summary**

A Chairperson's Summary record of the meeting was endorsed by the Meeting.

## **10. Next Meeting**

The Director advised that Australia had offered to host the next SPG at Canberra in late 1997 or early 1998, and that China had offered to host

the next IGM in Beijing in late March 1998.

The Meeting accepted these offers with appreciation.

The Meeting expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government of Japan for hosting this Meeting, and to the Secretariat for its excellent organizing of the Meeting.