

Lessons learned and good practices for knowledge and research capacity building in the Americas

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INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

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19. **Venezuela**



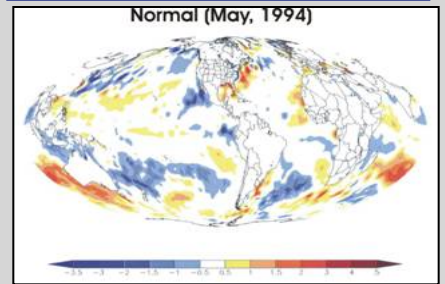
Objectives

- ✓ Enhance scientific capacity in the Americas
- ✓ Study the impacts of environmental problems
- ✓ Provide useful information and advice to policymakers

Core Values: scientific excellence, international cooperation and full and open data exchange.

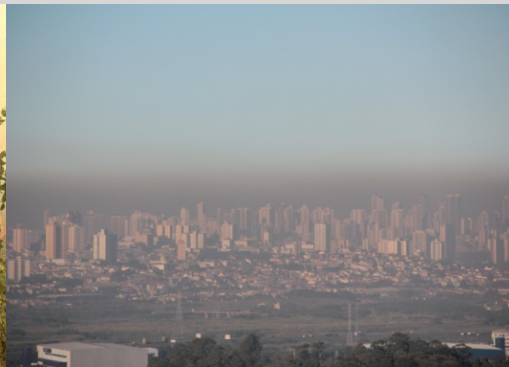


Normal (May, 1994)



Why integrated multi-disciplinary research and training?

- Complex and multiple interactions in global change
- Multiple answers, approaches, methodologies
- Knowledge dialogue between scientists and society
- Social and political exchange: decision makers are the users of scientific information (in the context of development needs)
- Co-design development and participation throughout the process



IAI Capacity-building Professional Development Seminars

- Uses current scientific knowledge
- Analytical tools and communication mechanisms
- Creates dialogue btw science and policy, interaction with users
- Identifies best practices in policy
- Fosters professional collaboration networks
- Identifies research gaps
- Creates alliances with government, society, academia, industry
- Consultative and participatory process



IAI Capacity-building

1999-2014:

42 capacity-building activities

1595 professionals trained

46 countries, including 19 member countries

Leveraged funds & in-kind contribution: US\$ 800,000

2011-2015:

Second round of Training Institute Seed Grant Program (TISG)
associated with Training Institutes/Professional Development
Seminars (2011-2014)

funded 11 interdisciplinary research

59 professionals

total cost to the program only US\$218,468



IAI Collaborative Research Programs

2005-2013 (CRN2 + SGP-HD projects)

223 researchers in 122 institutions

786 students received scholarships

2,000 students trained

Leveraged funds: 37 million

2011-2015 (CRA projects)

76 researchers in 53 institutions

178 students, 86 with scholarships

208 students in workshops & training provided

Leveraged funds: 24.5 million

2013-2017 (CRN3 projects)

131 investigators in 71 institutions

155 students, 66 with scholarships

186 participated in workshops & training

Leveraged funds so far: 8.7 million



Lesson learned

Example: Seed Grant project

Seed Grant Project resulting from Professional Seminar: “Is my city ready for climate change?” PI Fernando Aragon-Durand, Mexico, 2014-2015 (funding: \$20,000!)

Analysis of the linkages between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in Latin American cities.

“The 3 case studies in Bogota, Montevideo and Santo Domingo showed that there is a need to place urban areas in the center of climate change adaptation policy in these countries. This can be done by improving existing flood risk reduction measures and actions. Scientific knowledge of weather-related and climatic hazards is very relevant but insufficient. We found differences between scientific and policy knowledge in terms of evidence used to justify disaster risk claims, this needs to be acknowledged by various stakeholders involved in climate change adaptation both at city and national levels”.



Lesson learned

Example: Collaborative Research Networks (CRN)

IAI submission to SB-42 presents conclusions from some of its investigators ([Available on Research Dialogue webpage](#))

Some of the challenges mentioned by our scientists in Latin America:

- Access to research funds at the national level
- Language barrier (Spanish x English)
- Lack of opportunities to publish if not part of an international group of scientists



Lessons learned

How can regional and local capacity be improved to support decision-making?

Research programs should be interdisciplinary and funded on the basis of policy relevance

Projects must involve the social science community and social relevance of the project, which may require training teams of social and natural scientists, jointly with policy makers

Projects need to identify problems and design interdisciplinary study aimed at finding solutions

Capacity-building efforts need to be fully integrated into science programs



This is a mutual learning process, how can we do it with you?

IAI is actively engaging its network of scientists in the Americas, generating knowledge and supporting research capacity-building while promoting a policy-science interface.

We look forward to hearing from Research Dialogue participants on how we can collaborate with you.



Thank you

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