

Committee on International Scientific Affairs (CISA)

Annual Report -- 1999

Prepared by: L. A. Boatner

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The Committee on International Scientific Affairs (CISA) is one of three American Physical Society (APS) organizations that currently exists for the primary purpose of dealing with issues and carrying out projects involving interactions with international scientific implications or involvement. The other APS organizations whose primary responsibilities lie in the area of international scientific affairs are the APS Forum on International Physics and the APS Office of International Scientific Affairs directed by Irving Lerch.

As a standing committee of the APS, CISA members and the CISA chair are appointed by the APS President. The nine CISA members are appointed for three-year staggered terms while the Chair, who is appointed from the CISA membership, serves a one-year term. The general charges to the Committee, as delineated in the APS Bylaws are to: ".monitor the international science scene.prepare documentation and recommendations for actions by Council, the APS officers, and staff...to advise and assist the Director of International Scientific Affairs, the APS Council, and officers ..to develop interactions with physical societies of other nations .and, with Council's approval, to encourage interactions between American physicists and their counterparts around the world."

Preamble

The period of this report encompasses the dates of 11 Oct., 1998 to 29 Oct., 1999. Accordingly, the discussion of at least one of the issues overlaps somewhat with information presented in the 1998 CISA Report prepared by then CISA Chair Ivan Schuller.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY FOR THIS REPORTING PERIOD:

CISA recommendations on long-range APS goals

At its meeting on 11 Oct., 1998, CISA unanimously passed a resolution entitled: "Defining the Aims of CISA." This resolution, which initially appeared in the 1998 report, is as follows:

"Defining the Aims of CISA"

Resolution Preamble

It is the sense of the APS Committee on International Scientific Affairs that the Society's interests in the areas of international scientific affairs are, at present, not adequately being served by the existing APS organizational and committee structure.

Accordingly, CISA recommends:

1. Re-evaluating the missions and goals of the international activities of the APS. This reevaluation should include, as a minimum, the roles played by and interrelationships between CISA, FIP, and the Office of International Affairs;
2. Utilizing the results of the re-evaluation for restructuring, as needed, the functions/operations/mechanisms of the international activities of the APS in order to better achieve these missions/goals;
3. Forming a special committee with representation from the current and past officers of CISA, FIP, POPA, CIFS, APS Office of International Affairs as well as representation of the current and past executives of the APS to carry out this task.

While this resolution has not been approved and implemented by the APS Council, some progress was made toward addressing the deep concerns that led CISA to pass the subject resolution. Specifically, the APS Council voted to restructure the relationship between CISA and The Forum on International Physics (FIP). This restructuring now makes three of the FIP officers statutory members of CISA. The change was welcomed by CISA and has recently been implemented - so at least, there is currently a mechanism in place to insure the transfer of information regarding CISA activities to FIP.

As desirable as the changes in organizational structure noted above were, they failed to address the major concerns that led CISA to pass the resolution of 11 Oct., 1998. Namely, the APS should undertake a re- evaluation of its major goals and policies in the arena of international scientific affairs. In the absence of a clear vision of what the society wants to accomplish in the field of international scientific affairs, changes in organizational structure are relatively moot.

In response to the CISA Resolution of 11 Oct. 1998, on 24 Sept., 1999 a meeting between the APS President- Elect James Langer, the APS Vice President George Trilling, the 1999 CISA Chair Lynn Boatner, CISA Vice- Chair Bernd Crasemann, and the Forum on Physics (FIP) Chair-Elect David Ernst was held at the APS headquarters. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the CISA Resolution and to reiterate to the APS Officers the concerns that led to the unanimous adoption of the Resolution by CISA.

At the conclusion of this meeting, the members of the current APS Presidential Line were not inclined to implement the CISA recommendation regarding the formation of a special committee to re-evaluate and restructure the activities of the APS in the area of international affairs. They were sympathetic, however, to the concerns of CISA and to the need for additional emphasis on and attention to this area of APS activity, and they did not rule out the formation of such a committee in the future. As an initial step in re- evaluating the role of the APS in international scientific affairs and of the roles played by and interactions between the various entities involved (i.e., CISA, FIP, and the APS Office of International Affairs), the APS President-Elect and Vice President have requested that CISA formulate a set of recommendations regarding the future major APS goals, directions, and policies in this important area. They are requesting these CISA recommendations for the purpose of serving as a "white paper" or working document that they would then use as a basis for further consideration by the APS Officers and potentially the APS

Council.

In response to the request made by the APS officers, each member of CISA has been asked to consider what, in their opinion, the major overall goals and policies of the APS should be in the field of International Scientific Affairs - including what areas should constitute and are appropriate to be considered as "international scientific affairs" and what areas should not be so considered. Additionally, the members of CISA have been asked to consider what additional APS organizational changes might serve to enhance the effectiveness of the various bodies noted above in addressing the subject major policies and goals.

Although the original CISA goal of the formation of a broad-gauged, and unbiased committee to: "Re-evaluate the missions and goals of the international activities of the APS" has not been achieved, a dialog has been held with the officers of the Society and the abiding concerns of CISA have been reiterated.

American Consultative Meeting of Physical Societies

Beginning on 2 November, 1998 and lasting for two and a half days, the American Consultative Meeting of Physical Societies was held in Cuernavaca, Mexico. CISA had previously participated in some of the planning for this meeting as noted in Ivan Schuller's 1998 CISA Report. In attendance at the meeting were representatives from 21 national and regional physical societies - primarily from Latin America but including representatives from the APS, the Canadian Association of Physicists, and the Spanish Royal Physical Society. Regional representation included representatives from the Federation of Latin American Physical Societies (FeLaSoFi), the Central American and Caribbean Physical Society (SOCECAF), and the Latin American Center of Physics (CLAF.)

Numerous presentations were made by representatives of the various organizations present at the meeting, and these talks served to emphasize the wide diversity of capabilities and resources in physics available among the participants.

Three working groups were formed in the areas of: Research Exchanges, Education, and Telecommunications, and recommendations and plans for future implementation were forthcoming with the purpose of enhancing joint activities in physics. CISA provided a large volume of material to the participants dealing with the availability (and capabilities) of user facilities in the United States with the goal of stimulating increased Latin American utilization of facilities of this type and thereby fostering new collaborative activities.

A draft resolution dealing with the support of physics by governments was formulated that was to be presented to the General Assembly of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP.) This resolution was viewed as a high-priority item by the participants at the Cuernavaca meeting. This resolution was subsequently passed at the IUPAP meeting in Atlanta.

CISA Sponsored Roundtables at the APS Centennial

At its meeting on 13 Feb., 1999 CISA discussed plans for holding a set of International

Roundtables that were to take place at the Centennial meeting of the APS in Atlanta. On the morning of 21 March, 1999' four International Roundtables were held with about 125 participants involved in the discussions and presentations. The roundtables were:

North-South Collaboration

Facilitator: Ivan Schuller, U.C.-San Diego

(The issues discussed included: new avenues for enhancing collaborations, funding for collaborations, joint meetings, and educational programs)

International Virtual Labs.

Facilitator: James Vary, Iowa State University

(The issues discussed included: electronic collaboration, data exchange, conferencing, remote instrument control, and modern methods of building regional and international collaborations)

Physics as a Tool for Economic Development

Facilitator: Kennedy Reed, LLNL

(The issues discussed included: The economic impact of basic and applied research and economic impacts on physics research)

The International Role of Physical Societies

Facilitator: Shang-Fen Ren, Illinois State U.

(The issues discussed included: The globalization of physics in the 21st century, building physics through small voluntary organizations, national versus international groups, and maintaining regional and local identities.)

CISA Sponsored Meeting on "Physics Cooperation in the Americas" at the APS Centennial

A CISA-sponsored meeting on "Physics Cooperation in the Americas" was held during the APS Centennial meeting in Atlanta. This meeting represented a "follow-up" meeting to the Cuernavaca conference that had been held in November, 1998, and many of the attendees who were present at the Cuernavaca meeting were also in attendance at the Atlanta "Physics Cooperation in the Americas" meeting. The major outcome of the Atlanta meeting was a unanimous vote to create a "working group" in order to formalize and maintain the interactions that had been established at the Cuernavaca meeting. Subsequent to this meeting Carmen Cisneros and CISA Chair Lynn Boatner met in order to outline the basic elements of a charter for an "Inter-American-Iberian Working Group." A draft of this Charter has now been completed and is under consideration.

The purpose of the Inter-American-Iberian Working Group will be to engage in common and mutually beneficial activities whose goals include, but are not limited to the following:

- A. The advancement of physics research through research exchanges that will encompass both scientific personnel and equipment and the pursuit of joint research projects.
- B. The advancement of physics education at all levels.

C. The enhancement of public and governmental support of the physical sciences.

>

D. The dissemination and sharing of scientific information through both conventional and electronic means.

During the Atlanta meeting, the CISA Chair met with the FIP Executive Committee in order to discuss ways and means of increasing the interaction between CISA and FIP and of coordinating future activities. Subsequently, the CISA Chair traveled to Vanderbilt to meet with D. Ernst, the incoming Chair of FIP, for the purpose of discussing joint activities including the preparation of a "Directory for Latin-American Interactions" A directory of this type would identify Physicists who are interested in establishing collaborations with counterparts in Latin American countries and the Caribbean. A form and an accompanying article associated with the compilation of this directory have now been prepared and will be published in the December issue of the APS News. The form will also be circulated electronically and the responses will be used as the basis for compiling the directory. The directory will be available in both hard copy and electronic versions on the Web.

The CISA goals for the remainder of calendar year 1999 are as follows:

Complete the initial compilation of the Directory of Potential Collaborators with Scientists in Latin America (Hard copy + Web site)

Complete (with Carmen Cisneros) the Charter for the formation of an "Inter-American-Iberian Working Group" in order to assure continuity of the interactions and activities initiated in Cuernavaca and continued in Atlanta.

Cooperate in the execution of those aspects of the CISA resolution approved by the Society.

Report Submitted by: L. A. Boatner