AAAS Conducts UNCSTD Workshops

Four workshops were conducted this spring by AAAS as part of the U.S. preparations for the U.N. Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) held in Vienna last month. The workshops were sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

• *Building National Institutions for Science and Technology in the Developing Countries*, 18–19 April.

The 24 participants stressed the need to strengthen and improve present institutions rather than create new ones. Recommendations of the workshop included:

1) Developing countries should set their own goals and these should be respected by the developed countries.

2) An institute of scientific and technological cooperation should be established with a substantial degree of autonomy, foreign nationals as members, emphasis on long-range institution building, and transfer of technology from smaller firms in the United States as experts in community action.

3) U.S. cooperation should be based, to a substantial degree, on nongovernmental and quasi-governmental organizations.

4) The United States should expand manpower development efforts.

5) Improved communications could be brought about by increased attention to the flow of information field by field and problem by problem. Large, general-purpose automated information storage and retrieval systems designed to provide information on many topics on demand to developing countries are expensive and ineffective.

The group also reached a consensus on three specific proposals for the United States: establish a new journal of scientific and technological information for developing countries, enhance the effectiveness of existing science and technology communications networks, and appoint regional science attachés.

• *Science and Technology for Development: Organized Labor's Concerns*, 7–8 May.

Approximately 35 representatives from labor, industry, academia, and government participated in the workshop.

The labor spokespeople expressed a strong concern for job losses resulting from what they believe to be growing U.S. imports from developing countries, particularly when their export capabilities are enhanced by technology transfers by U.S.-based multinational corporations. Trade unionists pointed to the limited labor mobility of many of the workers in industries affected by imports, who cannot fill newly created job openings in the exporting industries.

Several ways of reconciling short-term labor concerns with longer-term development requirements were suggested, including slowing the rate of technology transfers to the developing countries to alleviate the social impact in the United States, reducing domestic job losses by enabling certain industries to remain viable through production-sharing arrangements with developing countries, and encouraging the building of economic infrastructures in the developing countries so that more trade would be carried on among them.

• *The Role of Scientific and Engineering Societies in Development*, 21–22 May.

The dominant theme of the workshop was that scientific and technical societies have certain basic characteristics which enable them to make unique contributions to the development process in any country.

These societies constitute a reservoir of individual scientists, engineers, and technicians with special knowledge and expertise that can be mobilized to undertake specific tasks. They provide a peer review capability for evaluating the importance and value of scientific and engineering proposals, programs, and accomplishments; an open market for technology planning and delivery, not constrained by institutional, proprietary, or political barriers; and a useful teaching and educational function through the journals, reviews, handbooks, and books that they publish on accomplishments and advances in their disciplines.

Participants stressed that management and transfer of scientific and technological information to developing countries is essential in the development process. Because scientific and technical societies now collect technical information, condense and focus it for appropriate audiences, U.S. societies can assist developing countries in information exchange by: publishing the results of the research and/or teaching experiences of their membership; conducting meetings at which the results of recent studies and new ideas are exchanged; and sponsoring workshops or short courses.

It was recommended that U.S. societies can assist in the development of a strong system of scientific and techno-

Call for Nominations: 1980 General Election

The Committee on Nominations will meet this fall to select candidates for the 1980 general election. The Committee invites AAAS members to submit nominations, including self-nominations, for the positions of President-Elect and members of the Board of Directors for consideration at that meeting.

A list of current Board members is given on the contents page of *Science*. Candidates for terms to start on 9 January are listed in the 1 June issue.

Nominations should be sent to the Executive Officer, AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, no later than 8 October 1979. Each nomination must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae of the proposed candidate.

logical education by nurturing the formation and growth of indigenous scientific and technical societies, developing relationships with universities to give leadership in their disciplines toward more relevant training for foreign students, and giving attention to professional participation in international development work (an activity often not recognized by U.S. societies).

• *Women and Development*, 26–27 March. See *Science*, 3 August 1979, page 482, for description.

For each workshop, both a Summary Report and Proceedings are available as long as the supply lasts. To obtain copies, write Denise Weiner, program associate, Office of International Science at the AAAS address, specifying the volumes desired.

AAAS Affiliates Discuss Professional Ethics Activities

Staff representatives from nine scientific and engineering societies affiliated with the AAAS met recently to identify issues of common concern relating to the professional ethics activities of their organizations. During the discussion, the staff members raised the following questions for future review:

1) What are the new issues of social or ethical responsibility affecting members of the professional societies because of changing employment trends?

Several societies are in the midst of revising their codes of ethics in order to address ethical issues involving nonacademic professionals.

2) Are there discrepancies between legal and professional standards for ethical conduct by professionals? What is the role of the society in supporting members who uphold a professional standard not required by law or possibly constituting an illegal action?

The issue of maintaining confidentiality of research data was offered as one example of conflict between professional and legal standards.

3) How can the professional societies assist in resolving nonacademic employer/employee conflicts involving issues of personal or professional judgment?

4) Can professional societies effectively enforce their codes of ethics? Is it feasible, given the constraints of time, money, and legal expertise required to conduct inquiries into alleged violations, to expect the societies to regulate the professional conduct of their members?

5) What should be the relationship between professional society ethics committees and state licensing boards in issues involving disciplinary actions against individual members? How should information be exchanged between these groups?

6) To what extent and in what manner should the societies publicize their ethical codes and disciplinary actions? How should societies respond to individual inquiries about disciplinary actions taken against a member of the society?

7) To what extent should the societies publicize actions by employers which affect their members' professional ethical standards? Should the societies "blacklist" employers which consistently restrict the professional rights or duties of their members?

Societies represented at the meeting were the American Anthropological Association, American Chemical Society, American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association, American Speech and Hearing Association, American Statistical Association, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, National Association of Social Workers, and the National Society of Professional Engineers. Several other societies have also expressed interest in the issues identified.

The societies' representatives will meet again later this month to further discuss these issues and to review the preliminary results of a survey of 240 AAAS-affiliated societies conducted as part of the AAAS project on professional ethics (see AAAS News, *Science*, 6 July 1979). The meetings are sponsored by the office of the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility.

ROSEMARY CHALK
Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

Energy Needs of Southeast Discussed in Raleigh

"North Carolina's Energy Future: Policy Research Alternatives," the most recent AAAS energy seminar, focused on energy use—present and future—in the southeastern United States. Using the state of North Carolina as the focus, seminar participants discussed regional problems and proposed solutions dealing with energy supply, regulation, research, and policy.

Speakers and panelists included representatives from state and federal government agencies, utilities, regulatory bodies, academia, research institutions, and the oil industry. Participants agreed that most national energy problems are basically political and institutional rather than scientific and technological.

Because the southeastern states are using increasingly more electricity, its supply, use, and regulation were of primary importance to attendees of the seminar.

North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., said he believed the American people were tired of "negative solutions" to the energy problem and expressed confidence in the nation's ability to solve the crisis.

William Lee, president, Duke Power Company, spoke in favor of the "nuclear alternative." Lee, stating that the total energy pool will have to be vastly increased by the year 2000, said he believed it would be a serious error to discount nuclear energy. Nuclear power is, he said, an indispensable part of our energy development now. Lee compared the public reaction to nuclear power today to the general uneasiness about electricity 100 years ago. He urged leaders to speak out and convince the public of the importance of nuclear energy.

Edward E. David, Jr., president, Exxon Research and Engineering Co., Inc., and chairman, AAAS Board of Directors, talked about some new energy technologies in which Exxon is involved. Among the ideas David described are: the use of catalysts in coal gasification and liquification which should make it easier to process a wider variety of coal and might make these processes cost-effective; various emissions technologies to make pollutant cleanup easier; the incorporation of detergent-like chemicals to increase efficiency of conventional drilling; solar voltaic cells; and an electric conservation synthesizer to make electric energy more productive.

Held in Raleigh, 12–13 July, this was the second in the current series of AAAS Regional Energy Seminars funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Cosponsors for the seminar, along with the AAAS, were Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society; the North Carolina Academy of Science; and the state of North Carolina.

Other regional energy seminars planned for later this year will be in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, and Los Angeles, California.

The Arkansas seminar, "Rural America: Energy Needs and Alternatives," will be held 16–18 September at the DeGray State Park Lodge. For further information see page 481 of *Science* (3 August 1979) or write to Patricia S. Curlin, regional energy seminar coordinator, at the AAAS address.