

INSIDE AAAS

edited by DIANA PARSELL

Project Aids U.N. Human Rights Efforts

At the request of a top U.N. official, AAAS is designing an information management system that will improve the capability of U.N. human rights treaty monitoring bodies.

The committees are charged with evaluating how well countries are complying with obligations they have agreed to in a number of U.N. human rights covenants and conventions.

"These monitoring procedures have never worked satisfactorily, and the lack of a computerized information management system has contributed to that inadequacy," says Audrey Chapman, director of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program, which is carrying out the project.

AAAS program associate Stephen Hansen says the system he is developing will make it possible to compare information over the years and across U.N. human rights monitoring bodies, and to integrate data from other sources for more thorough country profiles. "Right now, the treaty monitoring bodies are dependent on what countries tell them," he says. "With this system, committees and staff will be able to have far better information at their disposal when they query states parties, so they may see discrepancies and request additional information." A primary goal, Hansen adds, is to aid the development of early-warning capabilities for evaluating the severity of

human rights abuses and the need for emergency intervention.

The mandates of the various human rights covenants are varied, and more than 100 countries are signatories to each agreement, so the information is vast and the monitoring process is complex. But, says Chapman, record-keeping methods at the U.N. Center for Human Rights in Geneva, which serves as the secretariat for all U.N. human rights work, are so outdated that the center "is still consigned to a League of Nations-style paper filing system." Remarkably, "there were no computers until 2 years ago," she notes. Automation has begun, but progress is slow because of scarce resources.

The project was undertaken at the request of Ibrahima Fall, the U.N. assistant secretary-general for human rights. Due for completion next year, it is supported by grants from the United States Institute of Peace and the Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation.

Caribbean Division Founder Dies

Juan Bonnet-Diez, the founder and first president of the Caribbean Division of AAAS, was killed in Puerto Rico in August when he walked into a convenience store during an armed robbery. He was 56.

Throughout his career, Dr. Bonnet worked to promote the development of science and technology in the Western Hemisphere.

He first approached AAAS with the idea of establishing a Caribbean Division. It became a reality in 1984, and as president from 1985-88 he helped shape the direction of the division.

Among its activities, the division last month co-sponsored the Environmental Chemistry Symposium of the Third Pan-American Congress of Chem-

Marking a Milestone

Senior officials of the District of Columbia were among the featured speakers at a "topping out" ceremony last month at the Association's new headquarters in downtown Washington.

The event was held to celebrate completion of the first phase of construction of the 12-story building, which will house AAAS and other nonprofit scientific organizations.

Merrick T. Malone (center), D.C. assistant administrator for economic development, and D.C. Council Member Charlene Drew Jarvis (right) signed a symbolic I beam, along with Mike Flynn of Pei Cobb Freed & Partners, the architectural firm.

The project was financed in part by the sale of \$52 million in low-interest, tax-exempt revenue bonds authorized by the D.C. government. "I use AAAS often as an example to other nonprofits of the benefits of the city's

revenue bond program, Jarvis said.

AAAS has about 25,000 visitors a year. Association officials estimate that the many specialized facilities in the new Center for



Science and Engineering—including a 180-seat auditorium, a model science classroom, conference areas, and a science and technology bookstore—will double that number.



istry. Despite its being held between Hurricanes Luis and Marilyn, the event drew 1,200 chemists from the Americas and the Caribbean. In December the division will co-sponsor a major conference in San Juan on neuroscience research.

Dr. Bonnet held a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering from the University of Michigan and was the author of more than 100 scientific and technical publications. He had served as director of the University of Puerto Rico Nuclear Center and of the Department of Chemistry and Physics at Bayamon Technical College. In recent years he was director of the graduate program at the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, where he also taught.

He had headed several major scientific and engineering organizations, including the Puerto Rico Academy of Sciences and the Pan-American Union of Engineering Associations.

He is survived by a wife and 6 children.

A Decade of Science Education Reform

In 1981, AAAS put science literacy at the top of its priority list and began exploring possibilities for a large-scale project that would bring deep and lasting reform to science education. Next month is the 10th anniversary of the launch of that initiative: Project 2061.

The startup coincided with the 1985 approach of Halley's Comet, prompting the planners to consider all the scientific and technological changes a child entering school in 1985 would witness before the return of the comet in 2061—hence the name.

The project took an ambitious approach, aiming to rebuild K-12 education from scratch. Its report *Science for All Americans* set goals for adult science literacy and has sold more than

100,000 copies since its release in 1989. A companion volume, *Benchmarks for Science Literacy*, was published in 1993 and described what students in grades 2, 5, 8, and 12 should know and be able to do in science, mathematics, and technology.



Project 2061's work has provided the foundation for curriculum reform in many states and school districts and has influenced the development of national science education standards and other reform efforts. The project conducts numerous workshops around the country and continues to develop new reform tools for educators and curriculum developers.

For more information, contact Mary Koppal at 202-326-6643 or by Internet at: mkoppal@aaas.org.

AAAS Members Distinguished for Contributions to Science

In September the AAAS Council elected 273 members as Fellows of AAAS. These individuals will be recognized for their contributions to science at the Fellows Forum to be held on 10 February 1996 during the AAAS Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. The new Fellows will receive a certificate and a blue and gold rosette pin as a symbol of their distinguished accomplishments. Presented by section affiliations, they are:

Agriculture, Food, and Renewable Resources

Lloyd Lee Anderson, Iowa State Univ. • Robert G. Cassens, Univ. of Wisconsin • Dennis B. Egli, Univ. of Kentucky • William A. Jury, Univ. of California, Riverside • Noel T. Keen, Univ. of California, Riverside • Stephen Kresovich, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture • Rattan Lal, Ohio State Univ. • Terry J. Logan, Ohio State Univ. • Robert H. Miller, Univ. of Rhode Island • Richard J. Norby, Oak Ridge National Lab. • Juan G. Rodriguez, Kentucky Academy of Science • Linda J. Saif, Ohio State Univ. • Michael S. Strauss, AAAS • Goro Uehara, Univ. of Hawaii • Carroll P. Vance, Univ. of Minnesota • Paul H. Williams, Univ. of Wisconsin

Anthropology

Melvin Konner, Emory Univ. • Anna Curtenius Roosevelt, Field Museum of Natural History • Eموke J.E. Szathmary, McMaster Univ. • Kenneth M. Weiss, Pennsylvania State Univ.

Astronomy

Holland C. Ford, Johns Hopkins Univ. • Christine Jones, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics • David W. Latham, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

Atmospheric and Hydrospheric Sciences

Kenneth H. Brink, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution • Otis B. Brown, Univ. of Miami • David D. Houghton, Univ. of Wisconsin

• James F. Kasting, Pennsylvania State Univ. • Steven C. Wofsy, Harvard Univ.

Biological Sciences

Renato Baserga, Thomas Jefferson Univ. • Harold L. Bergman, Univ. of Wyoming • Alan R. Berkowitz, Institute of Ecosystem Studies • Ralph E. J. Boerner, Ohio State Univ. • Mary Anne Brock, National Institute on Aging • Ann Bucklin, Univ. of New Hampshire • C. John Burk, Smith College • Elizabeth M. Cosper, State Univ. of New York, Stony Brook • Jaleh Daie, Univ. of Wisconsin • Kelvin J. A. Davies, Albany Medical College • Francine Essien, Rutgers Univ. • Theodore Harris Fleming, Univ. of Miami • George Edward Fox, Univ. of Houston • Alice B. Fulton, Univ. of Iowa • Costa Georgopoulos, Univ. of Geneva • Howard Gest, Indiana Univ. • Martha Lee Ulbrick Gillette, Univ. of Illinois • Arturo Gomez-Pompa, Univ. of California, Riverside • Shirley Mae Halling, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture • Steven C. Hand, Univ. of Colorado • G. Miller Jonakait, Rutgers Univ. • Joel E. Keizer, Univ. of California, Davis • Michael R. Landry, Univ. of Hawaii • John Lemons, Univ. of New England • Lars G. Ljungdahl, Univ. of Georgia • Orson K. Miller, Jr., Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ. • Richard L. Nuccitelli, Univ. of California, Davis • Donald Penner, Michigan State Univ. • Nancy N. Rabalais, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium • Dianna A. Redburn, Univ. of Texas • John McNeill Sieburth, Univ. of Rhode Island • Wayne P.

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Chemistry

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