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Interciencia Association Focuses on Energy

The Interciencia Association (IA) is providing a link in a "cooperative, interdependent approach to help resolve the hemisphere's energy crisis," according to Alejandro Orfila, Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Orfila was addressing the National Energy Forum on 23 May in Washington, D.C., when he applauded IA's attempts "through symposia and the journal *Interciencia* to bring science and technology more closely to bear on human needs and development."

The Interciencia Association, founded by AAAS and representatives of other scientific organizations in American nations, has held three symposia since its inception in 1974, in keeping with its stated goal of advancing the appropriate use of technology and science for the benefit of peoples in the Americas.

A fourth meeting will be held in July this year on the subject of "Marine Science in the Americas," in San Jose, Costa Rica.

A symposium currently in the planning stage is scheduled for mid-March 1978 in Brazil. The focus will be on non-conventional energy resources and the relationships between energy supplies, development, and appropriate technology. Plans for the conference were first discussed at an Interciencia workshop at the Denver Annual Meeting of AAAS. Attendees there expressed concern over the threat to development plans posed by increased costs of conventional energy sources, the questionable relevance of much conventional technology, and the need for cooperation on energy strategies and research. Spokespersons for the IA have expressed hope that, in addition to providing an exchange of information on the state of the art in nonconventional energy sources, the meeting will provide a useful input at the regional level for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology, scheduled for 1979. Preliminary program plans for the 1978 Interciencia symposium include such topics as major problems of Latin America which bear on needs for energy; assessment of major energy resource potentials of Latin America with emphasis on which of these can be developed rapidly; energy for rural peoples; impact of energy choices on urbanization and employment; potential of biomass; and mechanisms for transfer of appropriate energy technologies.

A broad range of institutions and individuals are being encouraged to provide input to the symposium plans. AAAS members and members of affiliated societies are urged to contact the executive secretary, Interciencia Association, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

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COOS Sets Priorities at June Meeting

Energy and water resources on Indian lands—the attrition rate of women in undergraduate and graduate science curricula—Puerto Rican representation among the science professions—minority representation among AAAS committees—these were areas of high priority identified by members of the AAAS Committee on Opportunities in Science (COOS) at its meeting 3 and 4 June in Washington, D.C.

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The Committee felt that AAAS could take steps in two areas where energy resources and water on Indian lands are concerned: first, inform the scientific and technological community as to the concerns of American Indians in this area, such as exploitation of Indian lands and the legal issues involved. Second, AAAS should work with Indian organizations and communities to facilitate their identification of needs for technology and human resources.

A question in which the Committee expressed interest is the difference between attrition rates of men and women in science curricula at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Identifying the reasons for the disparity in the dropout rates of men and women may lead to more women completing their science education.

The Committee members reiterated their interest in pursuing funding for projects that would seek to identify minority women professionals, especially below the Ph.D. level. Such a project could help in the establishment of regional meetings and result in local networks for communication among those already established in professions, as well as those still in school. Members of COOS felt a need for a regular newsletter that would report activities of other minority groups, policy developments in Washington, and funding possibilities.

Two Puerto Rican members of the Committee, participating in their first meeting, called for help from AAAS in identifying their human resources on the mainland. They urged the Association to work with Puerto Rican organizations to gather data on both science professionals and graduate students, in order to better assess their needs.

A discussion during the meeting of the controversial fellowship nomination of Arthur Jensen evolved into a discussion of the fellowship nomination procedure and the drafting of a request to the Board of Directors. In it, the Committee decried the nomination as damaging to the credibility of the Association, and recommended revision of the fellows nomi-

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