

Affiliate Societies Form Working Groups

Scientific and engineering societies affiliated with the AAAS take part in a number of Association programs and activities such as selecting and sponsoring Congressional Science and Engineering Fellows and working with the AAAS on special projects.

In two areas—science education and international programs—several scientific societies have come together on a more formal basis to launch programs and coordinate activities.

The Coalition for Education in the Sciences has been formed in response to the growing awareness that science and mathematics education in the United States are in serious disrepair. Some 60 scientific and education organizations, together with the AAAS, make up the informal coalition.

The purpose of the Coalition is to enhance the role of professional societies in improving precollege education in science, mathematics, and technology throughout the United States. Its central focus is on how professional societies can best act in concert.

In particular, the Coalition will try to help member organizations become more involved in making scientists and engineers more aware of the seriousness of the situation in science and mathematics education and to engage their help; upgrading the competence and status of mathematics and science teachers; improving the science and mathematics experiences of students; increasing the public's understanding of science, mathematics, and technology; advocating the use of research related to improved mathematics, science, and technology education; and working with political bodies as they formulate policies affecting science and mathematics education.

Coalition members, who met in May and October, are now preparing a work agenda for 1983. The AAAS Office of Science and Technology Education will serve as secretariat.

For more information, write the Coalition for Education in the Sciences, Office of Science and Technology Education, at the AAAS address.

In 1976 a number of scientific and engineering societies came together to form the Consortium of Affiliates for International Programs (CAIP). Member organizations are interested in improving communication and cooperation on international programs and initiating joint projects. Currently 68 affiliated scientific and engineering societies belong to the CAIP.

Members of CAIP recently elected a steering committee to lead the Consortium. Steering committee members will serve staggered terms of up to 4 years, and represent four broad categories of AAAS affiliates—engineering and the social, biomedical, and physical sciences. Elected were: Melvin Gottlieb, American Physical Society; W. Edward Lear, American Society for Engineering Education; Fred C. Leone, American Statistical Association; Patricia J. McWethy, Association of American Geographers; William D. Sangster, American Society of Civil Engineers; William D. Sawyer (chair), American Society for Microbiology; Irving J. Spitzberg, American Association of University Professors; and Patrick V. Vail, Entomological Society of America.

The new steering committee met for the first time on 27 September. It considered the Consortium's agenda for the year ahead and reviewed concept papers received from CAIP members in preparation for the October 1982 Calcutta meeting of the Continuing Committee on the Role of Scientific and Engineering Societies in Development (see *Science*, 6 August 1982, p. 523). The nine papers, ranging in scope from research projects to workshops and journal distribution proposals, were examples of the kinds of initiatives many U.S. professional societies can undertake in cooperation with partners in developing countries.

For more information about CAIP, or for a copy of the 1982–83 Consortium *Directory*, write to the Office of International Science at the AAAS address.

In addition, the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility's Clearinghouse on Science and Human

Rights works closely with some 40 affiliated societies.

Clearinghouse projects focus on issues of international human rights. Affiliate societies, for example, often work with the Clearinghouse to investigate cases of alleged human rights violations involving members of the scientific community. Recently several affiliate societies have cosponsored, along with the AAAS Clearinghouse, site visits to Chile and Guatemala. For further information about the Clearinghouse write the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility at the AAAS address.

News from Interciencia

At the 8th annual meeting of the Interciencia Association (IA) at Mérida, Mexico, 28–30 October, the IA council reviewed steps recently taken to copublish the journal *Interciencia* with Pergamon Press, Ltd., agreed to organize four inter-American symposia during 1984, and discussed plans for a new activity—the Interciencia Bioresources Program. Twenty-two scientists attended, including representatives of all nine countries in the IA network. Leonard M. Rieser, AAAS past president and president of IA, and *Science* editor Philip H. Abelson represented AAAS. Abelson and *Interciencia* editor Marcel Roche opened the meeting with a symposium on past and future trends in Latin American science, technology, and development.

IA leaders reviewed the agreement, effective this year, under which Pergamon Press produces, distributes, and promotes *Interciencia*, while IA retains ownership and editorial control. IA and Pergamon representatives agreed that in order to substantially increase the journal's circulation, vigorous efforts by both the publisher and the member associations of IA will be undertaken.

The Interciencia Symposia Series, which has organized some 20 inter-American scientific meetings since 1976, will continue in 1983–84, subject to available resources. Topics range from young people in science to applications of microelectronics and telecommunications in the scientific activities of developing countries. Farthest along are the proposals on "Biotechnology in the