

CAETS Committee on International Organizations (CIO)

Activities July 2009 – June 2010

1. As agreed at the July 17, 2009 CAETS Council meeting, Rene Dändliker, SATW, represented CAETS at the September 4, 2009 session of the World Climate Conference - 3 in Geneva. He made a well-received statement on behalf of CAETS in the High-level (Ministerial) Segment of the Conference. (Statement attached)
2. Achiel Van Cauwenberghe (BACAS) represented CAETS at the InterAcademy Council (IAC) Annual Meeting during March 21-23, 2010 in Amsterdam. His report is attached. The IAC agreed to the request by the United Nations Secretary-General and the IPCC chair R. Pachauri to review the last IPCC report and its procedures. A Review Panel will be formed and its report is due by August 31, 2010.
3. In response to the request of the IAC, several CAETS academies submitted names for consideration as members of the IPCC Review Panel and IAC Review Committee. The Review Panel membership was announced on May 3, 2010. The Panel and its task is posted at www.interacademycouncil.net/ipccreview .
4. The CAETS Executive Committee met with ICSU leadership in Paris on October 20, 2009 to discuss potential areas for cooperation. A report of that meeting is attached. Identified areas for future joint work included ICSU's Foresight study, Risk Assessment, and joint workshops. The CAETS President at the time contacted the leader of the the ICSU program on integrated research on disaster risk to discuss the possibility of a CAETS/ICSU session on risk assessment at the 2011 CAETS Convocation. While both agreed that it would be an important collaboration, it was decided to await the announcement of the convocation sessions before proceeding with specific plans.
5. In response to the ICSU request as part of its Foresight Study, CAETS academies contributed suggestions on drivers of future science.
6. In 2008 UNESCO invited CAETS contributions to its report "Engineering: Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities for Development." A preface and a one-page description of CAETS were submitted. After much delay that report, almost 400 pages, is expected to be published and released in October 2010.
7. At the request of UNESCO the CAETS Secretary participated in the Expert Committee to produce a "Feasibility Study by UNESCO for the Establishment of an International Engineering Programme", meeting at UNESCO, Paris, 25-26 January 2010. There is no information at this time on the next steps in this effort.
8. The World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) held its biennial General Assembly in Kuwait in November 2009, and will hold the meeting of its Executive Council in October 2010 in Buenos Aires and its 2011 General Assembly in Geneva in September. The Geneva meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2011 World Engineers Convention. Bill Salmon, as Treasurer of the American Association of Engineering Societies (AAES), serves as a National Member of the WFEO Executive Council and looks for opportunities for CAETS/WFEO cooperation.

Statement by the Representative of CAETS (International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences) Professor Dr Rene Dändliker (President, Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences) at the High – level Segment of World Climate Conference-3, Geneva, 31 August - 4 September 2009.

I am pleased to convey the good wishes of the International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences (CAETS) and to commend the WMO (World Meteorological Organization) and its partners for convening this historic conference. CAETS wishes to add its support for the establishment of a Global Framework for Climate Services which will help ensure that, in all countries, action on climate issues is properly informed by reliable observational information, sound science and professionally delivered services.

CAETS is the peak body for the world's engineering and applied science academies. Its member academies, which consist of the most eminent engineers and technological scientists in each country, are committed to the effective application of scientific and engineering knowledge for the national and global good. In recent years, this has involved substantial effort on the part of several member Academies, and CAETS itself, in addressing the issues of climate and climate change.

Through our annual Council meetings and biennial Convocations, CAETS prepares and issues statements on major engineering-related issues. In recent years, we have focussed especially on issues such as the role of the oceans, water, energy, sustainability, the special challenges facing those living in deltas and technologies for greenhouse gas reduction and adaptation to climate change.

CAETS has called for:

- Investment in ocean monitoring and research as a vital input to national and international policy development on climate change; free and open exchange of data for climate research and prediction; and the establishment of national oceanographic service organisations;
- Nations to work together to ensure development and sustained operation of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) ... to provide the data and information needed to support global, national and regional strategies for sustainable development including ... evaluating the total emissions of greenhouse gases and enabling more reliable projections of climate change;
- Strategies for adaptation to climate change which are robust against uncertainty, informed by data and research, integrated across sectors and consistent with climate change mitigation policies.

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CAETS therefore welcomes the WCC-3 initiative to build on the Global Climate Observing System, the World Climate Research Programme and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to produce the climate information and service framework needed to support a comprehensive approach to dealing with climate change issues. The CAETS Academies will be pleased to play their part, at the national level, in supporting the provision of reliable climate information and services and ensuring that climate information is effectively used in the engineering sector. The CAETS Academies also recognise the role of engineering in ensuring that innovative and feasible strategies are developed to meet the demands on societies arising from the need to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this Conference on behalf of CAETS.

InterAcademy Council

2010 Annual Meeting, Amsterdam 21-23 March 2010

The Board met on 21 and 22 March. A joint meeting with the InterAcademy Panel was organized on 23 March. The meetings were hosted by the KNAW (Netherlands Academy of Arts of Sciences) in the Academy Building where the IAC has its office.

Membership : the Board has 15 members (Academies of Sciences) and 3 ex-officio members (the IAP, CAETS and IAMP = InterAcademy Medical Panel). CAETS was represented by Achiel Van Cauwenberghe, BACAS and former CAETS President.

Past Activities : the CAETS 2009 Activities were reported on. They rose much interest, particularly :

- the Statement on Global Natural Resources (Calgary Convocation)
- the ATSE project on “Evaluation of strategies to deploy Low Energy Emissions Technologies for Electric Power Generation”
- the EAJ survey on “Eco-innovation”
- the EAJ symposium on “Transportation in Low Carbon Society”
- the CAE workshop on “Transport noise worldwide”
- the INAE Int’l Conference on “Research Policy for Sustainable Energy”
- the NAE study on “Grand Challenges for Engineering”
- the ISPRES report on “Renewable Energy : Biomass, Photovoltaic and Wind Energy”.

Particularly the CAETS statement and the NAE study were much commented on.

G 8+5 summit :

A joint statement on “Climate change and the transformation of energy technologies for a low carbon future” was discussed. The next summit will be held in Canada (June 25-26). The G 8+5 member academies will prepare a statement.

Future activities :

- a new IAC study on “Sustainable Water Systems and Resources” will be launched. CAETS will be requested to cooperate i.e. to propose members for the study panel.
- a five-year program will be developed for “Strengthening the Voice of Science in Policy Decision-making”. The NAE report on “Grand Challenges for Engineering” was again referred to. Also topics like data integrity, science ethics and research integrity were raised.
- a proposal for a new IAC-IAMP study on “Global surveillance of infectious diseases” was formulated and accepted. CAETS will be solicited to designate panel members.

IPCC Review Panel (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)

The United Nations Secretary-General and the IPCC chair **R. Pachauri** requested the IAC to review the last IPCC report and its procedures. A long discussion was held on :

- the project scope : task and mission of the review panel,
- the work plan (review to be ready by 31 August),
- the project budget and finances,
- the criteria for selection of review panel members,
- the communication strategy.

Finally the request was officially accepted.

CAETS was requested to provide candidates for this important task. On May 3 a 12-member committee was established to conduct the independent review of the procedures and processes of the IPCC. It will be chaired by **Harold Shapiro**, former president of Princeton University and the University of Michigan.

The committee will review IPCC procedures for preparing its assessment reports. Among the issues to be reviewed are data quality assurance and control ; the type of literature that may be cited in IPCC reports ; expert and government review of IPCC materials ; handling the full range of scientific views; and the correction of errors that are identified after a report has been completed. The committee will also review overall IPCC processes, including management functions and communication strategies (the full task statement is available on www.interacademycouncil.net/ipccreview).

Summary of decisions (IAC annual meeting)

The summary of decisions of the Meeting is attached. It is also available on the IAC website (www.interacademycouncil.net)

Reported by Prof. Achiel Van Cauwenberghe, former CAETS President

31 May 2010

Summary note of ICSU-CAETS meeting, ICSU, Paris, 20 October, 2009

Participants:

ICSU

Deliang Chen, Executive Director
Carthage Smith, Deputy Executive Director
Tish Bahmani Fard, Assistant Executive Director
Apologies: Catherine Bréchnac, President

CAETS

John Leggat, President (by telephone)
Gerard van Oortmerssen, Past President
Bill Salmon, Secretary General
Bruno Jarry, France, Chair CIO
John Zillmann, Australia
Apologies: Klaus Bock, President elect (by telephone)

Académie des Technologies (not present for post-lunch session)

Alain Pompidou, President
Bruno Revellin-Falcoz, Vice-president
Pierre-Etienne Bost, Délégué general

Guest (Joined the group for part of the lunchtime discussion)

Gordon Mc Bain, Chair of ICSU IRDR (disaster risk) Scientific Committee

Meeting Agenda

- 1200-1300 Introductions and overview of CAETS and ICSU activities
- 1300-1400 Lunch and general discussion
- 1400-1500 Discussion on opportunities for collaboration

Key issues and actions

It was highlighted in the initial overview session that ICSU and CAETS share many common interests, including: education, energy, water, climate, sustainability, ICTs and access. Both organisations also put a high priority on capacity building and developing countries.

Five specific themes were identified for which closer interactions and/or joint activities would be appropriate:

1. Science and policy and working with the UN

ICSU and CAETS already work together to some extent in the context of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). Although WFEO is formally recognised as ICSU's partner in the S&T major group, CAETS has good links with WFEO and there are no obstacles to ICSU consulting with and getting input from both organisations. It was noted that Bill Salmon is currently on the WFEO Council.

Action

- ICSU to consult CAETS, as appropriate, for input to CSD and other relevant UN policy for a, eg Rio+20

2. Disasters and risk

Disasters and risk is a shared interest of many of the CAETS Members and ICSU has recently launched a new international programme - Integrated Research on Disaster Risk. Gordon McBain briefly presented this programme and how engineering sciences could be integrated into it.

Actions

- John Leggat to have follow-up discussions with G McBain, considering both the needs of the programme and what CAETS can potentially provide. This would include the possibilities for nominating experts and developing joint projects;
- CAETS to encourage its National Members to promote and collaborate on the IRDR programme, eg by identifying relevant work that has already been done by the engineering community on risk analysis and mitigation
- The CAETS Convocation symposium in Mexico in 2011, which may deal with some aspect of Disaster Risk, could benefit from collaboration with ICSU-IRDR;

3. Thematic workshops

Bruno Jarry proposed a series of annual or biannual joint workshops on areas of common interest; potentially the French Academie des Technologies would be interested in hosting the first of these. It was recognised that this had significant resource implications and a pragmatic approach might be to combine it with already planned workshops.

Actions

- To consider testing this joint workshop model, if appropriate, with the Mexico symposium on Disaster Risk
- To exchange information on already planned workshops, including those being organised by the ICSU Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in Science (C Smith to action)
- To continue to explore the potential for joint workshop activities, possibly linked to policy mechanisms, such as side events at CSD.

4. Foresight and future scanning

CAETS expressed an interest in joint future scanning activities, which led into a discussion of the ICSU foresight scenarios activity, which was just getting underway. It was important to both the potential future benefits and risks of technological development and CAETS would be very interested in contributing on this

Actions

- ICSU (CS) to send further information to CAETS on the foresight exercise
- ICSU to ensure that CAETS is solicited for input to the initial on-line consultation to identify key future drivers

- The possibility of including a session on the foresight exercise in the CAETS Council Meeting in Copenhagen, June 30, 2010, to be explored further.

5. Communication and information exchange

All the participants considered that this had been an informative and useful meeting and it was important to maintain the enthusiasm and momentum for working together in the future. Without over-formalising the relationship between ICSU and CAETS, some regular channels of exchange were considered to be appropriate.

Actions

- CS and BJ to make a summary record of this current meeting, which should then be used to report to the formal governance structures (ICSU Executive Board and CAETS Council);
- To arrange similar annual meetings of the relevant executive persons of CAETS and ICSU;
- To ensure input, where appropriate, on items of common interest that are being considered at Executive Board or Council meetings (the use of video or tele-conferencing could facilitate this).
- Looking to the longer-term future, if the next ICSU Strategic Plan, where to include a review of ICSU's relationships with engineering and innovation, then there would clearly be a need for even closer communication.
- To note that the contact points for all communications as follows:

CAETS: Bill Salmon and Bruno Jarry

ICSU: Deliang Chen and Carthage Smith