

INAUGURAL ISSUE OF AIACC NOTES

With this inaugural issue of *AIACC Notes*, a newsletter of the project Assessments of Impacts and Adaptations to Climate Change (AIACC), we begin an effort to regularly share information about the project. The intended audience of the newsletter includes the more than 300 researchers and students, mostly in developing countries, who participate in the 24 regional studies funded by AIACC in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Oceania, plus other researchers, persons and organizations with an interest in the implications of climate change for the developing world. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide regular updates on our activities and occasional summaries of the research sponsored by AIACC. *AIACC Notes* will be issued three or four times each year.

The newsletter complements the AIACC website in our efforts to disseminate information about the project. The website has been updated and restructured recently to provide information about AIACC objectives, management, workshops, reports, and each of the AIACC regional studies. As the research of the regional studies progresses, information about their methods, data and results will be added to the website. The URL for the website can be found in the footer of this document.

AIACC PREPARES FOR 2003 REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

Regional workshops to be held in 2003 in South Africa, Thailand and Costa Rica are being organized by the AIACC regional studies in Africa, Asia/Pacific and Latin America/Caribbean, respectively. The workshops will bring together participants in the AIACC studies of the region, mentors, other researchers doing related work, public and private sector officials from the region, and other stakeholders. The workshops will provide an opportunity for the study teams to present and discuss preliminary results of their investigations, obtain feedback from other researchers and stakeholders, learn about other work on climate change in the region, and plan for the next phases of their work. The workshop objectives, programs and participant lists are being developed by steering committees composed of members of the AIACC studies in the relevant region. More details about the regional workshops will be posted on the AIACC website as plans develop.

START/AIACC RECEIVES GRANT FROM USAID

START, one of the AIACC executing agencies, was awarded a grant of 300,000 USD from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for a joint-proposal submitted with the Center for Climate Systems Research (CCSR) at Columbia University. The award will support (i) a new small grant program to be administered by START to supplement assistance being given to AIACC regional studies and (ii) development and maintenance of a web-based database and information network for AIACC.

NEW SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS AVAILABLE TO AIACC REGIONAL STUDIES FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The new small grant program made possible by the award from USAID is open to AIACC regional study teams to support new activities to engage stakeholders in their study and/or build scientific capacity. START issued a call for proposals to [Continued on page 2, column 2 \(Grant from USAID\)](#)

AIACC WORKSHOPS NOW ON WEB AND CD!

Presentations and other information from AIACC project development and training workshops are now available on the AIACC website. Two workshops were held in 2002, one in Norwich, UK in April and a second in Trieste, Italy in June. The workshop in Norwich, hosted and co-organized by the Tyndall Centre, provided training in methods for construction and application of climate change scenarios. The Trieste workshop, hosted by the Third World Academy of Sciences and co-organized by the Stockholm Environment Institute – Oxford, provided training in methods for assessment of climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability.

The materials available on the AIACC website from the workshops include the workshop programs, most of the presentations, many of the distributed documents, and some demonstration software (follow the “meetings and workshops” link). The same material is also available on two CDs that have been distributed to workshop participants. Those interested in obtaining a copy of either CD should contact AIACC.

AIACC AT COP8

Adaptation was an emphasized theme at the recent Eighth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in New Delhi, India in October and AIACC was prominently on display. A three-panel AIACC poster was included in UNEP's poster exhibit in the main lobby of the COP8 Conference Center. Also, AIACC staff distributed the recently finalized CDs from the Trieste workshop on vulnerability and adaptation assessment methods and new AIACC brochures.

Neil Leary, Science Director of AIACC, made presentations about the project at two events that took place during COP8. The first of these, *Adaptation Day*, was organized by the International Institute for Environment and Development, and included a full day of presentations and discussions about adaptation research, needs and implementation. The second event, *Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change - Challenges and Opportunities*, was organized by the Indian Ministry of Agriculture and UNEP. Neil also took part in a panel discussion during the TERI organized workshop on *Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change*. The presentation given at the Adaptation Day event is on the AIACC website (follow the "AIACC reports and publications" link).

A number of other AIACC participants were also in attendance at COP8 in a variety of guises such as government delegates, NGO observers, and invited speakers.

"DISCUSS AIACC" LISTSERVE SET UP FOR THE AIACC COMMUNITY

Many members of the AIACC regional study teams indicated during workshops held in 2002 that a formal method for electronic communication among the AIACC community would be a useful tool. To answer this need, AIACC set up a list serve in July 2002 to promote interaction and discussion among project teams, mentors, and others with interest in AIACC-like activities. Those interested in joining the listserv or viewing the contents of the listserv archives should contact AIACC for details.

GRANT FROM USAID (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

AIACC funded regional studies in October 2002. AIACC Principal Investigators may submit proposals either alone to request a supplemental grant for their regional study, or with principal investigators from other AIACC regional studies to request a supplemental grant to support a joint activity. Individual award amounts are expected to be in the range of \$10,000-\$15,000; proposals submitted jointly by two or more regional studies will be considered for larger awards.

The types of activities that are eligible for funding under the supplemental grant program include, for example:

- Interactions of AIACC study participants with national communications activities;
- Development of or participation in training workshops;
- Site visits to work with and learn from experts from other institutions, countries or regions;
- Engagement with stakeholders to seek input to AIACC projects and to share information about AIACC activities and results.

The call for proposals can be downloaded from the AIACC website. Proposals should be submitted no later than 20 June 2004.

AIACC TO DEVELOP PROJECT DATABASE FOR WEB WITH GRANT FROM USAID

The other activity to be supported by the grant from USAID will be undertaken with partners at the Center for Climate Systems Research (CCSR) and CIESIN of Columbia University. Working with AIACC, CCSR and CIESIN will develop a web-based information network to share information from the AIACC regional assessments. The web-based network will include a database of objectives, methods, scenarios, data, analytic results, and lessons from the AIACC studies. This network will facilitate sharing of information across the AIACC project teams, cross-project learning, and synthesis of project results. The network will also enable other researchers and stakeholders to evaluate and understand the analyses conducted under the AIACC project as well as obtain and use the data and results in their own research and analyses. The network will facilitate the communication and use of AIACC project data and results in other assessments, e.g. IPCC reports and National Communications under the UNFCCC. The database will be operational in early 2003 and will be accessible from the AIACC website.