

the **INTERACADEMY PANEL** on International Issues



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ON BIODIVERSITY
+ GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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This 2010 IAP Conference and General Assembly will take place at the Royal Society in London. The Society, one of the world's oldest and most prestigious science academies, will be celebrating its 350th anniversary this year.

In recognition of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, the major theme of the conference will be biodiversity. All participants of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) must report this year on the progress that they have made towards reaching the 2010 biodiversity goal of significantly reducing biodiversity loss.

The aim of the IAP conference is to explore how ecosystem services can be fully integrated into biodiversity management. Discussions will examine the actions needed for managing, protecting and enhancing the natural environment in ways that are economically feasible and that can be sustained over the long term. Drawing on data and insights from science, economics and policymaking, the conference will largely concentrate on the science-policy interface. Participants, for example, will discuss how science, technology and innovation can better address critical issues related to the wise use and conservation of biodiversity conservation.

The conference will give representatives of IAP's 103 science academies a unique opportunity to provide input into negotiations scheduled to take place later this year among the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Biodiversity targets were incorporated into the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in September 2008. This was part of a larger effort designed to raise the profile of environmental sustainability as a key aspect of the MDGs. This welcomed decision offers IAP member academies a unique opportunity to extend their influence and expertise into the MDG process.

As noted by IAP co-chairs, Chen Zhu and Howard Alper:

The conference, which marks the inaugural event for the Year of Biodiversity, will serve as an excellent forum for science academies and biodiversity policy and science experts to discuss the complex array of issues, both scientific and societal, that shape biodiversity policies. More specifically, it will provide valuable scientific input into global discussions related to the 2010 biodiversity target. Participants at the meeting will also examine future targets and indicators, paying particular attention to the needs and capabilities of different countries. Equally important, participants will analyze how science can support the decision-making process to ensure that research-based data and insights help guide policy. We fully anticipate the IAP meeting will make a constructive contribution to discussions that take place at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meeting later this year.

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