The role of IIASA in science diplomacy

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The three strands of science diplomacy

• Diplomacy for Science
  (= nations supporting international science projects)

• Science for Diplomacy
  (= science helping relations between nations)

• Science in Diplomacy
  (= science providing advice to foreign policy; note: this is a subset of “science for policy”)

New frontiers in science diplomacy, AAAS/Royal Society 2010
IIASA is a child of diplomacy for science

1972

CHARTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

PREAMBLE
The Academy of Sciences, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; The Committee for the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Canada; The Committee for the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic; The French Association for the Development of Systems Analysis, France; The Academy of Sciences of the German Democratic Republic; The Japan Committee for the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis; The Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Sciences, Federal Republic of Germany.
Preamble of the IIASA Charter:

“….Convinced that science and technology, if wisely directed, can benefit all mankind,
Believing that international co-operation between national institutes promotes co-operation between nations and so the economic and social progress of peoples;
Hereby resolve to establish an International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis.”
Historical focus: East - West

2000: 12 National Member Organizations (NMOs) + 3 affiliate NMOs (= Global North)
IIASA’s Impact: 1972-1989

Researchers from Canada, France, Italy, West Germany, Japan, UK and USA

Researchers from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Poland, and USSR

Firsts include:
- Global energy assessment
- International assessment of climate change
- National water policies
Thawing of the Cold War...
Dec 2017: 23 National Member Organizations (Global North and Global South)
International collaborations (2015)

562 publications, incl. 315 peer-reviewed articles

1014 authors from 462 institutions in 50 countries
2018 - global fragmentation continues...
A need for bridging new divides
Science for diplomacy:
IIASA continues to build bridges between people and nations, including those with special relations

- USA – Russia
- Russia – Ukraine
- USA – Iran
- Iran – Israel
- Israel – Egypt
- Korea – Japan
- Finland – Russia
- USA – Mexico
- China – Japan
- Japan – Russia
- China – Vietnam
- USA – Vietnam
- Germany – Israel
- …
Science *in* Diplomacy:

Diplomatic interests can be categorized as follows (according to Sir Peter Gluckman):

- **Global interests**  
  (Interest in the planet / the well-being of humanity as a whole)
- **Common interests**  
  (shared / joined interest of a group of countries)
- **Direct national interests**  
  ("selfish" interests of a nation)
Science in Diplomacy: Global interests

- SDGs (incl. climate action)
  - e.g. The World in 2050, FABLE project
- Ungoverned spaces (Oceans, Polar zones, Outer Space, Internet)
  - e.g. Arctic Futures Initiative
- New technologies that avoid jurisdictional control (e.g. blockchain, artificial intelligence)
  - e.g. Transitions to New Technologies Program
Science *in* Diplomacy: Common interests

- Resource management (e.g. trans-boundary resource issues, conservation/environmental management, biosecurity)
  - e.g. Integrated Solutions for Water, Energy and Land (ISWEL), Haze in SE-Asia
- Joint political / socio-economic / cultural interests
  - e.g. Eurasian Economic Integration Futures Initiative
- Crisis and disaster management
  - e.g. Risk & Resilience Program
Science in Diplomacy: Direct national interests

- Voice / influence / soft power / reputation (bilateral relations, projection, development assistance)
- Security (emergencies, technical aspects of treaties, tension resolution, threats incl. cyber)
- Economic (trade, standards and definitions)
- National needs and capability (technical capabilities, access to knowhow, develop domestic STI)

➢ Cooperation with National Member Organizations
Science in Diplomacy: IIASA’s foreign policy partners

- Global interests
  - UN bodies (FAO, UNEP, UNIDO, etc.), OECD

- Common interests
  - Regional bodies (EU, OSCE, EAEU, AU, ASEAN, etc.), some national governments

- Direct national interests
  - Foreign / trade / development aid ministries

Note: IIASA also works with other national portfolio ministries beyond foreign relations (environment, energy, finance, planning commissions, etc.), but this is science to policy, not science diplomacy
Science cooperation is a fantastic way to developing links of all kinds (human, political, business oriented...), and maintaining them when other kinds of direct relations are difficult (cf. Iran).
Science diplomacy: Why IIASA? (1)

• Scientific excellence and reputation providing systemic solutions
• Mandate to tackle complex challenges no single country can solve
• IIASA membership represents 75% of the global economy and 60% of the global population
• IIASA is perceived as a neutral and independent honest broker and thus has convening power
Science diplomacy: Why IIASA? (2)

- Due to its genesis IIASA is perceived to be part of the diplomatic world ("Stallgeruch") and is embedded into the Vienna diplomatic hub.
- Long-lasting cooperations / excellent relations with international organizations at both working floor and leadership levels.
- IIASA is well connected to the key players (e.g. Foreign Ministries S&T Advisors).
Science & art is a powerful tool for science diplomacy.
Thank you for your attention!