

IIASA - an international global change institute

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Brief history

- 1972 initiative of U.S. and Soviet Union
- Created research center as a “neutral bridge between east and west”
- Original Charter of 1972: 12 countries
- 1994 Ministerial Conference: renewed mandate as independent, scientific institution
- 2002-2003: China, Egypt, Estonia joined

Characteristics

- Independent; non-governmental
- Interdisciplinary; natural and social scientists collaborate in one project
- International scientific staff (120 research scholars, post docs and assistants from 27 nations)
- North-South orientation, in addition to East-West
- Large networks

16 Member Organizations

- Austria
- China
- Czech Republic
- Egypt
- Estonia
- Finland
- Germany
- Hungary
- Japan
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Russian Federation
- Sweden
- Ukraine
- USA

Goal of IIASA

The Institute's strategic goal will be to conduct **international** and **interdisciplinary** scientific studies to provide timely and relevant information and **options**, addressing critical issues of **global environmental, economic and social change**, for the benefit of the **public**, the **scientific community**, and **national and international institutions**.

From: IIASA Enters the Twenty-first Century, 2000

Our research results

- Biology: Changing traits of fish
- Air pollution: Cheap abatement options when combined with climate change
- Agriculture: Effects of climate change
- Population: We grow older
- Technology: Web is dominated by the West
- Forests: The missing sink
- Disaster management: Cost sharing
- Climate change: New scenarios

Important Current Science Issues

- Uncertainty, robustness
- Spatial specificity
- Integrated assessment for climate change
- Problem interdependencies
- Stakeholder involvement
- Bridge science-policy divide
- Science of sustainability

Potential new members

➤ INDIA

- memorandum signed
- cabinet decision taken
- NMO known

➤ SOUTH KOREA

- Former minister decided
- NMO known
- site visit summer 2004

➤ SOUTH AFRICA

- under discussion
- NMO known

➤ CHILE

- under discussion
- NMO unknown

➤ BRAZIL, MEXICO

- to be initiated
- NMO unknown

Challenge: build up new branches in our networks

THANK YOU!

For further information

www.iiasa.ac.at