

Activities of International Association of Academies of Sciences

International Association of Academies of Sciences (further, IAAS, Association) was founded on September 23, 1993, when its Constituent Assembly with participation of Heads of national Academies of several countries from Asia and Europe, who signed an agreement on creation of IAAS, held in Kyiv.

IAAS is an international nongovernmental organization founded with the aim of joining up efforts of Academies of Sciences in resolving the most important scientific problems. The full members of Association are Academies of Sciences of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Byelorussia, Vietnam, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine. Associate members of IAAS are Joint Institute of Nuclear Research (Dubna, Russian Federation), Russian Humanitarian Scientific Fund, Moscow Physical-Technical Institute, Byelorussian Republican Fund of Fundamental Research and Moscow M.V. Lomonosov State University. The Slovak Academy of Sciences has observer status.

The supreme body of IAAS is Council consisting of Presidents of Academies of Sciences or persons authorized by them. Within periods between meetings of Council, activity of Association is directed by its President. From the time of creation, IAAS is headed by the President of National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Ukraine, Academician B.E. Paton. Vice-presidents of IAAS are President of Academy of Sciences of Georgia A.N. Tavkhelidze and President of Academy of Sciences of Republic of Tajikistan, U.M. Mirsaidov. The Headquarters of IAAS is in Kiev.

Thanks to efforts of Association, a currency-free exchange of scientific periodicals and monographs, and also of topical information between Academies of Sciences has been arranged. For instance, readers of V.I. Vernadskij National library of Ukraine have access to electronic catalogues of libraries of Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) in Moscow, St.-Petersburg and Novosibirsk and readers of these libraries can work with information resources of NAS of Ukraine through Internet.

Activity of IAAS in organization of collaboration in specific scientific problems is also effective. For example, actively working are Scientific Council on New Materials (Chairman is President of NAS of Ukraine B.E. Paton), Joint Scientific Council on Fundamental Problems of Geography (Chairman is Academician of RAS V.M. Kotlyakov), Consultative Council for Protection of Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer (Chairman is Academician of NAS of Ukraine A.P. Shpak), International Coordinating Committee in Numerical Mathematics (Chairman is Corresponding Member of NAS of Ukraine V.L. Makarov).

An important field of activity of IAAS is organization and conducting of major international symposiums, conferences, seminars, enhancing prestige of science and researchers, upbringing academic traditions. Society, as V.I. Vernadskij said, should "value scientific activity conducted in it as an issue of national importance". With participation of IAAS were celebrated jubilees of Academies of Sciences of Ukraine, Russia, Byelorussia and Tajikistan, of several outstanding Soviet scientists, in particular, Academicians N.N. Bogolyubov, M.A. Lavrentyev. Undoubtedly, this promotes enhancing role of science in society and attracting attention of authoritative structures to needs of scientists.

Association carries on and active publishing activity: twenty-eight issues of IAAS Bulletin and several reference books were published. To the fifth anniversary of Association, the Kyiv publishers "Naukova dumka" published an illustrated book "International Association of Academies of Sciences and development of integration in scientific sphere". By initiative of RAS, an international scientific and social and political Journal "Society and Economy" was founded. Association has its own prize, the IAAS medal "For promotion of development of science".

For restoring and development of scientific links, Association tries to establish a constructive dialogue with authoritative structures of NIS countries and informs them of collective opinion of scientists concerning existing problems, directs attention to problems of science, suggests constructive methods of their solutions. In accordance with proposition of IAAS in November 1995, heads of governments of NIS countries signed Agreement concerning creation of a common scientific and technological space of states, members of NIS. Association plays an important role in implementation of this agreement. IAAS prepared and published in its Bulletin a detailed information on 139 unique scientific objects of NIS countries, which are of significant interest for scientific community.

Activity of IAAS, undoubtedly, promoted development and acceptance in most NIS countries of laws on scientific activity, on Academies of Sciences, aimed at enhancing prestige of researchers, increase of influx of talented young people into science.

One of the most important results of Association activity is preserving the existing in NIS countries the system of academic science. Different forms of organization of fundamental research, created by scientific community, take into account historical peculiarities of coming into being and development of science in a specific country.

In the center of attention of IAAS is solution of a number of global problems, which arose in the result of reckless technogen human activity, in particular executing works in Chernobyl themes, evaluation of technical state and residual resource of the most important industrial, power-generating and economic objects, bridge constructions and engineering communications.

Association strives for close contacts with UNESCO, actively participates in measures of this organization. So, issues of preparation to the World Conference "Science in 21st century: new obligations" (Budapest, Hungary, 1999) and of implementation of recommendations adopted at it, have been in the center of attention of IAAS since 1997. In September 2001, IAAS under support of UNESCO and European Commission held in Kyiv an International Symposium "Role of European organizations in development of All-European science and technological space", which enjoyed a wide social resonance. Cooperation with UNESCO on a permanent basis would promote acceptance of Association to the list of organizations, with which it maintains official collaborative relationships. Application if IAAS concerning this issue, supported by national commissions on UNESCO affairs of several NIS countries, is under evaluation now.

IAAS is ready to become an active participant of the process of intensification of interaction between international scientific organizations, enhancing co-ordination of their actions for development of international scientific cooperation, forming common scientific and technological space, in particular, All-European space.