

International Impacts

Three key goals — promoting international scientific cooperation, building workforce capacity, and sustainable development — are at the core of any international AAAS activity. As natural science or engineering now accounts for roughly half of all bachelor's degrees awarded in China, compared with only about 11 percent in the United States, AAAS also focused in 2005 on promoting multi-cultural research and cross-cultural understanding.



The Crisis of Science in Iraq

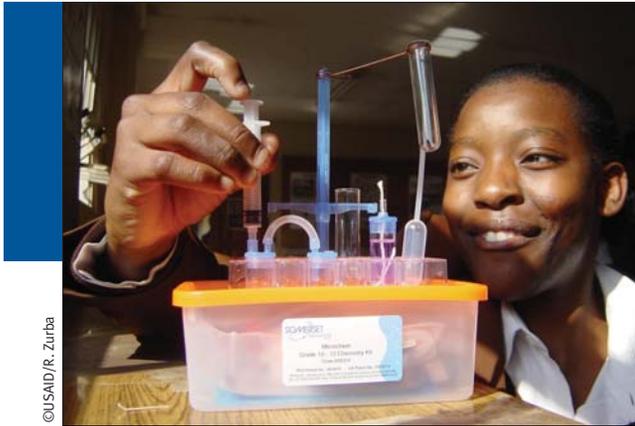
At a forum convened by AAAS and the U.S. Civilian Research & Development Foundation, experts said long-term efforts to destroy Iraq's weapons-manufacturing infrastructure could prove ineffective unless the United States and allies find a way to recruit hundreds of unemployed Iraqi weapons scientists into rebuilding efforts. "We can't let the scientists go, not just for our own [security] concerns, but because you need them to rebuild Iraq," said David Kay, who stepped down as chief U.S. weapons inspector a year earlier, after his 1,400-member team failed to find weapons of mass destruction. Bombing Iraqi labs eliminates equipment, Kay emphasized, but scientists retain their weapons-building knowledge. "If there is to be a future for Iraq that is at all prosperous," he added, "it must be built around science and technology professionals."

Another AAAS event featured Beriwan Muslih Khailany, Iraq's deputy minister of higher education and scientific research, who said that 84 percent of her nation's university facilities had been burned, looted, or destroyed following Saddam Hussein's ouster in 2003. Mosa Jawad Aziz Almosawe, president of the University of Baghdad, confirmed major deficiencies in research facilities and equipment. For her part, AAAS Diplomacy Fellow Krista Donaldson tried to help rebuild the troubled country by working on electrical power shortages.

AAAS Officials Visit China

The first visit to China by a high-ranking AAAS delegation since 1990, hosted by the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), took place in June 2005. AAAS CEO Alan Leshner, joined by two senior managers, met with a series of top Chinese science, education, and engineering leaders. Leshner delivered two speeches and also conferred with leaders of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and others. "In many Asian countries, the highest levels of government talk about how important science and engineering are to achieving economic growth," Leshner said in the *Miami Herald*. "Here, the scientific community often has to convince policy-makers that science is critical to economic growth."

AAAS Diplomacy Fellow Krista Donaldson, a Stanford-educated mechanical engineer, spent a month in Iraq between mid-December 2004 and mid-January 2005, working to restore the country's failing electrical grid while assigned to the U.S. State Department's Iraq Reconstruction Management Office.



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Voices of Science, Worldwide

Wherever they travel, AAAS Board, staff, members, and Fellows make their mark. For example, Shirley Malcom, head of Education and Human Resources at AAAS, had several opportunities to give voice to the scientific enterprise in 2005. In Pretoria, South Africa, Malcom told an audience of science, engineering, and technology experts that true gender equity requires more than set-aside programs for women. And, during a UNESCO forum in Seoul, South Korea, she urged nations seeking to improve science and engineering education to focus on professional development for teachers. The modern “learning revolution” cannot be achieved by scattered programs and isolated efforts but rather by systematic global investment, she said. Following another conference presentation in Ghana, organized by the African Network of Scientific and Technical Institutions, the AAAS Board of Directors encouraged the development of a strategic plan for programmatic efforts in Africa.

Making a Mark in Kyoto

Then-AAAS President Gilbert S. Omenn of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, led a top-level delegation of AAAS officials who attended the Science and Technology in Society Forum 11-13 September in Kyoto, Japan. Scientific leaders from around the world convened in Kyoto to address sustainability, capacity-building, security, and other crucial issues. In opening remarks, Japanese Crown Prince Hironmiya Naruhito noted that the rapid scientific and technological

advances of recent decades have “raised some basic questions, such as whether the fruits of innovation have been shared fairly amongst all groups of people, whether the development of science and technology can be harmonized with nature, or whether science and technology should be allowed to develop simply because they seem to have infinite potential.”

Calls for Action on Climate Change

When Sir David King, chief scientific adviser to the British government, addressed a packed AAAS auditorium in September 2005, he called for action to prevent the worst of the predicted impacts related to global warming, such as the irreversible melting of the Greenland ice sheet. Noting that Britain has pledged a 60 percent reduction in its heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, King said the rest of the world’s nations should follow suit. King, whose talk was sponsored by AAAS in collaboration with the Washington Science Policy Alliance, said continued increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide and related warming could melt the Greenland ice sheet, eventually raising sea levels by up to 6.5 meters (21.3 feet), with dire long-term consequences for many coastal cities. King’s remarks were consistent with a series of papers published in *Science* in 2005, as well as information provided during a Capitol Hill briefing on climate change, convened by the AAAS Center for Science, Technology, and Congress.

“A major U.S. science group Tuesday urged Britain’s biggest university teachers’ union to immediately repeal its boycott of two Israeli universities. The boycott is ‘counter to the positive role of free scientific inquiry in improving the lives of all citizens of the world and in promoting cooperation among nations, despite political differences,’ said a statement from the board of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.”

—Associated Press Worldstream, 24 May 2005