

The AAAS International Office serves as a catalyst for global cooperation. Chief International Officer Vaughan Turekian and his staff help to coordinate Association-wide efforts to promote multi-national research and sustainable solutions to social, economic, and environmental problems. International activities help to advance the global science and technology workforce, and focus on applying science in service of human rights, while building bridges among scientific communities. See [www.aaas.org/programs/international](http://www.aaas.org/programs/international).



## AAAS Worldwide

### ► LANDMARK AGREEMENTS WITH CHINA

Capping a six-day visit to Beijing, Shanghai, and Hangzhou, AAAS inked agreements with two of China's leading research organizations, outlining plans for collaboration related to publishing, science education, sustainability, and opportunities for women scientists and engineers. AAAS, the Chinese Association for Science and Technology (CAST), and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) agreed to work together to translate and disseminate educational materials and high-impact *Science* papers. AAAS also is providing CAST with translated science-literacy materials from Project 2061, and *Science's* News Department has opened a Beijing office. Also in 2007, the AAAS Web site called EurekAlert! launched a Chinese-language version of its popular science-news service for reporters. As a first step toward increased collaboration, a conference organized by CAST and AAAS brought together dozens of scholars from both nations to discuss scientific integrity and social responsibility.

### ► ARAB, U.S. WOMEN BUILD BRIDGES

Too often, Saudi Arabian pharmacologist Samira Islam said, the West sees the Arab world — and Arab women — in simplistic terms. With 321 million people in 22 countries, she told U.S. and Arab scholars at the International Conference on Women Leaders in Science, Technology, and Engineering, the region is diverse. Women make up surprisingly large percentages of all science graduates in many Arab regions, she said, although jobs in science and technology still go disproportionately to men. The conference at the Arab Organizations building drew more than 200 scientists and engineers from 18 nations in the Middle East and Northern Africa. It was held under the patronage of the Kuwaiti Prime Minister and organized by AAAS in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Institute for Scientific Research; the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science; the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development; and the U.S. State Department.

### ► RWANDAN SCIENCE SUPPORTS GROWTH

With Rwanda working to address chronic poverty and the legacy of its 1994 genocide, AAAS President and Nobel laureate David Baltimore (2007-2008) met with Rwanda President Paul Kagame to discuss how science-related development and education could contribute to peace and prosperity. Baltimore visited Rwanda in October, joined by Tom Wang, AAAS director for international cooperation, to better understand the nation's science and technology capacity and needs. Lacking natural resources such as oil or minerals, the African nation has an ambitious development plan that aims instead to build a knowledge-based economy, in part by doubling research spending.

### ► ENGAGEMENT WITH IRAN

A delegation of U.S. science and engineering leaders that visited Iran on a mission of science diplomacy included Norman P. Neureiter, director of the AAAS Center for Science, Technology, and Security Policy. The October visit, culminating in a two-day symposium, revealed that the science communities of the two countries

share common goals on topics ranging from water resources and earthquake research, to science policy. Sharif University and the Iranian Academy of Sciences hosted the visit, which was organized by the U.S. National Academies, led by William A. Wulf, recently retired president of the National Academy of Engineering, and also included Princeton Nobelist in physics Joseph Taylor. The visit “confirmed again the value of scientific interactions as a means of useful communication with countries where political relations may be very strained,” Neureiter said.

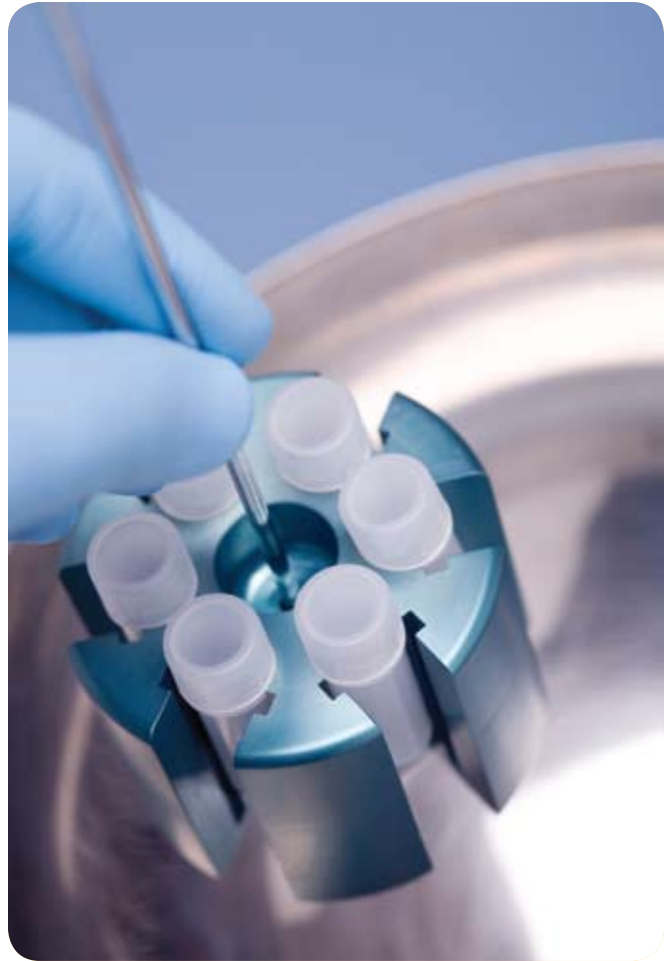
Other AAAS international cooperation efforts in 2007 included a new agreement to provide advice to the Government of Kazakhstan, through the International Experts Council, related to their plans for scientific development.

► **BUILDING CAPACITY IN LATIN AMERICA**

A review organized by AAAS and released in 2007 concluded that the Inter-American Institute for Global Change (IAI) could amplify its impacts — which currently include producing high-quality science and building research capacity in Latin America — by improving communication with policy-makers. Founded in 1992, the Inter-American Institute (IAI) focuses on the Americas and the Caribbean, a region of extraordinary biological diversity and climate variations that is beset by growing population and serious environmental problems. The review, commissioned by the U.S. National Science Foundation, was delivered in Manaus, Brazil, in June to IAI officials representing the 19 member nations.

► **GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES AT AAAS**

Wealthy and developing nations should agree to a global pact to sharply reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Sir David King, former U.K. chief scientific advisor, said at AAAS in July. Another international visitor to AAAS, Brazilian physicist José Goldemberg, said ethanol could replace much of the world’s fossil fuels, but expanding ethanol production poses major challenges. Yet another international speaker, German Minister for Education and Research Annette Schavan, said Germany’s prosperity will be driven by innovation, spurred by collaboration between researchers and industry and a strong investment in education. International perspectives help to enrich public discourse and scholarly exchange on a range of topics.



“In a world growing ever-smaller, no single nation, no region or culture, owns science. While researchers may speak many languages, they share a common dedication to science ... for the advancement of all humanity.” OP-ED, *KUWAIT TIMES*, 8 JANUARY 2007, BY THE AAAS CEO AND FARKHONDA HASSAN, PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO