

## AAAS WORLDWIDE

Coordinating science globally through collaborative projects and common standards is crucial to effectively surmounting major challenges facing our world, such as climate change and global health issues. AAAS promotes international research cooperation as well as science diplomacy to further the potential and scope of science and technology-based solutions, and to foster mutual understanding.

### S&T COOPERATION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Pacific Rim countries represent more than 40% of the world's population and more than half of economic output.

Bringing together 30+ leaders from the region's science, higher-education and policy communities, a 2011 AAAS roundtable developed recommendations for "a more coherent and compatible scientific system." The region, which includes nations as diverse as Canada, China, India and Malaysia, is characterized by pockets of huge growth in scientific research.

With the aim of supporting collaborations across the Asia and Pacific region, leaders at the roundtable explored such ideas as identifying common challenges, developing compatible scientific norms and ethics, and making universities hubs for regional collaboration and problem-solving.

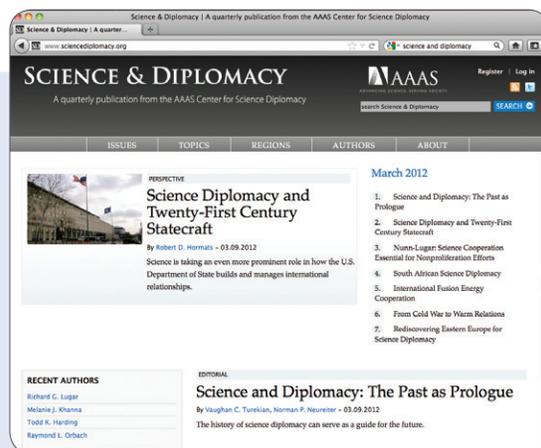
### INDIA, AAAS EXPLORE SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

How can India and the United States, two major science powers, utilize cooperation in science and technology to support international relations and address critical issues? This promising area of exploration headlined a workshop in the Indian city of Bangalore, organized by India's National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) and AAAS.

Top scholars, diplomats and science policy leaders concluded that the two nations should explore joint projects in developing nations such as Afghanistan as well as large-

### Science and Diplomacy Publication Announced

The 2012 launch by AAAS of Science and Diplomacy, a quarterly online publication designed to address issues at the intersection of science and foreign policy, was announced in November 2011. Visit [www.sciencediplomacy.org](http://www.sciencediplomacy.org).



scale research collaborations, especially to handle global concerns. “We should be addressing as partners some of the pressing global problems like renewable energy, climate change or drugs for infectious diseases,” said NIAS Director V.S. Ramamurthy, a nuclear physicist and former secretary to the Indian Department of Science and Technology.

“We are living at a time when science and technology are embedded in almost all of human activity,” said AAAS CEO Alan I. Leshner, executive publisher of *Science*. “Advancing science will require making relevant scientific values, policies and regulations compatible.”

### WORLD SCIENCE FORUM IN HUNGARY

At the 2011 World Science Forum, some of the world’s most respected research and policy leaders emphasized that global science coordination will be required to handle regional and global challenges.

“We can only contribute fully to solving global problems if the scientific community itself is functioning in a truly global way,” said AAAS’s Leshner at the Forum’s opening session, which was attended by some 500 science experts.

Leshner and other science authorities called for common standards in science ethics, education, peer review and intellectual property, as well as increased mobility of scientists and research funding to tackle tough issues involving health, energy and the environment. The global research landscape is rapidly shifting, speakers said, with increasing numbers of researchers coming out of Asia and many developing nations building science capacity.

### REPORT OFFERS ROADMAP FOR HAITIAN SCIENCE

In workshops organized by AAAS and its Caribbean Division, some 100 scientists, engineers, educators and government leaders determined that Haiti and the international community should work together to build the island nation’s science capacity as a means to recover from disaster and begin long-term, sustainable development.

Held in Port-au-Prince, the workshops involved participants from Haiti, Puerto Rico, Canada, Rwanda and the United States. Fritz Deshommes, president of the



*Haitian students gather around a computer. Formal and informal educational opportunities were cited in the AAAS report as ways to leverage the benefits of science for Haiti’s post-earthquake reconstruction and future development.*

newly formed Haitian Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology, referred to the resulting AAAS report, *Science for Haiti*, as “the possibility of a vision for Haiti that is more rational, authentic and reassuring, one that is not limited to humanitarian aid nor condemned to perpetual dependence.”

The report makes recommendations to strengthen science and science education in Haiti, with the assistance of collaborative partnerships and other support from the international science community and aid organizations.

### ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD

To maximize their efforts in science diplomacy, AAAS and the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) formally agreed to promote regional cooperation among developing countries and to increase the capacities of foreign and research ministries to build science partnerships.

“Our new collaboration with TWAS will help identify new mechanisms for increasing the role that science can play in addressing some of the great international and global challenges,” the AAAS CEO said.