Science is a global enterprise. With members on every continent, including Antarctica, AAAS works to strengthen the role of scientists and engineers worldwide. Our International Initiatives support three key goals, which promote international scientific cooperation, S&T workforce and capacity development, and science and innovation for sustainable development. Progress toward these goals is now being achieved throughout AAAS as a result of team efforts coordinated by the Chief International Officer.

**AAAS Event Marks U.S. Return to UNESCO**

AAAS is playing a central role in rebuilding ties between the United States and UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. Former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell named AAAS to help represent science and technology interests on the new U.S. National Commission for UNESCO. His request followed a conference organized by AAAS in UNESCO’s Paris headquarters where officials discussed how best to improve science education worldwide. UNESCO Director General Koichiro Matsuura — seated between U.S. Ambassador to UNESCO Louise Oliver and then AAAS President-Elect Gilbert S. Omenn — described the gathering as a watershed in U.S.-UNESCO relations.

**Youth Science Cuts Across Boundaries**

When 900 student-scientists and 350 teachers gathered in Beijing for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Association’s Third Youth Science Festival, AAAS was there. With support from the National Science Foundation, AAAS organized a delegation of 19 top U.S. science students and four high-school science teachers. Three of the students won top prizes. The event was hosted by China’s Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Education, the China Association for Science and Technology, the Central Committee of the Chinese Youth League, and the city government of Beijing. Yet another example of AAAS efforts to build S&T workforce capacity happened in July 2004 when outstanding U.S. high-school students spent two unforgettable weeks at South Korea’s Pohang University of Science and Technology. “No matter where you come from,” remarked student Jeffrey Chang of Glenview, Illinois, “a lot of people have the same interests.” Read more: [www.aaas.org/news/releases/2004/0907korea.shtm](http://www.aaas.org/news/releases/2004/0907korea.shtm).

**Euroscience Opens New Doors**

More than 250 guests joined AAAS and Science staff for a gala reception at Stockholm’s Vasa Museum during the first-ever EuroScience Open Forum. “We have 13,000 European members who play a critical role in helping AAAS to serve as a voice for the advancement of science around the world,” the AAAS CEO explained as he co-hosted the event with Andrew Sugden, international managing editor for Science in Cambridge, U.K. Other AAAS highlights included sessions on women in science and engineering, science communications, and science policy. Shirley Malcom, director of Education and Human Resources at AAAS, offered a plenary lecture on science literacy. “Much of what we are doing on both sides of the Atlantic is falling short of our ambitions in terms of reaching the public, grabbing their attention, and providing them with quality information,” Malcom warned.
Protecting Science and Human Rights
When *New York Times* reporter Claudia Dreifus profiled forensic anthropologist Fredy A. Peccerelli, her popular column also highlighted the long-term results of AAAS’s Science and Human Rights program. AAAS long ago helped train the first forensic anthropology team to exhume and examine thousands of Guatemalans who were killed during a bloody civil war. Since then, scientists like Peccerelli, executive director of the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation, have braved death threats to piece together the stories of victims’ lives. Through the Human Rights Network, AAAS helps protect the human rights of scientists worldwide, while also monitoring state compliance with international human rights standards.

Sustaining Fragile Ecosystems
Biodiversity champion Peter Raven applauded our efforts when AAAS became an Affiliate of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment — one of the largest, most ambitious international ecosystem-change studies ever undertaken. “Protecting the planet’s fragile ecosystems is essential for human well-being and prosperity,” said Raven, director of the Missouri Botanical Garden and a past president of AAAS. Providing input into the Assessment was one activity of AAAS’s Center for Science, Innovation, and Sustainability. “Connecting S&T with decisions and actions now is essential for improving future prospects as our population swells, our natural resources shrink, and our wastes linger,” said Sherburne Abbott, the Center’s director. Toward that end, the Center teamed up with other AAAS colleagues to host a UNESCO meeting on the role of engineering in poverty alleviation; forged a cooperative agreement with the U.N. Environment Program, which was inaugurated by a review of intellectual property, trade, and the environment; and began a National Science Foundation-supported evaluation of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research.

Speaking Up for Science
Wherever the scientific enterprise is threatened, AAAS helps to give the scientific community a voice. When Thamir Abdul Latif, director of Iraq’s ministry of science, and civil servant Ikhlas Ghalib were shot to death on their way to work, AAAS prepared an op-ed on the crisis of Iraqi science. “An attack on science is a war within the war for the future of Iraq. Since the fall of Baghdad, scientists and engineers have been targeted by assassins with fierce regularity,” AAAS wrote in the *Boston Globe* and the *Daily Star of Lebanon*. “With every new killing, the chance of achieving a positive outcome in Iraq falls further into jeopardy.”

“Alan I. Leshner, chief executive of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, said his group was alarmed by the government’s opposition to [medical and scientific collaboration with Cuba], as well as by its recent ban on the editing of papers submitted by people in countries facing sanctions and by restrictions on study by foreign students in the United States. ‘Their actions to restrict open communication in science work against our national interest,’ he said.”

Karen W. Arenson, reporting in *The New York Times*

“It is time to begin a critical worldwide examination of the systems for teaching science and technology. ... It is the scientists and engineers of the world who must take the lead; scientific societies and associations must emulate the AAAS in seeking to find out what works in creating a scientifically literate society, and in making sure that everyone, from parents to politicians, understands what is at stake.”

Nobel laureates Leon Lederman and Georges Charpak in an opinion piece published by the International Herald Tribune after the June 2004 UNESCO-AAAS conference on improving science education worldwide