Minutes of meeting:
InterAcademy Partnership – Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences

21 November 2014 – Berlin, Germany

The aim of the meeting was to introduce the two academy networks to one another and to determine whether there are enough synergies that would enable CAETS to join IAP as a dedicated section of engineering and technology.

Present
Volker ter Meulen – Co-chair: IAP – the global network of science academies
Mohamed Hassan – Co-chair: IAP – the global network of science academies
Detlev Ganten – Co-chair: IAMP – InterAcademy Medical Panel
Bob Pullen – President: CAETS
Baldev Raj – President elect: CAETS
Achiel van Cauwenberghe – Foreign secretary: CAETS; ex-officio on IAC Board.
Bill Salmon – Secretary/treasurer: CAETS
F. Behrendt – acatech member, representative on CAETS STS Forum (observer)
Peter McGrath – Coordinator: IAP and IAMP.

VtM opened the meeting by recalling that he had been invited to the 2014 CAETS Convocation (Beijing, June 1-5), and that subsequently B. Raj met with VtM while he was attending the AASSA (IAP regional network for Asia) meeting in New Delhi, where discussions continued.

B. Pullen outlined CAETS – which has been active for 35 years, has 26 members - all dedicated academies of engineering which pay a nominal US$3,000 annual membership, is a non-profit 501(L)(3) registered entity in the US that enables it to accept charitable donations. The members meet once per year and determine 3-5 issues of concern for discussion at the next meeting. Technical sessions at these meetings typically also produce statements. Other standing committees include energy (3 reports produced in 5 years) and noise control technology.
CAETS also works with ICSU, WMO, UNESCO and other organizations – on a case by case basis. E.g. With ICSU there are discussions ongoing on how engineering can fit into the Future Earth initiative.

Regarding the energy committee, M. Hassan recalled the 2005 IAC report 'Lighting the Future'. CAETS reports involve 10 member academies and will focus on buildings and transport, e.g. life cycles, retrofitting to reduce CO_2 emissions, new buildings, etc, with release aimed at the 2015 Convocation in New Delhi. Academies contribute to such reports by identifying key persons among their membership. There is no external funding.
CAETS academies help each other give advice to governments in-country, or perhaps request advice from other members, or 2-3 academies join together.

D. Ganten explained that IAMP consists of dedicated medical academies plus the medical/health science sections of science academies. Bill Salmon emphasised that CAETS membership is stand-along academies of engineering, but guests/observers are welcome at meetings.

VtM raised the issue of representation, for example EASAC consists of academies of all EU member states, so its reports and statements are taken seriously. Bill Salmon noted that CAETS working groups are made of individual experts from member academies that have no bias, conflict of interest, etc.

A list of 48 topics identified through the IAP Horizon Scanning exercise was then introduced with the aim of potentially finding an area that introducing the kinds of issues that the InterAcademy Partnership are considering prioritizing.
 IAP and CAETS could collaborate.
The question arose as to what kind of collaboration is required? What kind of working groups are envisioned? What funding structures? What are IAP's procedures?

VtM then introduced the IAP organigram, outlining the structure, including the regional networks:
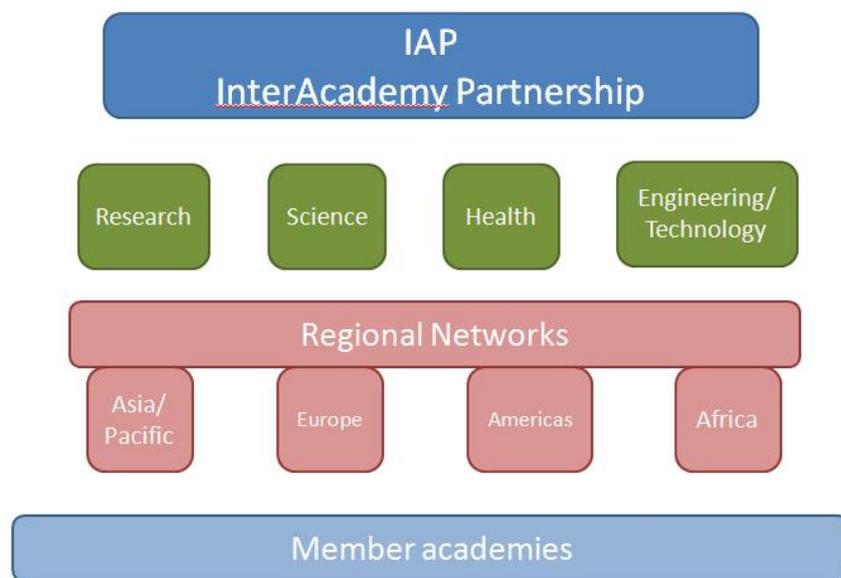
It was noted that IAP Research was originally IAC; IAP Science was originally IAP – the global network of science academies; and IAP Heath was originally IAMP – all of which retain their original decision-making structures, but all of which contribute 2 co-chairs each to a six co-chair steering committee. The board of the new IAP is completed by 4 regional representatives, making a total of 10 members.
Also, IAC board members are elected from a subset of IAP member academies, while IAMP's >70 member academies include some 50 that are members of IAP, plus one (Chinese Academy of Engineering) that is a CAETS member.

D. Ganten informed that IAMP had a strong identity and struggled with the idea of the new umbrella organization. However, after some initial resistance, its executive committee is now enthusiastic to be involved. He highlighted that IAP Health still maintains its own ways of operating and can still identify and work on the issues of interest to it and its members. IAMP agreed to change its name, added Ganten, who believes IAMP will benefit from being part of the umbrella organization. An IAMP general assembly in 2016 (if not an electronic vote before that) will eventually ratify the decision.

VtM noted that the same would be true for CAETS if it were to join the umbrella organization.

With regard to financing, it was noted that the IAP and IAMP offices in Trieste, Italy, were funded largely by the Italian government, with a secretariat of 3 persons (PMcG plus two administrative assistants). IAC, on the other hand, has been supported by KNAW the Dutch academy) but is now under US NAS. Currently both secretariats collaborate on and divide up IAPartnership activities.

M. Hassan noted that the ambition range of programmes identified, however, needs additional fundraising. The aim is to provide detailed, unbiased advice to governments, international bodies (EC, G8/G20, WHO, World Bank, Africa Union, etc), etc, but not wait to be asked / not demand-driven.

VtM also outlined the proposal for regional statements on a single issue to be developed and then 'globalised' through an overall summary, saying that this will give the reports strength.
He also noted that members endorse the reports before they are released (although mechanisms vary between EASAC, IAP and IAMP, for example – a situation that may have to be streamlined as the IAPartnership moves forward).
In the case of CAETS, it was noted that only those member academies involved in a particular working group/report took responsibility for the conclusions.

B. Raj noted that there need to be clear written rules of participation before CAETS would get involved, e.g. outlining obligations, and that these would not change the ethos of CAETS. While increased visibility of CAETS would be welcome, it would need to be confirmed that there are no funding liabilities.

Concerns were then expressed by CAETS about the costs of the IAPartnership board.
In practice, board members cover their own travel expenses (although the secretariats sometimes provide for members from developing countries), while accommodation is usually offered by a host member academy. Meetings usually last 1-1½ days (i.e. 2-3 nights maximum).

AvC queried the need for a fourth green box in the organigram for technology/engineering, especially if CAETS was already an ex-officio member of IAC/IAP Research, and wanted clarity regarding the interactions between the four boxes.

D. Ganten responded saying that academies had a responsibility to society to explain scientific issues especially as they relate to policy, however, currently the message is confused with different networks acting independently. There is a need to simplify and to target policy-makers with a single over-arching voice. There are at least 7 major international conferences scheduled in 2015 (e.g. on climate change, disaster risk reduction, etc), he said, but we are not efficient at getting our voice heard. The IAPartnership provides this opportunity.

Summing up the discussions, B. Pullen presented CAETS views.
He noted that the IAPartnership perceived the need for a direct relationship with engineering professionals through credible structures such as CAETS, as this would make statements, reports, etc, stronger and more credible. However, he noted that it is individual academicians that generally make things happen. He noted that the IAPartnership model was not a threat to CAETS but if CAETS were to join there should be no financial obligation. Indeed, it was noted that CAETS would need to think hard about accepting funding for joint projects.
Bill Salmon noted that, if projects should emerge, CAETS can find a way to cooperate and then the engineering academies will begin to see the benefits of engaging with the IAPartnership.

This idea was seconded by B. Raj, who noted that working together would build confidence in the other organization.

The meeting closed with a request from CAETS for a 'crisp' document from the IAPartnership outlining a proposal for the participation of CAETS in the Partnership, and including a business plan.