



# The InterAcademy Medical Panel

*Committed to improving health worldwide*

## STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN II (SAP-II) (2013-2016)

Approved at IAMP Executive Committee Meeting  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *InterAcademy Medical Panel on Global Health Issues (IAMP)* is a voluntary association of academies of medical sciences and academies of sciences and engineering with a medical section. IAMP seeks to create and support strong and vibrant academies and networks of academies to advance evidence-based efforts that improve health worldwide, especially in low-income countries. The objectives are:

1. Facilitate the provision of evidence-based advice to governments and international organizations on issues of importance to global health;
2. Assist in the creation of academies where none exist, and to build the capacity of existing academies to provide evidence-based health and science advice to their national governments and the public;
3. Promote cooperation among academies of the world by exchanging information and sharing expertise;
4. Support member academies to improve health and strengthen health-related research and higher education, in their countries;
5. Support the development of leadership skills among young physicians worldwide;
6. Organize scientific meetings, workshops, conferences and outreach-events, and issue consensus statements on matters of importance to global health; and
7. Develop partnerships and collaborations with other health-related international/regional organizations and networks beyond the inter-academy community which share its goals.

The agenda of the IAMP SAP-II is shaped by the opportunities and challenges that present themselves to IAMP in today's world, namely: globalization, the importance of evidence-based advice, the resources for global health, transforming the role of academies, and the post-2015 development agenda. The Strategic Priority Areas have been aligned with the objectives:

SPA 1. Positioning IAMP and IAMP members as recognized providers of independent, high quality evidence-based advice on pressing health issues of global and national importance;

SPA 2. Building and strengthening capacity of IAMP member academies as well as developing capacities for establishing new ones;

SPA 3. Fostering a new generation of physician leaders;

SPA 4. Strengthening partnerships with other organizations within and beyond the InterAcademy community; and

SPA 5. Strengthening IAMP operations through fund-raising.

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(17 May 2014)

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Established in 2000 by a Founding Resolution of the Tokyo World Conference of Scientific Academies, the *InterAcademy Medical Panel on Global Health Issues (IAMP)* is a voluntary association of academies of medical sciences and academies of sciences and engineering with a medical section<sup>1</sup>. Presently, IAMP has over 70 members in all World Health Organization (WHO) regions. Since 2004, the IAMP Secretariat has been hosted by the TWAS: The World Academy of Sciences (formerly known as The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World and Third World Academy of Sciences) in Trieste, Italy.

This Strategic Action Plan (hereinafter referred to as the IAMP SAP-II) will cover the triennium starting 2013. It was developed by the Executive Committee with input from IAMP member academies at and after the last General Assembly in 2013.

## **II. MISSION AND OBJECTIVES**

IAMP is unique among international science organizations because of its exclusive focus on health, health sciences research and education, and how they can inform health policy. It works with and through member academies, to improve the health of individuals worldwide.

### **MISSION**

IAMP seeks to create and support strong and vibrant academies and networks of academies to advance evidence-based efforts that improve health worldwide, especially in low-income countries

### **OBJECTIVES**

8. Facilitate the provision of evidence-based advice to governments and international organizations on issues of importance to global health
9. Assist in the creation of academies where none exist, and to build the capacity of existing academies to provide evidence-based health and science advice to their national governments and the public
10. Promote cooperation among academies of the world by exchanging information and sharing expertise
11. Support member academies to improve health and strengthen health-related research and higher education, in their countries
12. Support the development of leadership skills among young physicians worldwide
13. Organize scientific meetings, workshops, conferences and outreach-events, and issue consensus statements on matters of importance to global health.
14. Develop partnerships and collaborations with other health-related international/regional organizations and networks beyond the inter-academy community which share its goals.

<sup>1</sup> Hereafter referred to in this document as "academies".

### **III. THE CONTEXT FOR OUR WORK**

The agenda of the IAMP SAP-II is shaped by the opportunities and challenges that present themselves to IAMP in today's world, namely: globalization, the importance of evidence-based advice, the resources for global health, transforming the role of academies, and the post-2015 development agenda.

#### **Globalization**

For IAMP, perhaps the single most important development is that there is more interest in global health issues than ever before. Health is now seen as an essential aspect of economic and social development; for many nations it has become an important part of foreign policy; and, more generally, in modern societies, health is now considered a crucial public good. This paradigm shift is not just ideological in nature; it reflects a fundamental change in the underlying realities of health issues, especially at the global level. All nations face the challenges of the spread of infectious diseases; the increasing burden of chronic, non-communicable diseases, many attributable to tobacco, diet, exercise, as well as poverty, inadequate levels of education, and environments that prevent healthy choices; challenges of an aging population; rapid urbanization, and the health effects of climate change. Collaboration on risk reduction is crucial to achieving improved global health.

#### **The Importance of Evidence-Based Advice**

An important feature of globalization is the expansion of actors involved in programs and policy for health. It is no longer possible for governments alone to protect and promote the health of their populations. Business, academia, organizations of civil society all play an increasing role in health decision-making at local, country and global level. At the intergovernmental level, the World Health Organization (WHO) has been at the forefront of action on global health issues for a long time and still plays a critical role at the global level in standard setting and its other normative and technical assistance functions in advising and working through Ministries of Health for country level action. Yet, in this complex environment with multiple stakeholders, each with their own sources of information, there is serious need for an independent voice that can assess the science and experience on critical health issues and provide this evidence to country governments and global organizations. Academies of medicine and medical sections of science academies can play this role in their own countries, and the IAMP can play this role regionally and globally through its member academies.

#### **Resources for Global Health**

Increased interest in global health issues has also led to unprecedented investments in global health. Most of this new funding seeks to address the health disparities within and across countries, especially the disproportionate burden of disease in low-income countries. As funds become available for health action from multilateral donors, high-income countries, and foundations, it is important that their investments be aligned with receiving country strategies and be directed at supporting interventions that work. A source of unbiased evidence on health problems and their solutions can be invaluable. A strong academy is in a position to play this role in countries, and IAMP, as a network of academies, can support

such analysis at regional and global level. IAMP and its member academies can also serve as both advocates and instruments for support of effective health research and educational institutions linked to the national, regional and global health needs.

### **Transforming the Role of Academies**

Academies of science and medicine in many countries have historically been largely honorific societies for outstanding national figures who have contributed much to their countries as individuals. While some still fit within that mould, since the early 1990s, more and more academies have realized that science has a critical role to play in society and national development and they have begun to accept responsibility as organizations for addressing the implications of this new reality. The establishment of IAMP at the 2000 Tokyo World Conference of Scientific Academies is in fact one of the results of this transition. Annual meetings of the G-8 Science Academies in conjunction with the G-8 Summits and more recently G-Science grouping including the science academies of emerging countries have brought important health and science concerns to the attention of heads of state and the public. Increasingly, countries are placing health and science concerns at the center of so-called “soft diplomacy” efforts within their foreign policies, and the importance of solid evidence-based advice is fundamental to the effective use of this kind of political support. As a global network, IAMP seeks to serve as a vehicle for all of its member academies to influence important national and global health decision-making. IAMP also has the capacity to mobilize the experience and expertise of the scientists and health professionals associated with its member academies to initiate projects of critical importance to global health; to respond to the needs of intergovernmental organizations, governments and other stakeholders for evidence-based advice; and to provide venues for assessing the applicability of global policies and programs to conditions at the national and regional level.

### **The Post-2015 Development Agenda**

The triennium covered by the IAMP SAP-II will see the development of critically important international frameworks for action that will shape the global health and development agendas for the next 10-20 years. It is important to recall here the upcoming deadline for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015 as well as the process defining the post-2015 agenda and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – as also underlined in the Co-Chairs’ Communiqué on “*IAMP and the Post-2015 agenda consultation*” (February 2013) and the Communiqué issued jointly by the IAMP, IAP and IAC Co-Chairs on “*Implementing a New Global Partnership for Post-2015 United Nations Goals*” (July 2013). IAMP and its member academies have the opportunities to contribute actively through the process by providing independent advice on the definition of the “health” SDG, as well as ensuring “health- mainstreaming” in the other SDGs.

#### IV. STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS & CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

The IAMP SAP-II is built around five (5) main Strategic Priority Areas (SPAs) to focus IAMP in achieving its objectives and mission. Four (4) Cross-Cutting Areas are also identified to be taken as priority themes in the SPAs.

<b>Strategic Priority Area No.1 (SPA-1)</b>	
<b>Positioning IAMP and IAMP members as recognized providers of independent, high quality evidence-based advice on pressing health issues of global and national importance</b>	
Alignment to Objectives	<p>Facilitate the provision of evidence-based advice to governments and international organizations on issues of importance to global health</p> <p>Promote cooperation among academies of the world by exchanging information and sharing expertise</p> <p>Organize scientific meetings, workshops, conferences and outreach-events, and issue consensus statements on matters of importance to global health.</p>

IAMP draws on the network of experts from its member academies to provide evidence-based advice on pressing health issues of global importance. IAMP will continue to do so by developing and issuing Statements and working with member academies to implement the recommendations. IAMP will ensure that members are fully engaged with the development and dissemination of statements, by actively inviting suggestions for topics, providing clear guidance for dissemination, and, where appropriate, finding opportunities for more central dissemination. IAMP will also provide opportunities for member Academies to share the experiences of promoting IAMP statements and other policy documents in their own countries. In addition, IAMP will develop a capacity for “horizon-scanning” – i.e. Identifying and discussing new/emerging issues in the global health debate.

IAMP will provide opportunities for its member academies to participate in high-level international processes of policy making and program development – through linkages with Inter Academy Panel (IAP): The Global Network of Science Academies and its regional networks, and the InterAcademy Council (IAC). For example, this could include a role in the UN post-2015 process for developing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In this context, the following activities already initiated by IAMP will receive priority attention for action planning:

- IAMP Statement “A Call for Action to Strengthen Health Research Capacity in Low and Middle Income Countries” issued in May 2013
- IAMP Co-Chairs’ Communiqués on the post-2015 development agenda, i.e., “IAMP and the Post-2015 agenda consultations” issued in February 2013, and “Implementing a New Global Partnership for Post-2015 United Nations Goals” issued jointly with the IAP and the IAC Co-Chairs in July 2013
- IAMP’s role in the Gates Foundation-funded Disease Control Priorities Project, Edition 2, (published in 2006) and Edition 3 (currently in progress)
- IAMP will build on its work with member academies to disseminate and implement recommendations from The Lancet Commission Report on the

- “*Health Professionals for a new Century*” in their countries towards improving medical education.

<b>Strategic Priority Area No.2 (SPA-2)</b>	
<b>Building and strengthening capacity of IAMP member academies as well as developing capacities for establishing new ones</b>	
Alignment to Objectives	Assist in the creation of academies where none exist, and to build the capacity of existing academies to provide evidence-based health and science advice to their national governments and the public Support member academies to improve health and strengthen health-related research

IAMP also supports member academies in strengthening their national and regional capacities in relation to health sciences research and higher education for the health professions and in building effective health systems, especially in low-income countries. IAMP will seek increased collaboration with IAP in these important efforts; and will continue to promote dialogues among and within member academies on the role of academies in strengthening health systems; capacity building for health research and, education of health professionals as noted in SPA-1 as well as working with interested academies on emerging issues such as health/conflict interface (“health diplomacy”). In this context, recent IAMP achievements within this SPA will be further developed:

- IAMP and IAMP member activities on scientific writing, including the development of regional centers and the [Online Scientific Writing Website](#).

<b>Strategic Priority Action No.3 (SPA-3)</b>	
<b>Fostering a new generation of physician leaders</b>	
Alignment to Objectives	Support the development of leadership skills among young physicians worldwide

IAMP and IAMP member academies work towards fostering a new generation of physician leaders via the implementation of the Young Physician Leaders (YPL) Programme. IAMP will continue to address this issue by expanding the experience available for the global YPL Programme, considering selective regional programs; and developing and supporting a robust global Alumni Network while supporting the efforts of national academies to engage the next generation of physician leaders. In this context, IAMP will build on its achievements within this SPA:

- IAMP YPL training workshops and YPL sessions held in conjunction with the World Health Summit in Berlin, Germany, October 2011 and 2013, and Regional World Health Summit in Singapore in April 2013
- IAMP Alumni activities such as an article in *The Lancet*; sessions in the World Health Summit, and organization of the IAMP YPL/Asia Regional Workshop (Singapore, April

2013)

- IAMP will develop and strengthen linkages with other initiatives targeted to young scientists/physicians, and in particular with the Global Young Academy (GYA)

<b>Strategic Priority Action No.4 (SPA-4)</b>	
<b>Strengthening partnerships with other organizations within and beyond the InterAcademy community</b>	
Alignment to Objectives	Develop partnerships and collaborations with other health-related international/regional organizations and networks beyond the inter-academy community which share its goals.

IAMP will continue to foster linkages within the interacademy community (e.g., with IAP, IAC and the regional networks) through joint activities and mutual representation at statutory meetings. It will also further expand dialogue and formalize cooperation with international organization and initiatives, including formalizing its status with WHO as an observer organization. Examples of progress that will serve as a platform for future efforts in this SPA include:

- Sponsorship of regional workshops such as the meeting on “Non-Communicable Diseases: Prevention and Control of Cardiovascular Diseases and Cancer” (Rio, Brazil, May 2012) organized with the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, the Latin American Association of Academies of Medicine (ALANAM), and the InterAmerican Network of Academies of Sciences (IANAS), which has lead to invitations to increase collaboration in this region
- Workshop on “Integrated Education in One Health”, organized by IAMP with Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM), in Hungary, in June 2013 and our discussions to formalize a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for future collaboration with FEAM.
- Ongoing discussions by the IAP, IAC, and IAMP regarding integration of the organisations into the InterAcademy Partnership
- Ongoing dialogue with ICSU on urban health within the ICSU Initiative on “Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment: A Systems Analysis Approach”
- Initial dialogue with the Institutes of the United Nations University (UNU) working on health-related issues (i.e., UNU Institute for Water, Environment and Health [UNU-INWEH] in Canada; and the UNU International Institute for Global Health [UNU-IIGH] in Malaysia)

<b>Strategic Priority Action No. 5 (SPA-5)</b>	
<b>Strengthening IAMP operations through fund-raising</b>	
Alignment to Objectives	NONE

IAMP is a young organization; yet its membership is growing and provides an exciting base for its development. From the momentum created in the last triennium, IAMP activities are increasingly involving more member academies and expanding both in quality and scope. Building on this momentum will require concerted attention to development and implementation of systematic fund-raising and communication strategies.

In this context, IAMP can build on the progress of its:

- Recruitment – jointly with IAP – of a Coordinator managing IAP/IAMP Secretariat activities in the TWAS-hosted Secretariat
- Enhanced website capability
- Membership communications tools developed.
- Foundation and individual donor funds raised by IAMP and its member academies for IAMP activities.

The following themes have also been identified as those on which IAMP and its member academies can have impact during the next triennium and will be further explored and a decision made on whether or not to pursue an IAMP-wide program:

1. **Health and Health Sciences Education**, with particular attention to opportunities for integration with *STEM* (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and *IBSE* (Inquiry Based Science Education) education efforts at global and national levels (also through linkages with the *IAP Science Education Programme*); as well as for strengthening national capacity for the higher education of health professionals within the framework of The Lancet Commissioned Report on the “*Health Professionals for a new Century*”.
2. **Health Challenges related to Globalization**, such as urbanization, population aging, and global change including climate change.
3. **Health Inequity**, for example Social Determinants of Health, with particular attention to ongoing efforts related to the “*Fair Society Healthy Lives - The Marmot Review*”.
4. **Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) and promoting Mental Health**, with particular attention to issues included in the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020.

## V. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN II

### ***a. Governance and Management***

Consistent with IAMP Statutes and Rules of Procedure, the IAMP General Assembly has approved the proposed direction of the strategic plan. Detailed action planning for the implementation of this IAMP SAP-II will be overseen by the Co-Chairs and Executive Committee working with the Secretariat to develop a Results-Based Management Approach (RBM) which will permit monitoring of progress and identification of obstacles and emerging issues.

### ***b. Resources and Needs***

#### 1. Staff & Human Resources

In the past triennium the Secretariat has been strengthened through the hiring – jointly with IAP – of a Coordinator working at 35% on IAMP and 65% on IAP; however, given the expansion of IAMP activities in the last year of the triennium as well as successful fundraising efforts to expand IAMP’s future programs, the hiring of a professional staff dedicated solely to IAMP will be critical to further success and increased support and visibility for IAMP. The option of out-posted TWAS Staff in IAMP liaison offices in other regions (e.g., Asia, Africa) should also continue to be explored.

## 2. Branding & Communication

The last year of the triennium has seen an improvement in branding and communication of IAMP activities given the revamping of the IAMP Website and related tools (e.g., IAMP Update, E-fora, InterAc Search). However, the proliferation of international organizations working on global health requires a much clearer branding of IAMP and its member academies. It also demands a strong communication strategy that increases the visibility and recognition of IAMP and fosters a greater understanding of the role of academies and IAMP to provide evidence-based advice on critical health issues to governments, international organizations, corporate and academic leaders and donors of all kinds. Central to this strategy should be the effective use of social media.

Professionally developed informational material and templates for IAMP related activities are required to support development and fundraising.

## 3. Development & Fundraising

While in the past year, IAMP has taken an opportunistic and/or *ad hoc* approach to its fundraising (for in-kind, counterpart and financial contributions), the new triennium should clearly define a fundraising strategy also taking into account current efforts by the host academy and by the IAP/IAC to avoid overlapping of efforts and donor fatigue. A dedicated committee should be established within the Executive Committee to facilitate this process – define fundraising priorities, develop a project/fundraising portfolio, and to maintain dialogue with current and prospective donors.

## 4. Membership

In order to increase the number of academies under the IAMP umbrella, a specific outreach effort should be initiated immediately to recruit eligible academies to membership. IAMP should also support the creation of national academies where an interest is indicated. In addition, affiliations could be forged with medical academies and medical research institutions of national standing which do not fulfill full membership criteria. A membership committee should be established to take these efforts forward.

### ***c. Priority Actions towards the Implementation Plan***

1. Development by the Secretariat supported by the EC of a logical-framework (i.e., a management tool used in the design, monitoring and evaluation of international projects) towards identifying priority activities for the next-triennium (with a timetable defined by the Spring 2014 EC meeting).
2. Development of a detailed work-plan in line with the IAMP calendar by Fall 2014 EC meeting.
3. Identification of resources (human and financial resources) needed as well as synergies/partnerships to permit the implementation of activities during development of the above-mentioned actions (i.e. #1 and #2).
4. Monitor progress towards the implementation of activities, and the overall achievement of the IAMP mission and objectives for reporting to the General Assembly at its 2016 meeting.

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19 March 2014

### **IAMP Strategic Action Plan II Committee:**

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