



International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities

President's Report to Council 2007

May, Paris

Highlights since the last meeting include:

1. Continued SIRG activity, with the Council meeting sandwiched between the Health meeting in Prato and the SIRGAID meeting in Oslo. The PMD and parenting SIRGs held successful meetings in the course of the Maastricht European meeting and the Comparative Policy and Practice SIRG is up and running with a planned meeting in Prague in November.
2. Henny Lantman, Marian Maaskant and Wil Buntinx hosted the excellent Second IASSID-Europe Conference, which helped to swell IASSID's coffers by €65,000.
3. Patricia Walsh and Matt Janicki have worked very effectively with colleagues in Chile, Argentina, Spain, Brazil and PAHO to stage and develop the programme for the 2nd South American IASSID Conference to be held in Santiago in Chile. Thanks go specially to them and to Maria Malbran and Miguel Verdugo. They will report in greater detail later in this meeting.
4. Keith McVilly, Trevor Parmenter, Lisa Wang and Matt Janicki continue to oversee arrangements in Singapore for the Second Conference of IASSID-Asia Pacific. There is a good local organising group and programme committee established. Again my thanks go to them for taking on this responsibility. They will report in greater detail later in this meeting.
5. Glynis Murphy and the Cape Town programme committee have also been making progress. The structure of the congress is now clear, plenary speakers are being invited and the final call is being prepared. We now have a Congress logo. Arrangements for the abstracts to be printed in JIDR are set. Glynis will report in greater detail later in this meeting.
6. The Africa Research Initiative has some good projects to fund. As you will recall, IASSID allocated \$30,000 to pump-prime the fund. The projects we wanted to fund would have cost more than this, so the Executive took the decision to guarantee the funding while asking organisations and research centres to offer support (in the region of \$500). An appeal letter is producing great results. Again, Glynis will be able to report on what is being funded in more detail.

7. The finances of the Association are still in a good state.
8. Plans are in hand to revamp the website.
9. IASSID has agreed to be a sponsor of the 2nd International Conference on Intellectual Disabilities/Mental Retardation in Bangkok in November.

My sincere thanks go to everyone who has contributed to IASSID's activities in 2006/7.

David Felce
President