iap
the global network of science academies

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Dear Conference Delegates,

First of all we wish to thank you for participating in the IAP Conference on "Grand Challenges and Integrated Innovations: Science for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development", hosted by the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 24-26 February 2013.

It is our hope that not only the Representatives of the IAP Member Academies present but also the other delegates from many organizations both in Brazil and abroad will carry with them the very important target that we set ourselves with this Conference; to provide a unique fora for science academies and science experts to discuss the various issues associated with poverty eradication and sustainable development, with special reference to the needs of different countries, and the way in which science can support this process.

As you will be aware, it has become clear that a critical factor in effective advocacy is country level engagement of key decision makers and the public so that they become familiar with the issue and are in a position to take action on the evidence made available, both locally, and in international fora, for example at the Conference.

Providing evidence-based advice to governments on the issue is a key role of science academies.

We enclose therefore the Letter from Rio-2013 on the Role of Science Academies in Grand Challenges and Integrated Innovations for Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication, finalized following the concluding plenary session and recommend all delegates and IAP Members send the statement to relevant local contacts, officials, policy makers, Members of the Academy and the public. We will be approaching IAP Member Academies to obtain other-language versions of the Letter from Rio-2013.

The Letter from Rio-2013 highlights a number of recommendations on how to address Grand Challenges and Poverty Eradication, underlining that Academies of Science should affirm their responsibility to society and work individually and jointly to implement the recommendations.

Please be informed that IAP will also submit the Letter from Rio-2013 to major international organizations, also within the UN System, so as to ensure uptake in international processes.

The Letter from Rio-2013 is available on the IAP website at: http://www.interacademies.net/20197.aspx

We look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

Mohamed Hassan and Volker ter Meulen
IAP Co-Chairs