

PRESS RELEASE

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Receives Results of Independent Review of its Processes and Procedures

- Recommendations to be taken to IPCC plenary in October
- IPCC strengthened by IAC review and others carried out this year

New York – Aug. 30, 2010 – The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change welcomed the findings today of an independent review of its processes and procedures by the InterAcademy Council, the respected umbrella group for various national academies of science from countries around the world.

The nearly four-month review examined every aspect of how the IPCC's periodic climate science assessments are prepared, including the use of non-peer reviewed literature and the reflection of diverse viewpoints. The review also examined institutional aspects, including management functions as well as the panel's procedures for communicating its findings to the public.

"The IPCC will be strengthened by the IAC review and by others of its kind this year," said IPCC Chairman Rajendra Pachauri, Ph.D. "We already have the highest confidence in the science behind our assessments. We're now pleased to receive recommendations on how to further strengthen our own policies and procedures."

National governments, which form the IPCC, will carefully review the recommendations from the IAC at the organization's plenary in October. Those 194 governments will determine what action to take.

Six other independent reviews have looked at various aspects of climate science this year. Of those that examined the quality of the science itself, all of them found that the IPCC's work had been carried out appropriately.

"By overwhelming consensus, the scientific community agrees that climate change is real. Greenhouse gases have increased markedly as a result of human activities and now far exceed pre-industrial values," Pachauri said.

Pachauri and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon jointly requested the IAC review in March 2010.

In June, the selection of more than 800 climate scientists to work on the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) was announced and work is now underway. The IAC's recommendations are expected to strengthen the processes used to produce that report, which will be published in 2013-2014.

Notes to Editors

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The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The IPCC is an interdisciplinary and intergovernmental body comprised of 194 participating countries. It mobilizes scientific experts from around the world to carry out assessments of global climate science based on the available relevant literature.

Thousands of scientists from all over the world contribute to the IPCC reports. The members of the IPCC Bureau, including the IPCC chair, serve in their expert capacity and are not paid by the IPCC. Rigorous review is an essential part of the process, broadening the set of individuals contributing and ensuring an objective and comprehensive assessment of current information.

For the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, released in 2007, 559 experts from 130 countries served as lead authors. More than 2,500 reviewers provided more than 90,000 comments.

The InterAcademy Council

The 18-member InterAcademy Council Board is composed of presidents of 15 academies of science and equivalent organizations representing Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

It also includes the African Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) as well as representatives of the InterAcademy Panel (IAP) of scientific academies, the International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences (CAETS), and the InterAcademy Medical Panel (IAMP) of medical academies.

Overview of other inquiries into climate science and IPCC during 2010

House of Commons review, completed 21 March 2010

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-archive/science-technology/s-t-cru-inquiry/>

Oxburgh Review, completed 14 April 2010

www.uea.ac.uk/mac/comm/media/press/CRUstatements/SAP

Penn State Review of Michael Mann, completed 1 July 2010

live.psu.edu/fullimg/userpics/10026/Final_Investigation_Report.pdf

Dutch PBL Review, completed 5 July 2010

<http://www.pbl.nl/en/publications/2010/Assessing-an-IPCC-assessment.-An-analysis-of-statements-on-projected-regional-impacts-in-the-2007-report.html>

Muir Russell Review, completed 7 July 2010

<http://www.cce-review.org/>

EPA Review, completed 29 July 2010

http://nlquery.epa.gov/epasearch/epasearch?typeofsearch=area&querytext=IPCC&fld=&areaname=&areacontacts=&arearesearchurl=&result_template=epafiles_default.xml&filter=sample4filt.hts

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