

Janet Brown Leaves AAAS

News from Interciencia Association

Interciencia Association (IA) will sponsor a 3-day symposium "Forestry Resources and Development in the Americas," 15-17 October 1979 in San Jose, Costa Rica. Cosponsors are the National Council of Scientific and Technological Research of Costa Rica (CONICIT) and the Association of the Scientific, Technological, and Engineering Community of Canada (SCITEC).

The meeting, which is expected to bring together between 40 to 60 scientists, professional foresters, and other experts from countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, and North America, will be the ninth IA-sponsored symposium since 1976.

Among the concerns the meeting may address are the progressive disappearance of forests in tropical America, the firewood crisis, the spiraling increase in products and services derived from forested areas and the competing demands for them, and the choice of technologies, policies, and management systems in forestry.

Additional organizations which may cooperate in the symposium are the In-

ternational Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Tropical Agronomy Center for Research and Teaching (CATIE), the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IICA), and the Organization for Tropical Studies, Inc. (OTS). Technical coordinators are Gerardo Budowski of CATIE, Turrialba, Costa Rica (for Latin America), and Jack Hodgins, vice president for research and environmental technology, Domtar, Inc., Senneville, Quebec, Canada (for North America).

For further details on the content of the symposium, write to either of the technical coordinators; for other information, write to the executive secretary, Interciencia Association, at the AAAS address.

IA, the federation of associations for the advancement of science in the Americas, was founded in 1974 in Recife, Brazil, and chartered in 1975 in Caracas, Venezuela. In addition to AAAS, constituent members include scientific organizations of Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Venezuela. At its next annual meeting, IA is expected to admit the Association of Jamaican Scientists to membership, following a recommendation from an executive meeting that was held in Miami last March.

The organizing of international symposia on science and technology for development, along with publication of the journal *Interciencia*, and the encouragement of new associations for the advancement of science, are among the principal activities of IA.

Tentative topics of future IA symposia are "New and Underutilized Biological Resources in the Americas," "Environmental Problems of Development in Latin America," "Population and Health in Development," and "Encouraging Creativity through Science Teaching."

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Janet Welsh Brown, head of the Office of Opportunities in Science at AAAS for 7 years, left the Association on 1 April to become executive director of the Environmental Defense Fund. The Office's first director, Brown came to be synonymous with increased opportunities in science for women, minorities, and the handicapped, and her leadership produced dramatic and visible changes in access to science for those groups.

Under Brown's direction the Office of Opportunities in Science called attention to traditionally excluded constituencies—the handicapped, Native Americans, and Puerto Ricans. With encouragement from the Office, these constituencies have developed projects, associations, societies, and programs themselves.

Brown's influence is especially visible in the federal science agencies, in the foundations, and in the many professional associations she and her staff worked with over the years. Many of those agencies and organizations now have staff members or programs directly attributable to the AAAS Office of Opportunities in Science and to Janet Brown. The presence of larger and larger numbers of women, minorities, and the handicapped at annual meetings, special conferences, and committees, and on staffs in the science community is both a reflection of Brown's work and the AAAS's serious commitment to that work.

On 29 March, AAAS and the Federation of Organizations for Professional Women gave a reception honoring Janet Brown and wishing her well. Colleagues from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Association for Women in Science, the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, the Foundation for Science and the Handicapped, and the National Minority Women Scientists' Network gathered to express their personal thanks and to underline their ongoing interest in what the Office of Opportunities in Science has accomplished.

As executive director of the Environ-

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AAAS Travelers

AAAS is invited to send one representative to the 35th Annual Session of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science, to be held in Colombo, 15-19 December 1979. The theme of the meeting will be "Planning for Health." The AAAS representative is invited to give both a specialized lecture and a popular lecture.

AAAS members who plan to be traveling in the area at that time and/or who know of colleagues on sabbatical in the region who might be able to attend should contact Denise Weiner, Office of International Science, at the AAAS address.

Science

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