May 8, 2012

Attending: Kristin Vanderbilt, Bill McDowell, Sieglinde Snapp, Rinku Chowdhury, Jim Tang

The committee first had to make decisions regarding which of the international scientists to invite to ASM. It was decided that 1) only scientists residing outside the US would be eligible; and 2) each nominator would only be allowed to nominate one person. The committee agreed to offer airfare to all nominees, and to state in the invitation letter that if they require additional support for lodging that they should contact us. It is noted that VISAS also are expensive, and we wonder how this should be dealt with. Kristin will seek advice from LNO.

How should the International Committee promote the ILTER at ASM?

1. A Mixer: All international scientists and their sponsors will be invited to attend. This mixer will not involve presentations. It is meant as a time for networking. Kristin will find out from LNO where and when this can be held.
2. Leaders from all the countries with nominated scientists will be invited to attend ASM. We will ask them to let us know if they require support. They will be involved in the mixer, as well.
3. Provide a flyer about ILTER with registration materials at ASM. This is to educate people about ILTER. Kristin will check with Johan Pauw to find out what materials exist.
4. The IC is involved in several working groups:
   1. Phenology—Jim Tang, organizer
   2. C Sequestration – Tiffany Troxler, organizer
   3. Cross-Border US-Mexico issues – Organizer TBA
5. The sponsors of international scientists will be asked to involve their guests in the organization of a working group. Bill will contact the sponsors and ask them to let us know how the titles of their working groups within the next month.

What should the direction of the committee be in the next few years?

1. We are going to focus on country to country relationships, particularly with China and South Africa which have active networks. A stronger relationship with Mexico will also be developed in the near-term.
2. The IC can serve as a clearinghouse for synthetic efforts across the LTER – a resource to help other scientists learn who is doing what, where.
3. US LTER, on behalf of ILTER, could consider endorsing research projects like the Global Land Program does. This allows researchers to tie their networks together, and offers potential to exchange information, data among themselves. It would raise the visibility of such projects. Critieria could include a) projects involving more than one country, and b) long-term status of project.
4. We should consider the biospheres described as underrepresented in the latest Frontiers in Ecology. Perhaps we could promote research in those areas.