



Openings: Directors for INI Regional Centers North America, Latin America and Australia/New Zealand

In view of the completion of the term-of-office of the current Directors of the INI Regional Centers for North America (Jill Baron) and Latin America (Jean Ometto) and the creation of a new Center for Australia/New Zealand, INI is seeking new Directors to lead its activities, one in each of the above regions over the next 3 years. They shall be exceptional scientists in relevant field(s) with broader interests in all aspects of reactive nitrogen, including research, application, policy and networking. As a member of the INI Steering Committee (INI SC), each regional Director will foster engagement of the nitrogen science, technology and policy community of the region with the global activities of INI. This includes engaging with relevant stakeholders in the governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations and organizing the triennial International Nitrogen Conferences. The next conference INI2020 has been postponed due to COVID-19 and the revised schedule will be announced soon for the conference to be held in Berlin, Germany. The background information related to INI and this call for regional Directors is provided below, while more details on INI activities are available at: initrogen.org

Overview of INI

Mission: INI is an international network of nitrogen scientists that has as its mission to address the problems of too much nitrogen or too little nitrogen in the environment as these threaten a wide range of global concerns, including water, air, climate, ecosystems, food security and human health.

Authorization: INI was established as a joint project of the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme (IGBP) (a body established by ICSU, the International Council for Science) and of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE). Now that IGBP has completed its program in 2015, INI is a part of ICSU's new 'Future Earth' programme.

Organization: INI conducts its activities at global and regional scales through a Steering Committee consisting of Chair, Deputy Chair, Past Chair and Regional Centre Directors for East Asia, South Asia, North America, Latin America, Africa and Europe, apart from a representative of SCOPE. While modalities may differ between regions, the goal is that INI Centre Directors operate with the support of a Regional Executive of ~5 collaborating scientists from across their region, representing a range of INI science relevant to that region, also appointing a deputy to allow their centre to be represented when the Director is unavailable. The INI also has a Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) that represents a wide range of stakeholders, which it draws upon as needs arise.

Projects: As a leading nitrogen scientist, each INI Centre Director is anticipated to be engaged in their own research projects, but also to show an active interest in developing regional and global nitrogen science coordination and application, including participation in ongoing INI projects or develop new regional funding initiatives as needed. The INI does not yet have specific funding to support the regional centers, but can aid in supporting such proposals and project developments. One such project in progress is the GEF-UNEP project ‘Towards International Nitrogen Management System’, which includes several regional assessments involving local stakeholders to build a more robust global assessment with strong regional data.

INI Conferences: One of the major tasks of INI is to organize the International Nitrogen Conference series, which is the leading global forum for discussion of nitrogen science for policy (Netherlands - Noordwijkerhout 1998, USA - Washington N2001, China - Nanjing N2004, Brazil - Costa de Sauipe N2007, India - New Delhi N2010, Uganda - Kampala N2013, Melbourne – Australia N2016 and the upcoming one in Berlin, Germany. The conference declarations generated high-profile global messages for action (e.g., Nanjing Declaration, Delhi Declaration, Kampala Statement for Action, Melbourne Declaration), apart from interdisciplinary networking with stakeholders and publishing key conference proceedings.

Recent achievements: A major milestone was the first ever UN resolution on ‘Sustainable Nitrogen Management’ (UNEA4, Mar 2019) adopted with the efforts of present and past INI Chairs. The INI always had a long-term interest in developing science-based syntheses and assessments related to the nitrogen cycle to promote evidence-based policies and international cooperation for action. The leading examples include US Technical Report on Climate-Nitrogen Interactions and the European, Chinese and Indian Nitrogen Assessments, while assessment activities in other regions are in progress under INMS. INI also led the development of the Global Overview on Nutrient Management, “Our Nutrient World”, commissioned by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Key outputs from INI scientists have featured regularly in the pages of *Science* (e.g. Galloway et al., 2008; Austin et al., 2013) and *Nature* (Sutton et al., 2011; Lui et al., 2013; Sutton and Bleeker, 2013), and many other journals.

Future outlook: The key tasks of INI for the next few years include its scientific and geographical expansion and build stronger ties between the science community and international policy processes. The INI will continue to develop partnerships to highlight the relevance of sustainable nitrogen management in all the existing conventions including UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD, UNECE-LRTAP, and work closely with UNEP-GPNM, OECD etc.

Roles of the INI Regional Directors:

- To stimulate nitrogen science networking across the region.
- To promote and disseminate regional nitrogen science and policies and to link them with global efforts (including policy processes, improved practices, public understanding of science).
- To contribute regularly to the INI SC teleconferences, approximately every 3 months.
- To identify, in discussion with the INI SC, some actions where the Regional Director would take a lead, including representing INI at key national/regional/international meetings/activities.
- To appoint a Deputy Director and a Regional Executive of around 5 scientists, representing the countries/disciplines of the region to supporting the work of INI in the region.
- To contribute as an active member of the INI-SC to the International Nitrogen Conferences.

Tenure and Transition: Each INI SC member is appointed for a three year term, preferably with an overlapping period of upto one year between the outgoing and incoming Regional Directors to enable smooth transition.

Expressing Interest: If you are considering to be nominated, we suggest that you register your interest with the INI Chair N. Raghuram (raghuram@ipu.ac.in) or Deputy Chair David Kanter (david.kanter@nyu.edu) by sending your nomination documents (see below). If you would like to nominate someone else, please encourage them and send a letter of nomination describing the suitability of the nominee to the post. For any further details in this regard, feel free to contact the Chair, Dy.Chair or any of the INI SC members (For contact details, see www.initrogen.org).

Nomination: If you are willing to be nominated, please email to the Chair or Dy. Chair **latest by 10th June 2020**, with the following documents:

- a) A copy of your *curriculum vitae*, including publication list, grants list and other key outputs.
- b) A covering letter where you: *outline your vision* for the next three years for the INI Regional Centre, *identify any areas of special interest* that you would like to develop through the INI network, and *quantify the extent of your time availability* to contribute as the INI Regional Centre Director.
- c) A note indicating the names, contact and affiliation of 1 or 2 referees who **nominate** you.
- d) A separate *letter of nomination* from those nominating you, clearly recommending your suitability as the Regional Centre Director and confirming your time availability for the role.

Note on remuneration: All members of the INI-SC including the Regional Directors are appointed in honorary roles and are NOT paid by INI for their contribution. However, involvement with INI offers many invaluable opportunities for international engagement and for development of funded projects to support the mission of INI.

Eligibility and selection process: The candidate for the Director of the INI Regional Centre must be a Ph.D. holding active scientist/scholar, based primarily in a country of the concerned Region. Evaluation of the candidates will be conducted by the INI Steering Committee, based on the submitted nomination documents in relation to the roles described above. Where necessary, shortlisted nominees may be interviewed through online teleconferencing.

Circulation: This is a public document and may be shared across websites and email networks.