



Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP) Strategic Plan

APA's Globalization Opportunities and Long-term Strategies (International GOALS)

The Vision:

CIRP's strategic vision is to implement a plan of action and set of activities to further APA's involvement in the promotion and development of psychology in the global world of the 21st Century. The broad goals are captured by five program areas:

- **Fostering Psychology in a Global Age** (Setting Standards, Building Capacity)
- **Increasing International Knowledge** (Raising awareness of international activities and issues in Psychology to APA and APA members)
- **Expanding Outward** (Increasing the depth and breadth of connections between US psychology and psychologists and psychological organizations around the world)
- **Welcoming the World** (Working with fellow national psychology associations; Expanding the number and roles of APA's international affiliates;)
- **Acting in the World Arena** (Increasing awareness and opportunities for APA's and psychology's involvement in international activities promoting human health, education and welfare, and in international policy arenas).

Below, each goal is developed more fully. Current activities in service of the goal are listed, and new activities are suggested. Activities that are part of the GOALS initiative are highlighted in italics.

Goal 1: Fostering Psychology in a Global Age (Setting Standards, Building Capacity)

In the past, APA has played a large role in promoting psychology internationally; APA's standards have been the model for standards elsewhere in ethics, curriculum development, and publications. In addition APA has supported the growth of psychologists and psychology organizations worldwide through capacity building efforts and direct services.

Currently, the enormous growth in psychology programs and numbers of psychologists worldwide may require a different role in fostering the development of psychology.

Ongoing Activities

- Journal Donation Program/Book Donation Program
- International Affiliate Travel Grants (*expansion in the GOALS Initiative*)
- Visitor's Program (see also Fostering Exchange)
- Ethics initiative (Psychology and International Complex Humanitarian Emergency and Disaster Contexts: Ethical issues in research and intervention)
- Scientific Meeting Support Fund

New activities:

- Task Force to articulate APA's role with respect to :

- **setting and evaluating standards in education, training, publications; ethics in the international arena**
 - fostering capacity building of psychological organizations and psychologists
 - advocacy training and advocacy for psychology's involvement in international and global policy and program activities.
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Goal 2: Increasing International Knowledge (Raising awareness of international activities and issues in Psychology to APA and APA members)

The OIA and CIRP have always worked actively to disseminate information about international events, activities and perspectives. The outcomes for this goal are to continue and expand ongoing dissemination activities and to develop mechanisms to collaborate with other APA offices, Divisions and members to do so.

Ongoing Activities:

- Psychology International (electronic newsletter; announcements; organization profiles; country profiles; series on international collaborations; international applications of psychology)
- APA International Online (website): program descriptions, meeting calendar; directories FAQ's
- Cross-Division liaisons to CIRP to promote international Division activities
- Cross-Directorate meetings to raise awareness of international opportunities within APA offices
- BEA-CIRP workgroup on internationalizing the psychology curriculum

New Activities:

- Substantially increase web content to add:
 - Updated UN pages with information on UN activities, programs and goals;
 - Links to newsletters and other information on international psychology activities
 - Active collaborations with other national psychology associations to share news and announcements on a continual basis
 - Continue to increase interaction with divisions on international issues; Internationalize issues pertinent to Divisions, especially clinical divisions;
 - Develop resources to promote the value of non-Western contributions to Western psychology.
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Goal 3: Expanding Outward

(Increasing the depth and breadth of connections with psychologists and psychological organizations around the world)

APA, CIRP and the OIA provide more or less passive resources to facilitate interactions through providing meeting calendars, directories and the like. The purpose of this goal is to develop active outreach and matching programs to facilitate and encourage exchange at both an individual and organizational level.

Ongoing Activities

- Maintain directories of national psychology associations and international psychology organizations
- Travel grants (**Expansion in GOALS Initiative**)
- International directories
- International meeting calendar
- Scientific meeting support fund

New Activities

- International Publications Initiative (mentoring; languages)
 - **Fulbright initiative: gather list of psychology Fulbright recipients over the last 20 years and engage in promotion of international activities; mentoring**
 - **Develop resource links to information on international practices in research and practice, such as:**
 - **Data base of licensure requirements across countries (with a focus on developing a practical tool to be used by psychologists wishing to practice in other countries)**
 - **Data base of research regulations by country (with a focus on developing a practical tool to be used by psychologists wishing to do research in other countries)**
 - **Develop clearinghouse to match psychologists for international exchange (e.g., list of US psychologists with sabbatical destinations to be matched with international institutions; list of international psychologists traveling to the US with US institutions)** (there was such a clearinghouse function from an Australian University where psychologists traveling to a region would post their contact information and expertise; institutions interested in speakers would post their contact information).
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Goal 4: Welcoming the World (Increasing the number and roles of APA's international affiliates; working with fellow national psychology associations)

Ongoing Activities:

- International Affiliates program
- Convention and International Congress receptions
- International Mailbox

New Activities

- International Affiliate recruitment campaign
 - Develop International Visitors Program (this program was in existence some years ago but was run on an ad hoc basis in that international visitors were welcome to meet with APA staff and explore common interests. This program would be more proactive and invite offices of international organizations to APA for a more structured visit to encourage exchange and collaboration.
 - Facilitate involvement of APA offices in international activities (e.g., Office on AIDS - projects with Africa; Office on Children Youth and Families - projects with UNICEF)
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Goal 5: Acting in the World Arena

(Increasing awareness and opportunities for APA and psychology to be involved in international activities promoting human health, education and welfare, and in international policy arenas).

Psychologists have long been active in the global arena, as visiting faculty, Fulbright Scholars, consultants and experts. Psychology as a discipline has been active in policy arenas through its global organizations (e.g., IUPsyS) and more recently individual member international organizations (e.g., IAAP, IACCP, ICP). The purpose of this goal is for APA to take a more active role through increased contacts with global organizations, and through serving as a conduit to encourage APA members to serve global organizations and to become engaged with global initiatives and activities. This might take place through more active and broad nominations, provision of commentary and expertise, and dissemination of information about opportunities.

Ongoing Activities

- UN Activities

- UN 5-person representative team; 2 special project associates at UN Headquarters: involved in NGO committee structure; active in promoting psychology language and issues in UN statements and documents.
- International meetings calendar
- Travel grants
- APA international awards
- Convention programming

New Activities

- **UN Venues**
 - **Develop series of “research brief” brochures articulating how psychology research and expertise address and contribute to the UN millennium development goals**
 - Develop expertise data base and briefing sheets for dissemination to UN offices (in collaboration with the APA Offices of AIDS, LGBT?, Disabilities, Women, Children Youth & Families; Ageing)
 - Develop training programs for UN personnel (through the UN Human Relations office)
 - **Develop “Psychology Day at the UN” to bring psychologists to the UN to provide a noon-day seminar or other public briefing focusing on the contributions of psychology to issues before the UN**
 - Increase interaction among psychologists at the UN through active listserv, agreement on common policy and action objectives;
- Develop clearinghouse function to bring global initiatives (from WHO, ILO, etc) to the attention of relevant APA Divisions
- Develop programs to educate politicians about psychology through international public education (partner with national psychology associations)
- Develop clearinghouse functions to provide nominations to global awards, initiatives and activities;
- Policy issues
 - Develop a policy for APA for strategic response to international disasters (see Agenda Item 20)
 - Develop a psychological policy framework for international interventions (see Agenda Item 21)