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### Phase 1 Ends

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From July, 1967, IBP moved officially from Phase 1 (planning) to Phase 2 (operational). Phase 1 has lasted three years, Phase 2 is to last five. Looking back on the record of activities during Phase 1 in the Human Adaptability Section, it is gratifying to note that the major objectives have been attained to a satisfactory extent. First and foremost, there was the need to formulate a programme which would be acceptable on an international scale to human biologists working in many different disciplines. The topics chosen had to be such that information of both scientific value and practical importance to human welfare would be obtained. Account had also to be taken of the varying resources available in different countries. The proposals eventually put forward at the first IBP Assembly in 1964 (and reconfirmed with surprisingly little alteration at the second Assembly in 1966) represent the outcome of a remarkable international effort. The proposals emerged from discussions between human biologists from more than 40 countries meeting in regional conferences and working parties, and also through widespread correspondence during the years of Phase 1.

The programme for the HA Section is set out in IBP News No. 9, and in detail in IBP Guide No. 1, 'Guide to the Human Adaptability Proposals.'

That this Guide has proved its worth is apparent from the extent to which the individual national HA programmes have been formulated. This was the second major objective of Phase 1. Thirty nations have submitted over 200 projects, and these have already been reviewed and commented upon by the HA Sectional Committee. These projects include many surveys of growth and physique, and of genetic constitution. The majority of the projects are, as intended, multidisciplinary ecological studies, in which the demographic, physiological, genetic, developmental, nutritional and medical aspects of many communities, living in a large variety of habitats, will be the subject of team-work. Naturally, many additional contributions will be presented during the course of Phase 2, and many proposals will be revised, modified, and elaborated. It is expected that a further ten or twelve countries will be submitting their national programmes before the end of 1967, and altogether almost fifty countries should be involved in the actual field-work.

To support the formulation of both the international programme and the national contributions, it was considered

important to assemble background material on the existing state of knowledge of man's adaptation. This third objective of Phase 1 was achieved by holding a number of regional meetings (in Japan, India, and Eastern Europe), and through the publication of the volume 'The Biology of Human Adaptability'. This is already being reprinted, with an additional section on South-East Asia. The only large areas which have not come under survey in any detail in Phase 1 are North America, Western Europe, and China, and it is to be hoped that this deficiency will be made good as IBP develops.

The fourth major objective of Phase 1 is the preparation of a 'Handbook of Recommended Methods'. This has required the combined efforts of many specialists, and the organisation of twenty methodology working parties. The final two working parties dealt with the assessment of psychological performance in the field, and sampling and data processing. During 1967, as in the previous years of Phase 1, a number of research trials were carried out in order to validate and improve existing methods. These were multinational activities; a notable investigation was that carried out in Toronto, involving physiologists from some ten countries, who were able to make recommendations on tests for evaluating physical fitness and working capacity. The Handbook is now in an advanced state of preparation, and it is hoped that it will be ready in a first version early in 1968. During Phase 1, many of the Sections of the Handbook have been distributed in draft form, for the use of teams embarking on preliminary field studies. These too were a notable feature of Phase 1: at least twenty-five such investigations were carried out during 1966 and 1967.

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## Phase 2 of IBP

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The success of the operational phase of the IBP will of course depend primarily upon the initiative, enthusiasm, and energy of the team leaders responsible for the 200 or so projects of field research. To assist this large effort, the HA Sectional Committee has taken steps to promote a number of coordinating services.

Firstly, a number of consultants, specialists in the major spheres of research in the HA Section, will advise team leaders whose projects fall within their respective fields, and help to coordinate similar studies on a world scale. Secondly, a comprehensive list of all national projects, with the names of the responsible investigators, has been widely circulated, so that workers in fields of mutual interest will be aware of each other's activities.

An intensive effort is being made to institute training courses in the HA Section during Phase 2. These will take the form of short courses, normally of 4 to 8 weeks' duration, which will offer training in specialised techniques particularly relevant to the various HA projects. Information is being gathered on a world scale as to short courses already in existence, or which could be set up for the purposes of the IBP.

Publication of the results of HA work will in the first instance be through the usual scientific channels. In addition, two major schemes for coordinating and synthesising the results of Phase 2 projects are being planned. First, as the operational phase of the IBP progresses, the results of field-work will be discussed at a number of regional symposia the first of which—'The Biology of Man

in Africa'—will be held in Warsaw in June, 1968. This will be followed by 'The Biology of Man in South India', 'The Biology of Man in the Pacific Area', and 'The Biology of Man in Latin America', over the next three-year period. It is intended that the proceedings of these symposia should be published in a uniform series under the general title of 'The Biology of Human Populations'.

The second task is of the highest importance. It concerns the processing and storage of the data accumulated during Phase 2, on the IGY model. It is hoped that a single data bank can be set up to receive the basic field data from all national projects. The bank would be programmed to allow for collection and retrieval, and to be accessible, as with the IGY, to bona-fide investigators, with of course safeguards for the original workers.

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## International Contacts

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It is gratifying to note that WHO has continued to show a great interest in the activities of the HA Section, particularly through its newly-formed Division of Research in Epidemiology and Communications Science. The Units of WHO with which the HA Section is in close contact include those concerned with child health, nutrition, genetics, cardiovascular pathology, and occupational health. In the latter Section, an environmental physiologist has been appointed to work in close cooperation with the IBP. WHO and IBP have also been associated in meetings concerned

with population genetics and high altitude population biology. The HA Section has affiliations with the International Union of Physiological Sciences, the International Union of Nutritional Sciences, the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, and the newly-formed International Association of Human Biologists.

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## Reports and Publications

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The following HA publications are available:

- 1. Human Adaptability and its Methodology.** Ed. H. Yoshimura and J. S. Weiner. Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, 1966. Price: US \$17.00

*Enquiries to:*

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Science,  
1-Chome,  
Hitotsubashi,  
Kanda,  
TOKYO,  
Japan.

- 2. Human Adaptability to Environments and Physical Fitness.** (Delhi symposium). Ed. M. S. Malhotra. DIPAS, Madras, 1966. Price: US \$6.00.

*Enquiries to:*

Surg. Cdr. M. S. Malhotra,  
No. P/O/2/15/IBP,  
Defence Institute of Physiology and  
Allied Sciences,  
MADRAS 3,  
India.

In the UK this volume is obtainable  
from the Convener.

**3. The Biology of Human Adaptability.** P. T. Baker and J. S. Weiner.  
Oxford University Press, 1966.

Price: £5 5s. 0d.

*Enquiries to:*

Oxford University Press,  
Walton St.,  
OXFORD,  
England.

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**GREETINGS FOR 1968**

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*The HA Sectional Committee and  
the Convener send their warmest greetings  
for 1968 to all participants in the IBP;  
they look forward with confidence to  
the intensification of international scientific  
collaboration in human biology in the  
coming year.*

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**To those who wish to participate in the IBP—please contact your National IBP Committee or Correspondent by communicating with your National Academy of Science, or equivalent body (Royal Society, Scientific Council etc.). The convener will also be glad to answer enquiries.**

# INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGICAL PROGRAMME

## Human Adaptability Section

Sectional Officers, National HA Chairmen,  
National HA Correspondents, and HA Consultants

(October 1967)

### HA SECTIONAL COMMITTEE

(Elected by IBP Assembly)

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#### Deputy Convener

Professor J. Hiernaux (Belgium)

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- \*Professor K. Kostial (Yugoslavia)
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- \*Professor O. Poupá (Czechoslovakia)
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- \*Dr. J. Sutter (France)
- Professor P. V. Tobias (South Africa)
- Professor R. J. Walsh (Australia)
- \*Professor A. Wanke (Poland)
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