

Upcoming ISC-INGSA science advice training programme

Strengthening our collective capacity to
deliver effective science advice

11 March 2025 | Asia-Pacific Members meeting | James Waddell



Introducing our science advice training programme

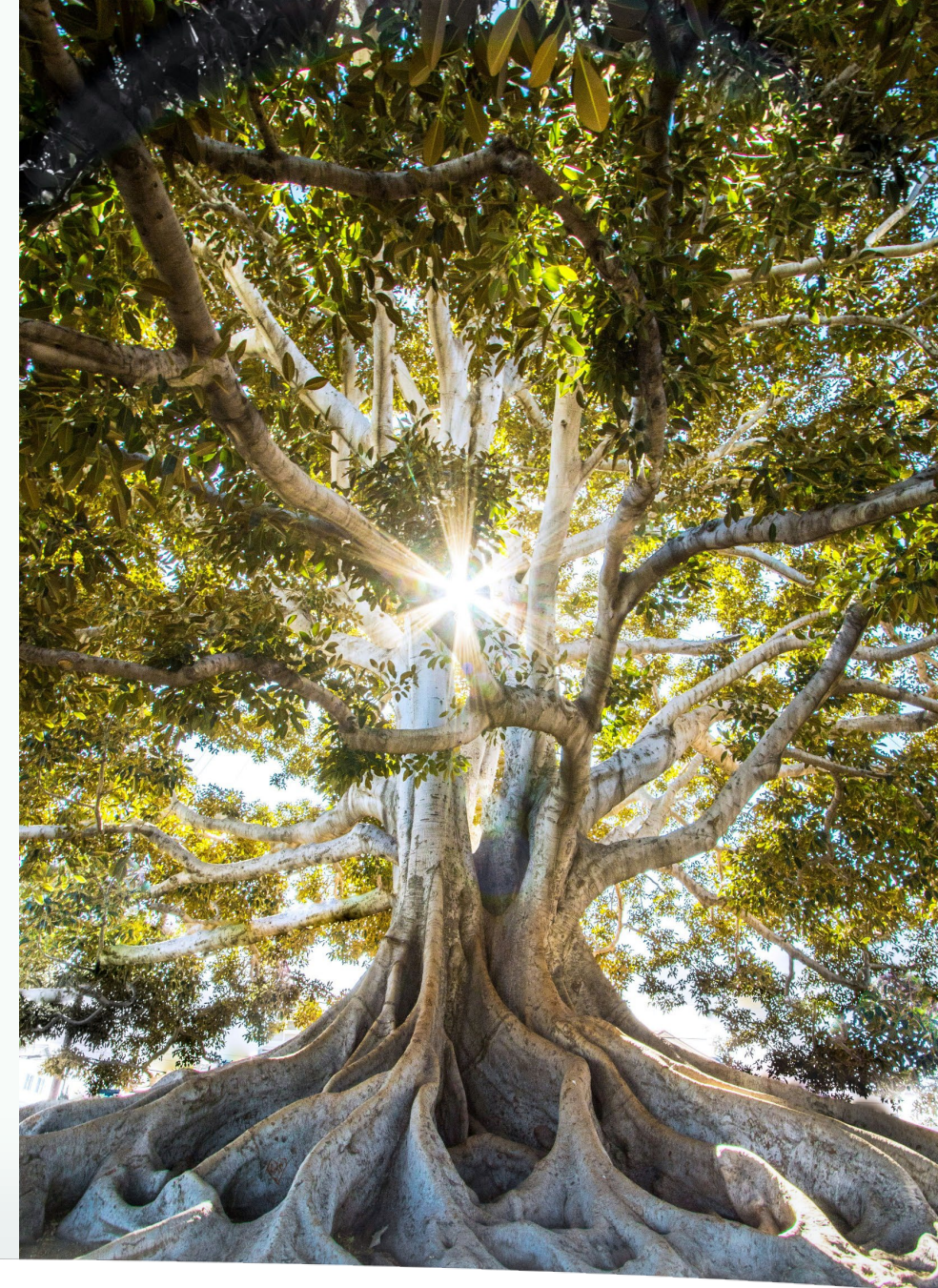
- We are launching a new training programme to strengthen our collective capacity as a scientific community to provide effective science advice.
- This initiative is developed in partnership with INGSA to address the pressing need for clear, evidence-based science advice.
- The programme will be designed to help us navigate complex challenges and effectively respond in times of crisis.



How our Members have already shaped this initiative

Three-pronged approach:

- In 2024, we conducted a dedicated needs assessment survey to understand key Member challenges and needs.
- A focused in-person workshop was held in Oman during the ISC General Assembly.
- An extensive mapping exercise (interviews, one-on-ones, desktop research, and data since 2018) was also completed and shared for feedback.



What our analysis revealed

- Members highlighted the challenge of translating complex scientific findings into clear, accessible policy messages.
- There is a strong need for a better understanding of the broader policy context, including how decisions are made and the role of different institutions.
- Member insights confirmed the importance of developing strategic communication skills to simplify and convey intricate evidence effectively.
- They also underscored the need to enhance our policy literacy, so we fully grasp the dynamics of decision-making and institutional frameworks.



Examples of focus areas for the training

Focus areas are designed to address both individual and institutional challenges in delivering effective science advice:

- Develop storytelling techniques and elevator pitch strategies to distil complex evidence into persuasive narratives.
- Provide detailed insights into decision-making processes and institutional contexts that shape policy outcomes.
- Cultivate skills to confidently assume advisory roles and build robust networks with policy-makers.



Digital self-paced learning

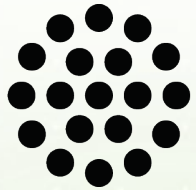
- The training programme will be built around a suite of digital, self-paced modules.
- These modules will introduce core concepts and practical skills for effective science advice.
- They will demonstrate how to navigate complex policy challenges and communicate scientific evidence in a resonant way.
- Designed to be accessible and user-friendly for every ISC Member—from early-career researchers to seasoned experts.



Interactive learning and co-design

- In addition to online modules, we will develop a practical handbook to help localise the content for various formats.
- Interactive sessions are planned, including exclusive webinars and potential local workshops, to deepen engagement.
- A project reference group composed of ISC Members will advise on topics, review content, and ensure alignment with community needs.
- This collaborative, co-design approach means the training is built by ISC Members, for ISC Members.





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Thank you!

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