



IASC

PROGRESS

INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SCIENCE COMMITTEE • AUGUST 2007

Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) 2007

The Arctic Science Summit Week 2007 (<http://www.assw2007.org>) was held in Hanover NH (USA), 14-20 March 2007, and hosted by Dartmouth College (<http://www.dartmouth.edu/>) and the US Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Lab (CRREL) (<http://www.crrel.usace.army.mil/>).

Since 1999, the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) combines business meetings of the Arctic organizations with common activities, i.e. a Project Day arranged by the ASSW international planning group and a Science Day organized by the local hosts. The theme for the ASSW 2007 Project Day was "International Arctic Research Beyond 2007/2008: Building the Legacy of the IPY". Plenary presentations focused on IPY legacy issues, the outcome of the 2nd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II) and other examples of internationally coordinated initiatives.

The Science Day symposium included invited speakers describing the science driving the need for new international collaboration across a variety of areas of polar science. The oral papers presented Arctic science in the context of the global system, and discussed the relevance of the findings for the mid-latitudes.

To foster the communication between the various Arctic organizations, a Common Day during which all organizations present at

the ASSW presented the outcome of their business meetings was arranged at the end of the week. The report of the IASC Meetings that were held during the ASSW 2007 is available for download at the IASC website (http://www.iasc.se/iasc_reports/Council_Report_07_open.pdf).

A full report of the ASSW including the abstracts of the Project and Science Day presentations and summaries of the business meetings held by the various organizations during the week will be published in the IASC Bulletin which will be available before the ASSW 2008.

ASSW 2008

The Arctic Science Summit Week 2008 will be held in Syktyvkar (Russia), 26 March – 1 April 2008. Syktyvkar is the capital of the Komi Republic and located in the northeast of the European part of Russia, 1410 km northeast of Moscow. More information will be available on the IASC website shortly.

ISAC Executive Director Appointed

International Study of Arctic Change (ISAC) is a long-term, multidisciplinary program to study the effects of environmental changes on the circum-Arctic system and their feedback on the global system. ISAC was formally established by IASC and the Arctic Ocean Sciences Board (AOSB) (<http://www.iasc.se/isac.htm>).

An ISAC International Program Office (IPO) funded by the

US National Science Foundation (NSF) has been established to provide support for the activities of ISAC and to serve the organizational needs. The ISAC IPO is co-located with the IASC Secretariat at the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat in Stockholm, Sweden.

We are very pleased to warmly welcome Maribeth Murray as the Executive Director of ISAC, effective from 1 October 2007. Maribeth Murray has been Associate Professor and Department Chair of Anthropology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and Director of the Human Dimensions of the Arctic System (HARC) Core Office, at the Center for Global Change, UAF.

International Polar Year (IPY) 2007/2008

IPY Launch

The official IPY Opening Ceremony was held at the Palais de la découverte in Paris, France, 1 March 2007, hosted by the International Council for Science (ICSU) with the support of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The ceremony was attended by members of the IPY Joint Committee and the IPY International Program Office and guests. HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco introduced Vladimir Kotlyakov, a distinguished polar scientist who also took part in the International Geophysical Year (IGY) 1957/1958, and Adrienne Smith, a young IPY polar researcher who then proceeded to cut an IPY cake to mark the beginning of the IPY.

Other IPY Launch Events were held in more than 30 locations all over the world. Several of them were broadcasted via live web-casting made available through the ArcticPortal and can still be viewed at: <http://arcticportal.org/webcast/archived-webcasts/ipy-opening-events>.

IPY Science Overview Document

The IPY Science Overview Document "The Scope of Science for the International Polar Year 2007–2008" prepared by the ICSU/WMO IPY Joint Committee has been published by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO/TD–No. 1364) end of February 2007. A PDF version is available for download at the IASC website (http://www.iasc.se/news/PolarBrochureScientific_v2.pdf).

IPY Mid-Term Conference

IASC and the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) have agreed to jointly organize the IPY mid-term conference entitled "Polar Research - Arctic and Antarctic Perspectives in the International Polar Year" in St. Petersburg (Russia), 8-11 July 2008. This joint SCAR-IASC Open Science Conference will be the main event of the Biannual SCAR Meeting.

The science program of the conference consists of approx. 35 sessions, which will be arranged according to the IPY themes:

- (1) Status and Change,
- (2) Polar/Global Linkages,
- (3) A Sense of Discovery,
- (4) The Poles as a Vantage Point for Observations, and
- (5) Peoples and Resources at the Poles.

More information is available on the SCAR (<http://www.scar.org>) and IASC (<http://www.iasc.se>) websites. A conference website is currently being set up by the local hosts.

2nd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning

The final report of the 2nd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II), entitled "Arctic Research – A Global Responsibility" and published by the ICARP II Steering Group and the ICARP II Secretariat at the Danish Polar Center in Copenhagen (Denmark), will be released in early September. The report includes a synopsis of the ICARP II process and summaries of the 12 ICARP II Science Plans. The full Science Plans are available on an accompanying CD-ROM. <http://www.icarp.dk>

ARCUS Arctic Forum 2007

The theme of the 2007 ARCUS Arctic Forum, which was held in Washington DC (USA), 23-24 May, was "Water in the Arctic: International Collaborations and Understanding Environmental Change". Jointly hosted by ARCUS and the Embassy of Sweden, the Arctic Forum included a diverse range of perspectives on the state of knowledge of the hydrological cycle in the circumpolar Arctic, gaps in our knowledge, and research and policy opportunities and priorities. Sessions highlighted international collaborations for the International Polar Year and beyond. http://www.arcus.org/annual_meetings/2007/index.html

Upcoming meetings

Arctic Coastal Zones at Risk

This workshop, on the impact of global climate change on the Arctic coastal zones is jointly organized by IASC, the Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zones (LOICZ) Program of

the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP) / International Human Dimensions Program on Global Environmental Change (IHDP) and the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) and co-sponsored by the International Permafrost Association (IPA). The workshop will be held at the Polar Environmental Centre in Tromsø (Norway), 1-3 October 2007.

<http://coast.gkss.de/events/arctic07/>

Global Environmental Change: The Role of the Arctic Region

The European Science Foundation (ESF) is organizing the conference "Global Environmental Change: The Role of the Arctic Region" on 13-17 October 2007 in Nynäshamn, close to Stockholm (Sweden). Sessions will address the following topics: 1. The Contemporary Arctic; 2. The Arctic in the Past; 3. The Arctic in the Earth System; 4. Future Climate Change: Consequences for the Arctic.

<http://www.esf.org/conferences/07240>

Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks

The need for a well coordinated and sustained Arctic Observing Network that meets scientific and societal needs has been identified in numerous high profile reports and at a variety of workshops and conferences. In November 2006, the Arctic Council (AC) urged all member nations to maintain and extend long-term monitoring of change in the Arctic, with a view to building a lasting legacy of the International Polar Year (IPY). Further, the AC requested that its working group the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) work with other AC working groups, IASC and other partners in efforts to create a coordinated Arctic Observing Network that meets identified societal needs. The goal of developing an Arctic Observing Network as a legacy of IPY (WMO/ICSU) was endorsed by the WMO XV Congress in May 2007.

In January 2007, the Sustained Arctic Observing Networks Initiating Group (SAON IG), composed of representatives of international organizations, agencies and northern residents involved in research, operational and local observing, has been formed. The purpose of the SAON IG is to develop a set of recommendations on how to achieve long-term Arctic-wide observing activities that provide free, open and timely access to high quality data that will realize pan-Arctic and global value-added services and provide societal benefits.

The Swedish and Canadian IPY Committees have agreed to take the lead in the launch of the SAON initiative by running a succession of workshops together with the SAON IG. The first workshop will be held in Sweden (Stockholm, 12-14 November 2007) and the second workshop will be held in Canada (spring 2008). A third workshop in Finland is planned for autumn 2008, hosted by the Finnish Meteorological Institute.
<http://www.arcticobserving.org/>

Association of Polar Early Career Scientists

The Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) is a new initiative that aims to bring together early career scientists and engineers from around the world who share an interest in the Polar Regions and the Cryosphere as a whole. The mission is to raise the profile of polar science and provide a continuum of leadership that is both internationally and interdisciplinarily focused. APECS is an endorsed International Polar Year project and the official early career association recognized. This organization and all of its members are a direct legacy from the IPY 2007/2008.

<http://arcticportal.org/apecs>

Arctic Meeting Calendar now available

The Arctic Meeting Calendar is initiated and jointly maintained by IASC, the Arctic Research Consortium of the United States (ARCUS), and the Arctic Ocean Sciences Board (AOSB) as a service to the Arctic community. The Arctic Meeting Calendar replaces IASC's Survey of Arctic Meetings (SAM).

<http://calendar.arcus.org/>

IASC News

IASC Review and Strategy

In early 2006, IASC appointed an international group of experts to evaluate IASC activities over the 10-year period, 1996-2005, and recommend strategies for the future. Members of this Review and Strategy Group (R & S Group) were Tom Pyle (Chair), Hajime Ito, Anders Karlqvist, Igor Krupnik, Hanne Petersen, Jörn Thiede and Sara Bowden (Secretary). The report of the R & S Group has been presented to the IASC Council at the ASSW 2007. The overall recommendations are that IASC should consider:

- Adopting a new organizational structure to reflect the progressively more integrative nature of today's polar science;
- Expanding its functions to embrace various science policy issues such as new technology, data management, education and public outreach;
- Strengthening its relations with the Arctic Council, social science organizations representing constituencies in the North, and other global organizations interested in the science of the Arctic region;
- Reorganizing and revitalizing the Arctic Science Summit Week as a major crossdisciplinary venue.

In addition, the R&S Group suggests some changes internal to

IASC to improve its public image and efficiency. The full report is available for download at the IASC website (Annex 4.1 to the report of the IASC Meetings held at the ASSW 2007, <http://www.iasc.se/services.htm>).

The R & S Report has been thoroughly discussed in the IASC Council at the ASSW 2007. Council mandated the IASC Executive Committee to develop a proposal for a new structure considering the aforementioned suggestions and including Terms of Reference and Rules and Procedures for final approval at the ASSW 2008.

IASC Membership News

- It is with deep regret that IASC announces the death of a highly valued member of our community. Grant Ingram passed away in his office on the evening of June 13, 2007. As Canada's representative to the IASC Council, Grant Ingram was very respected and well-liked and he will be deeply missed within the IASC community.
- The Research Council of Norway has selected Susan Barr as the new Norwegian delegate to the IASC Council.

IASC Secretariat News

As of 13 August 2007, the IASC Administrative Assistant, Anna Sundin will be on a one year maternity leave. During her leave, Charlotte Teglgård Pålsson will take over her responsibilities. Charlotte has a Master's degree in Social Science and European Studies, and has previously worked with regulatory affairs and communication, within the telecommunications industry. Mail addresses: iasc@iasc.se & charlotte.t.palsson@iasc.se

IASC membership

Country	Member Organisation(s)	Council Representative	Regional Board Representative
Canada	Canadian Polar Commission		Steven Bigras
China	Chinese Arctic and Antarctic Administration	Liqi Chen	
Denmark/ Greenland	The Commission for Scientific Research in Greenland	Tom Greiffenberg	Hanne Petersen
Finland	Delegation of the Finnish Academies of Science and Letters	Kari Laine	Paula Kankaanpää
France	Institut Polaire Français	Gérard Jugie	
Germany	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	Dieter Fütterer	
Iceland	RANNÍS, The Icelandic Centre for Research	Kristján Kristjánsson	Niels Einarsson
Italy	National Research Institute of Italy	Roberto Azzolini	
Japan	National Institute of Polar Research	Yoshiyuki Fujii	
Netherlands	Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, Earth and Life Sciences	Louwrens Hacquebord	
Norway	The Research Council of Norway	Susan Barr	Jan-Gunnar Winther
Poland	Polish Academy of Sciences, Committee on Polar Research	Jacek Jania	
Rep. of Korea	Korea Polar Research Committee Korea Polar Research Institute	Byong-Kwon Park	
Russia	The Russian Academy of Sciences	Vladimir I Pavlenko	Nikita B Bantsekin
Sweden	The Swedish Research Council	Magnus Friberg	Anders Karlqvist
Switzerland	Swiss Committee on Polar Research	Thomas Stocker	
UK	Natural Environment Research Council	Julian Dowdeswell	
USA	Polar Research Board	Jackie Grebmeier	Karl Erb

Executive Committee

Kristján Kristjánsson (President)
 Jackie Grebmeier (Vice-President)
 Dieter Fütterer (Vice-President)
 Louwrens Hacquebord (Vice-President)
 Byong-Kwon Park (Vice-President)
 Steven Bigras (Regional Board Chair)
 Volker Rachold (Executive Secretary)

Secretariat

Volker Rachold (Executive Secretary)
 Anna Sundin (Administrative Assistant, on maternity leave)
 Charlotte Teglgård Pålsson (Administrative Assistant)

