



PROGRESS

International Arctic Science Committee

June 2006

IASC SECRETARIAT HAS MOVED TO STOCKHOLM

The IASC Secretariat has moved from Oslo to Stockholm at the beginning of January 2006. The new IASC Secretariat is hosted by the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat (www.polar.se) with the generous support of the Swedish Academy of Sciences (www.kva.se) and the Swedish Research Council (www.vr.se).

The move has been completed and the new secretariat with the Executive Secretary *Volker Rachold* and the Administrative Assistant *Anna Sundin* is now fully functional. During the first months of 2006 the past Executive Secretary *Odd Rogne* served as Senior Adviser.

New IASC Website

You are invited to visit the new IASC website and find out more about us at: www.iasc.se.

The website includes general information about IASC, its current projects and its involvement in circum-Arctic science planning activities. Under "Services" you will also find a Survey of Arctic Meetings (SAM), an Arctic Funding Guide and a list of Polar Acronyms.

IASC Publications

The present IASC Progress is the last one to be sent in printed form. IASC is changing its publication strategy and in the future the IASC Progress will be circulated in pdf format by email only.

The printed IASC Progress and the IASC Project Catalogue will be combined in an annual IASC publication. The first issue will be published in 2007.

ASSW 2006: ARCTIC SCIENCE SUMMIT WEEK

Since 1999 the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) has become an annual event organised by major international Arctic research organisations together with the host country.

The ASSW 2006 was held 22–29 March 2006 in Potsdam, Germany. Two institutions were responsible for organising this event: The IPEV (Institut Polaire Français – Paul Emil Victor) and AWI (Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research).

The ASSW combines business meetings of the Arctic organisations with a common Science Day and a Project Day. The theme for the ASSW 2006 Science Day was: *Arctic climate change: actual effects and potential teleconnections*. Overview papers on climate change effects on oceanography, sea ice cover, glaciers, permafrost, ecosystems and local populations of the Arctic were presented. The theme of the ASSW 2006 Project Day was *Arctic Science Initiatives, Developments and Ensuring Legacies*. The following major initiatives were presented: International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II), follow-up plans for the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), International Polar Year (IPY), International Study of Arctic Change (ISAC) and Arctic Observational Programs. The full program of the ASSW including the presentations given during the Project and Science Day can be found at: www.assw2006.de.

The minutes of the Open Session of the IASC Council Meeting held during the ASSW 2006 can be downloaded from the IASC webpage.

ASSW 2007

The ASSW 2007 will be held at Dartmouth College (New Hampshire, USA). A confirmed invitation was extended in Potsdam.

ISAC: INTERNATIONAL STUDY OF ARCTIC CHANGE

ISAC is a long-term, multidisciplinary program to study the effects of environmental changes (including physical/chemical, biological/ecological, and socio-economic/cultural 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) (www.aosb.org).

During the last months the IASC/AOSB Partnership Group has explored the steering and advisory mechanism for ISAC. ISAC will be guided by a Scientific Steering Group (SSG) and a Council and will have two co-chairs who can represent natural and social sciences, respectively. *Michael Tjernström* (Department of Meteorology, Stockholm University, Sweden) and *Grete Hovelsrud* (Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research, Oslo, Norway) have accepted to serve as co-chairs of ISAC. *Leif Anderson* (Department of Analytical and Marine Chemistry, Göteborg University, Stockholm) who chaired the ISAC Interim Science Planning Group will act as an advisor.

An International ISAC Program Office (IPO) funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) will be established to provide support for the activities of ISAC and to serve the organisational needs. The ISAC IPO will be co-located with the IASC Secretariat at the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat in Stockholm, Sweden. Administratively, the ISAC IPO will be guided by the Executive Secretaries of IASC and AOSB. The ISAC planning group is currently in the process of recruiting an Executive Director.

ICARP II: THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ARCTIC RESEARCH PLANNING

The Second International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II) brought together over 450 scientists, policy makers, research managers, indigenous peoples and others interested in and concerned about the future of Arctic research. The conference was the culmination of a 24-month planning process involving over 140 scientists working to develop research plans around thirteen critical research themes identified by the conference sponsors based upon input from the science and Arctic community at large. Conference participants were actively involved in modifying and improving these plans for future implementation.

The conference proceedings, which provide an executive summary of ICARP II and the summaries of the breakout group discussions that met during the conference, can be downloaded at the IASC website or obtained from *Karen Edwards* (Canadian IPY Secretariat, www.ipycanada.ca). The final ICARP II full report, which will be published in the fall of 2006, will include all 12 science plans, a compre-

hensive overview of the challenges for Arctic research in the decade or two ahead, and special sections on data management, infrastructure, and education and outreach.

The ultimate objective of the ICARP II planning process is to initiate and foster the implementation of forward-looking national and international research projects. The success of ICARP II lies in the degree to which new knowledge is facilitated by the process and by fostering new and innovative cutting-edge research projects that are attractive to funding agencies. The ICARP II conference was a critical element in moving the process towards this objective (www.icarp.dk).

IPY: THE INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR 2007 – 2008

The last deadline for submitting IPY full proposals was 31 January 2006. The submitted proposals have undergone a review by the IPY Joint Committee (JC). Several new full projects were endorsed, others were asked to join existing projects and a very few were rejected. The final list of full projects (more than 200) is available at the IPY website (www.ipy.org) where also the preliminary IPY planning chart (“the honeycomb chart”) can be downloaded.

To assist the IPY JC, sub-committees for (1) Data and Information Policy, (2) Education, Outreach and Communication, and (3) Observation Systems have been formed. These are advising the JC and provide guidance for research projects.

A Eurasian IPY sub-office to support the IPY IPO concerning planning and implementation of IPY-projects in the Eurasian Arctic including the Russian area has recently been set up in St. Petersburg: www.ipyeaso.aari.nw.ru.

Some countries (e.g. Canada, The Netherlands, Norway, Russia, UK, USA) have recently announced specific IPY funding opportunities, or are in the process of announcing IPY funding. Others are mainly providing logistics for IPY activities (e.g. Australia, China, Germany, Sweden). Detailed information can be found at the national IPY websites:

- Canada: www.ipycanada.ca
- Denmark: www.dpc.dk/Res&Log/IPY
- Finland: www.ipy-finland.fi
- Germany: www.awi-bremerhaven.de/Projects/IPY2007-8

- The Netherlands: www.ipy.nl
- Norway: www.forskningradet.no/ipy
- Sweden: www.ipy.se
- USA: www.us-ipy.gov

IASC project groups have been encouraged to submit proposals, and several of them have done so. In particular, IASC strives for linking IPY activities to long-term planning initiatives such as ICARP II and ISAC (see above) to ensure IPY legacies.

ARCTIC OBSERVATIONAL PROGRAMS

During the Arctic Council (AC) Ministerial Meeting in Reykjavik (November 2004) the Ministers endorsed the development of AC IPY proposals and welcomed the offer from Sweden to host an organising session on monitoring. In the following COMAAR (Consortium for Coordination of Observation and Monitoring of the Arctic for Assessment and Research, IPY full proposal # 305) was developed. In addition, several other important national and international efforts concerning Arctic observatory networks are planned during the IPY. There is a need to coordinate these new and several already existing initiatives and there should be good prospects for close cooperation between IASC and the AC with a view to obtain stronger government commitments and support for circum-Arctic Observatories.

The Polar Research Board of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences recently published a report entitled *Toward an Integrated Arctic Observing Network* which is available at:

www.nap.edu/catalog/11607.html.

ARCUS ARCTIC FORUM 2006

The 2006 ARCUS Arctic Forum entitled *International Arctic Research at a Turning Point: Innovations and Collaborations for the Future*, co-chaired by Craig Tweedie (University of Texas at El Paso) and Volker Rachold (IASC), was held in Washington DC, 25-26 May 2006:

www.arcus.org/annual_meetings/2006/index.html.

UPCOMING ARCTIC CONFERENCES

Arctic Change and Coastal Communities

12-18 August 2006

Tuktoyaktuk, Canada

www.czc06.ca

Second International Young Scientists Global Change Conference

7-8 November 2006

Beijing, China

www.start.org/YSC/YSC2006.html

Earth System Science Partnerships (ESSP) Open Science Conference - Global Environmental Change: Regional Challenges

9-12 November 2006

Beijing, China

www.essp.org/essp/ESSP2006

9th International Conference on Permafrost

29 June-3 July 2008

Fairbanks, USA

www.nicop.org

33rd International Geological Congress

5-14 August 2008

Oslo, Norway

www.33igc.org

This newsletter can only highlight a few Arctic meetings. More comprehensive overviews can be found at

- www.iasc.se (SAM Survey of Arctic Meetings) and
- www.arcus.org/arcus/calendar/index.html (ARCUS Calendar).

IASC MEMBERSHIP NEWS

One item on the agenda of the IASC Council Meeting, which was held during the ASSW 2006, was the election of a new President and two Vice-Presidents.

IASC is pleased to announce that *Kristján Kristjánsson* (Icelandic Centre for Research – Reykjavik, Iceland) will serve as the new President for the next 4 years. *Jackie Grebmeier* (University of Tennessee - Knoxville, USA), the new US Delegate to IASC, was elected as Vice-President and *Dieter Fütterer* (Alfred Wegener Institute - Bremerhaven, Germany) was re-elected as Vice President.

Other new IASC Council Members are *Grant Ingram* (University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada), *Magnus Friberg* (Swedish Research Council, Stockholm, Sweden) and *Yoshiyuki Fujii* (National Institute of Polar Research, Tokyo, Japan).

The IASC Regional Board elected *Steven Bigras* (Canadian Polar Commission, Ottawa, Canada) as its new Chair. *Jan-Gunnar Winther* (Norwegian Polar Institute, Tromsø, Norway) was appointed as the new Norwegian representative.

IASC MEMBERSHIP

Country	Member Organisation(s)	Council Representative	Regional Board Representative
Canada	Canadian Polar Commission	Grant Ingram	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	Marcello Manzoni	
Japan	Science Council of Japan	Yoshiyuki Fujii	
Netherlands	Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, Earth and Life Sciences	Louwrens Hacquebord	
Norway	The Research Council of Norway	Rolf Anker Ims	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)