

Global Outlook for Ice and Snow

Short presentation by Kathrine I. Johnsen, UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will launch an assessment report, the ***Global Outlook for Ice and Snow***, on World Environment Day, 5 June 2007, in cities around the world. Norway and the City of Tromsø will host the main international celebrations.

The ***Global Outlook for Ice and Snow*** is part of UNEP's continuing efforts to raise global awareness about the effects of climate change.

The focus of the report is the current status and trends in ice- and snow-covered regions, and the outlook for the future. Hopefully the report will contribute to the cryosphere related work of the Arctic Council.

The scope of the report is global and not divided by region, but by ice type, so, though there is not a specific section on the Arctic, there is a lot of material that builds on the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA).

Quite a few of the ACIA authors are also authors and reviewers on this report. The report involves about 70 authors and 50 reviewers and advisors from all over the world – including the Himalayas, the Andes, the Tibetan Plateau and Small Island States. Many leading research institutes are involved.

I would like to acknowledge Pål Prestrud, the director of CICERO, as the chair of the steering committee.

And to this audience I would also like to acknowledge Patricia Cochran, the chair of ICC, and John Calder, the chair of AMAP, who providing much assistance as members of the steering committee, and Patricia also as a contributing author.

GRID-Arendal's role in this project is as project lead, coordinating editor, and facilitating the production of the report.

I would like to acknowledge Norway that funds the report jointly with UNEP.

Global Outlook for Ice and Snow is endorsed as an International Polar Year education and outreach project. UNEP's special focus during IPY is to increase awareness around the world about polar issues and about the importance of the changes happening in the Polar Regions.

The report has a broad target audience that includes decision-makers at many levels. It will feature case studies, illustrations, graphics and maps and will serve as an educational and reference publication.

The release of the ***Global Outlook for Ice and Snow*** will be in Tromsø on the 4th of June, as part of World Environment Day events organized by Norway and UNEP, and on 5th of June in other locations, including Barrow Alaska.