

Contribution to the IPY Legacy.

2008-03-18

International Arctic Science Committee (IASC); Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)

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International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) - *Contribution to the IPY Legacy*

In 2006, IASC and SCAR signed a Letter of Agreement to strengthen the relationship between the two organizations. This Letter of Agreement, means that IASC and SCAR aim at combining their efforts in selected fields and activities so as to raise the level of impact of both organizations in terms of making scientific advances and of advising policy makers (for example of the likelihood and likely effects of climate change), as well as to avoid duplication. IASC is an international associate of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and observer to the Arctic Council. SCAR is an interdisciplinary body of ICSU and observer to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), and to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). Both organizations have numerous international partners.

In accordance with the conditions of this Letter of Agreement, IASC and SCAR are now working closely together to ensure that both communities make an integrated and comprehensive contribution to meeting the goals of the IPY. Both IASC and SCAR are ex-officio members of the IPY Joint Committee.

As an illustration of the closer cooperation between IASC and SCAR, the two organizations 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. To date, approximately 1200 participants have registered for the conference. IASC and SCAR will also significantly contribute to the development of the program of the IPY Early Science Conference which will be held in Oslo (Norway), 8-12 June 2010.

Both organizations have a strong interest in coordinated and sustained observing systems in the polar regions. IASC has been involved in the development of SAON from the very beginning and SCAR is currently advancing an equivalent approach for the Antarctic, entitled Pan-Antarctic Observing System Network (PAntOS). IASC and SCAR take a great interest in linking these polar observing systems and also in connecting them to global observing systems. This is also reflected in a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), IASC and SCAR on the co-sponsorship of the Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) Project which will be presented at the Arctic Science Summit Week 2008 in Syktyvkar.

Both IASC and SCAR are committed to training the next generation of polar researchers and have means to support early career scientists' involvement. IASC and SCAR mentoring has played an important role in the development of the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS). To further help APECS to grow by demonstrating its formal links to two major polar organizations, IASC and SCAR have suggested a letter of agreement that sets out the relationship.

Finally, it should be mentioned that IASC and SCAR have recently established a joint Bipolar Action Group (BipAG). The terms of reference of this Action Group are to advise IASC and SCAR on the development of instruments such as workshops, programs and networks to address bipolar issues and, in particular, to advise IASC and SCAR on the development of mechanisms to nurture the IPY legacy, with a special focus on the roles of IASC and SCAR.

In essence, we want to underline that the two major polar science organizations, IASC and SCAR, are prepared to significantly contribute to ensuring the legacy of the IPY. We very much welcome the Norwegian proposal "Maximizing the IPY Legacy" and the initial ideas and options summarized by the IPY International Program Office. We are looking forward to participating in these legacy discussions.



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