

CONTENT: IASC after 25 Years

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« IASC History

at a Glance »



The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) is a non-governmental, international scientific organization, founded in 1990 by the eight Arctic countries. Over the past 25 years, IASC has evolved into the leading international science organization of the North and its membership today includes national science organizations from 22 countries involved in Arctic research. The IASC mission is to encourage and facilitate cooperation in all aspects of Arctic research, in all countries engaged in Arctic research and in all areas of the Arctic region. Overall, IASC promotes and supports leading-edge multi-disciplinary research in order to foster a greater scientific understanding of the Arctic region and its role in the Earth system. In the context of its 25th anniversary in 2015, IASC presents a comprehensive publication on its history from the planning process in the late 1980s until today. Printed as a special issue of the IASC yearbook, the publication compiles and analyzes the history and development of IASC and its initiatives and achievements. As a summary of the "IASC After 25 Years" publication, this brochure presents a timeline of the most important events in the development of IASC in the past quarter of a century.

« IASC History

at a Glance »



1986

- Informal consultations at XIX SCAR Meeting, San Diego (USA)

1987

- Unofficial IASC scoping meeting, Oslo (Norway)
- President Gorbachev's Murmansk speech mentions „the need to coordinate research in the Arctic“ and „setting up a joint Arctic scientific council“

1991

- First regular IASC Council meeting, Oslo (Norway)
- Fred Roots elected IASC President
- IASC Secretariat established in Oslo (Norway)
- IASC invited as a standing observer to the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy



1992

- Council meeting in Reykjavik (Iceland)

1996

- Council meeting in Bremerhaven (Germany)
- Several IASC Projects established
- First IASC Review
- IASC becomes accredited observer at the formation meeting of the Arctic Council



1997

- Council meeting in St. Petersburg (Russia)
- David Drewry elected IASC President



2003

- ASSW – Kiruna (Sweden)
- Pacific Arctic Group (PAG) established



2004

- ASSW – Reykjavik (Iceland)
- IASC becomes a member of the Joint Committee for the International Polar Year 2007/2008



2007

- ASSW – Hanover (USA)
- SAON Initiation Workshop, Tromsø (Norway)
- Second IASC Review
- Ongoing IASC Projects finalized or transferred into IASC Networks
- First SAON Workshop, Stockholm (Sweden)



First yearbook IASC Bulletin published

2009

- ASSW – Bergen (Norway), including first Science Symposium
- IASC Secretariat moves to Potsdam (Germany)
- IASC merges with the Arctic Ocean Sciences Board (AOSB) which later becomes IASC's Marine Working Group
- Memorandum of Understanding signed with the International Permafrost Association (IPA) and SCAR
- Letter of Agreement signed with the Pacific Arctic Group (PAG)



2011

- ASSW – Seoul (Korea), including Science Symposium
- IASC Working Groups Workshop, Potsdam (Germany)
- Letter of Agreement signed with the Circumpolar Health Research Network (CirchNet)
- Letter of Agreement signed with the University of the Arctic (UArctic) and IASSA
- Memorandum of Understanding signed with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)



IASC Working Groups Workshop, Potsdam (Germany)

1986

1988

- IASC Planning Group established at a meeting on "International Cooperation in Arctic Science", Stockholm (Sweden)
- Series of IASC Planning Group meetings in Moscow (Soviet Union), Stockholm (Sweden) and Leningrad (Soviet Union)

1989

- Final IASC Planning Group meeting, Helsinki (Finland)

1990

- IASC Founding meeting, Resolute (Canada)



Participants of the Founding Meeting, Resolute (Canada), 1990

1993

- Council meeting, Abisko (Sweden)
- Magnus Magnusson elected IASC President
- International Science Initiative in the Russian Arctic (ISIRA) established as an IASC Advisory Group

1994

- Council meeting, Ilulissat (Greenland)



1995

- Council meeting, Rovaniemi (Finland)
- First International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP)

1996

- Council meeting, Fairbanks (USA)
- Forum of Arctic Research Operators (FARO) established



1999

- First Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW), Tromsø (Norway)

2000

- ASSW – Cambridge (UK)

2001

- ASSW – Iqaluit (Canada)

2002

- ASSW – Groningen (The Netherlands)
- Patrick Webber elected IASC President



2005

- ASSW – Kunming (China)
- IASC accepted as an International Scientific Associate of the International Council for Science (ICSU)



Second International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II)



Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), jointly with the Arctic Council

2006

- ASSW – Potsdam (Germany)
- Kristján Kristjánsson elected IASC President
- IASC Secretariat moves to Stockholm (Sweden)
- Letter of Agreement signed with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)
- Unofficial scoping meeting of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON)



2008

- ASSW – Syktyvkar (Russia)
- Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) and SCAR
- Letter of Agreement signed with the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA)
- Letter of Agreement signed with the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS) and SCAR
- Memorandum of Agreement signed with the Climate and Cryosphere (CIIC) Project and SCAR
- Second SAON Workshop, Edmonton (Canada)
- Third SAON Workshop, Helsinki (Finland)



First Joint SCAR/IASC Open Science Conference (1st IPY Conference), St. Petersburg (Russia)

2010

- ASSW – Nuuk (Greenland)
- David Hik elected IASC President
- IASC Working Groups (Atmosphere, Cryosphere, Marine, Social and Human, Terrestrial) established



IPY 2010 Oslo Conference



First IASC Medal awarded to Pat Webber

2012

- ASSW – Montreal (Canada), in conjunction with the IPY Montreal 2012 Conference – From Knowledge to Action



Peter Harrison at the IPY 2012 Montreal Conference



2013

- ASSW - Krakow (Poland), including Science Symposium
- First Arctic Observing Summit, Vancouver (Canada)
- Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Forum of Arctic Research Operators (FARO)



2014

- ASSW - Helsinki (Finland), including Arctic Observing Summit
- Susan Barr elected IASC President
- Memorandum of Understanding signed with the European Polar Board (EPB) and SCAR



2015

- ASSW – Toyama (Japan), including Third International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III)

