International Arctic Science Committee

COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT

3 – 4 APRIL 2000

CAMBRIDGE, UNITED KINGDOM

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IASC Council Meeting
Cambridge, United Kingdom
3 – 4 April 2000

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IASC

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COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

1. OPENING AND REPORTING SESSION

1.1 ATTENDANCE

The President, Dr David J Drewry, welcomed members and observers to the meeting, noting that new Council members had been appointed by our member organisations in Finland, Sweden and the United States.

A special welcome was extended to observers from ACIA (Arctic Climate Impact Assessment), AMAP (The Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme), FARO (Forum of Arctic Research Operators), IASSA (The International Arctic Social Science Association), IPA (The International Permafrost Association), SCAR (The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research) and Korea, as well as a number of national observers.

.\. A list of participants is enclosed as **Appendix I.**

1.2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted with the inclusion of "Korean Interest in the Arctic" under Item 2.8, Any Other Business.

1.3 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President focussed his report on a number of activities which had taken place during the year.

The Arctic Science Summit Week had been initiated last year, and the feedback received had been positive in relation to the timeliness of this initiative. Both IASC and the other organisations contributing to this Week will continuously be looking for improvements, and we encourage participants to make such suggestions.

The IASC Projects are the core of our activity and they will be dealt with in more detail during this Council Meeting (Agenda Item 2.1)

The IASC Executive Committee had held two major meetings. Their duty is to act between Council meetings, and the main activity is reviewing project plans, progress and requests for funding.

However, the Executive Committee had had discussions of both a policy and strategic nature.

Under **Science Policy** two activities were mentioned:

- **The Sustainable Development Workshop** held in Akureyri, Iceland which aimed at a dialogue between the science and policy communities. This workshop, which had been supported and sponsored by IASC, had been discussed thoroughly in the IASC Executive Committee,.
- **ACIA** (Arctic Climate Impact Assessment) had been initiated as a joint venture with AMAP and CAFF, and the ACIA Implementation Plan was now close to its final version.
  Climate impact assessments in the Arctic was also the theme for the Joint Science Day, and this could be regarded as a contribution to making ACIA known in the science community.

1.4 REPORT FROM THE REGIONAL BOARD

1.4.1 INTRODUCTION

When IASC was being planned, there was no circumarctic governmental cooperation, and a body was formed within IASC called the Regional Board. This Board consists of one person from each of the Arctic countries, and their original mandate was to ensure that the activities of IASC were consistent with the interests of these countries. Since the circumarctic governmental cooperation was established (now as the Arctic Council), the main task for the Regional Board is to advise IASC on Arctic Council issues which have a science component, and possible initiatives of joint interest.

1.4.2 REPORT

The Chair of the Regional Board, Dr Robert W Corell, USA, gave the following summary report:

- **New members** had been appointed for Canada (Valoree Walker), Finland (Paula Kankaanpää) and the United States (Karl Erb).
- **The relationship towards the Arctic Council** had been the main task for the Regional Board during the last year. The Chair had been the IASC observer to Arctic Council meetings.
  In addition to making brief presentations about IASC projects of interest to the Arctic Council, the ACIA (Arctic Climate Impact Assessment) had constituted a major effort, also because Dr Corell had initiated the assessment discussions, and later was asked to present the ACIA at Arctic Council meetings on behalf of AMAP, CAFF and IASC.

  In addition to ACIA (which is now likely to become a major Arctic initiative with its own secretariat etc.) Dr Corell pointed to **Sustainable Development** as another potentially good joint venture between IASC and the Arctic Council.

Finally, this meeting was the last Regional Board Meeting for Dr Corell.
Dr Paula Kankaanpää, Finland, was elected **new Chair of the Regional Board**

Dr Kankaanpää is Director of the Arctic Centre in Rovaniemi, Finland, and she has previously been involved in Arctic Council issues.

Further information about the Arctic Council can be found on the Internet at:

http://arctic-council.usgs.gov

2 MAIN ISSUES

2.1 PROJECTS

Introduction

The projects are the core of IASC activities. The Executive Committee is tasked to monitor the progress of our projects and they do so by reviewing project progress reports at their meeting in late autumn, and early in the year they review plans for the year as well as fund requests to the IASC General Fund.

At the Council Meeting, Council has the opportunity to comment on the work being done, and also to discuss and approve new projects as well as the funding requests.

With many projects the time for discussing each project is limited. The need for in-depth discussion will vary during a project's lifetime. At this Council Meeting, three projects were presented by the Project Leaders – followed by a more in-depth discussion in Council.

Information about IASC projects is available on our web site:

http://www.iasc.no

Our annual **Project Catalogue** (printed version) is usually available during April (this year the Council Meeting was held too early for the completion of the printing process of the current catalogue). However, up-dated information was available both on the IASC web site, as well as in the last Executive Committee report.

2.1.1 PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

Three projects (or project ideas) had been selected for presentation by the Project Leader and discussion.

- **Human Role in Caribou/Reindeer Systems** by Dr Gary Kofinas, USA
  This project has been through the initial planning phase, and is now moving towards research implementation. The project web site is at:

  http://www.rangifer.net

Summary of the presentation made by Dr Kofinas:

Gary Kofinas described the current status of the "Sustainable Development: Human Role in Reindeer/Caribou Systems" project. As reported by Kofinas, in February 1999, an international research-planning workshop in Rovaniemi Finland of 80 natural scientists, social scientists and indigenous leaders and research users was convened. Based on the transactions of the workshop, a research plan has been produced

(http://www.dartmouth.edu/~arctic/rangifer/resplan/index.html).

The plan outlines participants' approach to research planning, recommends guidelines for future Human-Reindeer/Caribou Systems studies, and reports on substantive issues addressed by six workshop working groups. Cross cutting themes identified in the

plan are both substantive and methodological. Those highlighted to the Council include the need to improve the ability to anticipate and respond to change, to understand better the functionality of Human-Rangifer Systems, and to develop new methods that are holistic in approach and provide meaningful involvement for indigenous resource users in the co-production of knowledge. Also noted is the need for future research to actively facilitate better communication among groups, and to organize researchers into a coordinated network. More fundamentally, the research plan calls for a re-framing of the current research paradigm to reflect the complexity of Human-*Rangifer* Systems and differing cultural perspectives. Of special interest in the research plan is assessing cumulative effects and the practicalities of integrating local knowledge into research endeavors.

Two other products have also come from the workshop. A Human-Reindeer/Caribou Systems web-based resources has been developed and posted at www.rangifer.net, offering links to existing research programs, updates on current news and events, and a listing of individuals with an interest in this area of study. As well, a volume by workshop participants on the subject of the human role of reindeer/caribou systems is under the editorship of Bruce Forbes, and will be published in a special issue of *Polar Research* this year.

Several follow-up areas of activity were proposed to the Council.
First, resources will be allocated to maintain and update the www.rangifer.net web site.
Second, a "Profile of Herds" initiative is being launched to compile a database of information and information sources for circumpolar human-rangifer systems - a first step in realising regional comparisons of sustainability for select grazing systems.
The third initiative includes a process for convening future working groups on special topics identified in Rovaniemi.
Moving forward on these meetings is slated as a Year 2002 activity.

Kofinas reported that a new Steering Committee for these initiatives has been formed to direct the effort, and that others interested in joining are welcome to participate.

Council Discussion

Council noted that good progress had been made with this project and the suggested follow-up actions.
Dr Kofinas was advised to limit the number of members in the Steering Committee (for practical and funding reasons).

The group was also advised to integrate traditional knowledge into the project wherever appropriate.
The follow-up work should also include contact with funding agencies as well as various stakeholders

- **IBCAO: International Bathymetric Chart of the Arctic Ocean** by Mr Ron Macnab, Canada
  This project was initiated within IASC and later developed in cooperation with IOC (International Oceanographic Commission) and IHO (International Hydrographic Organisation).
  This project is close to being finalised, and one reason for this presentation was to consider what could be learnt from a successful activity.The project web site is found at:

  http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/bathymetry/arctic/arctic.html

Summary of the presentation made by Mr Macnab:

The IBCAO Project was initiated for the primary purpose of constructing a modern digital database that contains all available bathymetric data north of 64N, for use by mapmakers, investigators, and others whose work requires a detailed and accurate knowledge of the depth and shape of the Arctic seabed. The conduct of the undertaking is overseen by an Editorial Board whose mandate has been endorsed by three international organisations: The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC). Currently, the Editorial Board's membership consists of bathymetric specialists from eleven countries and international organisations that have interests in Arctic mapping and research; Canada, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the USA, the IOC, the IHO, and IASC. Additional information of an administrative and technical nature may be found on the Project website at the address given above.

There is no formal arrangement for funding of IBCAO, and since its inception, the Editorial Board has relied on a series of ad-hoc arrangements to support its activities. To date, funding and in-kind support has been obtained from the following organisations: IASC, IOC, Stockholm University, the Swedish Polar Secretariat, the Swedish Polar Committee, the Swedish Ymer Foundation, the US Office of Naval Research, and the US National Geophysical Data Center. These contributions have provided a welcome supplement to the voluntary efforts and in-kind contributions of Editorial Board members, their associates, and their home institutions.

The Project has made significant progress since it was first proposed in late 1997. For the first time, a coherent, public digital data base has been constructed through the assembly and rationalisation of original depth observations and information extracted from published maps. This data base has been used to construct a grid that defines depth throughout the region at intervals of 2.5 x 2.5 km; depth information has been complemented by a grid that defines the elevations of surrounding land masses, so that marine and terrestrial relief north of 64N is now described uniformly in one seamless grid. Designated as the "Beta Grid", this grid has been cleared for early distribution to members of the community so they may evaluate it, provide feedback to the Editorial Board, and, most importantly, alert us to the existence of additional data sets that could be used to enhance the product. The Beta Grid has also been used to construct a Provisional Shaded Relief Map which has been released to the community, to facilitate visualisation of the contents of the grid, and to enable comparisons with existing maps.

The Beta Grid and the Provisional Map, along with associated documentation, may be downloaded from the Project Website maintained by the US National Geophysical Data Center:

http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/bathymetry/arctic/arctic.html

A preliminary assessment indicates that on a regional basis, the Beta Grid and its derived Provisional Map represent a substantial improvement over publicly-available representations of the Arctic seabed that are presently available. Besides providing important corrections to the old maps (eg. GEBCO), the new products feature increased detail and resolution in both deep and shallow areas.

In addition to its technical achievements, the IBCAO Project demonstrated substantial success in marshalling the skills and expertise of representatives from eleven research and survey organisations in eight countries, and in focussing the group's efforts on the attainment of its objectives in a timely and harmonious manner. In several ways, the Project represents a workable paradigm that could benefit comparable mapmaking initiatives in other parts of the world ocean.

Plans for the year 2000 and beyond include: the incorporation of additional data sets if any are forthcoming; the refinement of the Beta Grid and Provisional Map to prepare them for formal release in more definitive forms; and the completion of project documentation which will describe the constituent data sets, as well as the procedures employed in their manipulation. A significant objective will be the formulation of a long-term strategy for maintaining the database and for producing updated versions of the Grid and Map as new information becomes available. It is perceived that an essential element of this strategy will be to identify a "home" for the Project where it will benefit from ongoing institutional interest and from a stable allocation of resources.

Council Discussion

Council noted that this was a successful project, and the project leadership was thanked for dedicated and energetic work. The question about "a home fo the map material" was noted.

- **Rapid Cultural and Social Change in the Circumpolar North** by Dr Yvon Csonka, Switzerland.

  This project had had problems in producing a focussed science plan, and the solution proposed by the present group was to establish a core group for monitoring a number of sub-projects.

Summary of the project presentation by Yvon Csonka

Arctic and northern societies have for millennia adapted and responded to rapid environmental and social changes and shown great resilience. During the 20th century, the pace and intensity of change have increased dramatically. A better understanding of the processes involved would be crucially useful to anticipate and respond to present and future changes.

With the support of IASC, a group of scientists and stakeholders from all major arctic regions met in Copenhagen in February 1997, and elaborated a priority research programme organized around three major research themes :

1. *Construction of knowledge and world view.* Indigenous and local knowledge are considered fundamental expressions of human-environmental relations, which must be given priority in the sustainable management of local and regional resources.
2. *Social viability, cultural continuity and demographic transitions.* To determine the key factors of change in social, cultural, and economic processes, and to compare how these changes and their effects vary within and across the Circumpolar North.

3. *Political dynamics, governance and collective rights*. The Circumpolar regions are experiencing important changes in political structures both internally with respect to national (state) and international integration. The situation spans those cases in which minority and indigenous groups strive for political and legal recognition, and those in which a population is in control of a state apparatus. Studying Arctic experiences will be of comparative value.

The IASC prioritisation effort has been supported by IASSA (International Arctic Social Sciences Association), which contributes scientific and deontological guidance to this project. The details of the research programme have been refined and improved during follow up meetings of the working group set up under the chairmanship of Dr. Jens Dahl, but its basic assumptions have been consistently confirmed. Eight projects, which were submitted to the working group in response to an open call publicised by IASSA at the end of 1998, have been selected for the implementation of the major aspects of the framework priority programme.

Together, these projects cover the entire Arctic. Several of them are users' initiatives, and all feature intensive collaboration with user communities, and where appropriate with government agencies. Two large projects, « Sustainable Development : Food Security in the Arctic », and « Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic », already started and in great part funded, require wide circumarctic and interdisciplinary cooperation. Another project, about social transitions in Northern Yakutia, has already produced promising results ; « Village Health in West Greenland » and « Memory and History in Nunavut » have started recently. The three remaining projects deal with « Democratic Self-Government Structures and Indigenousness », « Democracy, Identity, and Indigenous Rights in Chukotka », and the « Use and Management of Cultural Landscapes and Natural Resources in Sami Areas ». Their implementation should begin in 2000. All projects are scheduled to end between 2002 and 2005.

All the projects deal with aspects of rapid change, and will yield results that will be amenable to comparison with and transfer to other Arctic regions. During the implementation phase, the « Rapid cultural change » working group will be augmented by the leaders of the projects under implementation. These projects will be connected in a network, which will facilitate the synthesis and the integration of their results in a circumarctic and comparative perspective.

The presentation led to several comments from Council members, and the present group was asked for clarification on the following:

- **Focus and synthesis**

The project seems so widely defined that almost everything can fit under this theme. Does the group intend to focus the project more sharply, and how will the group provide a project synthesis based on the sub-projects?

- **Clarification between IASC and IASSA**

A group of scientists was originally appointed by IASC to draft a science and implementation plan. No such plan has materialised, except for a very general description of a framework.

A new group has appointed themselves as a core group with some unclear terms of reference (such as who has appointed them and to whom will they report, etc.).

- **Open-ended**

The report gives the impression that the group is inviting any project idea or ongoing project to be listed under this theme, and that it will be an open-ended activity.

- **IASC projects in the Russian North**

It is important to avoid duplication between projects, but it may confuse people if the same project (or project idea) is listed under several headings.

2.1.2 OTHER IASC PROJECTS

Council members were invited to comment or discuss other IASC projects.

The following comments were made:

- **UV Effects**
  Despite some slowing down of the project Council endorsed its value and encouraged its continued development.
  Dr Segerståhl, Finland confirmed that a UVIRC (UV International Research Centre) had been established in Finland. This centre matched the specifications in the UVIRC report (produced by the IASC project group concerned with effects of increased UV radiation).
  It was also noted that UV effects were an important part of ACIA and getting UVIRCs working would be useful to the ACIA cooperation.

2.1.3 NEW PROJECT IDEAS

- **Arctic Coastal Dynamics**

An international workshop on "Arctic Coastal Dynamics" was held 2 – 4 November 1999 in Woods Hole, Mass, USA. Participants at this workshop had drafted a proposal for developing a multi-national, multi-disciplinary programme of circum-Arctic coastal research with the following **objectives**:

1. Refine and apply a classification system for coastal mapping and for assessing the sensitivity and erosion potential of Arctic coasts.
2. Develop and apply standard techniques for mapping and measuring erosion and accretion.
3. Identify and investigate critical processes that affect dynamics of high latitude shorelines
4. Develop estimates of erosion rates and sediment production for circum-Arctic coastlines.

Dr Jerry Brown, USA (previously Executive Secretary of the International Permafrost Association) briefly reported from the workshop, and presented the
.\. project proposal in more detail, see **Appendix II.**

The proposal was for a joint IASC/IPA project.

Several countries expressed support for this project, **and Council agreed to appoint an ad-hoc group in consultation with IPA to assist developing a circum-Arctic science and implementation plan.**

Action: Rogne

- **Data Base and Map of Circumpolar Sediment**

Mr Ron Macnab, Canada, presented this proposal, which had some common elements with IBCAO.

The main **objective** was:

Recovery, preservation, and rationalisation of seismic observations to construct a digital data base and maps that describe the nature and the distribution of sedimentary material underlaying the deep ocean basin and the continental shelves of the Arctic region.

.\. See **Appendix III** for the project proposal.

Council agreed to establish an ad-hoc group for working out a more detailed science and implementation plan.

Action: Rogne

- **Arctic Gravity Project**

This project was initiated by a group of scientists under the International Association of Geodesy (IAG). This group had asked IASC for official recognition of the project, and for it to become a collaborating project like IBCAO.

.\. A report of July 1999 from this group is enclosed as **Appendix IV.**

At the Regional Board meeting, the Russian member had commented that this project was sensitive for Russia. Consultations had been made with appropriate authorities, who had been negative. This opinion could be reconsidered through a dialogue with further information.

As a consequence, this project was put on hold.

Action: Rogne

2.2 IASC GENERAL FUND

2.2.1 ACCOUNTS FOR 1999

.\. The accounts, as shown in **Appendix V** were recommended to Council by the Executive Committee

Council approved the Accounts for 1999.

2.2.2 BUDGET FOR 2000

A draft budget had been discussed by the Executive Committee and formed the basis for Council discussion.

.\. The final budget for 2000 is enclosed as **Appendix VI.**

Council made the following **conditional** comments to the following projects.

- **Contaminants and Human Health**:
  The sum expected to be used is:
  - Expenses related to their postponed meeting held in January 2000, and
  - USD 15.000 for a second meeting this year.
- **Russian Indigenous Peoples**
  The amount increased to USD 14.000 based on recent estimates of expected expenses.
- **Rapid cultural Changes**
  Support is dependant on satisfactory answers to comments made by Council
- **Tundra-Taiga Interface**
  Council noted that the initiators had asked for funds for a follow-up meeting before the workshop had been held.
  Provided that the outcome of the workshop justified a follow-up group meeting, and that this meeting could be held this year, Council would be positive.

Other Comments

After some clarifications (such as reminding participants that some projects had previously been cut, or the economic support had been changed), some ideas were put forward such as:

- **A need for a "Budget Committee":**
  The majority view was to maintain trust in the Executive Committee in undertaking this task.
- **Strategic use of money,** i.e. an ad-hoc group to consider the present use of IASC General Fund and possibly a more strategic use of it. This comment could be linked to issues under 2.3: IASC Strategy.
  These comments were left for consideration by the new Executive Committee.

Action: Executive Committee

2.3 IASC STRATEGY

The IASC Structure and Performance had been a discussion theme at the last Executive Committee meeting based on a paper by Dr David J Drewry.

In his introduction, Dr Drewry raised the question "how do we generate the successful IASC projects for the future?" He reflected that our present structures may not easily address this question – Council is too general; projects are too specific. He pointed to the need for:

- Improving our structure for developing exiting new projects
- Distinguishing between project groups and early stage networks
- Strategic Standing Committees ("strategic catalysation"): either formal committee (another organisational layer) or a small group of individuals tasked to discuss and develop possible new project ideas.

.\. For more background information, please see **Appendix VII.**

The discussion in Council gave a mixed impression. Some agreed that small ad-hoc expert groups would be useful (and even necessary), whereas others argued for using Council members rather than creating extra groups.

The President summarised the discussion with the follow keywords.

- Bottom-up
- Transparent and simple
- No additional layer
- More marketing (and advertising) of IASC and its projects externally.

The Executive Committee was tasked to consider any follow-up actions.

Action: Executive Committee

2.4 ACIA: ARCTIC CLIMATE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

2.4.1 ACIA

As agreed at the last Council Meeting, this initiative had been further discussed with AMAP and CAFF. A joint proposal was presented to the Senior Arctic Official (SAOs) of the Arctic Council in May, 1999 and an improved version (draft implementation plan) had been presented by Dr Robert W Correl at the Arctic Council meeting in November 1999.

The Arctic Council had encouraged the partners to proceed with improving the ACIA Implementation Plan for the presentation of an improved version at the next SAO meeting.
This task had been undertaken by organising an ACIA Scoping Meeting in early March, 2000 in Washington, DC, to which a number of scientists and other experts had been invited.
A new version of the ACIA Implementation Plan had now been drafted (version 3.4), and during the ASSW (Arctic Science Summit Week) this version would be improved and polished for presentation to the SAO meeting later this month.

.\. A copy of the ACIA Implementation Plan, version 3.4 is enclosed as **Appendix VIII.**

Further, the IASC Council was informed that:

- At a meeting of the Assessment Steering Committee (ASC), **Dr Robert W Corell** had been elected Chair of the ASC – with **Dr Pål Prestrud,** Norway (Director of Research at the Norwegian Polar Institute) as Vice Chair.
- The USA had agreed to host and fund an **ACIA Secretariat** that would be housed in the International Arctic Research Center in Fairbanks, Alaska.
  Dr Gunter Weller, USA had agreed to serve as the Interim ACIA Executive Director.
- The main assessment work will be carried out by **Lead Authors**, who will be selected on their scientific merits, and members of the Regional Board were encouraged to propose top candidates for theses tasks.

- A few points from the discussion:
  - Arctic countries vs. non-Arctic countries:

    Lead authors and other experts would be welcomed wherever they live. IASC could be helpful in finding good scientists in non-Arctic countries.
  - Bibliography in version 3.1:

    This bibliography was rather biased, with regard to disciplines and geographical representation. It should either be improved or deleted.
  - The ACSYS Office (in Tromsø, Norway) would have an Executive Secretary again in June this year (ACSYS: Arctic Climate System Study, a project of the World Climate Research Programme).
    It is likely that this office would be a potential resource for the ACIA.
  - IPCC:
    There was close contact with the IPCC Secretariat, and any overlaps would be avoided.

Decisions:

- **Assessment Steering Committee (ASC) of ACIA**

  Drs Bolin and Corell had been nominated by the Executive Committee as the IASC representatives in the ASC.

  Council confirmed these nominations, and also agreed that ACIA should be a regular item on their future agendas.

- **Chair of the ASC of ACIA**

  At a recent meeting of the ASC, Dr Robert W Corell was elected Chair of the ASC.

  Council confirmed their support for this election.

Action: Rogne

2.4.2 IASC ADVISORY GROUP FOR ACIA (IAGA)

The Executive Committee had suggested that a small group of scientists, highly qualified in Arctic climate impact assessments, should be established. See also the copy of a letter to Council members of 25.11.99 with suggested Terms of Reference, enclosed with this report as **Appendix IX.**

The following had been nominated:

- Drs Bert Bolin and Robert W Corell (as our ASC representatives)
- Dr Noel Broadbent, Sweden
- Dr Howard Cattle, UK
- Dr Jacek Jania, Poland
- Dr Terry D Prouse, Canada
- Dr Alla Victorovna Tsyban, Russia.

The suggested nominees were briefly presented by the Council members who had nominated them. However, the discussion revealed that several Council members had overlooked the importance of this issue. Further, the qualifications related to **impact assessment** were in the main not highlighted.

The need is for around 3 people to join Drs Bolin and Corell. First and foremost these scientists should have **impact assessment** qualifications, and it would be useful to have people with different scientific backgrounds (such as biologist, modeller, social scientist).
The primary need is to find the best advisers regardless of nationality.

Decision:

Council agreed that appointing this group was premature at this meeting. At least one social scientist should be appointed, and selection of candidates should be based on their expertise in impact assessment.
The Executive Secretary was requested to seek nominations from Council members, and the Executive Committee will thereafter nominate the group.

Action: Rogne

2.4.3 MODELLING/SCENARIOS

The Executive Committee had also discussed the need for an Arctic Climate Modelling Project, and recommended that such an initiative should be considered a part of ACIA.

Comments by Council confirmed the need and support for such an initiative, and IASC should consider initiating a first meeting in cooperation with relevant partners.

Action: Rogne

2.5 UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

Dr Peter Johnson gave an overview of the University of the Arctic. The University of the Arctic is concerned with higher education in the circumarctic region.
This initiative has been supported both by the Arctic Council and by the indigenous peoples of the Arctic.

At present they have the following

Programmatic Activities

- Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies
- Northern Research Forum
- Circumpolar Arctic Social Science PhD Network
- Circumpolar PhD Network in Arctic Environmental Studies
- Circumpolar Mobility Programmes (mobility of students)
- NABO International Field Schools
- Integrated Regional Impact Studies in the European North (IRISEN)

- Peoples, Cultures and Environmental Change in the North
- Arctic Sustainable Development Strategy

An Interim Council is in charge of the UoA, and further information can be found on their web site at:

http://www.urova.fi/home/uarctic

and/or in their newsletter:

Shared Voices which can be ordered by e-mail at: uarctic@levi.urova.fi

The **relationship** between IASC and the University of the Arctic was raised, and the conclusion was that IASC should serve as a science adviser to them.

2.6 ARCTIC SCIENCE SUMMIT WEEK (ASSW)

This week in Cambridge was the second ASSW. Council members were invited to comment on the present format and contents of the ASSW, including ideas for improvements.

General comments about ASSW were very supportive with no major suggestion for change.

- **Future ASSWs**

  Invitations to future ASSWs had been received from Canada, the Netherlands and Sweden.
  Council noted the proposal from the Executive Committee to decide on meeting venues for the next 2-3 years.

  Provided there are no major objections from the other organisations who have joined us in the ASSW, Council agreed on the following schedule:

  2001: Canada

  2002: The Netherlands

  2003: Sweden

- **ASSW 2001**

  The Canadian invitation was for an ASSW in Iqaluit. There is local government support for it and efforts will be made to obtain reduced rates on national flights and hotels.

  - **Time:** Last week of April: 22 – 29 April 2001
  - **Programme** will be developed in close cooperation between a Local Organising Committee, the IASC Executive Committee, and in consultation with other partner organisations.

2.7 FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Comments on the new format were very supportive, also with regard to in-depth project presentations. These presentations could be combined with similar

presentations at other ASSW meetings, and together they could become a joint and open science project presentation day.

Having the Council meeting spread over 2 days (i.e. one afternoon followed by a morning session) was also recommended for the future.

2.8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2.8.1 KOREAN INTEREST IN THE ARCTIC

Korean scientists have worked in the Arctic for several decades, mainly in the marine sciences.

Their future plans are in the following areas:

- Global environmental studies
- Upper atmosphere physics
- Arctic engineering

.\. Please see **Appendix X** for further information.

2.8.2 THANKS

Thanks were extended to all participants and in particular the Council members who are leaving IASC: Drs Bolin, Hassi, Ohmura and Young as well as Dr Corell (Chairman of the Regional Board).

2.9 ELECTIONS

The final session was electing two new Vice Presidents after Drs Bolin and Young, and was attended by Council members only.

Drs Louwrens Hacquebord, the Netherlands and Peter Johnson, Canada were elected.