



IASC Council Meeting
Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada
Thursday, 26 April 2001

DRAFT

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 Denmark and Russia.

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

1.2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted with the inclusion of a report on “Korean Activities in the Arctic Ocean in 2000”.

1.3 PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The President focussed his report on some of the key issues during the recent year, such as:

- **Streamlining the projects** with more details to be found in the reports from the Executive Committee
- **A strategy for developing our project activities** with a revised proposal being on the agenda for this meeting
- **Challenges to Arctic science** both from a scientific point of view, as well as being alert to user needs, such as those expressed by the Arctic Council, northern residents, etc.
- The work of the **Executive Committee** had been very productive with active contributions from all members.

As several key issues discussed during the last year were placed on the agenda for the meeting, the President invited the Council members and other participants to further discussions under the various items.

1.4 REPORT FROM THE REGIONAL BOARD

The Regional Board had held its meeting earlier during the Arctic Science Summit Week, and the Chair, Prof. Paula Kankaanpää summarised the outcome as follows:

- **The Arctic Council/IASC Interface** had been the main task for the Regional Board. The Arctic Council is discussing several new initiatives and projects with a potential science component. IASC should consider taking an active interest in some of these projects, a possible task for the suggested new strategy group covering new areas/developments.
Further, the Arctic Council will review its present organisation and has expressed an increased interest in and need for research. Opportunities to become involved should emerge, depending on IASC's interests and willingness.
- **IASC Council Agenda** had been considered (as a part of the Regional Board's charter to consider the common interests of the Arctic countries), but there were no proposals for any change.
- **The IASC Strategy** document was considered as a timely initiative with no additional comments from the Regional Board.
- **Composition of the IASC Project Groups** had also been on the Regional Board agenda (as the question was first raised there last year).
The Regional Board noted the report, although it did not cover the lack of Russian speakers at the Science Day.

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 projects and they do so by reviewing the project progress reports at their meeting in late autumn, and early in the year they review plans for the coming year, as well as funding requests to the IASC General Fund.

As there are many projects the time for discussing each one is limited and the need for in-depth discussion will vary during a project's lifetime. Last year, we started to introduce some projects in more depth at Council, and this procedure continues. Over a period of time, Council will have the opportunity to cover all projects.

Information about our projects is available on our website:

<http://www.iasc.no> (and then click on *Project Catalogue*)

Our annual, printed **Project Catalogue** is usually distributed in April.

Council and Regional Board members, as well as national Secretariats receive reports from the Executive Committee meetings, and are thereby given the opportunity to monitor the development of projects between Council meetings. The last report from the Executive Committee was enclosed with the agenda papers.

2.1.1 PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

The following projects were selected for presentation this year:

- **SULMAR: Sustainable Use of Living Marine Resources**

Initially, this group had struggled with the approach. During the last 1-2 years, the group had been slightly reorganised and two science planning meetings had led to a draft **science plan**, see **Appendix II**.

The Chair of SULMAR, Dr Mark Nuttall, mentioned that this plan also contained a concerted action network, i.e. also bringing in other projects through joint workshops, and therefore the aim of the project was rather broad at this stage (see p. 1 in the plan).

The proposed research priorities (see pp. 4-5 in the enclosed science plan) were also rather broad:

- ◆ From Management to Governance
- ◆ Non-Consumptive/Multiple Uses
- ◆ Risk, Safety and Security
- ◆ Responses to Uncertainty and Change

However, they plan another meeting to identify specific projects. Some smaller projects are underway. Projects will often be covering a specific region, whereas the challenge for the group is to become circumarctic and multidisciplinary.

The comments given during the discussion were mainly on the need to narrow down and focus on manageable and specific projects. The other need mentioned was to develop certain projects in consultations with users (already initiated).

The President summarised the discussion by noting that the topic is important and timely, and that the present science plan is serving as an umbrella looking for specific sub-projects.

Action: Nuttall

The other project selected for presentation was:

FATE: Feedback and Arctic Terrestrial Ecosystems. However, due to sickness in the Project Chair's family, this had to be postponed.

Instead, Dr Volker Rachold was invited to present:

• ACD: Arctic Coastal Dynamics

This project has been developed in cooperation with the International Permafrost Association (IPA). After being nominated last year, the Project Group had organised an international workshop on Arctic Coastal Dynamics (ACD) sponsored by the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), in Potsdam, Germany on October 18 – 20 2000. Participants from Canada (1), Germany (3), Norway (2), Russia (4) and the United States (1) attended. The group reviewed results of the November 1999 ACD workshop held in Woods Hole, USA (Brown and Solomon 2000), and developed a phased, five-year science and implementation plan. The overall objective is to improve our understanding of circum-Arctic Coastal Dynamics under the influence of environmental changes and geologic controls. The plan consists of two interrelated components: (1) a series of coordinated, synthesis activities, and (2) proposed focused research projects and long-term observations.

The core of the ACD: Science and Implementation Plan is enclosed with the report as **Appendix III**.

The comments following Dr Rachold's presentation were very positive, including a suggestion for other groups to use their plan as a model.

In addition, they were advised to seek linkages to agencies responsible for sea-level changes.

Action: Rachold

2.1.2 MAJOR IASC PROJECT CHANGES

The Executive Committee had recommended to Council that substantial changes were made to the following projects:

- BASIS:** Subsumed by ACIA. They are expected to deliver a final report following a workshop later this year.

- **BESIS:** Subsumed by ACIA. Final report delivered.
The Chair of ACIA (Dr Robert W Corell) confirmed that good contacts had been established with the leadership of both BASIS and BESIS.
- **Effects of UV**
This group had produced some excellent planning reports, which had contributed to research activities in this area. Dr Edward C DeFabio was commended for his efforts.
ACIA would also cover this issue, and the conclusion was to put any further activity on hold awaiting ACIA recommendations. Meanwhile the group was encouraged to maintain informally their network, as increased activity is likely to follow.
- **Rapid Cultural and Social Change**
The Executive Committee had pursued a dialogue with IASSA (International Arctic Social Science Association) reaching a mutual agreement that this project would become an IASSA activity.
- **ADD: The International Arctic Environmental Data Directory**
The group itself had proposed that their activity should be discontinued in the present form.
Any future “ADD” to await JCADM’s implementation of AMD and GCMD. The web site, which is a gateway to a number of Arctic data sources, will remain in operation. The address is:

<http://www.grida.no/add>

Council was also informed that ACIA will establish a major Arctic database at IARC (Fairbanks), and at SMHI, Stockholm.

Decision:

Based on the comments given above, the IASC Council agreed to terminate these projects.

Action: Rogné

2.1.3 NEW PROJECTS

2.1.3.1 ACIA: ARCTIC CLIMATE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The ACIA concept was initially developed within IASC, which is also one of the core organisations implementing it. IASC is formally represented on the ACIA Scientific Steering Committee.

The main work of ACIA will be conducted through groups of leading and contributing authors, nearly all of whom have been chosen from the Arctic science community, including three from non-Arctic countries.

The Chair of ACIA – Dr Robert W Corell – confirmed that ACIA would appreciate being an IASC project, as it would mean that the IASC Executive Committee could keep a regular oversight and link to the Arctic science community.

For more information about ACIA, see their web site:

<http://www.acia.uaf.edu>

Decision: IASC Council formally adopted ACIA as a project.

Action: Rogne

It was further noted that Dr Bert Bolin, Sweden, had been one of the IASC representatives in ACIA giving substantial input to the process, starting with the first discussions in IASC and up to implementation. His considerable experience, including that of past Chairman of IPCC, and active contributions in developing ACIA had been crucial.

IASC Council agreed that a letter of appreciation should be sent to Dr Bolin.

Action: Drewry

2.1.4 OTHER IASC PROJECTS

Under this item, Council members were invited to comment on any other IASC projects.

The **IASC Human-Rangifer Systems Program** had produced a final version of their “Minary Workshop Summary” (an initial version was enclosed with the meeting papers). Please find the final version as **Appendix IV** with this report.

In addition, a brief progress report had been received from the **Problems of Indigenous Peoples** project, see **Appendix V**.

They had failed to deliver any plan prior to the Executive Committee meeting. A small group was tasked by Council to review their plan, and their recommendations were:

- the project should become **circumarctic** focussing on comparative studies in selected regions.
As a consequence, the title should be changed to, e.g., “Comparative Studies of Arctic Indigenous People” (indication title only)
- the group to be widened reflecting the change in geographical focus
- project contents to be developed in close contact with Arctic indigenous peoples’ organisations
- the group is encouraged to meet and report back to the Executive Committee not later than **15 October**
- the Executive Committee was given authority to meet necessary travel expenses.

Action: Rogne

2.2 IASC GENERAL FUND

2.2.1 ACCOUNTS FOR 2000

The Accounts for 2000, as recommended by the Executive Committee, were presented by the Executive Secretary, see **Appendix VI**.

The Accounts were approved.

2.2.2 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2001

The proposed budget was based on conservative income estimates and requests received from the various groups. The budget was recommended by the Executive Committee, and presented in detail by the Executive Secretary, see **Appendix VII**.

Council agreed to the proposed budget, and commented positively to increasing the support to younger scientists.

Action: Rogne

A proposal for a new item on “Travel Support for Eastern European Scientists” was left for consideration by the Executive Committee.

2.3 IASC STRATEGY

At the last Council Meeting, a discussion paper by Dr David Drewry on an IASC Strategy was discussed and commented upon.

Based on these comments, Dr Drewry revised his paper, which had been discussed further at the Executive Committee meetings.

Dr Drewry introduced his paper highlighting the need to improve IASC project development through the identification of scientific opportunities, formulation of scientific strategies, and thereby development of a research agenda leading to new, key projects.

Such a process is not coherent with the present Council meeting framework, hence the proposal to organise some oversight (strategic groups). Each group to be chaired by a Vice President with interested Council members as participants (2-3 experts to be added if required). These groups could meet during the ASSW, and would offer Council members an opportunity to be more involved in reviewing current projects, as well as stimulating new project ideas, see **Appendix VIII**.

The comments made during the discussion were all positive, and it was noted that a similar approach is now being discussed in SCAR. These groups could also serve an outreach function, as well as create more publicity.

Council agreed to implement this proposal and initial meetings will be held immediately after Council Meeting.

Action: Drewry, Rogne

2.4 COMPOSITION OF PROJECT GROUPS

At the last Regional Board and Council meetings, Dr Boris Melnikov, Russia, claimed that Russian scientists were not sufficiently represented in IASC projects, or as speakers at the Science Day.

The Executive Committee was tasked to investigate this issue, and the Executive Secretary had made a simple analysis of the composition of the project groups, see **Appendix IX**.

Council noted the analysis showing that Russian scientists were well represented in the project groups. They also noted that Russian speakers were under-represented as speakers at the Science Day.

It was also pointed out that there is a misrepresentation of females in IASC bodies.

2.5 FUNDING OF MULTINATIONAL ARCTIC RESEARCH PROJECTS

In 1995, project development and funding were discussed within IASC. This discussion led to the nomination of the **IASC Group of Funding Specialists**, chaired by Dr Patrick J Webber, USA (the report is available as IASC Report No. 6, 1996).

Drs Peter Johnson and Patrick Webber had been invited to present a funding discussion paper, which was distributed at the meeting; see **Appendix X, “Means to Improve Funding Success of IASC Projects”**.

In his introduction, Dr Webber outlined the background as well as proposing possible contents of a new report as well as other actions:

- New report to be available on Internet (IASC web site), and be up-dated frequently
- Fundamental advice on the basics of fund-raising
- Program officers from the Arctic funding agencies to be invited to participate in a round-table conference (ASSW)
- Agency representatives invited to comment informally on the viability of mature projects
(see the enclosed paper, **Appendix X**, for more details)

Comments following the introduction supported the need for a new initiative. The report itself could consist of an advisory section and a part giving specific funding opportunities, the latter would require a format allowing for frequent up-dating. It was also reported that the Arctic Council was discussing establishing a circumpolar research fund (after the Nordic Council model).

Council agreed that Drs Johnson and Webber should initiate the proposal and consult with other persons to assist in the implementation.

Action: Webber, Johnson, Rogne

2.6 THE IASC/UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC RELATIONSHIP

The University of the Arctic (UoA) will be officially launched on 12 June 2001. Although the main task of the UoA will be academic education (and that of IASC circumarctic research planning), there may be overlapping interests (i.e. PhD students doing research for their thesis).

Dr Mark Nuttall was invited (as a scientist with knowledge of both organisations) to introduce possible common interest.

At present, the UoA is planned to consist of 3 programmes:

- The Bachelor Study (given by participating universities)
- The Mobility Programme (support for student travel), and
- The Long Distance Study (using the Internet)

The common interests were identified as:

- research being done as a part of an IASC project
- mentoring programme (senior scientists as advisers)
- support for developing curricula, disseminating research results, etc.

The Executive Committee was charged with considering how links could best be developed.

Action: Rogne

2.7 BRIEF REPORT FROM THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

The IASC Regional Board provides the IASC interface with the Arctic Council. The Chair of the Regional Board, Prof. Paula Kankaanpää gave an overview of the Arctic Council and its activities and projects.

Recent developments in the Arctic Council indicated that they would have increasing needs for scientific input.

Appendix XI, formulated by Prof. Kankaanpää, gives a summary of the Arctic Council and its activities.

For more details you may visit the Arctic Council web site at:

<http://www.arctic-council.org>

Finally, Prof. Kankaanpää invited Council members to propose useful ways for attracting the attention of the Arctic Council representatives to science.

Comments received:

- Scientific presentations to be made during Arctic Council meetings
- Such presentations should be focussed on an attractive theme

- Presentations to be made at a non-technical and more popular level, taking a broad view.

Council tasked the Executive Committee to work out a list of potential science presentations to be made to the Arctic Council.

Action: Rogne

2.8 THE ARCTIC SCIENCE SUMMIT WEEK (ASSW)

This was the third ASSW, and Council members were invited to comment on any aspects of this undertaking.

In general, the feedback was very positive, although the scheduling of events was an area which could profit from further examination.

Council was also informed that a small ASSW Group with one representative each from AOSB, EPB, FARO and IASC was being established. Selection of themes for the Project and Science Days would be considered.

Future Meetings:

2002: Groningen, The Netherlands, 21 – 26 April (the questions was raised whether the dates would have to be changed due to another meeting arranged for the same week. This has since been clarified, and the dates mentioned will are confirmed).

2003: Kiruna, Sweden, 7 – 12 April (due to a late Easter)

2004: Iceland, invited

Council decided that any further clarifications relating to ASSW will be taken care of by the Executive Committee.

Action: Rogne

2.9 THE INTERNATIONAL POLAR COMMITTEE OF ICOMOS¹

The International Polar Committee (IPC) is a sub-committee of the International Committee on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), which was established in 1965 with national committees in 90 countries. ICOMOS is, among other tasks, used by UNESCO for the evaluation of sites on the World Heritage list.

The IPC was established last year and a brief presentation was made by its President, Dr Susan Barr.

The aims of the IPC include:

- promoting international cooperation in all aspects of protection and conservation work concerning the non-indigenous heritage of the polar areas, the Antarctic and Arctic
- advising on the development of activities in this field

¹ Since the Council Meeting, the name of this Committee has been changed to ICOMOS International Polar Heritage Committee (IPHC)

- providing a forum for the interchange of experience, ideas, knowledge, and the results of research between administrators, archaeologists, conservators, historians, legislators and other professionals
- promoting or coordinating international studies or projects, by extending technical cooperation and by establishing links with specialised institutions in appropriate fields.

IPC has established a secretariat in Norway and is building up databases on experts, documents etc.

Dr Barr invited IASC to consider any cooperation that could be of mutual interest. See **Appendix XII** for further details and the ICOMOS web site at:

<http://www.icomos.org>

2.10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2.10.1 KOREAN ARCTIC RESEARCH

Dr Boo-Keum Khim, KORDI, Korea, reported briefly on the Korean Arctic activities in 2000.

Please find a summary report enclosed as **Appendix XIII**.

2.11 CLOSURE OF THE GENERAL MEETING

As elections were to be held (Council members only), the President closed the full meeting by thanking Prof. Peter Johnson (Chair of the Canadian Organising Committee) and Dr Bruce Rigby (Chair of the local Organising Committee) and his assistants for excellent arrangements. Thanks were also extended to all sponsors and all those taking part.

2.12 ELECTIONS (COUNCIL MEMBERS ONLY)

Dr David J Drewry was elected IASC President for another year.

Dr Patrick J Webber was elected to the vacant Vice Presidency.

Both elections were unanimous.

MEETING OF THE STRATEGY (OVERSIGHT) GROUPS

Immediately following the Council Meeting, there was a brief, initial meeting of the Strategy Groups agreed under item 2.3.

Members of Council were divided into the following groups:

◆ **Global System Science**

- Johnson, Chair
- Birkenmajer
- Fütterer
- Gee
- Manzoni
- Orheim
- Watanabe

◆ **Sustainable Development**

- Drewry (chairing on behalf of Alf H Hoel)
- Greiffenberg

◆ **Impacts of Climate Change**

- Hacquebord, Chair
- Chen
- Kristjánsson

◆ **New Developments/Areas**

- Webber, Chair
- Kankaanpää
- Pavlenko

The Executive Committee will discuss the outcome of these initial meetings, and consider ways forward.