IASC Council Meeting
Groningen, The Netherlands
25 April 2002

DRAFT

Meeting Report

CLOSED SESSION

APPLICATION FROM SOUTH KOREA

The Korea Arctic Science Committee (KASCO) applied for membership on IASC Council in October 2001. The application was circulated to all Council members on 22 October 2001, together with IASC Rules and Procedures relating to new applications.

At the meeting, the South Korean application was presented together with a survey of South Korean research activities in the Arctic.

Based on the information given and documentation received, Council members unanimously agreed to accept and welcome South Korea as a new member on IASC Council.

REGULAR SESSION

1. OPENING AND REPORTING SESSION

1.1 ATTENDANCE

The President, Prof. David J Drewry, welcomed members and observers to the meeting, noting that new Council members had been appointed by our member organisations in Norway, South Korea and Switzerland.

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

1.2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

1.3 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President has worked closely with the IASC Secretariat throughout the year, in addition to issues covered by the agenda for this meeting. Prof. Drewry gave an overview of the main issues listed later in this report.

2 MAIN ISSUES

2.1 PROJECTS: INTRODUCTION

The projects are the core of IASC activities and the Executive Committee is tasked to review project plans and progress. Early in the year they review plans for the coming year, as well as funding requests to the IASC General Fund. Their recommendations are discussed in the Strategy Groups at their meetings during the ASSW, and thereafter Council make the necessary formal decisions.
The Executive Committee also monitors progress made during the year at their late autumn meeting, and their advice to Project Leaders can then be taken into account for their plans for the coming year.

Information about our ongoing projects can be found in:

- **The IASC Project Catalogue**, an annual publication usually available in April, and on
- **The IASC web site:** http://www.iasc.no

2.2 PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

Each year, some project presentations are given.
Project **achievements** are IASC's contribution to the Project Day of the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) and this year the achievements of FATE (Feedbacks on Arctic Terrestrial Ecosystems) and MAGICS (Mass Balance of Arctic Glaciers and Ice Sheets in relation to the Climate and Sea level changes) were presented.

The **FATE** project has reached a crossroads and future activities will be developed through two workshops this year (C-FATE on carbon fluxes, and D-FATE on diversity), it was therefore premature to discuss future plans in Council.

More information about FATE and the IASC-GCTE Arctic Working Group can be found in the IASC Project Catalogue.

The **MAGICS** plans were presented by Prof. David J Drewry on behalf of the Chairman, Prof. Jon Ove Hagen, who was unable to attend.
MAGICS constitutes the scientific programme of the IASC Working Group on Arctic Glaciology.
The objectives of MAGICS is:

1. Predict the change in ice volume in the Arctic that may occur in several countries in the next decades as a result of possible climate change, for different climate scenarios, and thus
   - to give input to the estimate of future rate of sea level change
   - to measure and predict freshwater flux to the sea from melting glacier ice
   - to validate and provide data to GCM-models

2. Reconstruct Holocene climate variations in the Arctic and put present ice melt and fresh water flux in a Holocene context by integrating ice core paleoclimate records.

Their **future activities** include:

- Revise science plan - change in fresh water flux – mass balance
  - Regional future variations in climate and response
  - Remote sensing: glacier extent – dynamics flux – albedo – melt zones.
  - Maintain selected time series
  - Modelling
- Publications
  - Circum-Arctic ice calving – ice flux
  - Circum-Arctic Holocene ice core records
- Initiate new projects – coupling to other projects
- Annual workshops
- International conference in 2004.

Over the years, this working group has initiated and implemented a number of projects addressing the MAGICS science objectives.
A new major project called **SPICE** (Space Borne Measurements of Arctic Glaciers and Implications for Sea Level) has just received funding.
Glaciological (mass balance) data is another key activity of this group. These data are made publicly available on their web site at: http://www.magicsclimate.org/

Mass balance data for all Arctic glaciers are available on this web site.

2.3 PROJECT PLANS

Prior to Council Meeting, there were meetings of the IASC Strategy Groups each under the leadership of an IASC Vice President with Council and Regional Board members participating.

The overall **intention** is to engage Council and Regional Board members in developing the IASC projects and science agenda through:

- identification of scientific opportunities
- formulation of scientific strategies, and thereby the development of a research agenda leading to new, key projects.

The Strategy Groups held their meeting 23 April for a 90 minute session, with an agenda comprising:

- Review of Ongoing Projects
- New Project Ideas and Themes, which also included
  - national priority discussions
  - national coordination of agendas
  - national outreach and communication strategies
  - peer review and assessment requirements
  - international cooperation and identification of IASC projects
- New Initiatives

- Improvements to the Role of the Strategy groups.

There are 4 Strategy Groups:

I: Global System Science

II: Sustainable Development

III: Impacts of Climate Change, and

IV: New Development

At Council Meeting, the outcome from the various groups was reported by the Vice Presidents:

Strategy Group I: Global System Science (Prof. Peter Johnson)

a: Project comments:

- **LOIRA: Land Ocean Interactions in the Russian Arctic**
  Brief background:
  LOIRA is a comprehensive, multidisciplinary project, devoted to investigations of the exchange processes of matter and energy in the coastal zone of the Russian Arctic. IASC has supported the development of a Science Plan (modelled on the international LOICZ Science Plan and ELOISE), and the LOIRA Implementation Plan (2000). The LOIRA Implementation Plan (also containing most of the Science Plan) is available from the IASC Secretariat.
  Initially, the geographical focus was the Pechora Sea, now changed to the coastal zone of the White Sea.
  Numerous expeditions have been carried out, and a significant number of scientific publications have been produced.
  The LOIRA Steering Committee consists of leading Russian scientists, supplemented by 3 non-Russians appointed by IASC following the nominations of LOICZ, European Science Foundation and RAISE (USA).
  Funding by Russian sources, INTAS, bilateral and IASC (planning and workshops).

  Plans for 2002

  - winter expedition for sampling water, sediments and biota under the ice (March 2002)
  - multidisciplinary expedition (*R/V Prof. Shtokman)* in June – July
  - 2 expeditions to the estuarine zones of the North Dvina and Onega in periods of high and low waters (Spring and Autumn)
  - sampling of aerosols has started on the White Sea shore at the field base of a biological station.

  The international grants with scientists from Norway, United Kingdom, Germany and the Czech Republic will study fluxes of aerosols, riverine materials and cycles of carbon and nutrients in the Pechora and White Seas, and geomorphology of the coastal zone.
  An international LOIRA workshop for presenting the research outcome will be held in Moscow during October/November.
  A volume of abstracts and selected reports will be published.

The presentation to Council was supplemented by Prof. Dr Dieter Fütterer (Council member from Germany, and appointed by the European Science Foundation – at the invitation of IASC - as the European member of the LOIRA Steering Committee).

Conclusion

LOIRA is doing an excellent job, and scientists interested in joining LOIRA are encouraged to contact the Steering Committee.

- **MAGICS: Mass Balance of Arctic Glaciers and Ice Sheets in Relation to the Climate and Sea Level Changes**

  Web site: http://www.magicsclimate.org/

  MAGICS is identical to the IASC Working Group on Arctic Glaciology. Over the years, they have initiated, planned and implemented a number of projects. These activities are discussed at their annual meeting, which is held in connection with a two-day workshop on scientific issues.
  Their final report on ICEMASS (*The Response of Arctic Ice Masses to Climate Change,* with the main financial support coming from the European Commission) has been published. Another major project called SPICE – Space Borne Measurements of Arctic Glaciers and Implications for Sea Level has recently been funded.

  Glaciological (mass balance) data is another key activity of this group. These data are made publicly available on their web site (see address above). Mass balance data for all the Arctic glaciers is available on the web site.

  Plans for 2002

  In addition to their annual meeting, the workshop, and a meeting on their contribution to ACIA (held in late January 2002 in Obergurgl, Austria), they are focussing on:

  - new project initiatives
  - up-dating the MAGICS Science Plan (to be published on the web site and as a printed version), and
  - preparation for an "International Conference on Arctic Glaciology" to be held in 2004 as a joint initiative of IASC and the International Glaciological Society (IGS)

  Conclusion

  MAGICS is doing well, and only positive comments were made. A small comment: Information on ongoing projects and projects in planning should be more explicit both in their report to IASC and on their web site.

- **MAST:Map of Arctic Sediment Thickness**

  The objective of this project is:

  "Recovery, preservation and rationalisation of seismic and potential field 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".

The main contents will be the development of research-grade resource that will advance and support investigations in a variety of areas: tectonic development, sea-level change, paleo-circulation, paleo-climate, glaciation, resource assessment, boundary definition.

This project planning group is still struggling with several unsolved key questions with different scientific viewpoints and procedural preferences. These discussions are ongoing by e-mail. Parallel to this dialogue, some preparatory work is ongoing (young scientists, inventory of known information holdings etc.).

Plans for 2002 include a workshop in St Petersburg in June, with several planning issues on the agenda, including a definitive work plan and budget and also the exchange of young scientists.

Conclusion

This is a project in the stage between project idea and a regular project. Their initial problems have earlier been noted by the Executive Committee, and the forthcoming St Petersburg workshop should seek to resolve their future direction.
Council supported this project (idea) very positively.

- **IBCAO Network (IBCAO: International Bathymetric Chart of the Arctic Ocean)**

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

  Some years ago, a project group of IASC initiated a process aiming at a new bathymetric map of the Arctic. Most data holders joined and a major data base was created. Also worthy of note is that a young scientist made a substantial contribution to this project, as it fitted well into his PhD work. The main goal was achieved in 2000/2001, and the outcome has been widely used by the Arctic research community and others.
  As new data are coming in, and as technical improvements and refinements are ongoing, it was agreed last year to support the IBCAO as a network, i.e. it is no longer a regular project but more of a maintenance "and up-dating activity".

  Plans

  A meeting of the IBCAO network is planned to collect new data and discuss management issues. The expenses are covered by participants, except possibly for 1 – 2 persons.

  Conclusion

  Council agreed that IBCAO should continue as a network as suggested.

b: National Priorities

This Strategy Group concluded that:

- there are great variations with regard to how national priorities are set. A top-down/bottom-up approach is usually needed.
- communicating the need for Arctic science to governments is an activity that should be strengthened.

c: New Ideas

- Arctic Human Development Report (see Strategy Group II), and
- addressing gaps identified in the ACIA

were recommended.

Strategy Group II: Sustainable Development (Prof. David J Drewry for Dr Alf Håkon Hoel)

a: Ongoing Projects:

◆ **Contaminants and Human Health in the Arctic**

This group was formed as a complementary group to a similar AMAP group, but the IASC group is focussing on research projects.
A number of projects have been implemented and/or are ongoing. Most of them deal with human health impacts of various types of contamination in specific areas.
The Project group serves as a network for scientists investigating similar types of problems, and has a potential for developing more comprehensive cooperative projects. Attracting young scientists to this area is an ongoing process, and it is likely that this will add to increased activity and further comparative studies.

Plans for 2002

- The "GEF-Project" field work will be finished, analysis and publishing process will be initiated
- Ongoing projects Norway/Russia on reproductive health in occupationally exposed populations of the nickel industry of the Kola Peninsula will be continued and most data will be included during 2002. The assessment and publication process will be initiated.
- A report on food security and environmental pollutants (ordered by the Nordic Council) will be finished.
- National projects of Denmark/Greenland, Sweden, Canada, and Alaska will continue.
- Special emphasis on recruitment of young scientists.

Conclusion

An ongoing project making good progress.

Comments were made related to connections to food security, and also related research in other countries (i.e. those not taking part in the project).

◆ **Human Role in Reindeer/Caribou Systems**

Web site: http://www.rangifer.net

The objectives of this project are:

- To provide for the comparability of previous, current and newly established research programmes that focus on human/caribou/reindeer systems of the Circumpolar North.

- To facilitate exchange of scientists, information, ideas, and research results between projects
- To organise comparative research on Human-Reindeer/Caribou Systems that is based on science and local knowledge, and is relevant to formulating public policy
- To establish an ongoing circumpolar monitoring network of Human-Rangifer Systems

A number of activities have been ongoing to fulfil these objectives, and the outcome is posted on their web site (see address above), which has become **the** web site in this field for information, data, contacts etc.

Circumpolar project research planning has been ongoing during the last 1 – 2 years and has now reached a maturity stage.

Plans for 2002

- Finalising reports for Russian, North American, Greenland and Norwegian profiles reports, and posting them on the web site
- Convening a meeting of key investigators to finalise the circumpolar research proposal (March 2002)
- Submitting the proposal to funding sources currently identified as possible supporters.

Conclusion:

The project group has made good progress, and IASC Council looks forward to the circumpolar research project.
Council noted a related project in Arctic Council, and that the theme would also be included in the coming meeting of the Northern Research Forum.

◆ **Indigenous Peoples**

IASC has previously supported the projects developed under "Problems of Indigenous Peoples of the Russian Arctic". Two major workshops were organised.

The first one focussing on user input, i.e. indigenous peoples' representatives analysing their needs on the following themes:

- Legal rights
- Living conditions
- Alcoholism

This workshop was followed by a research planning workshop developing 4 sub-projects focussing on the user needs.

At the Council Meeting in 2001, IASC was informed that this initiative was no longer acceptable to the Russian Federation. The solution to this problem was to change the focus to circumarctic and comparative studies.

The outcome was as follows:

- Of the 4 sub-projects focussing on the Russian Arctic:

one was transferred to the Caribou/Reindeer project, one was finished during the summer of 2001, and the two last were merged into one and circumarctic networking started (see "Health and Nutrition" below).

- Informal contacts were made with indigenous peoples' representatives seeking advice on how to engage users in identifying their research needs. The conclusion was to contact the Board of the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat. A letter from IASC, with an invitation to a dialogue has been sent, but for practical reasons we have not yet received a response.

Plans for 2002

As referred to above, IASC has received a proposal for a potential project on:

"Nutrition and health of the northern indigenous peoples: the interactions with ethnicity, social status and environment".
The objective is: "Multidisciplinary study of interaction of environmental factors, socio-economic status and nutrition among the indigenous peoples in the circumpolar countries with assessment of these impacts on survival of ethnical groups, their style of life and health".
The proposal is for an international workshop to explore this project idea, to be held in April 2002 in Copenhagen, Denmark.
So far 11 scholars from 4 arctic countries are involved, with methodological expertise included.

Conclusion:

This project idea has potential, and is worth pursuing through the suggested workshop.
Council looks forward to receiving a well focussed proposal for a circumarctic research project.

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

The objectives of this project are:

- To study, assess and evaluate the contemporary uses of selected living marine resources in the Arctic, with a view to: a) improving our understanding of the complex relationships between people, animals and habitat, and b) ensuring sustainable uses, bearing in mind that global processes and environmental change can affect these interactions and contribute to unsustainable practices.
- To develop policy-relevant research and to act as a concerted action network on the sustainable development of living marine resources in the Arctic and on human/environment interactions in large marine ecosystems.

This group has developed a general science plan consisting of four broad themes:

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

Some individual projects have been initiated. However, no joint project by the group has been formulated, and the planned 2001 meeting of the group was postponed.

Plans for 2002

The Project Leader suggests a list of activities, including "...hold SULMAR Project Group meetings to discuss the research implemented in 2001, and plan future activities and research projects".

Conclusion:

This project has significant potential, and several activities are suggested. There will be an international SULMAR workshop in Akureyri in May, as well as a meeting of the Project Group (postponed from last year).

b: National priorities

No comments from the Strategy Group

c: New Project Ideas:

- **Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR)** is an initiative by the Arctic Council. Chair of the Steering Committee is Dr Niels Einarsson, Iceland (who was also elected Chair of the IASC Regional Board). IASC was previously invited to join this initiative and Dr Oran R Young has been appointed to represent IASC.
  AHDR is an **assessment,** and is likely to identify serious gaps in our knowledge in this area. As suggested for ACIA, IASC could arrange follow-up projects to address such gaps.

  Conclusion

  There was general support for initiating projects on human issues, and a circumarctic assessment could be a good start for identifying issues of wide interest.

- **Small languages in the Arctic** was put forward as an early project idea.

  Comment: The idea should be put into writing and drafted together with potential participants.

- **Impacts of Industrial Activities** was suggested during the Council discussion. This idea has been tested earlier, and is the only proposal we have had not leading to a regular project. However, earlier projects may have been ahead of their time.

  Conclusion:
  The Executive Committee to consider a new project initiative in this area covering economic, environmental and social impacts of industrialisation.

Strategy Group III: Impacts of Climate Change (Prof. Louwrens Hacquebord)

a: Ongoing Projects

◆ **ACD: Arctic Coastal Dynamics**

Web site: http://www.awi-potsdam.de/www-pot/geo/acd.html

Objectives

The overall objective of ACD is to improve our understanding of circum-Arctic Coastal Dynamics as a function of environmental forcing, coastal geology and cryology and morphodynamic behaviour. In particular, it is proposed to:

- establish the rates and magnitudes of erosion and accumulation of Arctic coasts
- develop a network of long-term monitoring sites including local community-based observational sites
- identify and undertake focussed research on critical processes
- estimate the amount of sediments and organic carbon derived from coastal erosion
- refine and apply an Arctic coastal classification (includes ground-ice, permafrost, geology etc.) in digital form (GIS format)
- extract and utilise existing information on relevant environmental forcing parameters (e.g. wind speed, sea level, fetch, sea ice etc.)
- produce a series of thematic and derived maps (e.g. coastal classification, ground-ice, sensitivity etc.)
- develop empirical models to assess the sensitivity of Arctic coasts to environmental variability and human impacts.

The ACD Implementation Plan was ready in 2001, and is available from the IASC Secretariat. This plan and the activities for 2001 were presented at the last IASC Council Meeting, and were very well received.

Plans for 2002

- Quantitative assessment of sediment and organic carbon input to the Arctic Ocean by coastal erosion through:
  - regional experts to define homogenous coastal segments and complete a coastal mapping template with the essential information
  - the data for each segment to be stored in the PANGAEA system (www.pangaea.de) , which will serve as a base for further GIS-analysis
- Regional review articles summarising the published information about coastal geomorphology, sediment and organic carbon yield are proposed with the Laptev and Beaufort Seas scheduled for completion in 2002.

- A number of other activities such as compilation and analysis of ACD relevant environmental data (post doc. position funded), field studies (Laptev and Beaufort), reports to be published, ACD workshop, presentations etc.

Conclusion

A well defined project making good progress.
They could consider focussing on certain areas.

◆ **ACIA: Arctic Climate Impact Assessment**

Web site: http://www.acia.uaf.edu/

Objective

Climate variability and change, and more recently, notable increases in UV radiation, have become important issues in the Arctic over the past few decades.
The goal of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) is to examine possible future impacts due to these changes, on the environment and its living resources, on human health, and on relevant economic sectors. The ACIA is expected to lead to the development of fundamental and useful information for the nations of the Arctic region, their economy, resources, and peoples. The assessment will be open and transparent and the review of its conclusions is intended to be credible and rigorous; also the degree of uncertainty of the conclusions will be made clear.

ACIA was initially discussed and developed as a concept in IASC. We agreed to invite AMAP and CAFF to a joint venture, and later this project has been joined by others. It is now also a project of the Arctic Council, who has given it strong support.

ACIA is organised by an Assessment Steering Committee comprised of members of the initiating organisations, the Lead authors and others. The ACIA Secretariat is based in Fairbanks and funded by the USA.
The assessment work has started and is involving approximately 200 lead, contributing and consulting authors from 12 countries. The deadline for the assessment is 2004 with the following outputs:

- the assessment volume with the peer-reviewed scientific contributions
- a synthesis document summarising the results, and
- a policy document providing recommendations for coping and adaptation measures.

Plans for 2002

- Archive and distribute modelling runs for the B2 climate scenario for use by the chapter writing teams
- Continue the assessment through workshops and writing sessions of the various chapter writing teams
- Produce a first complete draft of the assessment report and distribute it for internal review

- Conduct two Assessment Steering Committee meetings to keep the assessment moving along
- Maintain ties and cooperation with the IPCC

Conclusion

This cooperative project is making good progress, and seems to be on schedule. IASC has previously offered to initiate follow-up projects to address various gaps identified by ACIA, and there was broad general support for this proposal. Some doubts were expressed about the climate scenarios which had been selected.

◆ **FATE: Feedbacks and Arctic Terrestrial Ecosystems**

Web site: http://www.planteco.lu.se/CIG/IASCGCTE

IASC and the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme (IGBP) core project on Global Change and Terrestrial Ecosystems formed a joint Arctic working group several years ago called the IASC-FATE Arctic Working Group.
FATE has constituted the main work for the group.
Initiatives by the Working Group over the past six years have resulted in a long list of activities, including planning, funding and implementation of original international research projects, workshops, data analysis and model inter-comparison activities etc.

Recently, the working group suggested focussing future activities on two areas:

- **C-FATE**, which will form an Arctic part of, and be highly complementary to, international ongoing efforts (AMERIFLUX, FLUXNET, CARBO-EUROFLUX, ASIAFLUX) towards integrating carbon stock, carbon cycling and trace gas flux data from lower latitudes regionally and globally, and
- **D-FATE** (diversity) linking existing (CAFF, DIVERSITAS, ITEX, GLORIA-GMBA etc.) activities/synthesis with new Arctic biodiversity oriented projects.

Plans for 2002

- **C-FATE** plans to organise a workshop called "AN IASC-FATE/IARC workshop to develop a research agenda to determine the current circumpolar carbon budget" to be held this year in Barrow, Alaska.
- **D-FATE** suggests a broadly scoped Arctic Biodiversity Workshop, but no details given.
- After six years, they see a need to reorganise and bring in new people. A revised organisational diagram was given.

Conclusion:

Comments as made by the Executive Committee:

The proposal implies two main activities (C-FATE and D-FATE), and can be conceived as two separate projects (under the IASC-GCTE Arctic Working Group). The Tundra-Taiga project may have some potential overlap with D-

FATE. However, instead of establishing a "Terrestrial Ecosystem Coordinating Committee" (proposed), the Executive Committee recommends the Project leaders remain in touch and clarify any overlap before making such changes.

The next steps for C-FATE seem clear, and the Executive Committee set aside USD 10.000 for their workshop (if needed). With regard to D-FATE, the Executive Committee received a late paper "Preliminary proposal for a new core group under the general theme of assessing the status and function of Arctic biodiversity" proposing a joint ITEX-FATE meeting to be held in Finse, Norway in October 2002.
The Executive Committee agreed to explore a joint venture with ITEX. Another USD 10.000 was set aside for a D-FATE workshop, possibly as our support to the Finse workshop.

- **Tundra – Taiga Initiative**

This IASC initiative was started in 1999, with the objectives: 1) to study past and present changes in the taiga-tundra boundary, including the mechanisms driving the changes, and to predict future changes at a range of geographical scales: 2) to assess the implications of current and predicted future changes for: a) land use, b) biodiversity and conservation, and c) ecosystem function and feedbacks to the climate system: and 3) to facilitate interactions and to stimulate collaboration between different disciplines studying treeline processes, in Russia and elsewhere.
Since then a workshop was held in April 2000 in Abisko, an international Steering Committee was formed, which met in Edinburgh in November 2000 and Quebec City in September 2001.

Plans for 2002

- To develop and initiate research on the prioritised list conceived in September 2001
- To continue constructing a database of:
  - satellite images
  - aerial photographs
  - historic terrestrial photographs
  - publications in the scientific literature
  - reports
- To establish a web site
- To implement coordinated pan-Arctic monitoring of phenology and snow distribution and extent, using automated digital cameras
- Meeting of the Steering Committee for implementing existing plans

Conclusion:

Comments as made by the Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee noted that this initiative had developed well, and welcomed the proposed development and initiation of research projects. A possible link with D-FATE was encouraged.

b: National Priorities

National committees are working very differently from one another, but IASC could test project themes in some of these committees.

c: New Project Ideas

- **New Arctic research conference** was suggested, not necessarily a copy of ICARP, but with a similar process
- **ACIA gaps** was supported as a good approach for identifying priority projects
- **Interaction: Arctic Climate and the Temperate Zone** was suggested as a potential project theme, ref. to the Science Day contributions.

General Comments:

The IASC Science agenda could be strengthened by more biology and a language project.
Strong support for the Strategy Group approach, but the time for discussions should be longer.

Strategy Group IV: New Development/Areas (Prof. Patrick J Webber)

This group differs from the others as it does not evaluate ongoing projects, but comments on Executive Committee recommendations and identifies ideas which can be candidates for possible new IASC projects.

The group had had an initial discussion on a **strategy for initiating new projects**. Elements of such a strategy could be:

- **Attributes of a successful project:**
  Innovative. Needed. Of circumpolar importance
- **Engaging Council and Regional Board members**
  - What mechanisms are in place in member countries to identify, and select projects that are best solved through international cooperation?
  - What is the added value for national projects seeking an international cooperation? (What has IASC to offer?)

Discussion

Several participants pointed to national projects with a potential for becoming good candidates for circumarctic projects.
Building on national projects has the advantage that some project development work has already been done, as well as there is some national commitment.
Creating an overview of national projects was discussed with the conclusion that for some countries this may be difficult, but possible for major projects of circumarctic interest.

Conclusion

In the light of this discussion, the Executive Committee should be tasked to review our project identification project selection strategy and procedure.

New Project Ideas

The following project ideas were discussed:

- **Arctic Hydrology**

  The Executive Committee had received a proposal for taking a circumpolar initiative. Some preliminary investigations had revealed that the Northern Research Basins (the Arctic group under the International Hydrology Programmes under UNESCO) and several other international organisations could have an interest in taking an initiative.
  Further, ARCUS has published "The Hydrologic Cycle and its Role in the Arctic and Global Environmental Change: A Rationale and Strategy for Synthesis Study" (CHAMP), which could constitute a scientific basis for a circumarctic initiative.
  The Executive Secretary was exploring a possible joint initiative with the Northern Research Basin group.

  Conclusion:

  Supportive comments were made for an initiative in this area, and the Executive Secretary was asked to continue the dialogue. In addition, he should contact AOSB as their project on "Siberian River Run-off (SIRRO) may have links to this initiative.

- **Joint Studies on Arctic Biodiversity**
  Main discussion was held as a part of the FATE project. Additional information that CAFF (Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, a working group of the Arctic Council) was working on a biodiversity monitoring programme, and necessary links should be established.

- **Impacts Assessment: Social Sciences**
  A proposal had been received and recommended by the Executive Committee. This proposal was perceived as a contribution to the work of the Arctic Human Development Report, and it would be an initial IASC contribution to that assessment.

- **Marine Transportation and Changing Access in the Arctic**
  The core of this proposal is to evaluate all the observed sea ice data and the model projections, and how the changing sea ice might influence access and marine routes.
  During the discussion, doubts were expressed in relation to the sea ice data referred to. Furthermore, contact should be made with AOSB to ensure that no duplicative effort was made. Finally, the Arctic Climate System Study (ACSYS/CliC) should be contacted, as well as ensuring that the ACIA climate scenarios were fully utilised.

There was no response to the project ideas on:

- Arctic Ocean: The Last Frontier, and
- International Polar Year (2007)

2.4 THE IASC APPROACH

The Executive Committee had discussed whether IASC should reconsider its present approach (focussing on projects), and/or if other initiatives should be taken.

.\. Please find enclosed as **Appendix II** a copy of the last Executive Committee meeting report pertaining to this issue.
The enclosure also gives a very brief survey of the types of activities in which IASC has been engaged.

The President introduced the paper, which was followed by an active discussion. Some points from the discussion are as follows:

- **Contact with the policy community**
  In addition to stimulating (engaging) national Arctic research committees, contact with the policy communities (through the national committees) was encouraged. At regional level, the European Polar Board has been active vs. the European Union, and IASC was invited to join forces with them.
- **ASSW** received several very positive comments, and ideas for further development (shorter business meetings, longer intellectual, stimulating discussions, engage younger scientists).
- **Arctic Science Conference**
  ICARP in 1995 was a stimulating experience. A similar, but different conference should be considered. Follow-up to ACIA as a possible theme.
- **"Added value"**
  How IASC can add value to international cooperation should be made more visible.

Conclusion

The Executive Committee to consider comments given and follow-up actions to be taken.

2.5 IASC GENERAL FUND

2.5.1 ACCOUNTS FOR 2001

A copy of the Accounts for 2001 as recommended by the Executive Committee is
.\. enclosed as **Appendix III.**

Council approved the Accounts.

Clarification

The IASC General Fund was established to meet common expenses which are not possible to fund otherwise. The basic rule is that national funding should cover all other expenses (except for the basic expenses for the IASC Secretariat – as defined in the Founding Articles – which should be covered by the host country.
At present, the expenses paid by Norway for the IASC Secretariat is approximately **USD 170.000).**

2.5.2 BUDGET FOR 2002

A draft budget, as recommended by the Executive Committee, was enclosed with the Agenda papers.

The draft budget was approved with the following new priorities related to "New Developments":

- Impact Assessment: Social sciences USD 15.000
- Arctic Hydrology USD 10.000

Marine Transportation was not given priority at this stage, and the Executive Committee are to consider a revised proposal. USD 10.000 can be used if a revised proposal meets with approval.

.\. Please find enclosed the agreed budget for 2002 as **Appendix IV.**

2.6 THE ARCTIC SCIENCE SUMMIT WEEK (ASSW)

General

The ASSW ideas were put forward a few years ago, and the concept and its contents have gradually been improved. Last year an International Contact Group was established with a representative from each of the main international organisations taking part in the ASSW, as well as one from the National Host.

The present Guidelines were enclosed with the Agenda, and participants were invited to comment on those, as well as put forward any other ideas for improvements.

Comments

- The schedule should be agreed upon one year in advance, i.e. at the ASSW
- Administrative matters should be reduced, and science discussions should be increased.

ASSW 2003

Prof. Anders Karlqvist informed that the ASSW 2003 will be held in Kiruna, Sweden, 31 March – 4 April. (The reason for being earlier than usual is due to the Easter period next year and other international meetings).
A preliminary schedule had been discussed at this ASSW with members of the International Contact Group.
The theme of the Science Day will be "Space and Polar Research". Efforts will be made for further integration between the various meetings by Joint Meetings (integrated sessions), i.e. the draft agendas of the main organisations will be compared well in advance and related items will be discussed in such a meeting.

2.7 REPORT FROM THE REGIONAL BOARD

Prof. Paula Kankaanpää reported briefly from their meeting, held earlier during the ASSW.
The main task of the Regional Board is to provide the IASC interface with the Arctic Council, as well as the original task "to ensure that the activities of IASC are consistent with the common interests of the Arctic countries".

The main issue at this meeting was a discussion on the need for the Regional Board, which concluded that the Regional Board should continue, but improve the agenda (collecting information on rules of access to the various parts of the Arctic being mentioned as a possible new item).
Cooperation with the Arctic Council (AC) should focus on developing cooperation with AC groups interested in research issues (in addition to attending formal meetings).
The IASC Council agenda was reviewed (as a way of fulfilling the RB original task), but there were no comments. This requirement has also diminished as the Regional Board members are now members of the Strategy Groups.

Other issues were:

- National reports, i.e. brief reports on any major research event in individual countries, and
- Election of new Chair of the Regional Board. Dr Niels Einarsson was elected (thus the Chair of the Regional Board follows the chairmanship of the Arctic Council).

Prof. Drewry thanked Prof. Kankaanpää both for her report, and also for her work on the IASC Executive Committee (the Chair of the Regional Board is an ex officio member), which had benefitted from her good contact with the Arctic Council.

2.8 FARO: FORUM OF ARCTIC RESEARCH OPERATORS

Ms Bonni Hrycyk informed briefly about FARO, which aims to encourage and facilitate logistics and operational support for scientific research in the Arctic, through international collaboration for all those involved in Arctic research.
She mentioned some examples from their agenda for their meeting during this ASSW:

- CEON: Circum-Arctic Environmental Observatories Network
- ASOF Implementation Plan
- Plans for technical seminars etc.

2.9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2.9.1 GROUP OF FUNDING SPECIALISTS

This group was established last year and consists of members representing Canada, Europe (ESF/EU), Japan, Nordic countries, Russia and USA.
IASC had had a similar group in 1995-96 which then published a report consisting of funding sources and some funding advice.
The later development of internet and the fact that such information is now widely available on the internet, had led to the formation of this new group in order to focus on the opportunity of developing a web-based system.

Prof. Peter Johnson reported from the work of the group, which had held their meeting in February this year. He pointed to various solutions for a joint funding web site.

Information about funding web sites could be made searchable either by simple classification of the web sites (see a possible Classification scheme enclosed with
.\. this report as **Appendix V**) and/or indexing the sites using key words.
It was also the intention to include "Funding Guidelines" (basic funding advice) on the web site.

Questions were asked after the presentation which indicated concern for the need for it and whether money should be spent on making the site too sophisticated. The IASC ExCom will discuss continuing directions and dimensions for the Funding Group at their November 2002 meeting.

2.9.2 RELATION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCITC (UoA)

At the last Council Meeting, this issue was left to the Executive Committee. The conclusions from their discussions are:

- IASC is, in general, supportive of the UoA and its activities, and we should ensure a good exchange of information
- Professor Peter Johnson has monitored the UoA developments on behalf of IASC. As he is no longer formally involved in the UoA leadership, another person closely involved in both the UoA and IASC should be identified.
- If UoA initiate any research programmes, we should increase our engagement – for instance by a more formal relationship.

With regard to a replacement for Prof. Johnson as our liaison with the UoA, Dr Niels Einarsson had been nominated, as he meets the requirements mentioned.

Conclusion

Council appointed Dr Niels Einarsson.

2.9.3 SCIENCE PRESENTATIONS TO THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

This issue was discussed at the last Council Meeting, and the Executive Committee agreed on the following short-list of presentations:

- Arctic Biodiversity — Terry Callaghan
- Abrupt Climate Change (ASOF) — Bob Dickson
- Humans-Caribou/Reindeer (title to be identified) — Gary Kofinas

Council was informed that Prof. Callaghan would make his presentation at the SAO (Senior Arctic Officials) meeting in May.
Additional comments or proposals are welcomed and should be sent to the IASC Secretariat.

2.9.4 INFORMATION ABOUT COUNCIL AND REGIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

The Executive Committee tasked the Executive Secretary to collect brief information about Council (and later) Regional Board members. The intention is for members of the Strategy Groups to know a little more about each other and for easier contact.

.\. The latest up-dated version is enclosed with this report as A**ppendix VI.**

Those missing on the list are encouraged to provide such brief CV information by an e-mail to the IASC Secretariat (iasc@iasc.no).

2.9.5 "ALL-HANDS MEETING 2002"

ARCSS (Arctic System Science) has been a funding and research programme of the NSF since 1988. The quest of the ARCSS Program is to understand the Arctic as a system. ARCSS has been the main Arctic research programme of NSF, and a broad programme discussion had been taking place recently. Prof. Patrick J Webber and Dr Peter Johnson reported from the ongoing planning and revision process. The final outcome will become available on the ARCUS web site: http://www.arcus.org

As this process is of interest to the Arctic research community at large, the new candidate initiatives arising from the All-Hands Meeting were:

- Pan-Arctic community-wide hydrological and monitoring program (CHAMP)
- Modes of variability in the arctic system (SEARCH)
- Near-shore and coastal processes initiative
- Biophysical feedbacks and Transitions in the arctic regional system (Biocomplexity).

2.9.6 ASSW 2004

IASC received the formal invitation for the ASSW 2004 to be held in Akureyri, Iceland in April 2004.

2.10 CLOSURE

The IASC President thanked the National Host, represented by Prof. Louwrens Hacquebord, (Chair of the National Organising Committee) and Dr Kim van Dam (the ASSW 2002 coordinator) for an excellently prepared ASSW and for good support and service during this week.

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Closed Session

2.11 ELECTIONS (COUNCIL MEMBERS ONLY)

As Prof. David Drewry and Associate Prof. Alf Håkon Hoel were stepping down as IASC President and Vice-President respectively, Council members elected their successors.

The outcome was:

- Prof. Patrick J Webber, USA, was elected new IASC President

As Prof. Webber was a Vice-President, two new Vice-Presidents had to be elected.

The outcome was.

- Professor Dieter Fütterer, Germany
- Dr Kristján Kristjánsson, Iceland

The new IASC President, Prof. Patrick Webber, thanked Prof. David J Drewry for all his work for IASC, not least his efficient and wise leadership as IASC President.