



Meeting Report

PARTICIPANTS

- .\ A list of participants is found as **Appendix I**

1. OPENING AND REPORTING SESSION

1.1. WELCOME

The President, Prof. Patrick J Webber, welcomed members and observers, particularly those who were attending for the first time.

1.2 APPROVAL OF THE REPORT FROM THE 2002 MEETING

No comments had been received to the circulated Report, which was formally approved by Council at this meeting.

1.3 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Council was informed that Dr Kofinas was unable to attend for the project presentation under item 2.5.2.

Dr Robert Corell had accepted an invitation to give a presentation on “ACIA – Status and Future Research needs” (see item 2.5.3.).

With these changes the agenda was adopted.

1.4. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

In his review of the past year, Prof. Webber focussed on key issues in his work:

- **Accomplishments**
 - **Close Cooperation and Team work**, particularly with the Secretariat and the Executive Committee.
 - **Expanding IASC’s Visibility** through the website, our newsletter *PROGRESS*, in preparation for the ASSW, and the Project Catalogue.

Drafting of a new brochure and initiating an IASC Funding Website have been done, and both these issues are being presented for Council approval at this meeting. An IASC contribution to *Witness the Arctic* will appear shortly.

- **Values and Goals**

Some guiding thoughts are:

- **Inclusiveness and Engagement** through our Strategy Groups and the initiation of a Pacific Arctic Group.
- **Science Credibility and Partnerships** by careful evaluation of our projects and working groups' progress and proposals.
- **Partnerships** by developing ICARP II in the spirit of ASSW, strongly support IPY, taking on an international role in Inter-SEARCH, and by endorsing CEON.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 PROJECTS: INTRODUCTION

The Projects are the core of IASC activities. The Executive Committee is tasked to review the progress of projects, and they do so by reviewing each one at their meeting in late autumn. Early in the year they review plans for the coming year, as well as funding requests to the IASC General Fund.

Information about IASC projects is available on the IASC web site:

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

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

More information about the projects is found in the Executive Committee February Meeting Report, distributed previously to all Council and Regional Board members.

In order to review the work done by the Executive Committee and also to increase the engagement of Council and Regional Board members, Strategy Groups have been establishing meeting prior to Council Meeting.

2.1.1 REPORTS FROM THE STRATEGY GROUPS (SG)

The **agenda** this year for the Strategy Groups is as follows:

- A. Current IASC Projects and Proposals: Comments by SG members
- B. Future and New Project Ideas:
SG members to comment from their national perspective, and are encouraged to use their national committee for identifying important gaps of a circumarctic nature.
- C. Potential Themes for ICARP II
- D. Potential Themes for IPY – 2007/8

At present, IASC has the following **Strategy Groups**, each chaired by a Vice President:

- **Strategy Group I** **Global System Science**
Chair: Peter Johnson
- **Strategy Group II** **Sustainable Development**
Chair: Kristján Kristjánsson
- **Strategy Group III** **Impacts of Climate Change**
Chair: Louwrens Hacquebord

- **Strategy Group IV** **New Development**
Chair: Dieter Fütterer

.A. Members of Strategy Groups are Council and Regional Board members; see list enclosed as **Appendix II**.

A. Reports from the Strategy Groups: Current Projects and Proposals

I - Global System Science supported the recommendations made by the Executive Committee. Some discussion on MAGICS and LOIRA, but no proposals for changes.

II - Sustainable Development

The Group discussed its role in monitoring progress of ongoing projects as well as their role of advising on project development.

The **Nutrition and Health of Northern Indigenous Peoples** project was discussed, and concluded with the positive recommendation of the Executive Committee.

SULMAR: The SG shares the concerns of the Executive Committee regarding the lack of significant progress, and recommends a final effort to save the project because it is an important area of research.

III - Impacts of Climate Change

This SG agreed with the recommendations of the Executive Committee. However, they brought up the question of limiting seed funding to 3 years, and also that IASC should focus on facilitating research rather than funding research proposals.

IV - New Development

They recommended IASC support (as suggested by the Executive Committee) to AHDR (Arctic Human Development Report), which is a project under the Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council and is an assessment exercise similar to ACIA, but they were concerned about its slow progress.

Arctic Hydrology is a well-focussed initiative and the SG recommends this new project.

Marine Transportation is a recent mission and the SG was unenthusiastic about it.

B. Future and New Project Ideas (Roman numerals indicate which SG)

- An Atmospheric Chemistry project (to be explored by Marcello Manzoni) (I)
- Gaps identified by ACIA (II)
- Climate History of the last 1000 years (II)
- Conservation of Biodiversity (II)
- Sustainable Exploration of Non-Renewable Natural Resources (II)
- Consequences of Industrialisation (II)

- Is Globalisation Sustainable in the North? (II)
- IASC should stimulate and initiate research instead of research projects (III)
- Research in Russia and among Russian scientists should be stimulated (III)
- Social and Environmental Impacts of Marine Transportation and Related Industry (IV)
- Impact of Exploitation of the Arctic (IV)
- Expand sustainable development research (IV)

C Potential Themes for ICARP II (Roman numerals indicate which SG)

- Palaeoclimate: Geomorphology of the Arctic Shelves. History of Deglaciation (I)
- Atmospheric Chemistry (I)
- Vegetation Response to Climate Change (I)
- Large Database Handling (I)
- New Technology for Research (I)
- ACIA Report and comments by Northern Research Forum and AHDR (II)
- ACIA follow-up
- Internationalisation of national research initiatives (III)
- Use the ACIA report and Inter-SEARCH to identify gaps (IV)
- The OSM of SEARCH as source of ICARP topics (IV)
- Should include social and economic themes (IV)
- Key points of the EPB's IPY session

D Potential Themes for IPY 2007 (Roman numerals indicate which SG)

- Earth observation, ship platform coordination (I)
- Resource management focussing on marine and terrestrial resources (I)
- IPY, ICARP II and ACIA should be interlinked (II)
- Global Processes and Local Responses (II)
- Genetic Diversity of Fauna, Flora and People of the North (II)
- Polar studies from space to include natural, life and social sciences (II)
- Historical analysis of previous polar years: How has science changed and how accurate were their predictions? (II)
- IASC should endorse IPY (III)

- Historical analysis of former IPYs (III)
- High-tech approaches, combining satellite monitoring with ice breaker expeditions (III)
- Genomic research (III)
- Look at the UN's International Year of Planet Earth Project 2004 – 2007 for potential themes (IV)
- Motions concerning IASC's support of IPY at Council Meeting (IV)

The President thanked leaders and participants of the Strategy Group meetings for providing valuable comments, input and ideas. The outcome was beyond our expectations and we need to carefully consider how all these comments can best be taken forward.

Council Decisions:

Current Projects Proposals

Based on the documentation provided before the meeting including the recommendations from the Executive Committee, **and** the outcome of the discussions in the Strategy Groups, Council has to make formal decisions regarding initiating new projects and terminating projects.

Council agreed to support: “Arctic Hydrology” and “Nutrition and Health of the Northern Indigenous Peoples” as new IASC projects.

“Marine Transportation and Changing Access in the Arctic Ocean” to be returned to the proposer as our current knowledge of the future sea ice conditions is inadequate. In the transportation part, large ongoing activities are not included.

With regard to “SULMAR”, this project needs a stronger focus and a specific progress plan. If these requirements are not provided within 3 months, the project in its present form should be terminated.

Discussion on other issues raised in the Strategy Groups

Due to the many issues being raised in the Strategy Groups, and with limited time for discussion, only some ideas were commented upon, i.e.:

- IASC to provide only 3 years seed money for project planning and then project to be financially self-supporting
- Support fewer and more substantial projects
- Discuss criteria for becoming an IASC project
- Seed money for innovative ideas.

The President thanked members for the contributions which would constitute input to more detailed discussions in the Executive Committee.

2.1.2 ANY OTHER ISSUES ON PROJECTS AND STRATEGY GROUPS

In general, it was agreed that the Strategy Group discussions had been valuable, and the Vice Presidents were encouraged to continue these discussions by e-mail. Suggestions were also put forward for having written reports available from the SG meetings prior to Council Meeting, and for an opportunity for more in-depth discussion at Council meeting, for instance focussing on a limited number of issues.

Conclusion

The Executive Committee was tasked to consider advice and comments received, including further development of the SG activities and reporting to Council.

2.2. IASC GENERAL FUND

The activities of IASC are supported from national funding. Basic expenses for the IASC Secretariat are provided by Norway and expenses for project secretariats are covered by the countries in which they are located.

The IASC General Fund was established to meet other common expenses which cannot be referred to a specific country (mostly travel for scientists who are unable to obtain national support for participating in IASC project planning groups). This Fund is supported by annual subscriptions paid by each national organisation affiliated to IASC.

The Executive Committee is responsible for formulating a draft budget, and for tabulating the accounts for the previous year, and Council is responsible for approving both.

2.2.1 ACCOUNTS FOR 2002

The Accounts for 2002, as recommended by the Executive Committee to Council, were presented by the Executive Secretary. He also clarified the fact that the IASC General Fund is only for common expenses not funded by national or other sources. The main expense is travel funding for scientists who are unable to obtain national support for participating in IASC project planning groups. The General Fund is not intended for, or being used to fund research (a misunderstanding mentioned earlier at Council Meetings).

Council approved the Accounts for 2002.

.\ The Accounts are enclosed as **Appendix III**.

2.2.2 BUDGET FOR 2003

As most expenses are related to project planning, Project leaders are asked for requests for funding with details about their needs. These requests are listed in the

- .\ column "Requests 2003", see enclosed Budget in **Appendix IV**. The Executive Committee considers these requests, comparing them with project plans for the coming year and progress made during the previous year. Their conclusions regarding the budget appear in the "Proposed 2003" column, see enclosed Budget, and represents their recommendation to Council. (Their comments on individual projects are found in the report from the Executive Committee held in early February each year, which is sent to all Council and Regional Board members, and which also constitutes a basic document for discussions in the Strategy Groups.)

Council agreed to the proposed Budget for 2003 with the following amendments:

- **Marine Transportation to be deleted**
- **Support to IPY planning: USD 10.000**
- **Support to ICARP II planning: USD 10.000**

The two new items are intended as seed money and are placed at the disposal of the Executive Committee if needed.

Action: Rogne

2.3. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ARCTIC RESEARCH PLANNING - (ICARP II)

According to its Founding Articles, IASC has a responsibility to convene an *Arctic Science Conference periodically, to identify key scientific questions and issues*. The first conference of this nature was held in 1995. This conference was preceded by a major planning process during which 10 planning groups drafted proposals for circumarctic research projects. Most of these projects have later been implemented.

The Executive Committee has discussed the need for a similar conference which will be held in 2005. Since 1995, IASC has broadened its cooperation with other organisations and it was suggested that they be invited to collaborate in a joint initiative. After consultations with potential partners, the response has been positive.

Prior to Council Meeting, Prof. Patrick J Webber had presented an ICARP II outline at the ASSW Joint Meeting; a summary of his presentation is enclosed as

.\ **Appendix V.**

He had also invited representatives of interested organisations attending ASSW 2003 for an informal consultative evening meeting.

The outcome of both events had been very positive.

The discussion in Council revealed strong support for proceeding with ICARP II planning as suggested.

The following advice and comments were given:

- Analyse ICARP I and ascertain strengths and weaknesses
- Contents: Study ongoing assessments (ACIA, AHDR) for identifying serious gaps in our knowledge
- ensure broad participation of human and social scientists

- see advice and proposals provided by Strategy Groups
- IASC should obtain a report from ICARP II Steering Committee, and provide advice
- Meeting venue: several venues may be suitable, look for convenient places which are easily accessible and inexpensive to reach for those who need travel funds from outside their own country.

Council concluded as follows:

- **ICARP II to be fully supported by IASC, and seed money for initiating planning to be included in our budget for 2003**
- **Council and Regional Board members to be invited to comment further on:**
 - **shortcomings of ICARP I and**
 - **advice and themes for ICARP II**
- **Expression of interest in offering a meeting venue to be sent to the Executive Secretary.**

Action: Webber, Rogne

2.4 OTHER INITIATIVES

Two initiatives originating outside IASC were included in the agenda for reasons given under each item.

2.4.1 CEON: CIRCUMARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATORY NETWORK

CEON is an initiative of FARO (Forum of Arctic Research Operators), which seeks to link a selection of circumarctic observatories by building on present networks (like European ENVINET), and including others. There is firm agreement that CEON should be science driven, will require long-term operational support, and must also serve monitoring needs. Since science and monitoring are inseparably linked in the quest to understand change, the activities of CEON fit throughout the IASC science programme.

As a “network of networks”, CEON had been promoted to potential partner networks and a number of science and monitoring meetings during the past year. During ASSW 2003, CEON had been fully presented at Science Day in addition to the FARO meeting, and a poster with hand-outs was in the poster exhibition.

.\ See also **Appendix VI** for a CEON summary.

Council was also informed that FARO had agreed to establish an Interim Steering Committee and to convene a small workshop for drafting an implementation plan. More CEON information is available at:

www.cevl.msu.edu/acl/projects/ceon.html

Council congratulated FARO and Drs Tweedie, Webber and Pyle on very good promotion work, and **agreed to endorse the CEON concept so that IASC can offer to play a role in further development of CEON.**

Action: Tweedie, Webber, Pyle

2.4.2 INTER – SEARCH

SEARCH (Study of Environmental Arctic Change) is a recent major research programme in the USA. As this programme is concerned with circumarctic issues, it can also be of interest to the circumarctic research community. A copy of the SEARCH science plan is available from the IASC Secretariat: see also the SEARCH web site at:

<http://psc.apl.washington.edu/search/>

During a visit by the President and the Executive Secretary to arctic science funding agencies in Washington, DC, the question was raised of whether IASC could be a mechanism for implementing the international component of SEARCH (INTER-SEARCH).

At the last IASC Executive Committee Meeting, it was noted that:

- in general, IASC should be open to taking on international planning initiatives that have a circumarctic scope, provided enough of our members are interested
- a major SEARCH meeting will be held 27 – 29 October 2003, in Seattle at which international participants will be welcome (Open Science Meeting)
- themes from the SEARCH Science Plan could become ICARP II themes, thus the planning of ICARP II could be utilised to develop the international dimensions of SEARCH, similarly,

During the brief discussion, this proposal generated a positive response.

Council agreed to the proposals by the Executive Committee (see the bullets above), and tasked the participants from the international science community attending the Open Science Meeting to consider follow-up themes related to ICARP II (or other initiatives).

Action: Webber, Rogne

2.5 PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

At each Council meeting, 2-3 IASC projects are selected for presentation, offering an opportunity for more in-depth information.

At this meeting ACD: Arctic Coastal Dynamics, Human Role in Reindeer/Caribou Systems and ACIA were selected. Unfortunately, Dr Gary Kofinas, Chair of Human Role in Caribou/Reindeer Systems had had to cancel at the last minute.

2.5.1 ACD: ARCTIC COASTAL DYNAMICS

ACD was presented by the Project leader, Dr Volker Rachold, Germany.

ACD is a joint IASC and IPA (International Permafrost Association) project, and their science plan was presented at the Council Meeting in Iqaluit.

The main objectives, goals and products are:

- Rates and Magnitudes of Erosion and Accumulation
- Sediment and Organic Carbon Input from Coastal Erosion
- Arctic Coastal Classification in Digital Form
- Long-term Monitoring at Key Sites
- Focused Research on Critical Processes
- Environmental forcing Parameters
- Human Interactions
- Empirical Sensitivity Models

ACD has made good progress in all areas as demonstrated by Dr Rachold, who also presented some of their findings.

∴ A selection of his PowerPoint slides is enclosed in **Appendix VII**.

In his thanks to Dr Rachold, Prof. Webber underlined the fact that ACD had clear goals, had produced tangible products, and in many ways could serve as a model project.

2.5.2 THE ACIA ASSESSMENT OF CLIMATE AND UV IMPACTS ON TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS – CURRENT STATUS AND WAYS FORWARD

ACIA: Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, is an IASC and Arctic Council project.

Most of the assessment chapters have now been drafted and will be reviewed in a few months.

The lead Author of the Terrestrial Ecology chapter, Prof. Terry Callaghan mentioned that Version 3 of this chapter will be ready in June this year, and will thereafter undergo an external review.

Version 4 will be drafted after the review, and the final version will be printed in August 2004.

His contribution was based on the present version, and the summary given below is also general, in order to avoid publication of any results before the assessment report is made public.

The aims of the presentation were to discuss **tentative** key findings, knowledge gaps and recommendations for future research.

- **Modelling** of arctic climate change (more details provided by Dr Corell, see next presentation) and ozone depletion had been done by modelling teams. The key finding connected with ozone depletion was that it will continue and vary geographically.

- **Relocation of species**
The dominant response of current arctic species to climate change, as in the past, is relocation rather than adaptation. Relocation possibilities will vary according to region and geographical barriers. Some changes are already occurring. However, our knowledge of rates of relocation, impact of geographical barriers, as well as current changes are poor, therefore circumarctic biodiversity monitoring is needed.
- **Biodiversity changes**
Some groups (mosses, lichens, some herbivores and their predators) are at risk, but productivity and number of species should increase. Beringia has a higher number of threatened plant and animal species.
Likely needs are: To reassess the nature of threats to species from long-term climate change and UV change simulation experiments; To identify and monitor currently widespread species that are likely to decline under climate change; To redefine conservation and protection against climate and UV change.
- **Mechanisms for species change**
Changes in animal and plant populations are triggered by trends and extreme events, particularly winter processes. But our information is very sparse, so the needs are for: More scenarios of extreme events; Long-term experiments simulating extreme events, and more emphasis on winter processes.
- **Vegetation redistribution**
Forest is expected to replace a significant proportion of the tundra and will have a great effect on the composition of species. We need to develop and link models of climate, hydrology (permafrost), ecosystem and land use.
- **Carbon sinks and sources in the tundra**
Current models suggest that the tundra will remain a sink for carbon because of the northward movement of vegetation zones that are more productive than those they displace.
However, there are contradictions between model projections and field experiments. The needs are, therefore, to: establish long-term, annual carbon monitoring; develop models capable of scaling ecosystem processes from plot experiments to landscapes; develop observatories, experiments and models to relate disturbance such as aridification to carbon dynamics.
- **UV-B and CO₂ impacts**
Enhanced CO₂ and UV-B have subtle but long-term impacts on ecosystem processes that reduce nutrient cycling with the potential to decrease productivity.
We need; Long-term experiments on CO₂ and UV-B effects on ecosystem interacting with climate; Short-term experiments stimulating repeated episodes of high UV exposure; Experiments that determine the consequences of high CO₂ and UV-B for herbivores.
- **Local and regional feedbacks**
Displacement of tundra by forest will lead to a decrease in albedo with a

potential for local warming whereas carbon sequestration will increase with potential impacts on global greenhouse gas concentration.

However, there is great uncertainty about the timing of the processes and the balance between the processes. Therefore, we need: Empirical measurements; Analysis of past remotely sensed images and collection of new images; Development and application of models.

- **Particular needs**

- International observing networks including local peoples that can also validate models and ground-truth satellite images
- Mechanisms to analyse existing observational materials (images) and data
- Interdisciplinary connections among the modelling communities and observational networks
- Establish long-term, large scale interaction experiments to simulate various aspects of changes in climate, UV and CO₂ including extreme events
- High resolution models to simulate local changes and to aid visualisation by local peoples.

2.5.3 ACIA: STATUS, FUTURE RESEARCH NEEDS AND CRITICAL ISSUES

Dr Robert W Corell, Chair of the ACIA Steering Committee was invited to give this presentation.

The **Goal** of ACIA is to:

- Evaluate and synthesise knowledge on climate variability, climate change, and increased UV radiation, and their consequences, and
- Provide useful and reliable information to the governments, organisations and peoples of the Arctic region, in order to support policy-making processes.
- The assessment will include environmental, human health, and social and economic impacts and recommend further actions.

ACIA will address **four basic questions**:

1. What are the past and present indicators of change in climate and ultraviolet radiation?
2. What is the possible change in the future?
3. What are the possible impacts due to changes in climate and UV in the future?
4. What recommended policy actions and coping strategies should be considered by the Arctic nations and peoples?

ACIA will produce the following documents:

- Scientific and Factual Analysis

- Overview Document (a summary)
- Policy Recommendations

In total, approximately 250 scientists from arctic as well as non-arctic countries are involved as Lead, Contributing and Consulting Authors. The scientific and technical analysis and assessment has now been done, and this draft assessment will undergo a major external review this year. Drafting the policy document has been initiated, and the final reports and policy recommendations will be submitted in October 2004.

Until the reports are submitted, the key findings mentioned below are very preliminary:

- Movement of Treeline and Species
- UV Impacts (potential for increased impacts, i.e. above existing impacts)
- Sea Level Rise
- Sea Ice Reductions
- Northwest and Northeast Passages
- Substantial Changes in Permafrost
- Regime Shifts (rapid changes in climate)
- Caribou/Reindeer Population and Health
- Introduction of New Diseases and parasites

Dr Corell also gave preliminary views on gaps in knowledge and research needs, such as:

- social science research related to interactions between nature's processes and humankind/society
- documenting and analysing indigenous knowledge, few substantive examples outside North America
- long term (20 years+) experiments and monitoring
- increased understanding of coastal processes, land-ocean interaction and hydrological processes.

These are examples. In the final report approximately a dozen gaps will be identified.

For more information about ACIA, please visit their website at:

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

2.5.4 CONTAMINANTS AND HUMAN HEALTH

The aim of this project is *to study the effects of environmental contaminants on the health of people living in the Arctic – with a special emphasis on indigenous peoples.*

This project has a close relationship with AMAP, as several members of the Project Group are also members of the AMAP expert group covering the same topic. The Project Leader was invited to make a presentation as the project has been in operation for some years, and the research output has been good (about 60 papers for 2000 – 2001).

The presentation was made by Dr Arild Vaktskjold, assistant to the Project Leader, Dr Jon Øyvind Odland who was unable to attend.

This project has been implemented by a series of sub-projects, mainly in Canada, Greenland, The Faroe Islands, Norway and Russia.

Dr Vaktskjold reported some of the outcome so far, related to essential and toxic elements and metals, and organic environmental pollution. Studies had been made of mothers' blood, serum, urine and breast milk, followed by studies on newborn babies, trace elements in the umbilical cord and placenta. Children are monitored for up to 5 years. Studies from some areas showed significant (and to some extent) alarming effects.

Studies had also been made on cadmium and smoking.

Cadmium values are closely correlated with smoking frequency, and act as a poison on the kidneys. Lead was found in the blood, but passes freely through the placenta and its main effect is a reduction in birth weight.

Mercury is a global environmental poison which accumulates in the arctic regions with very high levels in Greenland and the Canadian Arctic.

Organic poison accumulates through the diet, especially through marine mammals, and high values were found in Greenland and Canada, whereas recent data from Siberia and Chukotka are alarming.

Methodological challenges are also being discussed in the Project Group, such as better registration of exposure (now through interviews, questionnaires), new biological markers and improved classification of them, population databases, common criteria of diagnostics, etc.

Some Conclusions

Several arctic areas are exposed to significant environmental pollutants, which are absorbed by the human body through the diet.

Concentrations found in some biological material (blood, urine, placenta) are so high in some regions that we have a moral/ethical and medical obligation to carry out follow-up investigations and inform administrative and political bodies about our findings.

2.6 ARCTIC COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL BOARD

2.6.1 REGIONAL BOARD

The Chair of the Regional Board, Dr Niels Einarsson, reported from their meeting held earlier during the ASSW 2003.

The main issue at that meeting had been a compilation of information on access for research groups to various parts of the Arctic. This issue was discussed in the Regional Board, as all arctic countries are represented there. However, the users of

this information are best represented by FARO (Forum of Arctic Research Operators), and the final outcome is likely to be posted on the FARO website.

The Regional Board had also reviewed the IASC Council Agenda, as they have a special responsibility to ensure that the activities of IASC are consistent with the common interest of the arctic countries. Two issues had been discussed with the following outcome.

- ICSU: support for initiating a dialogue with ICSU (Item 2.10)
- IGY: Given the importance of this event to the arctic countries, the Regional Board strongly support IASC involvement (Item 2.11)

The Regional Board has served as the IASC interface with the Arctic Council, with a special duty for the Chair of the Regional Board to attend Arctic Council meetings. This issue had been discussed, and the Regional Board recommended that the President of IASC (or someone nominated by him) represent IASC at Arctic Council meetings in order to raise the science profile of IASC within this body.

2.6.2 ARCTIC COUNCIL

Dr Einarsson reported that the Chairmanship of the Arctic Council had been taken over by Iceland from October last year.

The Icelandic Chair had presented a programme for their chairmanship (2002-2004) giving priority to economic and social development, with the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) as a priority project.

More information about the programme is available on the Arctic Council website at:

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

1. A copy of the AHDR brochure is enclosed as **Appendix VII**.

During the ensuing discussion, it was proposed that IASC should ask for a slot in the AC agenda to give a presentation of IASC activities.

Decision

The Executive Committee will consider how IASC can best be represented at various Arctic Council meetings and explore opportunities for raising the IASC profile.

Action: Rogne, Webber

2.7 REPORT FROM THE GROUP OF FUNDING SPECIALISTS

Approximately 10 years ago, IASC appointed a funding group, who presented a report in the form of a circumarctic funding guide. At the Council Meeting in Iqaluit, it was agreed that a new Funding Group should be nominated, with a view to creating a web-based funding guide.

After subsequent consultations, the co-chairs (Johnson, Webber) suggested this work should be taken up again, initially by creating a web site without any search option: i.e. more or less up-dating and transforming the previous report to the internet. The web site will be accessible from the IASC web site.

A meeting had been held at Michigan State University in January 2003 to discuss how such a web site could be structured and implemented.

At the recent Executive Committee meeting, Prof. Webber showed a demo-version. This approach is based on no extra costs to IASC, and is an opportunity for IASC members to join by providing relevant funding web site URLs for their country.

Ms Leslie Ovitt presented a revised demo-version of the web site, showing how it was structured and ways of using it.

The website address is:

<http://207.61.88.194/iasc.test>

The server capacity is provided free of charge by the Canadian Polar Commission, which is a potentially long-term commitment.

Ms Leslie Ovitt will compile and maintain the web site. However, she will need web addresses for national funding agencies, and will contact Council members for this information. The schedule is to collect this information by 1 July 2003 and complete the web site during the summer.

Decision

Council agreed to the goal and implementation of this initiative, and recommended all Council members to contribute by providing the web site addresses requested (usually only a few per country). Council also thanked those involved for excellent work.

Action: Ovitt/Webber

2.8 COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS

This year the idea/proposal of having 2-3 country presentations at each Council Meeting was initiated. Ideally, these presentations should comprise a short overview of arctic research in a given country, followed by a 15 minute presentation of ideas or initial plans for projects aiming at international cooperation, or with such a potential. Hence the presentations will focus on the future (not reporting old projects), and could provide a potential input to future international cooperation opportunities in arctic research.

2.8.1 SWEDEN

Prof. David Gee gave the Swedish contribution, pointing to the Annual Report of the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat as the basic document with regard to logistics and major research programmes. He also informed the meeting that the Swedish Arctic Research Committee had been transferred from the Academy to the Swedish Research Council.

Swedish arctic research is dominated by cruises and the use of the icebreaker "ODEN" supplemented by helicopters. Usually, their expeditions are

multidisciplinary.

In 2004, they are planning to join IODP with a drilling in the Lomonsov Ridge (Arctic Ocean) using “Oden” to assist with the drilling.

In 2005, a tundra (terrestrial) expedition is planned in the Beringia region, with a return cruise over the North Pole carrying out oceanographic investigations. They had received 40 proposals (mainly ecology and limnology) for the Beringia expedition.

2.8.2 JAPAN

Japanese arctic research has been on-going since 1957 in many parts of the Arctic. In 1990, they established an Arctic Environment Research Center (at NIPR), joined IASC and in 1991 a Japanese Research Station was established in Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard.

The research foci are:

- Atmospheric science which is ground-based with airborne measurements
- Palaeoclimate
 - North Greenland Ice Core project (EU-Japan-USA) and
 - Several ice core drilling projects in various parts of the Arctic
- Oceanography/ocean physics, incl. CASES (2002-05)
- Upper atmosphere physics, incl. EISCAT
- Bio science: several projects
- Geo-science and geo-chemistry, and
- Arctic hydrology

Information about numerous Japanese research projects in the Arctic is found in “Japanese Arctic Research Directory”, which is published annually and can be obtained by sending an e-mail to: directory@arctic.nipr.ac.jp

Several projects are on-going for a 6-year period, and point also to their future research interests.

2.9 PACIFIC ARCTIC GROUP

The idea of forming a Pacific Group under IASC had been informally mentioned during the ASSW 2002, and later at a China-US workshop on polar science. Dr John Calder, Director of the Arctic Office of NOAA, who attended this workshop, raised the issue at a meeting with the IASC President and Executive Secretary, who encouraged him to consider an exploratory meeting during the ASSW-2003. Information had also been circulated to all IASC Council and Regional Board members.

An informal, exploratory meeting was held during ASSW 2003 (1 April), and the outcome was a proposal for IASC to establish a Pacific Arctic Group under IASC, with the mission to: “Serve as a Pacific Arctic regional partnership to plan, coordinate, and collaborate on science activities of mutual interest”.

- .\.
- A report is enclosed as **Appendix VIII**.

Decision:

Council appreciated the initiative taken and the report, and agreed to include the Pacific Arctic Group as an integral part of IASC.

Action: Rogne

2.10 ICSU (INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE)

The question of whether IASC should seek affiliation to ICSU was raised at the recent Executive Committee Meeting. The last time this issue was discussed in IASC there was strong support for it. However, one member was against it although this was based on a misunderstanding, namely that such an application would mean that IASC would become a body **under** ICSU. Becoming a body **under** ICSU requires ICSU to establish it.

The option of an established and ongoing organisation such as IASC is to seek a relationship designated “International Scientific Associates”, which are organisations in fields cognate to those of ICSU; see also the ICSU web site at:

<http://www.icsu.org/>

The Executive Committee concluded that reopening the issue of a relationship with ICSU should be added to the Council Agenda, thereby exploring the opinions of our members before any further steps are taken.

All comments at Council Meeting were positive.

Decision:

Council agreed to explore establishing a relationship with ICSU, and tasked the Executive Committee to clarify benefits and conditions. Final decision to be made at the next Council meeting.

Action: Rogne

2.11 INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR 2007 (IPY – 2007)

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- IPY – 2007/8 had been proposed at the ASSW Joint Meeting, see **Appendix IX**, and was also strongly supported by the IASC Regional Board.

Decision

The discussion revealed strong support from IASC Council, which tasked the Executive Committee to consider how IASC could best influence further development, recalling that IASC had set aside an amount as seed money, to stimulate IPY planning. Dr Chris Elfring, USA was nominated to serve as the IASC point of contact with ICSU and its IPY committee.

Action: Rogne

2.12 IASC BROCHURE

The Executive committee had agreed to print a new brochure, because the old one is almost out of stock and needs up-dating. Most of the IASC information is based on our web site. However, occasionally a simple brochure is useful for making IASC visible.

.\ The present draft text is enclosed as **Appendix X** and the following should be noted:

- photos from our project will be used as illustrations (if available and suitable). However any Arctic photos are welcome
- a list of Council and Regional Board members to be an enclosure (with regular up-dating)
- the brochure will also become available on our web site.

Conclusion

Council supported this initiative and encouraged members to send comments to the IASC Secretariat by 1 June 2003.

Action: All Council and Regional Board members

2.13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1.13.1 SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE

The Executive Committee had received a proposal from one of our Project Leaders to strengthen the IASC Secretariat in order to provide assistance for maintaining and up-dating project web sites and other information services.

The Executive Committee noted that support for establishing and maintaining web sites had been raised in several project reports.

After the Executive Committee meeting, the Executive Secretary had contacted all Project Leaders. However, the responses had been few and revealed that the main needs were solved by using local resources.

2.14 CLOSURE

Prof. Webber thanked all Council and Regional Board members for their active participation, both in the Strategy Groups and during Council Meeting. As this ASSW and Council Meeting had been his first experience as IASC President, he wished to contemplate ways of improving the Strategy Group and Council meetings, together with the Executive Committee.

Special thanks were extended to Prof. Anders Karlqvist and his staff for organising the ASSW so efficiently.