



Meeting Report – Open Session

The IASC meetings during ASSW 2005 consisted of:

- Two informal, consultative meetings of the IASC Executive Committee
- Meeting of the IASC Regional Board
- Meetings of the IASC Strategy Groups, and
- IASC Council Meeting – Closed Session, which is the main, annual business meeting of IASC into which the comments and views discussed in the previous meetings are fed and finally discussed.

The main outcome of the IASC Council – Closed Session is summarised at the Open Session, thereby giving attendees an opportunity to be up-dated on IASC (without attending long discussions leading to the decisions made).

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

1. WELCOME

The President of IASC, Prof. Patrick J Webber, welcomed everybody to this meeting, and briefly outlined the intention of the meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was adopted.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

3.1 MAIN ISSUES SINCE LAST MEETING

This last year has been a very active year for IASC. We have worked hard to develop our relationships as well as visibility. As agreed at last Council meeting, we applied to become an International Scientific Associate of ICSU, and at the beginning of this year they confirmed that our application had been accepted.

Similarly, we have actively developed the cooperation and/or discussion with other organisations such as AC (Arctic Council), AOSB, IASSA and SCAR just to mention a few.

IPY has naturally been an important issue, and we have engaged in making the Arctic science community aware and active in IPY. We also have an ex-officio member on the IPY Joint Committee, and have just agreed to establish an IASC

IPY Advisory Group with open contacts to the other Arctic science organisations. In August this year, IASC will have its 15th anniversary. It all started with some simple 'Founding Articles' in the wake of the Cold War. Today, we have a considerable amount of activity. We have had a very active Executive Secretary all these years and during the last months we have been seeking his successor. We are very grateful to Norway for so graciously supporting the IASC Secretariat, and also to Prof. Olav Orheim as Chair of the Search Committee.

My own mantra as President of IASC has been to build on the following values and goals:

- Inclusiveness and engagement among members
 - Strategy Groups
 - Pacific Arctic Group
- Transparency of IASC Operation
 - Decision making and elections
 - Budget and funding
- Science Credibility and Visibility for IASC
 - Careful evaluation of Project proposals and their progress
 - ICSU affiliation
- Collaboration and Partnerships
 - e.g., ACIA, Arctic Council, ICARP II, AOSB, CEON, IPY and SCAR

3.2 SUMMARY FROM CLOSED SESSION

The summary of the outcome from the Closed Session was given by the Executive Secretary, who reported as follows:

- **Termination of Projects**
 - ACIA (finished as an assessment)
 - C-FATE (merged with ICARP II WG planning)
 - LOIRA (finalised this year)
- **Project to be combined with ICARP II**
 - ACBio (Arctic Coastal Biodiversity)
 - ACD (Arctic Coastal Dynamics)
 - CARMA (Circum-Arctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment)/Human Role in Reindeer/Caribou Systems
 - CAT-B (Circum-Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Initiative)
 - TTI (Tundra-Taiga Interface)

- **IASC Economy**

Last year Council had asked for a report on IASC economy and budgetary procedures. This report had been given and accepted. Issues for discussion this year had been:

- Secretariat funding (international contribution to the running costs)
- Currency to be changed from USD to EUR (2005)
- Membership fees to be raised in 2007
- Accounts for 2004 had been approved and the budget for 2005 agreed.

- **IASC Review and Strategy**

The last review of IASC had been undertaken in 1995 and a report was delivered in 1996. It was agreed to appoint an independent Review and Strategy Group to deliver an interim report in 2006 and a final report in 2007.

- **ICARP II**

Fully presented during Project Day.

IASC has provided considerable funding support to ICARP II as well as combining research planning with relevant ICARP II themes.

In addition, IASC agreed to provide additional support for young scientists and seed money support for project participants being merged with ICARP II – both for participation in ICARP II

- **IPY**

IASC is fully committed to IPY, and has an ex-officio member on the IPY JC. In addition, IASC agreed to appoint an IASC IPY Advisory Group with broad membership, for advising our ex-officio member. ICARP II will also provide planning important to IPY.

- **ISAC**

AOSB and IASC had tasked an international group of scientists to formulate a Science Overview Document (SOD). The SOD was presented during Project Day. ISAC was well received by IASC, and Council tasked the Executive Committee to clarify our role in ISAC and assist with next steps.

- **ACIA: Follow-up**

The ACIA assessment had been a partnership between Arctic Council (AC) and IASC. Discussions on how to organise a follow-up to ACIA for addressing major gaps in our knowledge was ongoing. The IASC interest in a continued partnership is new knowledge only, whereas AC has a number of policy issues to address.

- **AHDR**

The Arctic Human Development Report is another important assessment in need of follow-up research. Parts of this need will be addressed by ICARP II.

- **Report from the Regional Board**

The main issue at their recent meeting had been ‘The Role and Function of the Regional Board’. They had not reached any final conclusion. However, they will modernise their terms of reference, develop a more active relationship with the Arctic Council and focus on an active agenda.

- **ICSU**

Last year Council decided that IASC should apply to ICSU (International Council for Science) to become an International Scientific Associate of ICSU. Earlier this year, ICSU approved our application.

- **IASC Secretariat**

As the IASC Executive Secretary planned to retire this year, his position had been advertised based in Tromsø, Norway, followed by a search process. Unfortunately, none of the qualified applicants had accepted and Council discussed the situation and possible options, including other countries taking on hosting the Secretariat.

A new announcement of the position is expected shortly.

- **Other issues**

Council also discussed some other issues, such as initiating ways of honouring people for service to IASC (IASC Medal, Honorary membership etc.); and an IASC Trust Fund for contributions from industry etc. to special events such as ICARP II.

4. COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS: ‘FUTURE ARCTIC RESEARCH IN CHINA’

Dr Zhanhai Zhang, Director of the Polar Research Institute of China had been invited to give an overview of future Arctic research in China.

The following text is a summary of his talk.

The overall aims for future Arctic research in China can be divided into the following categories of activities:

- Develop and coordinate national programmes
- Develop new technologies, equipment and logistical capabilities
- Improve observatories and carry out long-term monitoring works in the Arctic Ocean and Ny-Ålesund
- Enhance international collaboration in Arctic research
- Cultivate next generation of polar scientists, experts and logistic managers

- Ensure data collection and sharing.

Arctic Change and Tele-impact on Mid-Latitudes (ARCTIML, 2006 – 2010)

ARCTIML is a major new Chinese project ‘to further understanding of Arctic change and its response and feedback to global climate’, doing so by addressing the impact of Arctic change on mid-latitudes. In order to achieve these goals, new enhanced scientific research is needed as well as developing new equipment. Initially, two scientific cruises are in planning, and China encourages international cooperation with those sharing new goals.

The CHINARE – 2003 expedition to the Chukchi Sea and Canadian Basin laid the foundation for ARCTIML. CHINARE-2003 was a multidisciplinary expedition.

On the logistical side, the R/V Xuelong will be rebuilt to become a modern, logistical platform.

New scientific instrumentation is being developed for:

- Bottom based acoustic ice monitoring system
- Arctic ice buoy, two of them are already deployed
- Under-ice data receivable mooring
- Unmanned aeroplane remote sensing (6 hours endurance, range: 100 km)
- High frequency ground wave radar (for measuring ocean current, wind, ocean waves)
- An expedition cruise was in planning for 2007/2008, i.e. during IPY using R/V Xuelong, starting from China through the Bering Strait to the North Pole continuing all through the Atlantic Ocean to Antarctica.
R/V Xuelong can go through 2 m ice, so this cruise requires cooperation with an icebreaker.
Dr Zhang invited to an international cooperation with this North Pole cruise, particularly those offering icebreaker support.
- China invited **international cooperation** in general, and was open to working together with countries, international organisations, international programmes, joint cruises and field work, sharing facilities, vessel, station data etc.
Several participants were interested in the opportunities suggested by China.

5. EVENTS CONTRIBUTIONS

The intention of these contributions is to highlight a special ongoing activity, or an activity/idea which may impact on future Arctic research.

5.1 ARCTIC HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Dr Kristján Kristjánsson presented an AHDR overview on behalf of the AHDR chairs: Drs Niels Einarsson and Oran R Young.

- **The Charge**
The 2002 Inari Declaration of the Arctic Council – approved “as a priority project the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) to be developed

into a comprehensive knowledge base for the Arctic Council’s Sustainable Development Programme.”

- **What is the AHDR?**

- A scientific assessment rather than a report on the findings of new research
- Review of existing knowledge regarding each topic or theme
- Synthesis in search of overarching patterns and important insights
- Identification of gaps in knowledge requiring attention in the future

- **What does the AHDR cover?**

Part I: Orientation

- Introduction: Human Development in the Arctic
- Demography

Part II: Core Systems

- Societies and Cultures
- Economic Systems
- Political Systems
- Legal Systems

Part III: Crosscutting Themes

- Resource Governance
- Human Health and Well-being
- Community Viability
- Education
- Gender Issues
- International Relations

Part IV: Conclusion

- A Human Development Agenda for the Arctic

- **What have we learned?**

Policy-relevant Conclusions

- Arctic societies are highly resilient. But today they face an unprecedented combination of bio-physical and socio-economic challenges
- Issues dominating Arctic agendas from the local to the regional level call for innovative governance systems or, in other words, political and legal arrangements well-suited to the conditions prevailing in the region.

Arctic Success Stories

- Cultural integrity – The experience of the Arctic demonstrates that cultures can remain viable even in the face of rapid and multi-dimensional social changes
- Technological advances – Arctic applications demonstrate both the feasibility and the desirability of using advanced technologies to address social problems
- Political and legal innovations – The Arctic has become a leader in the development of innovative political and legal arrangements that meet the needs of the residents of the Circumpolar North, without rupturing the larger political systems in which the region is embedded.

Gaps in Knowledge

- Demography – We need to collect better and more consistent information on the Arctic's residents using common data protocols
- Cultures and Societies – We need a better understanding of the effects of cumulative change on cultural and social well-being in the Arctic
- Settlers/Newcomers – We need to learn more about the experiences of recent settlers in the Arctic and their interactions with the region's indigenous peoples
- Industry – We need to improve our understanding of the roles that modern industrial activities play in the pursuit of sustainable development at the regional level.
- Governance – We need to do more in comparing and contrasting new institutions in the Arctic and distilling lessons relevant not only to the Arctic but also to other areas of the world

The AHDR and the Future

Contributions of the AHDR to the development of the AC's Sustainable Development Programme and International Arctic Science

- A coherent framework – agenda setting
- A baseline for monitoring and measuring changes
- A set of topics requiring more concentrated attention and research initiatives – identifying gaps in knowledge
- A basis for comparison with other regions

AHDR Follow-Up

- Dissemination – translation, access
- Monitoring – indicator construction
- Gaps in Knowledge – priority setting, workshop in autumn 2005
- Input into ICARP

- IPY Planning – communication of findings.

The AHDR involved approximately 100 scientists in writing the report, and about 50 reviewers.

The report is available as a paper copy or electronically from the website:

<http://www.svs.is/AHDR>

Participants were impressed by the good work done, and Dr Kristjánsson was tasked to convey our congratulations.

5.2 LASHIPA: LARGE SCALE HISTORICAL INDUSTRIAL EXPLOITATION OF POLAR AREAS

Prof. Louwrens Hacquebord presented LASHIPA, which is a major project in planning. LASHIPA has been accepted by the IPY Joint Committee under theme 6: Natural Resources Uses, and as a bipolar project considered a cross cutting project under theme 3: Global linkages.

There are **remains** of industrial activities both in the Arctic and the Antarctic; namely from:

- Seventeenth century whaling and hunting sites in the Arctic
- Nineteenth and twentieth century mining sites in the Arctic
- Whaling and sealing sites on the Peri-Antarctic and Antarctic islands
- Historical research stations (in both polar regions)

Geographical exploration such as discovery voyages to find the NE and the NW passages at the end of the sixteenth century and the ‘Heroic Age of Polar Exploration’ (1882 – 1920), including the first International Polar Year (1882 – 1883) are well documented and contain material of interest to LASHIPA.

- **The theoretical concept** of this project is based on the Core/Periphery model with elements such as:
 - Polar areas: Resource frontier regions providing raw materials for the world’s industrial cores
 - Whaling, fur trapping and mining producing raw material for the international market, and
 - Actor networks: Global networks in the core regions and local networks in the periphery
- **The exploitation of natural resources** comprised for the Arctic:
 - Phase 1: 16th – beginning of 20th century: Whalers and hunters from many countries catching Greenland right whales, seals and walrus
 - Phase 2: Second half of the 19th century: European and American entrepreneurs initiated mining.

For the Antarctic, the first phase was whaling and sealing beginning in the 19th century and finished in 1986 with a moratorium.

The phase 2 was exploration of minerals starting in the 1970s and ending with the moratorium of 1991.

- **Sites** are important sources for archaeological investigations. They yield information such as:
 - Structure of and facilities in the settlements
 - Technological and social developments
 - Political interest of settlements
 - Adaptation processes
 - Impact of the settlements on the natural environment
 - Impact of industrial activities on local communities.
- **Research possibilities** will include archaeological research in combination with documentary research in the archives of the core countries.
- **Settlement and the geo-political arena** is one important aspect of this study, and includes such issues as:
 - Whaling settlements as indicators of land claims
 - Mining settlements as markers of territorial claims and sally-bases for exploration activities
 - Research stations as markers of territorial claims.
- **Protection of cultural heritage** is another issue to be addressed and includes:
 - Attraction of sites to tourists
 - Impact of visitors on the historical remains
 - Legal problems because they are ‘Foreign elements’ in the national area where they are found
 - From national to polar cultural heritage Task of the UNESCO?

Participants in LASHIPA include scientists from The Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United States. Prof. Hacquebord’s presentation was accompanied by numerous photos and maps.

5.3 DRILLING IN THE CENTRAL ARCTIC OCEAN

This presentation was divided into:

5.3.1 PERSPECTIVES OF ARCTIC DEEP-SEA DRILLING

Presented by Prof. Jörn Thiede, AWI, Germany.

Prof. Thiede started with FRAM and Nansen, who produced the first bathymetrical chart of the Arctic Ocean. Bathymetrical charts are the initial tool for detecting rifts and fractural developments (the big unknowns).

Late glacial maximum has been another important area of study for understanding

the Arctic Ocean seafloor.

History of deep drilling in ice-infested waters has consisted of:

- Early considerations during DSDP in the seventies, at the same time oil exploration on Arctic shelves
- Early DSDP and ODP legs to high northern and southern latitudes, in the North both from the Pacific as well as from the Atlantic side
- Drilling through the ice-shelf off Antarctica, ANDRILL, IMAGES
- The Nansen Arctic Drilling Program (NAD)
- ACEX during late summer 2004

Revealing the biostratigraphy on geological time scales is the main goal for these expeditions. Information (and photos) of the various research platforms were shown with ‘Aurora Borealis’ as the important platform to come.

- **Problems (as of 2005)**

- Large deficiencies in site survey data (needs: at least one major effort during every summer for a decade at minimum). Therefore too few mature drilling proposals
- Technology for drilling in ice-infested waters as yet immature (hope: something like the Aurora Borealis, decision in principle to be reached in 2005)
- Large financial requirements (sufficient international coordination and support)
- Legal situation in the Arctic in the future (is really open if any of the major EEZ claims are granted)

- **A Subjective Statement**

- Deep-Sea drilling in ice-infested waters is in its infancy, but holds large promises for the Arctic
- The Cenozoic paleoceanographic history of the Arctic Ocean leading into the modern glacial mode of the northern hemisphere climate is the single most important poorly resolved chapter of Earth history which is of major relevance for the well-being of societies on the northern hemisphere
- Age and nature of the crust of Lomonosov and Alpha-Mendeleev ridges, as well as of Makarov and Canada basins of the Arctic Ocean are unknown. They are world-wide the biggest pieces of crust whose nature is disputed.

Prof. Thiede’s hope was that the IPY could help fill the big gaps in our knowledge, mentioned above.

5.3.2 CENOZOIC PALEOENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY OF THE CENTRAL ARCTIC OCEAN: INITIAL RESULTS OF THE IODP LEG 302 (ACEX)

This presentation was made by Prof. Dieter Fütterer on behalf of Ruediger Stein, Jens Matthiessen and Leg 302 science party.

ACEX (Arctic Coring Expedition) was undertaken in August/September 2004 to drill on Lomonosov Ridge near North Pole, and is the most recent expedition of this kind.

- **Scientific Objectives**

- Paleoceanography of Arctic Ocean**

- long-term (50 Ma) climate history of the central Arctic Ocean
 - role of Arctic Ocean in Earth's transition from Paleogene 'Greenhouse' to Neogene 'Icehouse'
 - short-term (Neogene) climate history and its connection to the North Atlantic Ocean

- Tectonic history of Arctic Ocean**

- formation of Eurasian Basin
 - composition and origin of the pre-Cenozoic bedrock underlying the sediment drape
 - rifting and subsidence history of the Lomonosov Ridge

Based on existing seismic stratigraphy it was assumed that major goals would be achieved if one of the proposed five sites could be drilled to 450 mbsf

The presentation included details on:

- selection of drill sites, ice management, core recovery, and of course, preliminary scientific findings linked to climatic events, tectonic events and biotic events.

Conclusions

- the major challenge facing ACEX to maintain the drill ship's location during drilling moving, heavy sea-ice was successful:
 - basement: consists of clastic sedimentary rocks older than 80 Ma (Campanian, Late Cretaceous)
 - onset of rifting in Late Paleocene (ca. 56 Ma)
 - drilled sedimentary sequence contains hiatuses: upper middle Eocene to Oligocene (?Early Miocene) sediments are absent, i.e. the transition from Greenhouse to Icehouse conditions
 - biosiliceous and organic carbon-rich sediments in high northern latitudes: document increased biogenic production in the Middle Eocene

- *Azolla* Event: documents that freshwater (reduced salinity) played an important role in the hydrological cycle in the Paleogene
- *Apectodinium* Acme in the Arctic Ocean: documents that PETM (Paleocene/Eocene temperature maximum) occurred also in the Arctic.

The presentation also included several photos of the three icebreakers (Oden, Sovetskiy Soyuz, Vidar Viking) working together on these drillings.

6 REPORT FROM THE PACIFIC ARCTIC GROUP AND SYMPOSIUM

Presented by Dr Martin Bergmann.

During ASSW, the Pacific Arctic Group (PAG) had held a business meeting and a symposium.

Their business meeting had reviewed the PAG Terms of Reference, and also the need for additional secretarial resources.

The new PAG secretariat will be located at the Chinese Polar Research Secretariat in Shanghai.

The PAG Symposium on ‘Circulation and Ecology of the Pacific Arctic Shelves and Connection to Deep Basins’ was held 22 – 23 April. The main goal of the Symposium had been to identify major scientific questions on these shelves by inviting leading scientists from various disciplines giving introductions followed by discussion.

The IASC President noted that PAG had grown fast during the few years they had been in operation, and he congratulated them on their achievements.

7. ASSW 2006

The Alfred-Wegener-Institut für Polar- und Meeresforschung (AWI) together with the Institute Polaire Francais Paul Emile Victor invited to ASSW 2006, which would be held in Potsdam the capital of the state (Land) of Brandenburg, south-west of Berlin, from 22 to 29 March 2006.

The invitation was highly appreciated and accepted.

8. CLOSURE

The Chinese hosts were thanked for organising the ASSW 2005 so successfully. Dr Zhang also informed those present that an ASSW Summary had been prepared by Drs Corell and Zhang leading to several interviews and publicity in the Chinese media.



For internal IASC use only

MEETING REPORT – CLOSED SESSION

The IASC meetings during ASSW 2005 consisted of:

- Two informal, consultative meetings of the IASC Executive Committee
- Meeting of the IASC Regional Board, and
- Meetings of the IASC Strategy Groups

All these pre-meetings addressed issues on the IASC Council – Closed Session agenda and thereby contributed to the conclusions and decisions made during this Closed Session.

Participants

IASC Council and Regional Board members only, see list of participants in **Appendix I**

.\.

0. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting, and especially the alternates, who were briefly introduced.

1. APPROVAL OF THE REPORT FROM THE 2004 MEETING

Minutes from IASC meetings are drafted by the Executive Secretary, reviewed by the President and subsequently sent electronically to all members for comments. Thereafter, a final paper version is distributed.

No comments had been received to the Closed Session Report or to the Open Session Report.

Conclusion:

Minutes were accepted.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The following changes were suggested:

- IASC Secretariat to be moved from 3.8.3 to 3.4 (a)
- Project ideas (Marine Transport and ‘Lichen’) to be added to the project discussions, see 3.3.3 and 3.3.4 respectively.
- Under 3.6.1 ACIA to invite Dr Robert W Corell to a discussion of this item.

The Agenda was adopted with the suggested changes.

3. MAIN ISSUES

3.1 PROJECTS

The annual procedure for ongoing IASC projects is:

- Project leaders to propose an annual progress plan, including any need for seed money.
- Executive Committee to review these plans and to recommend – with their comments – these plans to Council.
- Executive Committee to review progress made – as compared to the plans from late autumn, comment on progress made and provide advice to Project leaders.
- Copy of Executive Committee minutes are sent to all Council and Regional Board members, thereby enabling everybody to monitor any IASC project.
- Finally, the Strategy Group meetings offer a venue for discussions of IASC projects in a smaller forum.

Information about IASC projects are available on our website (<http://www.iasc.no>) and in the printed ‘IASC Project Catalogue’, which is distributed in April each year.

Council is the only body to approve new or terminate projects.

3.2. PROJECTS TO BE TERMINATED

3.2.1 ACIA (ARCTIC CLIMATE IMPACT ASSESSMENT)

ACIA has come to an end as an assessment project. It may return with a new follow-up agenda, see 3.7.4

Decision: ACIA to be terminated.

3.2.2 C-FATE (CARBON-FEEDBACKS ON ARCTIC TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS)

This project has already merged their further planning with ICARP II: Terrestrial Biosphere and Biodiversity.

Decision: C-FATE, in its present form, to be terminated.

3.2.3 LOIRA (LAND-OCEAN INTERACTIONS IN THE RUSSIAN ARCTIC)

LOIRA will be finalised – as planned – during this year with a final LOIRA workshop in November 2005.

Decision: LOIRA to be terminated.

3.2.4 OTHER PROJECTS

The Executive Committee has recommended that some other projects should merge their further planning with ICARP II.

The Executive Secretary reported that this process had been ongoing and it appeared that it was now accepted by all involved projects.

Decision:

Council agreed to merge ACBio, ACD, CARMA, CAT-B and TTI with ICARP II. Continuation of these projects to be considered after ICARP II.

3.3 NEW PROJECTS AND OTHER PROJECT ISSUES

No new project proposals had been received this year, except for one received only some days prior to Council Meeting (see 3.3.4).

A number of project proposals are likely to emerge from ICARP II. These could be revisions of earlier IASC projects, as well as new proposals, and in all probability most of them would request seed money from IASC in 2006.

3.3.1 ARCTIC COASTAL BIODIVERSITY (ACBio)

This project idea was approved by Council in 2004. Since then, a science planning process had been ongoing. The ACBio science plan had been received after the last Executive Committee meeting, and is, therefore, included in the agenda papers for this meeting, see **Appendix II**.

Decision:

Council noted the science plan, and also that the ACBio science plan would be included in ICARP II.

3.3.2 IASC WORKING GROUP ON ARCTIC GLACIOLOGY

At last Council Meeting, the Executive Committee was tasked to follow up comments about reporting from this group, as well as considering some terms of reference.

A survey of their activities as well as terms of reference are enclosed as **Appendix III**. This report was recommended to Council by the Executive Committee.

The Chair of the WG had reported that merging their planning meeting (developing their IPY EOI into a full IPY proposal) with ICARP II, as suggested by the Executive Committee was not practical (as the IPY deadline for full proposals is 30 June).

Decision:

Council appreciated the report received and re-confirmed the terms of reference.

The USD 3000 request for the planning meeting mentioned was not approved.

3.3.3 MARINE TRANSPORT

This group had organised an initial scoping workshop in Cambridge in September 2004 and a good workshop report had been circulated earlier this year. The workshop report listed a range of needs and opportunities.

The IASC interest in this initiative is for a well focussed science plan. In the Project leader's plan for this year, there was no exact proposal for reaching this outcome.

Decision:

Council appreciated the report and good work being done. The Group was advised to take advantage of several forthcoming meetings for developing their plans further, including the ICARP II – Open Session. They were recommended to consider a workshop in 2006 focussing on the development of a science plan.

3.3.4 LICHEN

Earlier in April, a project idea called LICHEN (the Linguistic and Cultural Heritage Electronic Network) had been received. It had been circulated electronically and paper copies were made available during ASSW. The general impression was that this is an interesting proposal that may have merit. However, as it was received too late for our regular review process, the following comments were agreed to be reported to the proposer:

- **General positive response, including an explanation of our procedure**
- **Refer to IPY as an option (as this proposal may become a cluster for IPY in this area)**
- **ICARP II has an Open Session, i.e. an opportunity for presenting major, new project ideas.**
- **IASC to consider the proposal after ICARP II**

3.4 IASC SECRETARIAT

During ASSW 2005 and prior to the IASC Council Meeting, one alternative proposal from Sweden was put forward: Hosting the IASC Secretariat in Stockholm co-located with an ISAC Secretariat that may be established and possibly other Arctic science secretariats, based on a shared funding model. The ISAC Secretariat was to be included and fully supported in this model (from sources outside IASC), whereas IASC Council would have to consider cost-sharing (i.e. the Executive Secretary salary to be funded by IASC) for the IASC Secretariat.

At the 2004 Council Meeting, the Executive Committee was tasked to consider various aspects of the IASC economy, including partial funding of the IASC Secretariat, thereby making it easier for future new hosts.

The position of IASC Executive Secretary was advertised in August 2004 with a deadline for applications of 1 October. Altogether there were twelve applicants for the position, from which three were called in for interview by the Search Committee (Orheim, Webber, Kristjánsson). Two candidates were found to be qualified and subsequently offered the position. They both finally declined, the last one notifying IASC on 8 April. As this clarification was received close to Council Meeting and as a new funding model was recommended to Council by the Executive Committee, it was proposed to wait with re-advertising the position until after the 2005 Council Meeting.

During ASSW 2005 and prior to the IASC Council Meeting, one alternative proposal from Sweden was put forward: Hosting the IASC Secretariat in Stockholm co-located with an ISAC Secretariat that may be established and possibly other Arctic science secretariats, based on a shared funding model. The ISAC Secretariat was to be funded on this model, whereas IASC Council would

Report

have to consider shared funding (i.e. the Executive Secretary salary to be funded by IASC).

At Council Meeting, Norway confirmed its previous offer, based on full funding and with Tromsø as the location for the Secretariat. Simultaneously they confirmed their willingness to withdraw their offer if another country was interested based on full funding.

Discussions in Council revealed an interest in the co-location concept ISAS (International Secretariats for Arctic Science) partly because this concept would enhance the cooperation between organisations being served by the secretariats. At the same time it was pointed out that such co-location could be established anywhere, including Tromsø, if that was decided.

However, as partial funding of the IASC Secretariat based on increasing the IASC membership fees was not likely to become effective until 2007, the conclusions were as follows:

- **Sweden should be offered a few days to consider changing their offer to a full funding offer.**
- **If Sweden was unable to do so, the Norwegian offer should be accepted and a new announcement for the position of Executive Secretary should be made as soon as possible. The Executive Committee was tasked to organise interviews of candidates and make a recommendation of new, qualified applicants to the Norwegian Polar Institute.**
- **The Executive Committee was also tasked to explore the merits of the “new structure” idea ISAS, and report to Council. Other members also expressed a hosting interest if partial funding became an alternative.**

3.5 IASC ECONOMY

3.5.1 IASC ECONOMY IN GENERAL

At the last Council Meeting several points were raised about the IASC economy and budgeting procedures and Council tasked the Executive Committee to examine the present procedures and report to Council.

A detailed report had been formulated, discussed by the Executive Committee, who recommended it to Council.

Two key issues had emerged for discussion:

- Secretariat funding, and
- The need for increasing the membership fee

Decision:

Council accepted the report as such (see below as to the two issues raised).

3.5.2 SECRETARIAT FUNDING

The question concerning the use of membership fees to contribute to the running costs of the Secretariat was raised at our last Council Meeting. Such a model would be commensurate with the modus for similar secretariats.

In order to have a clear division of funding responsibilities, the Executive Committee had considered, and recommended to Council, the proposal ‘to identify one specific item in the Secretariat budget for cooperative international funding’ and used the salary of the Executive Secretary as an example (about 1/3 of the Secretariat budget).

Conclusion

There was no objection to the principle of identifying the salary of the Executive Secretary as the international funding responsibility.

However, the implementation of this conclusion depends on increasing the membership fee, which Council has to address.

3.5.3 MEMBERSHIP FEE

The Executive Committee recommended to Council to consider increasing the membership fee noting that **the IASC membership fees have remained at the same level since IASC started.**

The main justifications for a proposed increase in the fees are:

- Increased number of IASC projects, partnerships and overall level of activity, and
- To contribute to a part of the administrative expenses of the IASC Secretariat.

∴ Please find enclosed as **Appendix IV** a paper justifying this proposal in more detail.

Council members had been asked to consult with the national member organisation adhering to IASC and report back at Council Meeting. Their reports clarified that an increase for 2006 was too early for inclusion in national budgets.

Decision: Membership fees to increase to € 11 000 or € 13 000, respectively (depending on the level of activity) starting in 2007.

3.5.4 FROM USD TO EUR

The Executive Committee recommended to Council that the present budget and fees (with the same numerical amounts) to be transferred from USD to EUR.

The justification for this recommendation is that USD has dropped considerably against other currencies and has reduced our budget likewise.

Report

Discussions revealed that this change was acceptable, although one country may have problems for 2005.

Decision:

IASC fees to be invoiced in EUR (with the same numerical amounts) starting in 2005.

A letter to Council members and the national member organisation explaining changes in membership fees and currency will accompany the invoice for 2005.

3.5.5 ACCOUNTS FOR 2004

\. The Accounts for 2004 are enclosed as **Appendix V**.

The Executive Secretary presented the Accounts and explained any deviations from budget. The main conclusions were:

- All membership fees had been paid
- The result was about 50% better than budgeted
- USD 120 000 had been transferred to ICARP II (as decided by Council last year), and taken out of our savings
- Savings account at the end of the year: USD 55 713.

The Accounts were recommended by the Executive Committee.

Decision: Council approved the Accounts for 2004.

3.5.6 BUDGET FOR 2005

The budget follows the main strategy suggested by the Executive Committee regarding project planning this year (see 2005 Executive Committee Report item 2.0), namely:

- Merging relevant, current project planning with ICARP II
- Supporting young scientists giving priority to participating in ICARP II
- Supporting ICARP II (USD 30 000), which could either be participation in ICARP II or a workshop\planning meeting after ICARP II.

In addition, the goal for setting aside any surplus of the year for ICARP II follow-up workshops (project planning meetings) in 2006 was recommended.

The background to these actions is to reduce duplicative planning efforts, and to meet the considerable need for seed money after ICARP II.

It is recommended to give continued support to projects which are not related to an ICARP II theme.

The draft budget did not include any expenses for the Review and Strategy Group. As we do not have any ‘Annual Meeting’ expenses this year (no funding of invited speakers), it was agreed to use this amount (€ 6000) for the purpose. ‘Other travel

Report

support' is likely to be needed for interviews of Executive Secretary candidates. If not, they could be used for the R & S Group.

- .\.
- The amended budget is enclosed as **Appendix VI**.

Decision: With the amendments mentioned, Council agreed to the proposed budget.

3.6 IASC REVIEW AND STRATEGY

The Executive Committee recommends Council appoint an IASC Review and Strategy Group.

An IASC Review Group was appointed in 1995 and their report was delivered in the autumn of 1996 (a copy of this report is available on request from the IASC Secretariat).

The reasons for appointing a new group are the amount of time which has elapsed since the last review, ongoing changes and challenges ahead.

- .\.
- Please find enclosed a discussion paper on this item, as **Appendix VII**.

This issue had also been discussed in the Strategy Groups and - like Council – they had expressed support for this initiative.

During Council discussion the following views were expressed:

- Clarify issues such as project initiation, gender balance, inclusion of your scientists, appointment procedure
- Chair of the R & S Group to be totally outside IASC (independent review)
- Consult the user community, and learn from the recent SCAR review
- IASC will have to fund this process
- Two components; review of the past and a strategy for the future
- The mission of IASC to be re-visited
- Council members to be invited for proposals of a Chair
- Deadline: ASSW 2007 with an interim report during ASSW 2006.

Decision:

Council agreed a Review and Strategy Group be appointed and tasked the Executive Committee to:

- **Revise the terms of reference in view of comments given by Council**
- **Search for an independent Chair of the Group. Council members encouraged to make nominations**
- **Inform Council about the composition of the Group, and**
- **Initiate the work of the Group**

Council noted that the R & S will need some funding, see Budget for 2005 (Appendix VI).

3.7 MAJOR PLANNING PROCESSES

Information about the planning processes mentioned below has been available, both through the reports from the Executive Committee and other sources. During ASSW Project Day, ICARP II, IPY and ISAC were fully presented.

During discussion in Council, a member of the Executive Committee had been asked to give a brief introductory summary followed by proposed IASC actions. Council members were asked to comment and discuss the proposed actions.

3.7.1 ICARP II

Introduction by Dr Kristján Kristjánsson, who confirmed that ICARP II planning was progressing as intended. The only worry was funding, as the EU had not responded as expected. IASC had provided the promised financial support.

Conclusion:

Council members are welcomed to provide any financial advice. Also national contributions are very welcomed. IASC as such does not have any financial responsibility beyond the support given. However, IASC strongly recommends ICARP II, as it is an important research planning process, which should be carried forward.

3.7.2 IPY

Introduced by Prof. Olav Orheim.

Information about IPY is available at: <http://www.ipy.org>

A full up-date on IPY was given during Project Day, and most of this day had been reserved for IPY discussions.

.\ Council discussion focussed on the need for an IASC IPY Advisory Group, i.e. a group of people to advise the IASC ex-officio member on the IPY Joint Committee, see **Appendix VIII** for terms of reference for this group.

Decision

Council members are invited to propose individuals for this advisory group by 1 June. Thereafter, the Executive Committee will select the group and offer Council members a few days to give their approval.

3.7.3 ISAC (INTERNATIONAL STUDY OF ARCTIC CHANGE)

.\ AOSB and IASC had tasked an international group of scientists to formulate a Science Overview Document (SOD) for ISAC. This SOD was presented during Project Day by the Chair of ISAC Planning Group, see also **Appendix IX**.

At Council Meeting, Prof. Patrick J Webber introduced ISAC, and invited Council members to give comments. In general, the SOD was very well received.

Report

The comments given were:

- Focus on science, rather than assessment and monitoring (as mentioned in the text)
- Glaciology and sea-level change seem to be missing.

An initial version of some terms of reference had become available. These ToR will have to be revised and made consistent with the SOD.

The role of IASC in the further development of ISAC needs clarification.

Conclusion:

Council appreciated the SOD of ISAC. The Executive Committee was tasked to clarify the role of IASC vs. ISAC, which could be achieved in further developing the ToR, and report back to Council.

3.7.4 ACIA

Information about ACIA is available from: <http://www.acia.uaf.edu>

Parts of the ACIA Scientific Report are now available on this website, and the full report is expected to become available shortly.

Drs Olav Orheim and Robert W Corell introduced this item, briefly focussing on our cooperation with the Arctic Council on a follow-up initiative; i.e. to address the major gaps identified in the ACIA Scientific Report.

The conclusion from the contact with the Arctic Council and IASC's letter of offer to partner in any ACIA follow-up, was that the SAOs (Senior Arctic Officials) have yet to determine the timing and extent of research and monitoring in any ACIA follow-up, or its relationship to IASC in the Arctic Council's follow-up and Focal Point group. A clear terms of reference for the Arctic Council's follow-up and the ACIA Focal Point group is needed.

Decision:

IASC to be represented on the ACIA Focal Point group. However, our representative should be given clear instructions that we are only considering partnership for organising follow-up research.

3.7.5 AHDR (ARCTIC HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT)

The Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) is available in print as well as from the website: <http://www.svs.is/AHDR/>

AHDR is a scientific assessment, and because of time constraints, an overview was given in the Open Session (see report from the Open Session).

The follow-up to AHDR will be clarified at a workshop in Iceland later this year, and it was also noted that some themes of ICARP II are highly relevant in this respect.

Report

Council noted the report, and congratulated the chairs and scientists involved on a good report. They also assumed that IASC would address follow-up needs after ICARP II.

3.8 REPORT FROM THE REGIONAL BOARD

The main issue at their recent meeting had been “the Role and Function of the Regional Board”. No final decision was reached. However, they intend to modernise the terms of reference and clarify the relationship to the Arctic Council. They also plan to develop an agenda (rather than continue discussing the role).

They had discussed issues on Council Agenda, in particular ACIA, Marine Transport, IASC Secretariat, ICARP II, IPY and ISAC. These views were expressed earlier in the Council – Closed Session.

3.9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

3.9.1 INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATE OF ICSU

Last year Council decided that IASC should apply to ICSU (International Council for Science) to become an International Scientific Associate of ICSU. ICSU approved our application and all Council and Regional Board members were informed.

Council noted the positive outcome.

3.9.2 THE IASC MEDAL

- .\ Please find enclosed as **Appendix X** a proposal for honouring people for service to IASC, including a possible IASC Medal, Honorary membership, etc. Comments from Council were rather mixed ranging from very positive to questions about the needs and more specific terms of reference, including criteria.

Decision

Council tasked the Executive Committee to consider comments given.

3.9.3 IASC TRUST FUND

The Executive Committee had recommended establishing an IASC Trust Fund for contributions from industry, etc. to special events such as ICARP II, see

- .\ **Appendix XI.**

There was no objection to the proposal in Council.