

IASC Meetings

ASSW 2006

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Council - Closed Session

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Distribution: IASC Council Members and Alternates, International Secretariats,
IASC Regional Board Members, IASC Project Leaders

Report

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1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The president welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed his gratitude to the host of the ASSW. The participants, IASC Council and Regional Boards members and alternates, briefly introduced themselves.

- *The list of participants is given in Annex I.*

2 APPROVAL OF THE REPORT FROM THE 2005 MEETING

The report was approved.

3 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The President noted the importance of the meeting. IASC is in a period of transition and several major planning activities, such as ICARP II, IPY and ISAC (see below) are underway.

It was suggested to move agenda item 4.4 Report from the Regional Board to the Open Session (agenda item 6.1).

Due to the lack of time, the following agenda items were moved to the Open session:

- 4.3.4 ACIA Follow-up
- 4.5.1 The IASC Medal
- 4.5.2 Nomination Process for Members of Initiatives
- 4.5.3 IASC Journal
- 4.5.4 UN Year of Planet Earth

The revised agenda was adopted.

4 MAIN ISSUES

4.1 PROJECTS

The President reported that during the last Executive Committee Meeting in January 2006, the status of the IASC projects was reviewed and the Executive Committee recommended the following three groups of projects to the Council:

IASC Projects that may be modified and/or infused with new ideas originating from the ICARP II outcome and feeding into the IPY.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACBio ▪ ACD ▪ CAT-B ▪ Contaminants and Human Health ▪ Tundra-Taiga Interface
Mature IASC projects that are implemented or completed and will not need further seed money. This group can be subdivided into two sub-groups:	(1) Projects to remain in the Project Catalogue and to receive continued IASC promotion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CEON ▪ CARMA
	(2) Finished projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LOIRA ▪ MAST ▪ NUHIP ▪ Water Balance Study
Other projects which are related to IASC but, for varied reasons, are not considered IASC projects.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marine Transport ▪ Working Group on Arctic Glaciology

This tabular leads us to the need to discuss the IASC future funding strategy. Several projects have been finished and it is expected that funding needs will arise from the outcome of the ICARP II.

Accordingly, the agenda item on IASC projects was divided into four sub-items:

- Projects within the ICARP II and IPY environment (4.1.1)
- Mature projects to remain in the IASC portfolio but not needing further seed money (4.1.2)
- Projects that have ended (4.1.3)
- Other projects that for varied reasons, are not considered IASC projects (4.1.4)

4.1.1 PROJECTS WITHIN THE ICARP II AND IPY ENVIRONMENT

All projects within this category were discussed in the Strategy Groups together with the general funding strategy regarding the ICARP II follow-up and its relation to IPY activities.

Under this agenda item each chair of the Strategy Groups (Vice Presidents) presented a 10-minutes overview summarising the results and questions of the Strategy Group meetings.

Common positions that were expressed by all four Strategy Groups can be summarised as follows:

- IASC's profile has to be raised. IASC, as a scientific associate to ICSU and an observer in the Arctic Council, should be the leading organisation in the Arctic science community.
- The ASSW was an invention of IASC and should become more important. Project and Science Day should be used as a discussion forum.
- The visibility of IASC and its projects has to be improved. IASC's relations to the scientists should be better and IASC has to strive for the maximum output of its projects. The Project Catalogue in its current form should be abandoned and replaced by a new instrument following the IASC strategy to be developed.
- The ICARP II process has been a great success and IASC should play the major role in the implementation. The links to IPY projects and their legacy are of particular importance. However, there was no consensus reached if the IASC support should be exclusively used to implement ICARP II projects. It was suggested to publish the proceedings of the ICARP II conference plus the science plans of the working groups as a well illustrated report for a general audience comparable with the summary report of ACIA.
- IASC has to define clear conditions for funding. IASC support does not automatically imply financial support, there are other ways of support. IASC should concentrate on a number of focused and manageable projects and in addition define umbrellas for Working Groups. The Young Scientist support should be strengthened.

Following the presentations of the Vice Presidents and the general discussion, a small group under the leadership of Julian Dowdeswell met during the coffee break and outlined a summary of the IASC strategy to be developed:

The goals are

1. to develop a strategy that is useful for the community;
2. to simplify the structures of Arctic research, IASC should be the umbrella body;
3. to define clear structures within IASC (working groups, projects, etc.);

4. to define transparent processes of IASC evaluation and support.

Based on a review of existing IASC activities, the following structures to be considered were identified:

- A. Science Projects (such as current IASC projects);
- B. Synthesis Projects (e.g. ACIA);
- C. Working Groups (e.g. ICARP II);
- D. Coordination Bodies (e.g. AOSB etc.).

Decision: Council directed the Executive Committee to explore in this direction and to circulate an outline of the proposed IASC strategy to the Council members before the next meeting at the ASSW 2007.

Decision: Council mandated the Executive Committee to carry on with the ICARP II implementation considering links to IPY projects and their legacy.

4.1.1.1 ONGOING PROJECTS

The following ongoing projects can be considered a part of the ICARP II / IPY implementation process:

- **ACBio**
- **ACD**
- **CAT-B**
- **Tundra-Taiga Interface (TTI)**

Decision: ACBio, ACD, CAT-B and TTI to receive continued IASC support for planning activities within ICARP II and IPY.

Please note that ACBio, ACD and TTI presented their plans during the Open Session of the Council Meeting (see report of the Open Session).

4.1.1.2 MATURE PROJECTS

- **Contaminants and Human Health**

Decision: The project to continue within the ICARP II environment by exploring links to the ICARP II working group on contaminants.

4.1.1.3 NEW PROJECT

Arctic-HYDRA has been submitted as a new project by Charles Vörösmarty and co-applicants. It is an endorsed IPY project dealing with the Arctic Hydrological Cycle. The request to IASC was to provide funds in the amount of USD 36,583 to establish a project secretariat for coordination of the effort.

Decision: Council was pleased with this IPY initiative. However, the financial request to establish a secretariat had to be rejected.

4.1.2 MATURE PROJECTS TO REMAIN IN THE IASC PORTFOLIO

Decision: The following mature projects remain in the IASC portfolio and receive continued IASC promotion without financial support:

- **CEON**
- **CARMA**

4.1.3 FINISHED PROJECTS

Decision: The following projects have been finished and will be deleted from the IASC portfolio:

- **LOIRA**
- **MAST**
- **NUHIP**
- **Water Balance Study**

4.1.4 OTHER PROJECTS (WORKING GROUP)

Decision: The project **Marine Transport** is finished as an IASC project but maintains the link to IASC.

Decision: IASC continues to support the **Working Group on Arctic Glaciology** which should proceed with their planning of the IPY project GLACIODYN.

4.2 IASC ECONOMY

4.2.1 ACCOUNTS FOR 2005

The past Executive Secretary Odd Rogne presented the accounts for 2005 and noted that the transition from USD to EUR has been implemented. The general funds have been transferred to the new Secretariat in Stockholm.

- ***The Accounts for 2005 are enclosed (Annex II)***

Decision: Council accepted the report.

4.2.2 BUDGET FOR 2006

The budget for 2006 was presented by the new Executive Secretary Volker Rachold. This budget follows the main strategy suggested by the Executive Committee. Several IASC projects have been finished and new project groups are expected to be formed during the implementation of ICARP II and linked to the IPY. When established, these groups will need financial support for the first planning meetings. It was proposed that the main part of the budget is reserved for this planning process.

Council members noted that the budget for the development of ISAC (see 4.3.3) has to be specified and that the budget items for IPY and IASC / Arctic Council links (participation in Arctic Council meetings) should be increased. It was also noted that the term “Project Development” should be replaced by “Science Development”.

Decision: Council accepted the budget with appropriate adjustments.

- ***The adjusted budget for 2006 is enclosed (Annex III)***

The Executive Secretary mentioned that, as decided during the 2005 Council Meeting, the membership fees will increase to EUR 11,000 or EUR 13,000, respectively (depending on the level of activity), starting from 2007.

4.3 MAJOR PLANNING PROCESSES

Under this item, brief updates on major planning processes were presented by members of the Executive Committee.

4.3.1 ICARP II (INTRODUCED BY KRISTJÁN KRISTJÁNSSON)

The ICARP II was held in Copenhagen, Denmark from November 10th through the 12th 2005, and brought together over 480 scientists, policy makers,

research managers, indigenous peoples and others interested in and concerned about the future of Arctic research. Through plenary sessions, breakout sessions and informal discussions, conference participants addressed long-range research planning challenges documented in twelve draft research plans. Detailed information is available at www.icarp.dk.

Kristján Kristjánsson pointed out that now the implementation of the ICARP II Science Plans is of major importance.

➤ ***The outline of the implementation strategy is provided in Annex IV.***

Decision: Council agreed that the ICARP II implementation is the main task for IASC in the near future and accepted the implementation paper (Annex IV).

4.3.2 IPY (INTRODUCED BY OLAV ORHEIM)

The third and last deadline for submission of IPY proposal has been January 31 and another 209 proposals were received. These proposals have recently been reviewed. Information about IPY, including a searchable database with all submissions is available at: <http://www.ipy.org>.

Olav Orheim mentioned that not all proposals sent to the IPY Joint Committee were submitted to national funding agencies (e.g. Norwegian Research Council). In general, there are more projects in the Arctic than in the Antarctic.

Decision: Council agreed that IASC should closely follow the IPY development and become active for those IPY projects providing a legacy.

4.3.3 ISAC (INTRODUCED BY PATRICK J. WEBBER)

The latest activities focussed on the nomination of an International Scientific Steering Group (SSG) and the arrangements for an ISAC International Program Office (IPO).

Patrick Webber reported that the IASC-AOSB Partnership Group has explored the steering and advisory mechanism and proposed that the ISAC should be guided by a small Scientific Steering Group (SSG) and a larger Council and should have two co-chairs who can represent natural and social sciences respectively.

Michael Tjernström (Stockholm University, Department of Meteorology - Stockholm/Sweden) and **Grete K. Hovelsrud** (Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research - Oslo/Norway) have agreed to be co-chairs. **Leif Anderson** (Göteborg University, Department of Analytical and

Marine Chemistry – Göteborg/Sweden) who chaired the ISAC Interim Science Planning group for ISAC will act as an advisor.

Through the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) the National Science Foundation (NSF) has made funds available to set up the ISAC International Project Office (IPO) at the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat (SPRS) in Stockholm, co-located with the IASC secretariat. Most issues related to the Secretariat funding and the contract between UCAR and SPRS have been resolved. As soon as possible the position will be announced.

Council noted the information.

5 ELECTIONS (COUNCIL MEMBERS ONLY)

The nomination committee had sent out e-mails to the Council Members in November 2005 and January 2006. A number of nominations were received for President and two Vice Presidents. The nominated candidates have been contacted and asked about their willingness to serve and all candidates have answered:

For IASC President:

1. Kristján Kristjánsson (accepted)
2. Louwrens Hacquebord (declined)

For IASC Vice President:

1. Dieter Fütterer (accepted)
2. Jackie Grebmeier (accepted)
3. Kristján Kristjánsson (accepted)
4. Kari Laine (accepted)

Election Result:

Kristján Kristjánsson was unanimously elected as the new **President**. **Jackie Grebmeier** and **Dieter Fütterer** were elected as **Vice Presidents**.