



IASC Council Meeting

27 March 2009

ASSW 2009 (Bergen, Norway)

Schedule

09.00-10.30	Council - Open Session
<i>10.30-10.45</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
10.45-12.00	Council - Open Session (continued)
12.00-13.00	Council - Executive Session

draft Minutes for IASC internal use

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IASC Council – Open Session

27 March, 09.00-12.30

1 OPENING AND REPORTING

1.1 WELCOME AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The President opened the meeting and gave some practical information.

1.2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The Secretariat did not receive any comments on the minutes of the last meeting and they were approved.

1.3 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted with one change: The decision on the new IASC Bylaws and Rules of Procedure (agenda item 2.1.1) and the IASC Scientific Standing Committees (agenda item 2.1.2) was moved to the Executive Session (new agenda item E1).

1.4 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President summarized the most important developments and achievements since the last Council Meeting at the ASSW 2008 in Syktyvkar. After the general approval of the new IASC structure in Syktyvkar, Interim Chairs have been appointed for the new IASC Scientific Standing Committees (SSC). An Action Group has been formed to assist IASC with developing draft new Bylaws and Rules of Procedure. The President also pointed out that formal agreements were signed with the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS), the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS) and the World Climate Research Program (WCRP). He also highlighted the very successful SCAR/IASC Open Science Conference in St. Petersburg, the IASSA Conference in Greenland and the Nordic Council of Ministers Conference, also in Greenland.

2 MAIN ISSUES

2.1 STRUCTURE

2.1.1 Bylaws and Rules of Procedure

At its last meeting at the ASSW 2008 in Syktyvkar, Council generally approved the new IASC structure. The Executive Committee was mandated to modify and concretize the structure presented in Syktyvkar according to the comments received.

Following Council decision, the Executive Committee appointed an Action Group to develop the Bylaws and Rules of Procedure for the new IASC structure. The group consists of Sara Bowden (lead author), Jörn Thiede, Barry Goodison, Hugues Lantuit and the IASC Executive Secretary.

At its meeting in October 2008, the Executive Committee reviewed and revised the draft Bylaws and Rules of Procedure proposed by the Restructuring Action Group. The documents were sent to ICSU, the lawyer of the Alfred Wegener Institute, the Interim Chairs of the Scientific Standing Committees (see below) and to Council Members who were invited to provide comments.

The final draft version of the Bylaws and Rules of Procedures considering all comments received was approved at the last meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Iceland, January 2009.

Council discussed the new IASC Bylaws and Rules of Procedures. In general the Council, invited guests and observers were very positive and supportive in their comments to the new Bylaws and Rules of Procedures. Further discussion was postponed to the Executive Session (agenda item E1) and the President announced that in the Executive Session Council Members present would be asked for "conditional approval" of the new Bylaws and Rules of Procedures.

2.1.2 Scientific Standing Committees

Following the last meeting in Syktyvkar, Council Members were invited to nominate Interim Chairs for the new IASC Scientific Standing Committees (SSCs). Based on the nominations received, the Executive Committee appointed:

- Terry Callaghan (UK/Sweden): Terrestrial System
- Harald Loeng (Norway): Marine System

- Martin Sharp (Canada): Cryosphere System
- Jim Overland (USA): Atmosphere System
- Louwrens Hacquebord (The Netherlands): Social System

The Interim Chairs met in conjunction with the SCAR/IASC IPY Conference in St. Petersburg and in a teleconference in December 2008. The Interim Chairs also participated in the Executive Committee Meeting in Iceland, January 2009.

At this meeting, it was agreed that the proposed scientific content and foci of the new IASC SSCs would be presented at an IASC Science Forum during the ASSW 2009. The Science Forum was held on March 25 (18.30-20.00) and included plenary presentations by the IASC President and the Interim Chairs, followed by an IASC sponsored reception (drinks and snacks). The Interim Chairs have prepared 1-page documents describing the scientific content and foci of each SSC for an IASC brochure. This brochure also includes a general introduction to IASC and its new structure, the overall role and responsibilities of the SSCs and the program of the Science Forum. Council Members were asked to attend the IASC Science Forum on March 25, evening.

- **ANNEX 2.1.2a: IASC Brochure presented at the IASC Science Forum.**
- **ANNEX 2.1.2b: Presentations given at the IASC Science Forum.**

Council discussed the new IASC SSCs. Several comments by Council Members, invited guests and observers were noted. It was concluded that the new IASC Scientific Standing Committees can only be approved by consensus of all members countries. The further discussion was postponed to the Executive Session (agenda item E1) and the President announced that in the Executive Session Council Members present would be asked for "conditional approval" of the new Scientific Standing Committees.

2.1.3 Arctic Ocean Sciences Board (AOSB)

At the last meeting of the IASC Council held at the ASSW 2008 in Syktyvkar, it had been agreed that the Arctic Ocean Sciences Board (AOSB) would become one of five IASC SSCs: "AOSB - the IASC SSC for the Marine System".

Harald Loeng, Chair of AOSB, introduced this agenda item. He explained that AOSB and IASC have been in a dialogue during the last year and that the product of this dialogue is a formal document describing the merger between the two organizations.

- **ANNEX 2.1.3: IASC-AOSB Merger.**

It was pointed out that the AOSB-IASC merger has been one of the main recommendations of the IASC Review and Strategy Group.

Council approved the AOSB-IASC merger as described in Annex 2.1.3. The IASC President and the AOSB Chair formally signed the document.

2.1.4 IASC Secretariat

The Executive Secretary provided a status report on the IASC Secretariat. The new IASC Executive Officer, Mare Pit, also attended the meeting.

The report included the move of the secretariat from Stockholm to Potsdam and the presentation of the IASC Bulletin 07/08 which was distributed in printed form to all participants of the ASSW 2009. The Executive Secretary thanked the Swedish Research Council and the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat for supporting the IASC Secretariat during the last three years and he acknowledged the generous support from the Alfred Wegener Institute and the German Science Foundation for the next 5 years.

Council noted the report.

2.2 ARCTIC COUNCIL ISSUES

The Executive Secretary attended the Senior Arctic Officials Meeting in Svolvær (Norway), April 2008, and Kautokeino (Norway), November 2008, and he presented a short status report on the latest development.

IASC is involved in the two main activities of the Arctic Council, i.e. Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) and Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic (SWIPA), which were presented to Council under agenda items 2.6.3 and 2.6.4.

One additional item that could be of interest to IASC is a Norwegian proposal for an Arctic Council project on „Maximizing the Legacy of IPY in the Arctic“. The focus of this project is to develop an Arctic Council contribution towards ensuring the legacy of the IPY. The Executive Secretary explained that a workshop was held at the ASSW in Bergen after the Council Meeting. The paper developed during this workshop will be presented to the Arctic Council at its next meeting end of April 2009.

It was noted that, generally, all Arctic Council observer organizations and observer countries are invited to participate in the activities of the Arctic Council Working Groups.

Council noted the report.

2.3 ICSU ISSUES

IASC is an International Scientific Associate of ICSU, which is a rather loose affiliation. One important outcome of the ongoing restructuring of IASC could be that IASC (like SCAR) becomes an Interdisciplinary Body of ICSU. There has been some discussion with ICSU over the past months and the Executive Secretary summarized the latest communication.

Following a SCAR-IASC-ICSU meeting during the SCAR/IASC Conference in St. Petersburg, a joint SCAR-IASC letter was sent to ICSU. IASC and SCAR posters were presented at the ICSU General Assembly in October 2008.

IASC also contributed to the next ICSU Strategic Plan and to ICSU's data management strategy. IASC endorsed the proposal "The Polar Information Commons (PIC): Establishing the Framework for Long-term Stewardship of Polar Data and Information" which was submitted by CODATA (Commission on Science and Technology) and received ICSU support.

Council noted the report and decided to explore with ICSU an enhanced role for IASC within ICSU.

2.4 SCAR ISSUES

In 2006, IASC and the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) signed a Letter of Agreement (LoA) to strengthen the relationship between the two organizations. To illustrate the cooperation between IASC and SCAR, the two organizations collaborated on the SCAR/IASC IPY Open Science Conference "Polar Research - Arctic and Antarctic Perspectives in the International Polar Year" in St. Petersburg (Russia), 8-11 July 2008. The joint SCAR/IASC Bipolar Action Group (BipAG), which was established in 2008, had its first meeting in conjunction with the conference.

Under this agenda item, Colin Summerhayes (Executive Director of SCAR) introduced the recommendations of BipAG, which is chaired by Heinz Miller.

Council noted the report. According to its terms of reference, the BipAG will continue to work for another year and hold its next meeting in conjunction with the Heads of Arctic and Antarctic IPY Secretariats (HAIS) Meeting in Oslo (Norway), October 2009. It was also noted that SCAR and IASC should propose a polar climate section in the next IPCC Assessment Report.

2.5 FORMAL AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

2.5.1 Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS)

In 2008, IASC and SCAR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with APECS. Jenny Baeseman, Executive Director of APECS, attended the meeting.

Council noted the report.

2.5.2 International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS)

In 2008, IASC and SCAR signed a Letter of Agreement with IACS. Georg Kaser, President of IACS, attended the Council Meeting and gave an IACS Presentation.

➤ **ANNEX 2.5.2: IACS Presentation.**

Council noted the report.

2.5.3 World Climate Research Program (WCRP)

In 2008, IASC and SCAR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with WCRP on the Co-Sponsorship of the Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) Program. Vladimir Ryabinin (WCRP) attended the meeting and expressed WCRP's interest in working with the IASC's new SSCs Atmosphere and Climate System and Cryosphere System. He also invited IASC and SCAR to work with WCRP's Group on Earth Observing Systems.

Council noted the report.

2.5.4 International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA)

In 2008, IASC and IASSA signed a Letter of Agreement. Joan Nymand Larsen, President of IASSA, attended the meeting.

Council noted the report.

2.5.5 International Permafrost Association (IPA)

The Executive Committee had mandated the IASC Secretariat to explore the possibility of developing a formal relationship with the International Permafrost Association (IPA).

The Executive Secretary has discussed the issue with the IPA and SCAR Secretariats and a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the three organizations was developed.

Hans-Wolfgang Hubberten, President of the IPA, introduced the MoU.

➤ **ANNEX 2.5.5: SCAR-IASC-IPA Memorandum of Understanding.**

Council approved the MoU, which was formally signed by the Presidents of IASC, SCAR and IPA.

2.5.6 Pacific Arctic Group (PAG)

The Secretariat had also been mandated to explore the possibility of developing a formal relationship with the Pacific Arctic Group (PAG).

A draft Letter of Agreement (LoA) was presented by John Calder, Chair of PAG.

➤ **ANNEX 2.5.6: IASC-PAG Letter of Agreement.**

Council approved of the LoA, which was formally signed by the President of IASC and the Chair of PAG.

2.6 MAJOR PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Under this agenda item short status reports of major planning activities were given. Some of these reports were for information only and did not require any decisions of the Council.

2.6.1 International Study of Arctic Change (ISAC)

The ISAC Executive Director, Maribeth Murray, gave a short presentation on the status of ISAC. This included the presentation of the ISAC Science Plan, which was distributed in hardcopy.

➤ **ANNEX 2.6.1a: ISAC Presentation.**

➤ **ANNEX 2.6.1b: ISAC Science Plan.**

Council noted the report.

2.6.2 IPY

The Executive Secretary, who attended the IPY Joint Committee Meeting in Geneva (23-24 February 2009) and the IPY Closing Ceremony, provided a status report. He informed Council that the World Meteorological Organization

(WMO) has published the statement of the IPY Joint Committee "The State of Polar Research" and that the IPY Joint Committee and the IPY International Program Office will continue to work until the IPY Science Conference in Oslo 2010.

Council is asked to note the report.

2.6.3 Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON)

Vice President David Hik introduced this agenda item. He explained that the SAON report and recommendations have been finalized and published by the Canadian and Swedish IPY Secretariat. PDF versions are available on the IASC website. IASC Council Members had been invited to comment. The SAON report, including a proposed SAON implementation strategy, will be presented at the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Tromsø, end of April 2009.

➤ **ANNEX 2.6.3: SAON Presentation.**

Council discussed IASC's future commitments to SAON. It was decided that IASC should be involved and work with the Arctic Council towards the implementation of SAON.

2.6.4 Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic (SWIPA)

SWIPA is a project proposed by the Norwegian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council as a cooperative project between the Arctic Council and IASC, CliC and the IPY International Program Office. The main goal is to provide the Arctic Council with up-dated and reliable knowledge by assessing and synthesizing present research. The project does not involve new research but is a synthesis of published information. The Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials at their meeting in Svolvær formally approved SWIPA.

The Executive Secretary informed Council members about the current status of the project which consists of three main components: (1) sea ice, (2) Greenland ice sheet and (3) terrestrial cryosphere which is further subdivided into snow, permafrost, mountain glaciers and river/lake ice.

IASC has been involved in the nomination of the writing teams and organized the review of the Greenland ice sheet chapter.

The Greenland ice sheet chapter is currently under review and will be completed by end of 2009 for the 15th UN Climate Change Conference (COP 15). The full report, including all three SWIPA chapters, will be presented to the Arctic Council in 2011.

Lars-Otto Reiersen, Executive Secretary of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP), noted that the current emphasis is on bringing more social sciences into SWIPA.

Council noted the report.

2.7 ARCTIC SCIENCE SUMMIT WEEK (ASSW)

2.7.1 ASSW 2010

The ASSW 2010 will be held in Greenland, 13-16 April 2010. Najâraq Paniula Greenland Homerule, presented the venue on behalf of the host country.

➤ ***ANNEX 2.7.1: ASSW 2010 Presentation.***

Council noted the report and thanked Najâraq Paniula for the presentation.

2.7.2 ASSW 2011

Vice President Byong-Kwon Park and Dongmin Jin (Korea Polar Research Institute) presented the offer to host the ASSW 2011 in Seoul (Korea).

➤ ***ANNEX 2.7.2: Korean offer to host the ASSW 2011.***

Council accepted and thanked Korea for the offer.

2.8 NEW IASC MEMBERS

2.8.1 Spain

The Spanish application for IASC membership had been forwarded to Council Members. The Spanish representative Manuel Catalan attended the Council Meeting. He explained that Spain started to work on the Antarctic but later also moved to the Arctic. A larger campaign in the Pacific Arctic region is planned for 2010.

Council approved the Spanish application and welcomed Spain as the 19th IASC member country.

2.8.2 Czech Republic

The Executive Secretary has been in contact with representatives of the Czech Republic. Scientists from the Czech Republic are currently working on two long-term ecological projects in the subarctic Abisko region in

collaboration with the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences and on Svalbard in collaboration with the Norwegian Polar Institute and the University Centre in Longyearbyen. The Czech Republic has expressed interest in becoming an IASC Member.

At its last meeting, the Executive Committee decided to invite the Czech Republic to the Council Meeting as an observer and to give a short presentation of their Arctic research program.

Josef Elster, University of South Bohemia and Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, presented the arctic activities of the Czech Republic.

➤ ***ANNEX 2.8.2: Presentation by the Czech Republic.***

Council noted the report and thanked Josef Elster.

3 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

none

4 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the IASC Council will be held in Nuuk (Greenland) during the ASSW 2010, 13-16 April 2010.

IASC Council – Executive Session

27 March, 12.00-13.00

E1 NEW IASC STRUCTURE

Under this agenda item, the discussion about the new IASC structure, including the proposed new Bylaws and Rules of Procedure (agenda item 2.1.1) and the Scientific Standing Committees (agenda item 2.1.2), was continued.

The President introduced a letter which he received from the Russian Council Member Vladimir Pavlenko on 26th March. The letter is addressed to all Council Members and explains the Russian position regarding the new IASC structure.

➤ ***ANNEX E1: Russian letter regarding the IASC restructuring.***

Council discussed the content of the letter and came to the following conclusions:

1. The formal approval of the new IASC structure requires the consensus of all IASC Member countries.
2. The President will initiate a dialogue with the Russian member organizations to discuss the concerns expressed in the letter.
3. Council Members present at the meeting were asked for “conditional approval” of the new IASC structure. All member countries present at the meeting conditionally approved the new IASC structure.
4. Member countries not represented at the meeting will be asked to conditionally approve by letter.

E2 IASC ECONOMY

The Executive Secretary presented the accounts for 2008 and the proposed budget for 2009 (IASC General Funds).

➤ ***ANNEX 21: Status of the IASC General Funds***

Council approved the accounts and the proposed budget.