



IASC Council Meeting

ASSW 2012, Montreal (Canada)

Palais des Congrès de Montréal

Room Number 513-AB

Friday, 20 April 2012 (09.00-18.00)

Draft Report

IASC Council Meeting

ASSW 2012, Montreal (Canada)

Open Session

Friday, 20 April 2012

- 09.00-10.30** Morning Session I (Open Session)
- 10.30-11.00** Coffee Break
- 11.00-12.30** Morning Session II (Open Session)
- 12.30-14.00** Lunch (provided)
- 14.00-16.00** Afternoon Session I (Open Session)

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1 OPENING AND REPORTING

1.1 WELCOME AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The President opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Council Members introduced themselves in a tour de table.

All IASC member countries, except Russia, Denmark/Greenland and Switzerland, were represented at the meeting.

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.

1.4 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President briefly introduced the most important issues to be discussed at the meeting.

1.5 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Executive Secretary welcomed the participants and explained that a report on the Secretariat's activities would be provided under agenda item 2.4.

2 IASC GROUPS

2.1 WORKING GROUPS

Under this agenda item, the Chairs of the five Working Groups (WGs) presented brief status reports of the WG activities in 2011 and an outlook on their future plans.

Council noted the reports and agreed that WGs should review where there are disciplinary gaps in their scientific expertise and notify Council of those areas where they would benefit from increased participation. Future nominations from member countries to the Working Groups could potentially help to fill those missing fields of expertise.

2.2 NETWORKS

Council noted that IASC currently endorses the below IASC Networks.

- Arctic Coastal Dynamics (ACD)
www.arcticportal.org/acd
- Arctic Climate System Network (ACSNet)
<http://iasc.info/index.php/home/networks/arctic-climate-system-network-acenet>
- Arctic Palaeoclimate and its Extremes (APEX)
www.apex.geo.su.se
- Polar Archaeology Network (PAN)
www.polararchaeologynetwork.blogg.no
- Network on Arctic Glaciology (NAG)
www.iasc-nag.org
- Circum-Arctic Lithosphere Evolution (CALE)
www.cale.geo.su.se

Council discussed the proposal to formally adopt Terms of Reference for IASC Networks and approved the draft document presented by the Executive Secretary with one addition: a mechanism to review the Network activities every three years should be added.

Action: IASC Secretariat

Council agreed that IASC should continue to encourage and support cross-cutting activities (see agenda item E1 of closed session: IASC Economy).

Action: IASC Secretariat

2.3 ACTION GROUPS

2.3.1 2nd SCAR/IASC Bipolar Action Group (BipAG II)

The 2nd SCAR/IASC Bipolar Action Group on Science Cooperation (BipAG II) had been established by Council last year, with the terms of reference to advise the SCAR and IASC Executive Committees on the development of instruments such as workshops, programs and networks to address bipolar issues.

Under this agenda item, the Executive Secretary introduced the report of the first meeting of the BipAG II and reported on the implementation of BipAG's recommendations.

Council noted the report.

It was suggested that a historian/archaeologist be added to the BipAG II. The Executive Committee will need to consider whether or not to extend BipAG for a third term. These discussions will also include SCAR as a joint decision will be required.

2.3.2 Proposal for an IASC Action Group on Geosciences (AGG)

The Executive Secretary reported that one issue, which came up in the discussions of the WGs and also in the recommendations of the BipAG II, was the lack of geological research in IASC WG activities. Consequently, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Executive Committee and WG Chairs, had prepared a proposal for an Action Group on Geosciences to provide strategic advice to Council.

Council approved the proposal to form an IASC Action Group on Geosciences (AGG) and mandated the Executive Committee to establish the Action Group.

Council members may offer names to the Executive Secretary. The AGG will be established as soon as feasible.

Action: IASC Executive Committee

2.3.3 Proposal for an IASC Data Policy Group

Under this agenda item, the President introduced a proposal for IASC to initiate the development of an IASC data policy. An early draft of this policy, based on common elements of various existing data policies, in particular the IPY and SCAR data policies, was presented.

Council approved the proposal to establish an IASC Data Policy Group.

Action: IASC Executive Committee

2.4 SECRETARIAT

The Executive Secretary provided a status report on the main activities of the IASC Secretariat. This report included the secretarial support for the IASC WGs and an overview of outreach and communication activities, e.g. the IASC Bulletin 2012, which was distributed at the meeting.

Council noted that the current German commitment to host and finance the IASC Secretariat in Potsdam comes to an end in December 2013 and that the funding for Sara Bowden, provided by the National Science Foundation, is only secured until early 2013, but phasing out over the next year.

Council discussed the future of the IASC Secretariat, in particular in terms of the secretarial support for the IASC Working Groups. It was agreed that the model of a dispersed Secretariat with an administrative headquarters and smaller sub-Secretariats in various IASC member countries should be explored.

Council noted the German offer to continue hosting the headquarters of the Secretariat in Potsdam for another five years (2014-2018). It was, however, noted that the level of support would depend on the financial contribution from the German Science Foundation (DFG) which is not confirmed yet.

Council noted that Korea offered support for a full-time person, based at the Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI), to provide secretariat support for the IASC Working Groups.

Council noted that Canada (Canadian Polar Commission), the Netherlands (Arctic Centre) and Sweden (Swedish Polar Research Secretariat) expressed interest in providing additional support for the IASC Secretariat.

It was agreed that the Executive Committee would work with the member countries that offered support towards sustaining the secretarial service for IASC and its Working Groups.

It was agreed that an IASC fellowship program is a good concept and one that should be discussed further by Council, but not to provide secretariat support, only as a training and fellowship program for ECS.

Action: IASC Executive Committee

3 IASC PARTNERSHIPS

Under this agenda item, updates on joint activities with IASC's partner organizations were presented. Most of the reports were for information only and did not require Council decision.

3.1 ARCTIC COUNCIL

Council noted that IASC is an observer organization of the Arctic Council and, during the last years, attended all Arctic Council meetings. IASC presentations were given by the Executive Secretary at several meetings, including the last meeting of the Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs), held in Stockholm, March 2012.

3.1.1 Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON)

At its last meeting, Council had discussed and approved IASC's role and involvement in the SAON process as described in the report of the SAON Steering Group. It had been noted that SAON is a partnership between IASC and the Arctic Council.

At the subsequent Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council in Nuuk (Greenland), April 2011, Ministers "Recognized the importance of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) process as a major legacy of the International Polar Year for enhancing scientific observations and data-sharing and accepted the recommendations of the Senior Arctic Officials as contained in the SAO report for the ongoing management of SAON". Consequently, a SAON Board was established, with the Arctic Council providing the Chair and IASC providing the Vice-Chair. IASC and the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) are jointly providing secretariat support.

Under this agenda item, the President, who serves as the Vice-Chair of the SAON Board, provided a status report, including a summary of the first SAON Board meeting, held in Tromsø earlier this year. IASC member countries were invited to attend this meeting.

Council noted the report, in particular that the second meeting of the SAON Board will be held in Potsdam on 1-2 October 2012, hosted by the IASC Secretariat.

3.1.2 Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACCA)

The President introduced the Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACCA) initiative, including IASC's involvement to date.

The project was formally launched by the Arctic Council after the Ministerial Meeting in April 2011. Its overarching goal is to enable more informed, timely and responsive policy and decision-making related to a changing Arctic through a coordinated, regionalized and integrated assessment process. IASC has been involved in the planning from the very beginning and is currently represented by the President and the Executive Secretary.

Council noted the report and decided that IASC Working Groups should be asked to position themselves in terms of possible contributions to AACCA.

Action: IASC Secretariat

3.1.3 Arctic Resilience Report (ARR)

At the Ministerial Meeting in Nuuk, the Arctic Council also decided that a scoping exercise should be arranged during the fall of 2011 to review the need of an integrated assessment of multiple drivers of Arctic change, including an Arctic Resilience Report (ARR). The ARR scoping phase, including a workshop in Stockholm in October 2011, has been led by Stockholm Resilience Centre and Stockholm Environment Institute, in cooperation with Resilience Alliance (RA). The President, who participated in the scoping workshop on behalf of IASC, introduced the ARR.

Council noted the report.

3.2 INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE (ICSU)

As an International Scientific Associate of the International Council for Science (ICSU), IASC promotes Arctic and – in cooperation with SCAR - Bipolar science in ICSU and advises, supports and cooperates on activities that are of importance to the whole of the polar science community. A summary of IASC's activities in the context of ICSU's 30th General Assembly in Rome (Italy) last year, was provided under agenda item 3.3.

3.3 SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH (SCAR)

Under this agenda item, the Executive Secretary presented an update on joint SCAR/IASC activities, including:

- Polar presentation at the ICSU General Assembly in Rome (Italy), September 2011, by the SCAR, IASC and APECS Executive Directors
- Symposium “Polar Research – Global Implications” held in Siena (Italy), September 2011
- Joint SCAR/IASC Poster
- First joint SCAR/IASC Newsletter
- IPY Outreach Report produced by APECS, SCAR and IASC
- Joint funding proposals for a workshop on Ice Sheet and Mass Balance (ISMASS), submitted to ICSU
- Bipolar science sessions at major international conferences

Council noted the report.

3.4 PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Under this agenda item, the Executive Secretary presented an overview of the international organizations and programs with which IASC is cooperating. The overview included organizations with which IASC has a formal agreement:

- Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS)
- International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS)
- International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA)
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
- International Network for Circumpolar Health Research (INCHR)
- International Permafrost Association (IPA)
- Pacific Arctic Group (PAG)
- Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)
- University of the Arctic (UArctic)
- World Climate Research Program (WCRP)

and organizations that are informal partners:

- European Polar Board (EPB)
- Forum of Arctic Research Operators (FARO)
- Nordic Council and Nordic Council of Ministers
- Northern Forum (NF)
- Northern Research Forum (NRF)
- Ny-Ålesund Science Managers Committee (NySCAC)
- North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)
- Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)

Council noted the report and agreed that options for a closer cooperation with the European Polar Board (EPB) should be explored. Council members suggested adding ScanNet, INTERACT and IODP to the list of partner organizations.

Action: IASC Secretariat

3.5 NEW POTENTIAL LONG-TERM POLAR COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY (STEMMING FROM THE INITIAL PROPOSAL TO ORGANIZE AN INTERNATIONAL POLAR DECADE)

The President, who co-chaired the first workshop on the International Polar Decade Initiative, provided a status report on the latest development.

A Steering Group to develop a Concept Note for a possible long-term polar initiative has been established. In addition to the IASC President, who is co-chairing the Steering Group, the IASC Executive Secretary is a member of the group.

The President reported that the Concept Note would be presented at the IPY 2012 Montreal Conference in the Momentum Series on the Future of Polar Science for wider community input and consideration.

Council noted that the initiative should not only include research, but also service, education and outreach, policy advice, etc. Other major ongoing initiatives, such as AACA (agenda item 3.1.2) and ICARP III (agenda item 4.3) should be considered in the planning process.

Action: Hik and Rachold

4 MAJOR UPCOMING EVENTS

4.1 ARCTIC SCIENCE SUMMIT WEEK 2013

Under this agenda item, the Polish Council Member, Jacek Jania, who is chairing the Steering Group of the ASSW 2013 Science Symposium, provided a brief status report on the planning of the ASSW 2013, which will be held in Krakow, 13-19 April 2012. The first Circular for the ASSW 2013, including the list of science session of the symposium, was distributed at the meeting.

Council noted the report.

4.2 ARCTIC SCIENCE SUMMIT WEEK 2014

The Finnish Council Member, Kari Laine, presented an invitation to hold the ASSW 2014, in Helsinki (Finland).

Council thanked Finland for the offer and agreed that the ASSW 2014, possibly including an Arctic Observing Summit, would be held in Finland.

Action: Laine and IASC Secretariat

4.3 IASC AFTER 25 YEARS - ARCTIC SCIENCE SUMMIT WEEK 2015, INCORPORATING THE 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ARCTIC RESEARCH PLANNING (ICARP III)

The President reported that at its last meeting, Council had discussed a proposal for IASC to initiate a 3rd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III) in conjunction with IASC's 25th Anniversary Celebration in 2015. The Executive Committee had been mandated to further develop the proposal and a concept paper was presented at the meeting.

The Executive Secretary also briefly introduced the plan for an IASC history publication, developed with Odd Rogne.

Council approved the concept paper, agreed to form a small Steering Group to plan ICARP III, and suggested that ICARP III should involve the IASC Working Groups and focus on cross-cutting initiatives, rather than producing another assessment or set of science plans.

Action: IASC Executive Committee

The Japanese Council Member, Tetsuo Ohata, introduced an offer to host the ASSW 2015 in Japan.

Council thanked Japan for the offer to host the event and agreed that the IASC 25th Anniversary Celebration, including the ASSW 2015 and ICARP III would be held in Japan.

Action: Ohata and IASC Secretariat

5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Council noted Karin Lochte's announcement that the "ECRA pilot workshop: Arctic Climate Stability and Change – a research theme of European dimension" would be held in Brussels on 14-15 May 2012.



IASC Council Meeting

ASSW 2012, Montreal (Canada)

Executive Session

Friday, 20 April 2012

16.30-18.00 Afternoon Session II (Closed Session)

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Annex

ANNEX E1:	IASC General Funds – accounts 2011, budget 2012
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E1 IASC ECONOMY

Council approved the IASC 2011 accounts and 2012 budget (General Funds) and asked the Secretariat to add the financial support for the IASC Secretariat provided by the Alfred Wegener Institute, the German Science Foundation and the US National Science Foundation.

- ***The status of the IASC General Funds is given in ANNEX E1.***

E2 ELECTIONS

Council elected the Chinese Council Member Huigeng Yang as new IASC Vice-President and member of the IASC Executive Committee.

Council requested that guidelines for elections be updated and approved prior to the next election.

Action: IASC Secretariat

E3 NEW IASC MEMBER COUNTRIES

Council approved the membership applications received from India and the Czech Republic and welcomed the two new IASC member countries.

Action: IASC Secretariat

E4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Council noted that Russia is a full member of IASC though the member organization (Russian Academy of Sciences) has not formally appointed members of the IASC Working Groups yet.