

MEETING NOTES

**SCAR/IASC Meeting, Swedish Research Council, Stockholm, Sweden
0900-1500, June 6 2007**

Present: K. Kristjansson (President IASC); V. Rachold (Executive Secretary IASC); C. Rapley (President SCAR); C. Summerhayes (Executive Director SCAR)

Agenda

1. Ongoing and planned joint SCAR/IASC activities
 - 1.1 update SCAR/IASC Open Science Conference
 - 1.2 update SCAR/IASC workshop “Recent High Latitude Climate Change”
 - 1.3 “Manhattan Project” on ice sheet mass balance and sea level
 - 1.4 joint SCAR/IASC activities on paleoclimate
 - 1.5 other ideas
2. SCAR/IASC links in the new IASC structure
3. SCAR/IASC role in the IPY legacy
4. Proposed International Union for Polar Sciences
5. Any other business

1. Ongoing and planned joint SCAR/IASC activities

1.1 update SCAR/IASC Open Science Conference

The Scientific Organizing Committee (SOC) has done a great job of preparing a science programme for the Open Science Conference. The IASC and SCAR Executive Committees will review the programme in late June/ early July. After that a formal letter of thanks will be drawn up by the 2 secretariats. **Action Volker and Colin.**

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) will report on progress during the SCAR EXCOM in Washington DC (July 9-11), which will be attended by IASC (V. Rachold). Plans will be made at that meeting for a First Circular, to be published in October, and a Second Circular, with details of the programme, in January. The LOC will be responsible for developing the web site for the meeting, and collecting the abstracts, which will be grouped into the themes identified by the SOC and reviewed by SOC members and session convenors. Deadline for receipt of abstracts will be around end March 2008. Abstracts will be sorted into oral and poster sessions.

Adequate (3-D) space must be made available for posters, so as to enable people to circulate and to gather in small groups to discuss individual posters. Consideration should be given for making beer available with posters to ensure adequate attendance. A sponsor should be sought for the beer. **Action: LOC, following DC meeting.**

V. Rachold and C. Summerhayes should visit Russia in mid to late September to check on the facilities and arrangements on the ground. **Action Volker and Colin.**

Ed Sarukhanian (WMO and IPY Joint Committee) should be invited to join the visit, since he has been working with the LOC on the arrangements, and has good connections to Rosshydromet. **Action: Colin**

A book of abstracts will be needed, as well as a CD.

The publication policy for the conference should be to encourage publication of sets of papers in selected journals dealing with each of the conference themes. Discussions should be held with David Walton (Editor Antarctic Science) regarding development of special issues of Antarctic Science based on the conference papers and themes. Will AS publish bipolar sets of papers? IPY legacy papers?. **Action: Colin**

In addition, theme leaders should be encouraged to set up special issues of their 'usual' journals to publish conference papers from each theme. **Action: Colin and Volker after July DC meeting.**

1.2 update SCAR/IASC workshop "Recent High Latitude Climate Change"

The first of these meetings was organised by SCAR and others and took place in 2005 in Fairbanks. IASC has been invited to join and co-sponsor the follow-up workshop (10-15 people), which takes place in Seattle in October 2006. IASC recommends involving both ICARP and ISAC (International Study of Arctic Change), which evolved out of the US SEARCH programme. An ISAC Director is about to be appointed. ISAC was launched by IASC and AOSB. It will report to those two organisations.

The ICARP science plans are now on the web. Hard copies will be available shortly.

1.3 "Manhattan Project" on ice sheet mass balance and sea level

There is a need for both SCAR and IASC to work together develop syntheses on scientific issues of profound societal relevance, as the basis for providing sound scientific advice to the policy-making community (Arctic Council and Antarctic Treaty Parties). Tackling these large issues in the most appropriate way calls for an integrated, bipolar, strategic approach.

Given that IASC's funding streams are weak it has to (and will have to) work in partnership with others.

Providing advice in the Arctic context can prove difficult because of the multiplicity of Arctic scientific organisations having different kinds of membership (e.g. institutional scientific versus academic scientific). Nevertheless advice is being requested or will be needed, e.g. by the Arctic Council, which has recently adopted a new programme on Climate and Cryosphere that will contain 3 key elements (i) the ice sheet (led by Denmark); (ii) sea ice (led by Norway), and (iii) snow and permafrost (involving other leaders). AMAP will lead the process of synthesis and review.

Like SCAR, IASC capitalises on the mechanisms (instruments – including workshops, conferences and so on) that it can bring to bear on such issues.

Both SCAR and IASC recognise the need to focus on key issues. Among the most important is the question of understanding, modelling and forecasting the behaviour of ice sheets and their effect on sealevel.

Recommendation: SCAR and IASC should aim to organise a multi-partner workshop on ice sheets mass balance and sealevel, possibly to take place over a 2 day period in St Petersburg immediately prior to the Open Science Conference of July 8-11 2008. The meeting should involve IASC's Working Group on Glaciology, SCAR's Expert group on Ice Sheet Mass Balance and Sealevel (ISMAS), WCRP's Climate and Cryosphere programme (CliC); along with major modelling centres like NCAR, and groups like GLOSS that are working with sealevel, and with IPY groups. The goal should be a scientific statement of the problem and the immediate recommendations for research, which can be published in a major journal, e.g. Annals of Glaciology. Meeting should also consider possible use of 'new' technologies like unmanned drone aircraft for collecting ice thickness data. **Action: Colin/Volker to draft proposal for EXCOMs to consider, and begin discussions with CliC.**

The IASC Working Group on Glaciology will meet as usual in January, probably in Austria.

1.4 joint SCAR/IASC activities on paleoclimate

IASC is in discussion with SCAR's ACE programme, but has not traditionally been involved in such studies. Consider developing a SCAR/IADSC paleoclimate workshop to develop a bipolar approach. Possible co-chairs for such a workshop could be Martin Siegert and Martin Jakobsson (or Martin Melles) **Action Volker to discuss with the IASC EXCOM.**

Re-explore the possibility of a link between SCAR's ACE programme and PAGES (IGBP). **Action Colin with Martin Siegert.**

1.5 other ideas

Carbon release from permafrost and soils.

ESF as a source of small grants (\$15,000 or so) in support of meetings.

2. SCAR/IASC links in the new IASC structure

IASC is proposing to form a Task Force of 5-7 people to address bipolar issues. This could be a joint SCAR/IASC TF. The implication for SCAR is a budget to pay for attendance at TF meetings in 2008 and beyond. In the first instance, the group would consider the development of 'instruments' like workshops, programmes, and networks. IPY-IPO should be involved.

SCAR and IASC have a joint interest in capacity building education and training. SCAR provides \$30,000 for its fellowship programme; IASC provides €30,000 to get early career scientists to meetings and workshops.

IASC and SCAR have been invited to attend a meeting of the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS), and it was agreed that both should be involved when the timing for the meeting is finalised.

The SCAR Fellowship programme should not have 35 as an age limit. SCAR will use the IASC definition for "Early Career Scientists", which is < 5 years after PhD. **Action Colin.**

3. SCAR/IASC role in the IPY legacy

IPY ends in 2009, and the IPO ends in 2010. The last IPY conference (on policy) takes place in 2012. There is a need now to develop a mechanism to nurture the IPY legacy beyond those dates, including:-

New networks

New facilities

Acquisition of new knowledge (e.g. via syntheses), and

New systems (SAON, SOOS, etc).

This task could be taken on by an expansion of the proposed Joint IASC/SCAR Bipolar Task Force (see 2, above) into a Joint Standing Committee, perhaps with additional support from ICSU and WMO.

In considering development of this activity the Secretariats should consult the earlier proposals by Karen Kraft Sloan. **Action: Volker to provide.**

The 2 Secretariats should develop a proposal paper for consideration by the 2 EXCOMs, and building on the Task Force proposition from section 2. Once approved, the paper should be made available to the October meeting of the IPY JC as a mechanism for dealing with the IPY legacy. **Action Volker and Colin.**

The proposal should draw attention to what SCAR and IASC are already contributing to the legacy – e.g.:-

- (i) SCAR's major science programmes have been adopted as IPY programmes, but will continue after IPY.
- (ii) We are already organising IPY science conferences.
- (iii) We are already handling interfaces between IPY and Arctic Council and ATCM (i.e. we are already vehicles for translating IPY science into policy advice)

IPY's web site can be left to 'fossilize'. What about IPY-IPO Secretariat – will some of it need to continue to enable SCAR and IASC to manage an increased workload?

Possible chairs for the initial Task Force include Anders Karlkvist or Robin Bell.

4. Proposed International Union for Polar Sciences

The meeting felt that a first step towards developing a strategic and integrated view of polar science would be to develop the joint task force proposed in section 2, and the second step would be to develop that into the standing committee proposed in section 3.

Given the impetus provided to polar science by the IPY, and the need to develop a structure to manage the IPY legacy, the time would appear right to suggest to ICSU that IASC should be an Interdisciplinary Body within the ICSU structure, like SCAR, rather than remaining outside the structure as an Affiliated Body. It might be timely to address this point with ICSU when IASC has completed its restructuring.

One can imagine that faced with this prospect ICSU might respond by suggesting that SCAR and IASC combine forces under a single Interdisciplinary Body for Polar Science. Nevertheless, given the distinctive nature (a) of the geographical and scientific remits of IASC (e.g. including habitable land and people) and SCAR, and (b) of their governing bodies (e.g. no Southern Hemisphere Members in IASC), there were good reasons for keeping the two bodies separate but linked through the joint committee described above.

5. Any other business

None