



# IASC PROGRESS FALL 2010

## Arctic Science Exchange and Cooperation in Seoul

The scientific program for the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) taking place in Seoul in March 2011 is complete and it promises to be an exciting week. With a combination of business meetings and the Science Symposium *The Arctic: New Frontier for Global Science*, the summit will provide plenty of opportunities for international collaboration and will combine Arctic science, policy and management issues.



Photo courtesy of the Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI)

The ASSW is an IASC initiative and provides a forum for all Arctic science organizations to plan meetings within one week at a common location, thereby stimulating communication and collaboration. Over the past ten years, the summit has provided a venue for business meetings and a platform for the exchange of knowledge, cross fertilization and cooperation.

The 2011 ASSW Science Symposium is the second such symposium. The first was held in Bergen, Norway in 2009 and attracted over 300 scientists, policymakers and other interested parties.

For the 2011 symposium, *The Arctic: New Frontier for Global Science*, the Korean organizing committee is making every effort to provide excellent facilities for a

successful event with great opportunities to initiate and strengthen new and existing partnerships among the participants.

The ASSW 2011 is supported by Korean governmental departments, the Korea Research Council of Fundamental Science & Technology

(KRCF), Presidential Committee on Green Growth (PCGG) and the Seoul Tourism Organization.

More information and the second circular can be found on the website: [www.assw2011.org](http://www.assw2011.org)

### Abstract submission opens on 15 October, 2010 for the following ASSW sessions:

#### Disciplinary Sessions

- Arctic Atmosphere, Climate Processes and Teleconnections
- Arctic Change and Implications for Terrestrial Ecosystem Services
- Arctic Marine Climate Change: Causes and Impacts on the Marine System
- State of Glaciers and Permafrost and Associated Feedbacks to the Climate System
- Societal Changes in the Arctic and North-South Relations

#### Interdisciplinary Sessions

- Ecosystem Responses to Climate Change: Past, Present and Future
- State and Fate of Sea Ice and Legal and Policy Consequences on the Global Community
- Observing, Modeling and Prediction of Arctic Change

# From Knowledge to Action in Montreal 2012



With a successful IPY Science Conference last June in Oslo just behind us, the preparations for the next one are moving full speed ahead. The International Polar Year 2012 Conference in Montréal, Canada will mark both a significant ending to the IPY and an exciting beginning for Arctic research.

Entitled *From Knowledge to Action* the conference aims to bring together internationally renowned scientists, key policy makers and stakeholders, including northern residents. Participants will examine important issues identified by IPY researchers, and will develop collaborative strategies for addressing them.

The Montreal Conference Chair, Dr. Peter

Harrison, is happy to take on the challenge that lies ahead. „*Taking our knowledge to the next level - charting the new polar policy course - IPY 2012 will help shape stewardship, sustainable development and environmental protection goals for these strategic and highly valued regions. It promises to be a world-altering experience.*“

*From Knowledge to Action* builds on the groundwork laid at the 2008 St Petersburg Conference and the 2010 Oslo Science Conference, which examined the global impact and implications of International Polar Year activities: the largest program of multidisciplinary research ever focused on the Arctic and Antarctic regions.

The IPY Conference in Montreal takes place from 22 -27 April, 2012. For more information on the program, please visit the official website at [www.ipy2012montreal.ca](http://www.ipy2012montreal.ca).

## IASC Workshops

Two workshops in the field of the human and social sciences were co-sponsored by IASC this last summer. The *Future of Arctic Humanities and Social Science Research workshop*, organized by Prof Peter Schweitzer, explored thematic and organizational frameworks, which will guarantee renewed innovative and international research activities around social and cultural systems in the Arctic. The workshop attendees reviewed thematic priorities, as well as present and future organizational and funding mechanisms necessary to translate research ideas into research activities.

The second IASC supported workshop concerned the *Arctic Social Indicators (ASI) II workshop* and was organized by Dr Joan Nymand Larsen. The original ASI project was formulated to fill a critical gap in knowledge identified by the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) on the construction of social indicators to help facilitate monitoring of changes in human development. The first phase of ASI identified a set of Arctic-specific indicators to monitor Arctic human development and quality of life in the Arctic. The next step, the ASI-II Implementation project, aims to implement the identified indicators, through testing, validating and refining the indicators across the Arctic. After completion of this process, measurements and analyses of select cases will follow, with the ultimate goal of moving towards adoption of the indicators by Arctic governments in order to achieve long-term monitoring of human development.

## State of the Arctic Coast 2010 Scientific Review and Outlook

The draft of the State of the Arctic Coast 2010 report is available for public review. The goal of the report is to draw on initial findings regarding climate change and human dimensions for the Arctic as a whole and to develop a comprehensive picture of the status as well as current and anticipated changes in the most sensitive Arctic coastal areas.



Photo courtesy of Torsten Sachs

The Arctic coastal interface is a sensitive and important zone of interaction between land and sea, a region that provides essential ecosystem services and supports indigenous human lifestyles; a zone of expanding infrastructure investment and growing security concerns; and an area in which climate warming is expected to trigger landscape instability, rapid responses to change, and increased hazard exposure.

The assessment takes a social-ecological approach that explores the implications of change for the interaction of humans with

nature. The report is aimed to be a first step towards a continuously updated coastal assessment and to identify key issues seeking future scientific concern in an international Earth system research agenda.

Initiated by the Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone (LOICZ) Project, the International Permafrost Association (IPA) and IASC, the assessment is an international and cross-disciplinary science initiative. The draft is the outcome of the collaborative effort of an international writing team. To download the chapters visit [www.arcticcoasts.org](http://www.arcticcoasts.org)

# IASC Kick-Off Workshop

## Working Groups meet in Potsdam

At its last meeting during the ASSW 2010 in Nuuk and Copenhagen, IASC Council discussed and approved the formation of the following five IASC Working Groups (WGs): Terrestrial, Atmosphere, Cryosphere, Human & Social, and Marine/Arctic Ocean Sciences Board (AOSB).

Council also agreed that the first step in the establishment of the WGs would be to con-

vene an IASC Workshop, which will be held in Potsdam (Germany) on 12-14 January 2011. The purpose of this IASC WGs Workshop is to bring together, for the first time, all the members of the five IASC WGs. At the workshop each WG will nominate members to their Steering Group, summarize the state of research in their field, discuss possible gaps in research and identify priority areas of

attention. A major emphasis will be to identify crosscutting issues, which more than one WG may wish to address.

All IASC member countries have been invited to nominate up to two representatives per Working Group. Official IASC partners have also been invited to participate in the January workshop. Once in place, the WGs will form the core elements of IASC. They will help the organization in the implementation of its science mission to encourage and facilitates cooperation in all aspects of Arctic research, in all countries engaged in Arctic research and in all areas of the Arctic region.

## Polar component 2014 IPCC report

A Polar Regions Chapter will be included in the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that will be presented in 2014. Dr Joan Nymand Larsen and Professor Oleg Anisimov, have been selected to lead the Polar regions chapter (28) of Working Group II: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. For more information on the Report and different chapters, please visit: [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch).

## Parliamentarian Statement on Arctic Issues

The Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (CPAR) has released a statement addressing current issues in the Arctic region. One of the main themes is cooperation in education and research and the follow-up of the International Polar Year. Amongst other things, the CPAR asks the governments in the Arctic region, the Arctic Council and the institutions of the European Union to enhance Arctic research and education programs for circumpolar projects with the possibility for non-Arctic countries to participate and implement agreements that secure access to research data and information about the Arctic. They also stimulate

the European Commission's initiative to set up an EU Arctic Information Centre. Such an information centre would build on existing networks with a hub at the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland, Finland, and cooperating with relevant research institutions. The CPAR is a parliamentary body comprising delegations appointed by the national parliaments of the Arctic states and the European Parliament. The conference also includes Permanent Participants representing Indigenous peoples, as well as observers.

For more information and the full statement, please visit the website at: [www.arcticparl.org](http://www.arcticparl.org)

# PIC: Stewardship of Polar Data and Information

The Polar Information Commons (PIC) initiative was officially launched last June in Oslo by CODATA, an interdisciplinary scientific committee of the International Council for Science (ICSU). With this launch a framework was established for the long-term stewardship of polar data and information.

IASC is one of several sponsors of the PIC initiative that creates a fast and easy-to-use open data resource accessible through normal search and browse tools. All PIC data carry a digital badge that denotes cooperation and expectations among providers and users based on open access norms and

best practices.

The PIC mirrors the "real" commons of the Antarctic (defined in the Antarctic Treaty) and responds to the common interests of humanity in the Arctic by serving as an open repository for scientific data and information about the polar regions and as a community-based infrastructure that fosters innovation and stimulates participation. The PIC goal is to rapidly enhance international and interdisciplinary research, education, planning, and management for the polar regions.

The PIC grew out of the International Polar Year (IPY), and represents an important long-term data access legacy of the IPY. The PIC also contributes to the development of the new ICSU World Data System (WDS, <http://wds.geolinks.org/>) as well as engages with national and world data centers across disciplines.

For more information and to submit and retrieve data, please visit the website at: [www.polarcommons.org](http://www.polarcommons.org)



At the PIC launch event, Mark Parsons from the National Snow and Ice Data Center (top right) provided HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco (top left) with a short overview of the initiative. Photo courtesy of PIC.

# SCAR and IASC Discuss Bipolar Initiatives and the IPY Legacy

During the IPY Conference in Oslo, Norway, the Executive Committees of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and IASC met to discuss the way forward for future bipolar cooperation and the legacy of the IPY. SCAR and IASC already have fruitful cooperation on a number of bipolar projects. It was agreed that SCAR and IASC should play a leading role in moving forward IPY legacy issues. It was recognized that this subject might be best covered within the two Executive Committees.

Deliang Chen, Executive Director of ICSU, indicated that ICSU would be willing to assist in promoting the importance of polar programs and both SCAR and IASC agreed that a close partnership with ICSU on larger initiatives would be of great value. The proposed two-year prolongation of a science orientated SCAR/IASC Bipolar Action Group was formally approved at the subsequent SCAR XXXI Delegates Meeting in August.



Group photo of the first joint SCAR/IASC Executive Committee Meeting, including ICSU Executive Director Deliang Chen (right).

## New IASC Council Representatives

**Professor Karin Lochte** is the new German representative in the IASC Council and will be replacing Professor Dieter Fütterer. Professor Lochte is the director of the Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI) for Polar and Marine Research. The AWI coordinates polar research in Germany and provides important infrastructure for national and international Arctic and Antarctic research.

**Professor Huigen Yang** is the new Chinese representative in the IASC Council and will be replacing Professor Liqi Chen. Professor Yang is the director of the Polar Research Institute of China (PRIC) responsible for carrying out scientific research in the Polar Regions, operating Chinese research stations and vessels, and promoting cooperation with international Polar research organizations.

**Dr Cynan Ellis-Evans** will be replacing Professor Julian Dowdeswell as the UK representative in the IASC Council as of January 2011. Dr Ellis-Evans is head of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) Arctic Office.

**Dr Martin Lüthi** will be replacing Professor Hubertus Fischer as the Swiss representative in the IASC Council as of January 2011. Dr Lüthi works with the Glaciology Group at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. His research focuses on glacier dynamics and ice streams.

Country	Organization	Representative	
	Canadian Polar Commission	David Hik, President	<p><b>The IASC Secretariat</b></p> <p><b>Address</b></p> <p>Telegrafenberg A43 14473 Potsdam GERMANY</p> <p><b>Telephone</b></p> <p>+49-331-2882214</p> <p><b>E-mail</b></p> <p>iasc@iasc.info</p> <p><b>Website</b></p> <p>www.iasc.info</p> <p><b>Executive Secretary</b></p> <p>Volker Rachold +49 331 288 2212 Volker.Rachold@iasc.info</p> <p><b>Executive Officer</b></p> <p>Mare Pit +49 331 288 2213 Mare.Pit@iasc.info</p> <p><b>Secretary Arctic Ocean Sciences Board</b></p> <p>Sara Bowden +1 703 272 7300 sara.bowden@iasc.info</p> <p><b>Administrative Assistant</b></p> <p>Heike Midleja +49 331 288 2214 Heike.Midleja@iasc.info</p>
	Chinese Arctic and Antarctic Administration	Huigen Yang	
	The Commission for Scientific Research in Greenland	Naja Mikkelsen, Vice-President	
	Delegation of the Finnish Academies of Science and Letters	Kari Laine	
	Institute Polaire Français	Gérard Jugie	
	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	Karin Lochte	
	RANNIS, The Icelandic Centre for Research	Kristján Kristjánsson	
	National Research Council of Italy	Carlo-Alberto Ricci	
	Science Council of Japan, National Institute of Polar Research	Hiroshi Kanda	
	The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research	Louwrens Hacquebord	
	The Research Council of Norway	Susan Barr, Vice-President	
	Polish Academy of Sciences, Committee on Polar Research	Jacek Jania	
	The Russian Academy of Sciences	Vladimir I Pavlenko	
	Korea Polar Research Institute	Byong-Kwon Park, Vice-President	
	Comite Polar Espanol	Manuel Catalan	
	The Swedish Research Council	Magnus Friberg	
	Swiss Committee on Polar Research	Hubertus Fischer / Martin Lüthi	
	Natural Environment Research Council	Julian Dowdeswell / Cynan Ellis-Evans	
	Polar Research Board	Jackie Grebmeier, Vice-President	

