Joint Meeting of the SCAR and IASC Executive Committees
17 April 2013, 16.00-18.00
Krakow, Poland

Minutes

Participants
Jeronimo Lopez Martinez (SCAR President)
Karin Lochte (SCAR Vice President)
Mike Sparrow (SCAR Executive Director)
David Hik (IASC President)
Susan Barr (IASC Vice President)
Jackie Grebmeier (IASC Vice President)
Volker Rachold (IASC Executive Secretary)
Yoo Kyung Lee (IASC Executive Officer)
Cynan Ellis-Evans (Chair of the Bipolar Action Group)

(1) Partnership Agreements
Participants noted that SCAR and IASC are maintaining trilateral partnership agreements with
- the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS)
- the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS)
- the International Permafrost Association (IPA) and
- WCRP’s Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) project

The agreements with APECS, IACS and CliC were all renewed during the IASC Council meeting in Krakow. It was noted that the usefulness of these agreements should be monitored and that the SCAR and IASC Secretariats should maintain a list of the major achievements and joint activities for each of the partnerships. This list would be used to assess the benefit of the agreements prior to any future renewal.

Action: IASC and SCAR Secretariats to maintain a list of major outcomes of partnerships (Sparrow and Rachold; ongoing)

It was also agreed that the possibility of entering into new agreements with the European Polar Board (EPB) and the Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFOPS) should be explored. Such agreements should be of mutual benefit to all organizations.
**Action:** IASC and SCAR Secretariats to explore the benefits and possibilities of entering into new agreements with organizations such as the European Polar Board (EPB) and the Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFOPS) (Rachold and Sparrow, with Lochte (for EPB) and Yang (for AFoPS); before end 2013)

(2) **Bipolar Action Group**

Under this agenda item, Cynan Ellis-Evans briefly introduced the final report of the second SCAR/IASC Bipolar Action Group (BipAG II).

Participants agreed that IASC and SCAR should jointly support relevant education and communication activities, such as the Network of Polar Educators, which stems from the IPY 2007/2008. It was decided that a preliminary offer from the Canadian Polar Commission to support these activities should be pursued.

**Action: IASC and SCAR to explore the preliminary offer from the Canadian Polar Commission to support education and outreach activities (Hik; ASAP)**

The Executive Committees agreed with the recommendation of BiPAG II that a permanent bipolar SCAR/IASC group is no longer required. It was noted that a joint workshop, convened every few years, would be sufficient to identify bipolar science needs. Existing SCAR and ISAC scientific groups would be requested to consider potential for bipolar activities when feasible.

(3) **SCAR/IASC Expert Group on Ice Sheet Mass Balance and Sea Level: ISMASS**

Participants noted that the ISMASS group organized a very successful workshop in conjunction with the SCAR Meeting in Portland, July 2012. The workshop was also supported by IACS and CliC and received substantial funding from ICSU.

ISMASS is in the process of establishing a new Steering Group and it was noted that CliC may become the third co-sponsor.

(4) **International Polar Initiative**

Participants discussed the latest development of the International Polar Initiative (IPI). It was noted that this initiative is most relevant at an organization (WMO, WCRP etc.) i.e. top-down level, but that there was still ambivalence from scientists and some organizations i.e. from the bottom-up. It was agreed that IASC and SCAR should continue to be involved in the initiative, noting that it will take more time to fully develop. The potential for IPI to find a home within the ICSU-sponsored Future Earth program was noted.

(5) **Third International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III)**

IASC will be organizing the ICARP III in conjunction with its 25th Anniversary in 2015. The ICARP III process will be launched at the ASSW 2014 in Helsinki and culminate in the final conference to be held during the ASSW 2015 in Tokyo.

It was agreed that a bipolar component would be very useful and participants decided that an ICARP III relevant session should be considered for the 2014 SCAR Open Science Conference.
Action: IASC and SCAR to consider relevant bipolar session at the ICARP and SCAR OSC meetings (Sparrow and Rachold; ASAP)

(6) SCAR Horizon Scan

Participants noted the brief report on SCAR’s Horizon Scan, provided by the SCAR Executive Director.