



XXXI SCAR Delegates Meeting
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-11 August 2010

Agenda Item: 10.5
Person Responsible: Mike Sparrow

Report on SCAR Science Week

St. Petersburg, Russia 4-11 July 2008

Executive Summary

Title: Report on SCAR Science Week, St. Petersburg, Russia 4-11 July 2008

Authors: Russian LOC

Introduction/ Background: The XXX Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Meeting and the SCAR and International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) Open Science Conference “Polar Research – Arctic and Antarctic perspectives in the International Polar Year” were held in St. Petersburg, Russia between July 4th and July 11th 2008.

The 4-day conference in St. Petersburg in July 2008 was different from its predecessors in that it was jointly organized by SCAR and its Arctic counterpart, the IASC. IASC has the same responsibilities for the Arctic, and likewise represents a number of countries. It was also co sponsored by International Council for Science (ICSU) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

Important Issues or Factors: Delegates will be invited to comment on the results of the St Petersburg meeting, observing lessons learned that may apply to the organisation and implementation of XXXII SCAR.

Report on XXX SCAR Science Week St. Petersburg, Russia, 4-11 July 2008

1. Introduction

The XXX Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Meeting and the SCAR and International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) Open Science Conference “Polar Research – Arctic and Antarctic perspectives in the International Polar Year” were held in St. Petersburg, Russia between July 4th and July 11th 2008.

SCAR is the international committee responsible for initiation, promotion and co-ordination of high quality scientific research in Antarctica. SCAR is the leading international body for coordinating and facilitating scientific research in Antarctica and the surrounding Southern Ocean. The 34 national Members of SCAR are the national academies of science of the various countries. The SCAR science is designed by the academic and government scientists appointed by the national academies to address fundamental questions regarding what is to be found or seen in the Antarctic, how what is found or seen is controlled by underlying processes, and how that knowledge and understanding can be fed into advanced numerical models to forecast what change we may expect to see in the future.

The scientific business of SCAR is conducted by its three discipline-based Standing Scientific Groups (Geosciences, Life Sciences and Physical Sciences), which represent the scientific disciplines active in Antarctic research.

2. Background

SCAR provides the means for scientists from around the world to get together regularly in international fora where they can exchange ideas, develop networks of contacts, and start planning new joint programmes. The Open Science Conferences, designed to highlight the scope, interdisciplinary breadth and recent advances in Antarctic science, facilitate this process. They began in Bremen, Germany, in 2004, on the theme “Antarctica and the Southern Ocean in the Global System” and continued in Hobart, Australia, in 2006 on the theme “Antarctica in the Earth System”. The first two conferences were both very popular and very successful.

The 4-day conference in St. Petersburg in July 2008 was different from its predecessors in that it was jointly organized by SCAR and its Arctic counterpart, the IASC. IASC has the same responsibilities for the Arctic, and likewise represents a number of countries. It was also co-sponsored by International Council for Science (ICSU) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). These developments reflect the fact that we are now in the International Polar Year (IPY), which began in 1st of March 2007 and will extend to the 1st of March 2009. ICSU and WMO are co-sponsors of the IPY, which has a bipolar theme. SCAR and IASC have combined forces to reflect this bipolar theme. The IPY Joint Committee has endorsed this event as the first in a series of international interdisciplinary IPY conferences.

As a result, the title of the conference was established as SCAR/IASC IPY Open Science Conference "Polar Research - Arctic and Antarctic Perspectives in the International Polar Year". The science program of the OSC reflected the IPY five themes Status and Change, Polar/Global Linkages, A Sense of Discovery, The Poles as a Vantage Point for Observations and Peoples and Resources at the Poles.

Russia provided notice of its intent to bid to host XXX SCAR at the 2004 Delegates Meeting in Bremerhaven, Germany. At SCAR XXIX the Russian delegation formally offered, on behalf of the Russian Academy of Science, to hold the 2006 meeting in St. Petersburg. Delegates accepted this proposal.

3. Planning and Preparations for XXX SCAR Science Week

Russia begun preparatory works for XXX SCAR Meeting and SCAR/IASC IPY Open Science Conference "Polar Research - Arctic and Antarctic Perspectives in the International Polar Year" once the Russian bid

was accepted. Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (Roshydromet) was selected as the main organizer of the events together with the Russian Academy of Science.

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for these meetings was established in April 2007. The co-chairs for the LOC were Academician Vladimir Kotlyakov, Director for the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Science, Russian delegate in SCAR, and Alexander Frolov, Deputy Head of Roshydromet. Alexander Klepikov, Head of the Department for Antarctic Oceanography and Climate Studies of the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (AARI), was the Secretary for the LOC (see Appendix A).

There were four meetings of LOC in Moscow and St. Petersburg before the conference. The LOC provided an expert selection of St. Petersburg organisations that specialize in holding conferences of that type. The selection was based on the contacts with representatives of corresponding businesses, analysis of their possibilities (experience, financial resources, capabilities of working with the system for electronic transfer of funds, availability of a branch in Moscow, capability of conducting a congress counting more than a 1000 participants) and analysis of independent reports on their activities and hosting similar events. Seven companies were considered. As the result, professional conference organizer (PCO) Monomax Meetings & Incentives Company was selected. Ms. Julia Raiskaya was Monomax's manager for the duration of the SCAR project. After that she was also included to the LOC.

Requirements for SCAR conferences are documented in "Guidelines for Organizers of Biennial SCAR Meetings" (2005 revised version). These provided the local organizers with detailed requirements for organisational structure, meeting room requirements and technical requirements.

LOC worked very closely with the SCAR Secretariat (Colin Summerhayes and Mike Sparrow in Cambridge, UK), IASC Secretariat (Volker Rachold in Stockholm, Sweden), International Scientific Organising Committee (ISOC) Co-chairs (Chuck Kennicutt, USA for SCAR and Louwrens Hacquebord, Netherlands for IASC), and IPY Joint Committee (Ed Sarukhanian in Geneva, Switzerland).

Secretary for the LOC Alexander Klepikov participated in the SCAR Executive Committee (EXCOM) meeting in Washington, USA in July 2007, and reported on progress with the organisation of XXX SCAR Science Week. The SCAR Executive Director Colin Summerhayes visited St Petersburg and Moscow in September 2007, with Ed Sarukhanian (IPY-JC) to examine the facilities.

4. Meeting structure and venue

4.1 Overall timetable of the meetings

XXX SCAR Meeting and SCAR/IASC IPY Open Science Conference consisted of a number of different events including:

- XXX SCAR Business Meetings (4-7 July, 2008)
- SCAR/IASC IPY Open Science Conference "Polar Research - Arctic and Antarctic Perspectives in the International Polar Year" (8-11 July, 2008)
- XXX SCAR Delegates Meeting (Moscow) (14-16 July, 2008)

and associated non-SCAR meetings and workshops:

- IPY Joint Committee Meeting (July 4-5, 2008)
- IPY Open Forum (July 7, 2008)
- Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS)/SCAR/IASC/IGS Career Development Workshop (July 7, 2008)
- SCAR/IASC/CliC/CRISIS Workshop on Improving Ice Sheet Models (July 5-7, 2008)
- Southern Ocean Physical Oceanography and Cryosphere Linkages (SOPHOCLES)/Antarctic Sea Ice Processes and Climate (ASPeCt) Meeting (July 8, 2008)
- IPY clicOPEN project Meeting (July 8, 2008)
- IPY SASSI/CASO projects Meeting (July 9, 2008)

The detailed timetable of these events is available on the XXX SCAR Meeting and SCAR/IASC IPY OSC 2008 Handbook and CD and website (<http://www.scar-iasc-ipy2008.org/>). The list of SCAR business meetings and associated non-SCAR meetings (56 meetings in total) is presented in Appendix B.

4.2 Promoting the Meetings

Electronic communication (web site and email) was primarily used to publicize the meetings, and the SCAR/IASC IPY Open Science Conference in particular. Regular email notification was sent to all participants at the OSC 2006 in Hobart, to SCAR National Committees, to IASC members, to IPY JC and to everyone who registered interest on the website or submitted an abstract.

XXX SCAR Meeting and SCAR/IASC IPY OSC web site was opened on 15 October 2007 and continued to develop and include additional information during the build-up to the meetings. The conference web site was linked from the SCAR, IASC, ICSU, WMO, IPY JC, Roshydromet and home pages, and from a number of national and international organizations.

As well as electronic communications, the following publications were also printed and distributed:

- The first OSC circular (flyer): 1 October 2007. Distributed through SCAR, IASC, IPY JC, ICSU and WMO at several international and national meetings. The flyer also was distributed by e-mails and posted at the OSC web site.
- The second OSC circular: 4 March 2008. Distributed through SCAR, IASC, IPY JC at several international and national meetings. The flyer also was distributed by e-mails and posted at the OSC web site.
- XXX SCAR Meeting and SCAR/IASC IPY OSC 2008 Handbook, Conference abstracts volume and Conference CD: distributed at registration.

4.3 Conference venue and facilities

The main venues in St. Petersburg for XXX SCAR Meeting and SCAR/IASC IPY Open Science Conference were the Hotel Park Inn Pribaltiyskaya and the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (AARI) of Roshydromet. Bus transportations were organised between the two venues (shuttle buses made round trips between AARI and Pribaltiyskaya Hotel every 30 minutes from 8.00 to 18.00). The room facilities are presented in Appendix C.

Audio-visual and other technical facilities at Pribaltiyskaya were provided under contract from a local supplier. At the AARI most of the facilities were provided by the institute. All OSC oral presentations were required to be submitted electronically in PC compatible format to an in-house technician several hours in advance of the session in which they were to be presented. Internet points (with 11 terminals and two printers at Pribaltiyskaya and 10 terminals and one printer at the AARI) were available for participants' use. Access to the Internet was also available to Hotel Pribaltiyskaya guests through wireless connection.

5. SCAR/IASC IPY Open Science Conference "Polar Research - Arctic and Antarctic Perspectives in the International Polar Year"

5.1 OSC model and themes

The Open Science Conference was the major science event during the meetings, and the one that drew the most participants. The SCAR Executive Committee and Chief Officers suggested that the four day conference would be structured with first day with plenary invited talks from high profile scientists, then three days of parallel science sessions. The actual meeting structure was very much as suggested.

Day 1 (Tuesday 8 July):

Day started with Opening ceremony. During the opening session, the 2008 SCAR medals were awarded to Vladimir Kotlyakov (Russia), Claude Lorius (France), and Angelika Brandt (Germany).

The Conference started with the prestigious Weyprecht Lecture, given by Professor Robin Bell of Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in New York, who explored the enigma of the Gamburtsev Mountains, a massive

mountain range of unknown date or origin buried beneath the ice sheet of East Antarctica. Other invited 30 min lectures were:

Vladimir Lipenkov (Russia) – Subglacial Lake Vostok: a new great challenge to the Antarctic Sciences.

Jerome Chappellaz (France) – Past climate dynamics from ice cores: where we stand? Where we go?

John Walsh (USA) – Present and future Arctic and Antarctic climate change – a comparison

Jean-Claude Gascard (France) – The changing Arctic Ocean – ocean warming and sea ice extent

Wayne Pollard (Canada) – The affects of climate change in the poles – permafrost, geology, and geomorphology

Yvon Csonka (Greenland) – Polar societies and cultures in a changing world

Ian Allison (Australia) – Ice sheet mass balance and sea level

Ulrich Bathmann (Germany) – Polar ocean ecosystems and changing climate

Eigil Friis-Christensen (Denmark) – Space Weather – Fascinating Science and Auroral Displays

The first day finished with the Polar Palooza film in the Plenary Hall, documenting the arrival of the Norwegian-US Scientific Traverse at Amundsen-Scott South Pole station - after visiting the Pole of Inaccessibility - and scenes from the first-ever extended season in the McMurdo Dry Valleys.

At days 2-4 (9 – 11 July) there were 29 thematic sessions (see Appendix D) altogether, and up to 11 parallel sessions each day. 29 thematic sessions of the conference were grouped in 7 discipline clusters:

1. Biology and ecosystems
2. Ocean, ice & atmosphere
3. Earth
4. Beyond Earth
5. Observing and data systems
6. People and change
7. General session

Conference poster sessions were on 9th - 11th of July from 14:30 to 16:00, including the time of second coffee-break (15:30 - 16:00).

The detailed timetable of science sessions is available on the XXX SCAR Meeting and SCAR/IASC IPY OSC 2008 Handbook and CD and website (<http://www.scar-iasc-ipy2008.org/>).

The Conference finished at 6 PM, 11 July, with the small impromptu closing ceremony organised by the LOC when ten young scientists who won awards for five oral and five poster presentations received certificates and some gifts from the LOC and IASC. The selection of winners was organized by the LOC in consultation with the Session Chairs.

5.2 OSC call for papers and abstract submission

All OSC scientific abstracts were submitted electronically through the conference web site. Abstract submission was opened in the beginning of December 2007, and was originally planned to close on December 31 2007. After consultation with the SCAR and IASC Executives and ISOC, this deadline was extended to January 15 2008 and later it was shifted to 01 March 2008. A total of 1226 abstracts were submitted for the OSC, a small number of abstracts were accepted after the final deadline where the authors had exceptional circumstances (see Appendix F).

5.3 Abstract review and selection

Members of the International Science Organising Committee (ISOC) for the Open Science Conference are listed in Appendix A. This group together with session chairs and independent reviewers reviewed and graded all abstract submissions. Whether a paper was assigned to an oral session or a poster was based as far as possible on the author's stated preference, but since there were fewer oral presentation opportunities than requested, some abstracts were re-assigned to poster presentations on the basis of the reviewers grading. Only 7 abstracts were rejected mainly because they were out of the Conference themes. Finally, there were selected 537 oral and 671 poster presentations (1208 in total, see Appendix D for abstract distribution by

sessions). It is estimated that 526 orals and 542 posters, 1068 in total, were actually presented at OSC (~88% of those submitted abstracts that were accepted).

5.4 Meeting attendance

There were some 1490 registered participants representing 44 countries. Actually there were 1150 attendees excluding journalists. More than 300 registered participants cancelled their participations predominantly because of the lack of funds to cover high registration fees, hotel and air fare prices. See Appendix E for registration fees, registration types and attendance statistics and Appendix G for time series of registrations for SCAR/IASC IPY OSC 2008.

5.5 Media coverage

The SCAR/IASC IPY Open Science Conference 2008 attracted considerable media attention to Antarctic science, mostly within Russia but also from some international agencies. Press releases of the OSC 2008 were widely distributed. 31 journalists participated at the press conference held at Hotel Pribaltiyskaya. Around one hundred articles (electronic and print) and also many TV and radio reports were identified as resulting from the XXX SCAR Science Week.

5.6 Sponsors

A registration fee was charged for the OSC and XXX SCAR business meetings (see above). Gaining additional funding from sponsors to support these events is hence an important component of financing the meeting. Sponsorship was as follows:-

The Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (Roshydromet) – 1 580 000 rubles (~42,700 Euro)

The St. Petersburg Administration – 800 000 rubles (~21,600 Euro)

The Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR) – 300 000 rubles (~8,100 Euro)

The poster sessions, the welcoming reception and the conference dinner were sponsored by several private companies. Additional “in kind” support was also received for promotion, meeting venues and social events.

6. Social Functions

SCAR/IASC IPY Open Science Conference 2008 participants had the opportunity to meet and interact with colleagues at a range of social functions during the meetings. These were:

- Icebreaker Reception for SCAR Science Business attendees, and IPY committee members - Saturday July 5, 7-9 pm. Hotel Park Inn Pribaltiyskaya.
- SCAR/IASC IPY Open Science Conference 2008 Welcome Reception - Monday July 7, 7-9 pm. Hotel Park Inn Pribaltiyskaya
- SCAR/IASC IPY Open Science Conference 2008 - Thursday July 10, 7-10 pm. Hall of Former Riding school (transport to and from venue by bus).

7. Summary

The total number of real attendees at XXX SCAR Meeting and SCAR/IASC IPY OSC 2008 is 1115. Local organising committee expected the similar number of participants. Facilities were adequate to support this number of participants.

A comparison of attendees at XXX SCAR Meeting and SCAR/IASC IPY OSC 2008 with those at the SCAR/COMNAP 2004 and 2006 meetings:

	Total Attendees	OSC Attendees	Total OSC papers presented	Oral papers	Poster papers
St. Petersburg 2008	1115	991	1068	526	542

Hobart 2006	893	719	624	344	280
Bremen 2004	1070	890	540	280	260

The number of poster papers does not include ten posters for the SCAR products and services permanent session.

The greater number of papers presented in St. Petersburg reflects the fact that it was bi-polar event.

Inevitably for a conference of the size and complexity of XXX SCAR Meeting and SCAR/IASC IPY OSC 2008 there were minor criticisms about some arrangements from a few participants. Most of the participants agreed the conference had been highly successful not only in its organisation but also scientifically. The local organisers had responded quickly and efficiently to the many small changes that had to be made as the conference programme evolved. Some consideration points for future OSC meetings are summarised in Appendix H (from local organisers), and in Appendix I (from session chairs).

8. Delegates Meeting

The SCAR Delegates meeting took place at the Russian Academy of Sciences building in Moscow from July 14-16, 2008. Principal organisers for the event were Nina Zaitseva and Marina Gnedovskaya (representing the LOC). Most participants travelled together by train from St Petersburg to Moscow on Saturday July 12th 2008. A welcome reception was held at the Academy on the evening of Sunday July 13th, hosted by Professor Vladimir Kotlyakov, the Russian SCAR Delegate. Two rooms were made available in the Academy for the Delegates meeting: plenary sessions were held in the Rotunda, where the Delegates Committee on Administration and Outreach also met, while the Delegates Committee for Scientific Affairs met in an adjacent auditorium. A Gala Dinner to celebrate SCAR's 50th Anniversary was held at the Academy, and was attended by A Chilingarov of the Russian Duma, who had also attended the opening session of the Open Science Conference in St Petersburg. Some 80 people attended the Delegates meeting, and 95 persons (including spouses and visiting Russian dignitaries and representatives of the LOC) attended the dinner.

The Delegates meeting, including the welcome reception and Gala Dinner and excursions, was sponsored by the Russian Academy of Sciences with the total input of 580 000 rubles (~15,700 Euro).

9. Acknowledgement

A large number of people contributed to make XXX SCAR Meeting and SCAR/IASC IPY OSC 2008 the success that it was. These included many groups from within the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute; around 50 volunteer helpers from AARI and students who assisted delegates at the venue; the Russian Academy of Science; the Local Organizing Committee and those who supported its work; the International Science Organizing Committee; the SCAR and IASC secretariats; OSC session chairs; the Conference Organizers (Monomax) and all local commercial suppliers and the sponsors.

Alexander Klepikov
Secretary, Local Organizing Committee
2 December 2008

Appendix A. Membership of Organizing Committees

Local Organising Committee for XXX SCAR Science Week 2008

Frolov A.V.	Deputy Director of Roshydromet, Organising committee co-chairman
Kotlyakov V.M.	Academician, Director of Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Sciences, SCAR delegate from Russia, Organizing committee co-chairman
Frolov I.E.	AARI Director, deputy Organising committee co-chairman
Klepikov A.V.	Head of department for Antarctic Oceanography and Climate Studies, AARI, and Russian representative of SCAR group of physical sciences, Organising committee secretary
Blinov V.G.	Head of UMZA department of Roshydromet
Bystramovich . . .	Deputy head of UMZA office of Roshydromet
Danilov .I.	Deputy Director of AARI
Zaitseva N.A.	Academic secretary of Section of Earth Sciences, RAS
Leitchenkov G.L.	Head of department of VNIIOkeangeologia, Russian representative at SCAR group of geology sciences
Leonov U.G.	Academician – secretary of Russian Academy of Sciences
Kaminsky V.D.	Director of VNIIOkengeologia
Kryukov V.D.	Director of PMGRE
Lukin V.V.	Deputy Director of AARI, Head of the Russian Antarctic expedition
Martysenko V. . .	Deputy head of UMZA Department of Roshydromet
Martyanov V.L.	Deputy head of Russian Antarctic expedition
Melnikov I.A.	Leading research associate of RAS P.P. Shirshov Oceanology Institute, Russian representative at SCAR group of life sciences
Moskalevsky M.Yu.	Leading research associate of Russian Academy of Sciences Geography Institute, Academic-secretary Scientific Council on Arctic and Antarctic RAS, deputy SCAR delegate from Russia
Morozov A.F.	Deputy director of Rosnedra
Pavlenko V.I.	Russian representative in IASC
Priamikov S. . .	AARI Head of International Cooperation Department
Raiskaya J.B.	Project Coordinator, Monomax PCO
Sorokin Yu.V.	Chief deputy of Department Ministry of Natural resources
Studenetsky A.S.	Head of Marine Office of Ministry of education and science of RF
Tatarinov P. . .	Head of Department, Ministry of education and science of RF
Tsaturov Yu.S.	Advisor of Head of Roshydromet
Glubokovsky M. . .	Deputy Director of Department of fisheries of Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation
Viktorov A.D.	Chairman Committee on Science and High School of the Government of St. Petersburg
Maslennikov V.V.	Leading research associate of Institute for fisheries and oceanography (VNIRO), Moscow
Titov O.V.	Deputy Director of Polar institute for fisheries and oceanography, Murmansk

International Scientific Organising Committee for SCAR/IASC IPY OSC 2008

Kennicutt, Chuck (USA) – Co Chair for SCAR
Hacquebord, Louwrens (Netherlands) – Co Chair for IASC
Allison, Ian (Australia)
Baeseman, Jennifer (USA)
Binschadler, Robert (USA)
Candidi, Maurizio (Italy)
Convey, Pete (UK)
Dunbar, Rob (USA)
Fahrbach, Eberhard (Germany)
Futterer, Deter (Germany)
Gutt, Julian (Germany)
Kotlyakov, Vladimir (Russia)
Landtuit, Hugues (Germany)
Loeng, Harald (Norway)
Marensi, Sergio (Argentina)
Park, Byong-Kwon (Korea)
Rachold, Volker (IASC)
Sarukhanian, Eduard (Russia)
Storey, Bryan (New Zealand)
Summerhayes, Colin (SCAR)
Walton, David (UK)

Appendix B. List of SCAR business meetings and associated meetings

Name	Number of registrants
AAA - Antarctic Astronomy and Astrophysics	11
ACE - Antarctic Climate Evolution	59
AGCS - Antarctica and the Global Climate System	56
Aliens - Aliens in Antarctica	24
APECS - Association of Polar Early Career Scientists	38
BEDMAP - Antarctic Bedrock Mapping Project	30
BioMed - Expert Group on Human Biology and Medicine	16
BioSymp - Biology Symposium	44
Cap.Build - SCAR Capacity Building, Education and Training	15
CASO - Climate of Antarctic and the Southern Ocean	35
CPR - Continuous Plankton Recorder	14
EBA - Evolution and Biodiversity in the Antarctic	68
ECA - Environmental Contamination in Antarctica	19
EG Birds - Expert Group on Birds	13
EGPPE - Expert Group on Permafrost and Periglacial Environments	10
Giant - Geodetic Infrastructure for Antarctica	18
GLOBEC - Global Ocean Ecosystems Dynamics project	18
GPS - Weather - POLENET-ICESTAR-GPS-Meteorology working group	19
History - SCAR History group	14
IBCSO - International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean	24
ISMAL - SCAR Ice Sheet Mass Balance and Sea Level Expert Group	44
IAI - International Antarctic Institute	32
ICESTAR - Inter-hemispheric Conjugacy Effects in Solar-Terrestrial and Aeronomy Research	19
IPICS - Integrated Partnerships in Ice Core Sciences	21
IPY-APECS - IPY Association of Polar Early Career Scientists Workshop	35
IPY-data - IPY data group	33
IPY-EOC - IPY Education, Outreach, and Communication	35
IPY- Forum - IPY Forum discussion	55
IPY-JC - IPY Joint Committee	35
JCADM - Joint Committee on Antarctic Data Management	30
Joint Execs - Meeting of SCAR and COMNAP executive committees	8
King George - King George Island Working Group	20
LGP - Latitudinal Gradient Project	31
MERGE - Microbiological and Ecological Responses to Global Environmental change in the polar regions	35
Oceans - Oceanography Expert Group	16
PAntOS - Pan-Antarctic Observing System	16
POLENET - The Polar Earth Observation Network	33

SALE - Subglacial Antarctic Lake Exploration	34
SASSI - Synoptic Antarctic Shelf-Slope Interactions Study	18
SCAR-Marbin - SCAR Marine Biodiversity Information Network	31
SDLS - Antarctic Seismic Data Library System	22
Seals - Expert Group on Seals	12
SIGE - Sub Ice Geological Exploration	26
SO panel - CLIVAR/CliC/SCAR Southern Ocean region panel	14
SOOS - Southern Ocean Observing System	37
SOPHOCLES - Southern Ocean Physical Oceanography and Cryosphere Linkages	10
SC-AGI - Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information	18
SSG-GS - Scientific Steering Group - Geosciences	44
SSG-LS - Scientific Steering Group – Life Sciences	29
SSG-PS - Scientific Steering Group – Physical Sciences	35
Tarantella - Terrestrial ecosystems in ARctic and ANTArctic: Effects of UV Light, Liquefying ice, and Ascending temperatures	18
WIA - Women in Antarctica	27
ADMAP - Antarctic Digital Magnetic Anomaly Project	19
AGAP - Antarctica's Gamburtsev Province IPY Project	17
CASP - Circum-Antarctic Stratigraphy and Paleobathymetry	13
SCAGI - Scientific Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information	13
Total:	1580

Appendix C. Meeting rooms available for XXX SCAR Science Week 2008

Meeting rooms at Hotel Pribaltiyskaya

Meeting room	Capacity
“Leningrad” hall + “Pribaltiysky” hall	1000
“Leningrad” hall	600
“Northern” hall	350
Business hall*	
“Petrodvorets” hall	170
“Pushkin” hall	100
“Pavlovsk” hall	60
“Blue” hall	60
“Red” hall	60
“Red” hall	60
“Kronshtadt” hall	50
Room “A”**	30
Room “B”	20
Room “C”	20
Rooms “B” + “C”***	40
Room “D”	15

Meeting rooms at Hotel Pribaltiyskaya

Meeting room	Capacity
Large hall	400
Medium hall	100
Small hall	35
Library of AARI****	25
Auditorium	25
Library of the Otto Schmidt laboratory	20

Notes

- * - Registration, LOC Secretariat
- ** - Preview room - PCs, technical support, Internet access
- *** - D is not a separate room but rooms B and C can be joined
- **** - Internet access room

Appendix D. Session themes and number of papers accepted for SCAR/IASC IPY OSC 2008

1. STATUS AND CHANGE	
1.1. Earth Structure and Geodynamics at the Poles	62
1.2. Polar Ocean Processes	96
1.3. Evolving Coastal, Near shore and Shelf Processes	25
1.4. Shrinking Snow and Ice: Rapid Change in the Polar Regions	56
1.5. Past, Present and Future Polar Climate Change	99
1.6. Meteorological processes, weather and climate forecasting	60
1.7. Polar Terrestrial and Freshwater Ecosystems	79
1.8. Polar Marine Ecosystems	152
1.9. General Session	58
2. POLAR/GLOBAL LINKAGES	
2.1. Coupled Cryosphere/Ocean/Atmosphere Systems	27
2.2. Polar/Global Biological Connections	15
2.3. The Sun's Interactions with the Earth's Atmosphere and Electromagnetic Environment	46
2.4. Education and Outreach	20
3. A SENSE OF DISCOVERY	
3.1. Deep Sub-ice Water, Hydrological Systems and Ice sheet Interactions	32
3.2. Frontiers in Polar Biology	23
3.3. Polar Microbes, Genetics, and Molecular Biology	62
3.4. Technological Advances and Polar Exploration	25
3.5. Frontiers in Polar Scientific Drilling	16
4. THE POLES AS A VANTAGE POINT FOR OBSERVATIONS	
4.1. Polar Observing Systems	45
4.2. Astronomy and Astrophysics	22
4.3. Observations of the Poles from Space and advanced Observing Techniques for Polar Regions	23
4.4. Earth's Magnetic Field: A View from the Poles	28
4.5. Data as an IPY Legacy	38
5. PEOPLE AND RESOURCES AT THE POLES	
5.1. People and Change	11

5.2 Exploiting natural resources	16
5.3 Conservation, Tourism and Visitor Management	16
5.4. The Role of Indigenous Knowledge in Modern Polar Science	10
5.5. Polar bridges, people and resources at the poles	27
5.6. Polar History: The International Polar Years	19

Appendix E. Registration fees and attendance statistics

Registration fees for XXX SCAR Science Week 2008 (In Rubles. 1 Euro = 37 Rubles)

Registration fee \ Payment dates	Early payment until April 30, 2008	Regular payment until June 01, 2008	Late and on-site payment after June 01, 2008
Full registration fee	11100	12950	14800
Students(with proven student status)	3700	5550	7400
Accompanying persons	2775	2775	2775
Business meetings only	3700	3700	3700

Number of registrants from different countries (1490 registrants from 44 countries)

Country	Number of registrants	Country	Number of registrants
Argentina	8	Italy	96
Australia	43	Japan	43
Austria	2	Kazakhstan	1
Belarus	3	Malaysia	27
Belgium	23	Malta	1
Brazil	38	Netherlands	25
Bulgaria	1	New Zealand	41
Canada	50	Norway	52
Chile	22	Peru	1
China	38	Poland	26
Cyprus	4	Portugal	4
Czech Republic	6	Romania	5
Denmark	13	Russia	213
Ecuador	3	South Africa	11
Estonia	2	South Korea	29
Finland	12	Spain	20
France	45	Sweden	17
Germany	97	Switzerland	5
Greenland	2	UK	92
Iceland	4	Ukraine	35
India	42	Uruguay	1
Israel	2	USA	234

Registration type for XXX SCAR Science Week 2008

Type	Number
Accompanying persons	97
Business meetings only	27

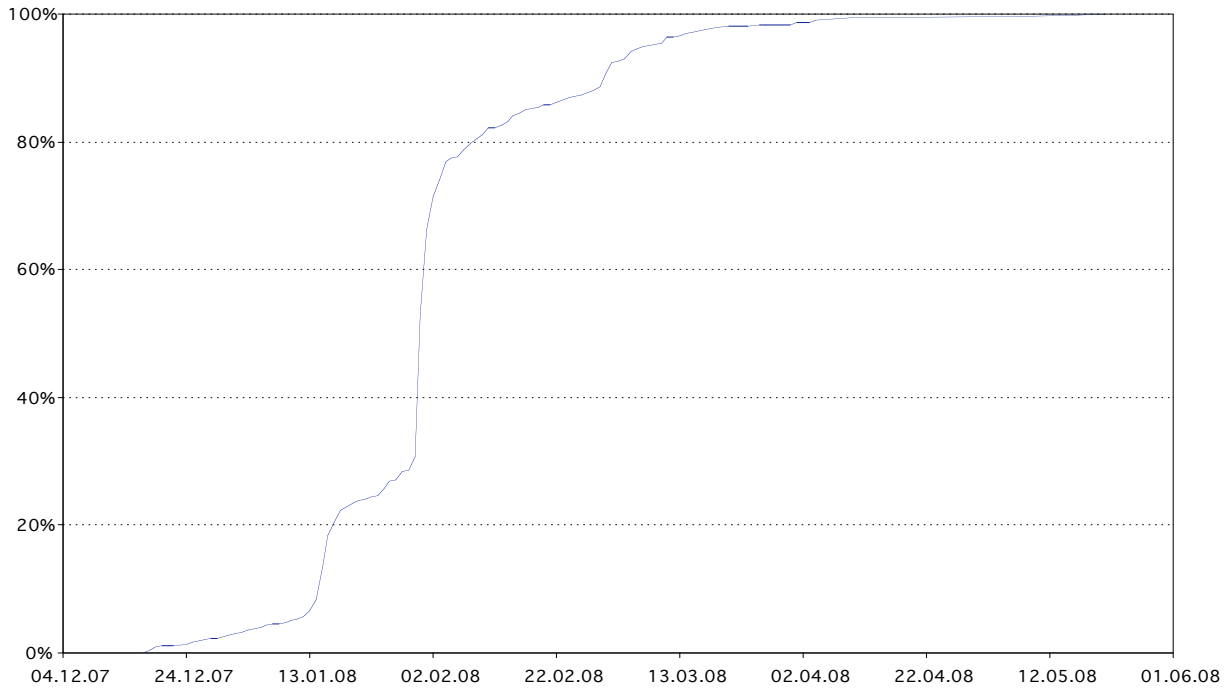
Participant (Early payment, before April 30, 2008)	579
Participant (Regular payment before June 01, 2008)	131
Participant (Late and onsite payment (after June 01, 2008)	92
Student (Early payment, before April 30, 2008)	107
Student (Regular payment before June 01, 2008)	18
Student (Late and onsite payment (after June 01, 2008)	8
No registration fee (Moscow delegates and some VIP)	56
Total*	1115

Note

* - This number does not include 31 journalists registered at the SCAR/IASC IPY OSC 2008

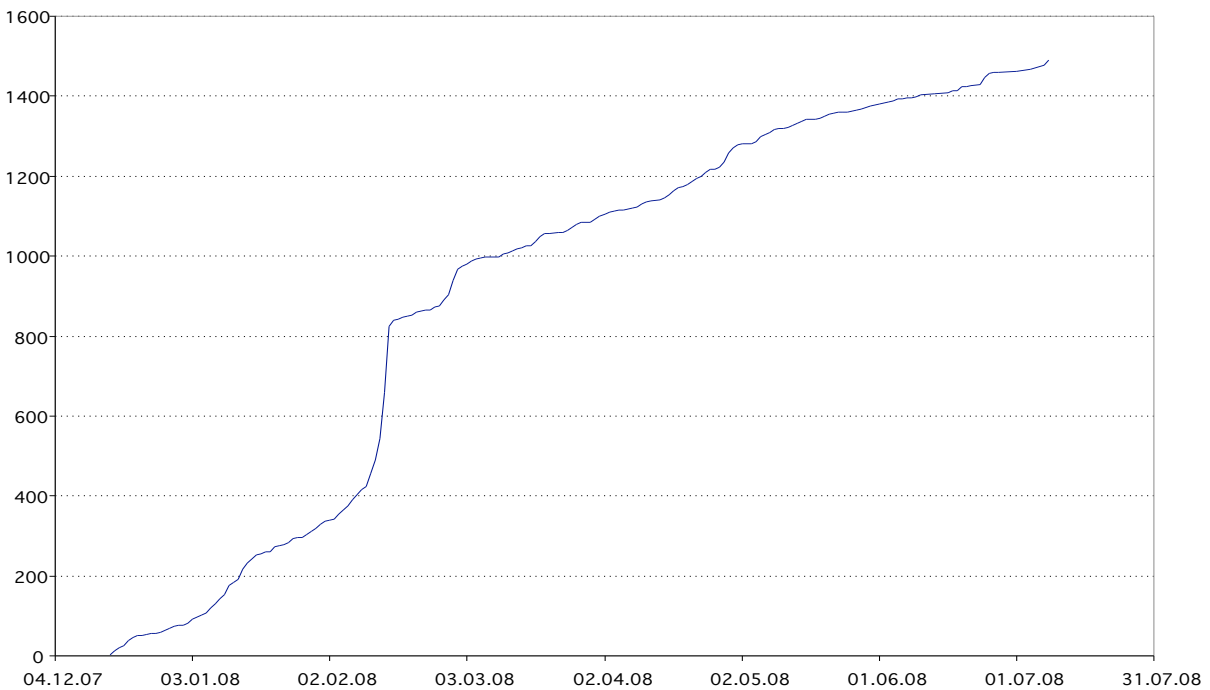
Appendix F. Abstract submissions for SCAR/IASC IPY OSC 2008

Original submission deadline: 31 December 2007. Extended submission deadline: 01 March 2008.



Appendix G. Cumulative registrations for SCAR/IASC IPY OSC 2008 (all categories)

Early-bird registration before 30 April 2008. Standard registration before June 01 2008. Late registration after 01 June 2008. OSC started 8 July 2008 with 1490 registrants.



Appendix H. Some consideration points for future OSC meetings

Some criticisms that were received about the organisation of the SCAR/IASC IPY OSC 2008 mostly concerned problems that had arisen during the arrangements for the meeting, including with the submission of payments and abstracts.

Below follow some considerations on the issues of preparation of the SCAR/IASC IPY OSC 2008 and SCAR business meetings, which might be useful for preparation of similar events in the future. Here we do not consider a number of problems that emerged due to the peculiarity of this Open Scientific Conference – its combination with IASC because it took place during the IPY. It determined the more complex structure of the conference, and the greater number of parallel sessions and participants.

1. In the future when considering the countries applications for hosting the Open Scientific Conferences it is necessary that in the city which holds the conference there be at least two possible places to carry it out. In St. Petersburg, actually, the only such place is the hotel Park Inn Pribaltiyskaya Being a monopolist, this hotel maintains high prices for participants accommodation and coffee-breaks as well as high rental prices for conference halls and equipment, especially in high season.

2. It is advisable to determine actions of the parties thoroughly (LOC, ISOC, Session chair or co-chairs, SCAR Secretariat) in advance more precisely and during the preparation of a conference. It is, perhaps, necessary to issue a general direction in this occasion which can be specified while preparing a concrete conference. In particular, we as LOC, did not assume, that we would spend plenty of time for formation of oral and poster lists for specific sessions through a number of iterations. We believed that we would receive final versions of oral and poster lists from ISOC or from the Session chairs. Had the LOC known it in advance, it would have been more efficient in meeting this work.

3. We believe that to accelerate and simplify the process of formation oral and poster lists of Sessions, the Session Chairs should be involved in direct cooperation. During the preparation for this conference the Session Chair informed the ISOC on their decision on oral and poster list and offered variants for transferring the presentations that did not match the session theme to other sessions. ISOC further informed the LOC, and LOC in turn asked corresponding Session Chairs to make a decision on the offered transfers of reports to their sessions. It produced long “chains” and took up a lot of time, especially when a corresponding session for reports that ought to be transferred could not be pointed out at once. It seems to us that Session Chairs could deal with this process more quickly and effectively if cooperating directly between themselves.

4. Long chains were formed and a lot of time was spent as well when, for instance, a Session Chair decided to transfer a presentation they liked from a poster into an oral one. Session Chair informed the ISOC on the decision, ISOC further informed the LOC, and LOC informed the participant. Often participants objected to transferring their presentations from poster in oral ones (for example, due to language difficulties) and asked to cancel the decision. Such correspondence could sometimes be very prolonged, especially in view of the fact that many OSC participants were on expeditions and had limited e-mail access. We think that direct Session Chair - participant contact would have been more efficient, especially as Session Chairs had e-mail addresses of the participants.

5. More precise interaction with COMNAP is required on those days when simultaneous meetings of COMNAP work groups and SCAR business meetings are possible, if COMNAP and SCAR sessions are held in one building. LOC had been initially informed that COMNAP would finish the work on July 4. It, nevertheless, subsequently occurred that some COMNAP groups planned work on July 5, and even July 6 that created certain problems with premises for SCAR business meetings in the AARI building. This position would have been even more difficult if the SCAR and COMNAP meetings had been organised to take place in parallel.

6. Initially registration for SCAR business meetings was provided for all comers, as LOC had not received any directions in this respect. Subsequently, some business meetings were declared as by invitation only and LOC sent notices to those participants who were registered for those meetings, but were not included in the invitation list. In the future it is essential to define more precisely in advance whether the meetings are open

or by invitation only. Meetings by invitation only allow defining precisely the capacity of premises, which is important as SCAR has many expert and action groups and there are always problems with premises for business meetings. On the other hand, open business meetings can be effective in attraction a wider audience of experts and, particularly, young scientists, and students.

7. The idea of encouraging the best presentations of young conference participants is very productive. It is necessary to develop a mechanism for selection of the best young participants presentations. The encouragement of young scientists demands an OSC closing ceremony, even be it very short. SCAR should also formulate the basic recommendations on carrying out the OSC closing ceremony, arrangements for which were left very much up to the LOC

The organizers of SCAR/IASC IPY OSC 2008 wish the Organizing Committee for 4th SCAR OSC in Buenos Aires in 2010 every success with their work. We will be pleased to provide any advice or guidance that we can.

Appendix I. Feedback from ISOC and Session Chairs on the 2008 SCAR/IASC IPY OSC

GENERAL COMMENTS

“I thought my session went very well as did the conference as a whole.”

“Overall the meeting was very well run and a pleasure to attend.”

“A big plus was the proximity of most of the various lecture theatres at each venue.”

“Chairs generally did a good job of keeping to time.”

“As with the previous two OSCs, there were many good conversations outside the lecture theatres, which I see as one of the main strengths of the meeting; in particular a good participation/contribution from the early career scientist group, and no sign of fear in tackling the 'established/senior greybeards' (!)”

“By and large the audio-visual and sound facilities worked well, and I was pleasantly surprised by the ease with which the large hall gave good vision and sound to a very large audience”

“There were a lot of young presenters - that was very refreshing.”

“The conference was a great success.”

“A number of colleagues told me that this [*the mix of expertises in a large session*] was very exciting and fruitful and created new linkages among different groups of scientists. “Except one on-site cancellation (a speaker needed to return back home because of a family urgency) all speakers showed up and did their job in a great way [*from one large session of 43 papers*].”

“Our three student helpers were very also very efficient.”

“The reception was very good and got people mingling.”

“The meetings rooms that I was in were well equipped and the support staff were useful and supportive.”

“I went to a "general" session to hear about things outside my domain, and it was great. Not as well attended as others, but there we had a mix of Arctic and Antarctic and several young scientists presenting. I really enjoyed hearing about their work. This mix, as well as our specialty sessions, should be encouraged so the communities become more familiar.”

“The OSC in St. Petersburg was a great success and these events are now firmly established in the minds of the Polar (enthusiasts).”

“The meeting was a great success!”

“SCAR and IASC support for younger / early career scientists was very successful and – if possible – should be extended.”

“The registration fee was not unreasonable, and similar to what you might pay for a similar meeting anywhere.”

“Accommodation was expensive (but about the going rate for StP at that time of year, and when in "Rome").”

“My overall impression is of a very well run and scientifically productive meeting.”

“Alexander Klepikov did a wonderful job.”

“Alexander Klepikov did a fantastic job handling a difficult role.”

“We must appreciate the role of Alexander Klepikov, and first of all also the preparation and input from Colin and his people.”

“Thank Alexander Klepikov for his excellent job representing (in reality) an almost one-person local organizing committee! Additionally, there were many people in the background and/or on the various stages (nationally and internationally)! Thank you very much!”

“Congratulations especially to Chuck, Louwrens, Colin and the Russian Colleagues for a very successful conference.”

“The local organizers (particularly Sasha) really did do a great job and deserve all praise.”

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

A suggested rearrangement of the programme

Reduce oral contributions and increase time for discussion and communication (e.g. at poster sessions):

- A full day of plenary talks is too much;
- skip the day with overview talks and distribute these talks to each day of the conference (morning or afternoon plenary sessions). Then sessions aligned with that talk might follow on that day.
- reduce number of sessions (a large number of small sessions splits the community)

- reduce oral contributions to 15 minutes (keep things short and send out a clear message, present the big and new stuff, the little details can go on a poster), except few invited presentations (30 min) that should overview the session theme
- reduce time allocated for oral contributions to 4 h/day
- increase significance and time for posters (this is where people meet and discuss). (at Petersburg the time for the posters was far too short)
- do not put poster session and oral session in one room
- Schedule a plenary session talk immediately after lunch and before the poster session to get people to return, rather than lingering over lunch; that will encourage them to visit the posters.

On keynote presentations

Try to have the balance of the keynote talks reflect the balance of the papers submitted. This could be achieved by having the session chairs identify the keynotes only after all papers are submitted.

On poster sessions

- (i) Keep them all in one main place;
- (ii) Make sure in advance that it is easy to attach posters to the boards, and supply the right equipment/tape for that;
- (iii) Preferably have posters up for as long as possible throughout the meeting (i.e. not restricted to just one day).
- (iv) Make the posters the focus for the meeting.

On speakers not showing

Several speakers, mostly local, did not show up. When this happens in future:-

- (i) First, in advance chase abstract submitters who don't register, to ensure they will attend.
- (ii) Inform session conveners in advance;
- (iii) Arrange to have at least one back-up presentation per session block, consistent with the theme of that block. These authors also get a poster spot, but take a chance that they may be able in addition to present orally;
- (iv) All speakers MUST check in the day before they are to speak. If they don't, they LOSE their slot and it is given to the alternate who must also have their oral presentation ready;
- (v) The program is then adjusted and posted the following morning. Everyone knows what is happening, presentations are ready and loaded no later than the night before, there are no last-minute surprises, and we get a few more talks;
- (vi) Outside each session hall there MUST be an announcement displaying the programme of speakers and talks; this must be adjusted the previous evening to include 'no-shows' and replacement speakers.

On announcing the programme

Announce the final Conference schedule earlier, to give people plenty of time to book rooms and tickets

On ensuring people know if they are giving paper or poster

When organizers tell presenters whether they have been accepted to give a talk or a poster, ensure there is confirmatory feedback so that everyone knows what has been agreed.

On clashing sessions

Always try to prevent there being parallel sessions with similar topics.

On having a final closing session

A final official closing session is advisable on the programme, to allow for awards for best papers/posters.

On multiple venues

Keep to one venue if at all possible (e.g. all rooms in one hotel or conference center). If there are multiple venues, keep them close together so that people can move quickly from one to another.

On the length of the meeting

Opinions varied; some felt it too long – others too short. With a large number of parallel sessions there is always the potential for some people to miss talks they might have liked to attend. However, tying the OSC to the SCAR Business meetings, which happen beforehand, means the meeting is already quite long. Incorporating the business meetings into the conference would prolong the time everyone has to be present, which would increase hotel costs for the majority – i.e. those who would otherwise only attend the OSC.

On Internet access

Be sure that there are plenty of computers were available for internet access, and that wireless is widely available for laptop users.

On hotels and restaurants

- (i) Ensure that hotels are as close as possible to the venue, to facilitate post-conference discussions;
- (ii) Vet the hotels offered to ensure that they are adequate;
- (iii) Make sure there are abundant cheap eating options close to the venue;
- (iv) Make sure there are plenty of hotels at moderate price levels, and that there is ample provision for local attendees (for whom normal hotel costs may be too high).
- (v) If a conference organizer is used, make sure that they do not provide a substantial mark-up on the hotel prices (they should offer a substantial discount for volume).
- (vi) If a conference organizer is used, make sure they do not overprice for set lunches.

On security

Provide advice to travelers from out of town on what areas to avoid, the incidence of street crime, and on the advisability of traveling in groups rather than singly.

On conference fees

Keep them low, not least to ensure locals and students can afford to attend.

On transport

- (i) It is advisable for individuals to arrange their own transport to avoid being charged a mark-up fee by conference organizers.
- (ii) Ensure the conference web site has comprehensive advice on local travel possibilities and costs (buses, metro, trains, taxis).

On timing the OSC

Make sure the next joint meeting with IASC is between both the Arctic and Antarctic field seasons, to encourage full participation from both regions.

Regarding the organization of SCAR's science business week before the OSC

Ensure there are no sessions held in parallel with the meetings of the Scientific Steering Groups, to encourage full attendance for the debates on key issues and future plans.

Regarding SCAR's other symposia

If the OSC's continue to be held every 2 years, they could become vehicles for the current 4-yearly meetings of the biologists, earth scientists, and glaciologists, hence those 4-yearly meetings could be abandoned. Otherwise there will be times when there are meetings of one of these groups for 3 years in a row, which is too frequent (e.g. biologists meet at OSC St Petersburg in 2008, at Biology Symposium in Sapporo in 2009, and at OSC in Buenos Aires in 2010).