

Progress with Planning SCAR/COMNAP 2006
Report to SCAR Executive Meeting
Sofia, Bulgaria, July 2005

The XXIX meeting of SCAR will be held in Hobart, Australia from Sunday July 9 to Wednesday July 19 2006, hosted by the Australian National Committee for Antarctic Research, a National Committee of the Australian Academy of Science. The XVIII meeting of COMNAP, hosted by the Australian Antarctic Division of the Department of Environment and Heritage, will also be held in Hobart, July 9-14, in conjunction with SCAR XXIX.

Because of the distance of Tasmania from many Antarctic nations, the SCAR Executive has approved holding the SCAR Open Science Conference, business meetings of SCAR subsidiary bodies, and the XXIX SCAR Delegates meeting consecutively. This is a departure from the new format of holding the Delegates meeting approximately 3 months after the business meetings. The broad timetable for the Hobart meeting is:

- 9–11 July Business meetings of SCAR subsidiary bodies
- 12–14 July SCAR Open Science Conference
- 9–14 July COMNAP and SCALOP meetings
- 13 July SCALOP Symposium
- 17–19 July SCAR Delegates meeting.

The option to commence business meetings on Saturday July 8 is available if this should be necessary. A draft timetable for the full meeting is attached. This is not finalized and there are still some issues to be resolved, particularly to do with the scheduling of COMNAP and SCALOP meetings.

Local steering and organizing committees have been formed in Hobart to plan the meetings, and Ms Kate Kiefer, Australian Antarctic Division, has been appointed as Project Manager for the 2006 SCAR/COMNAP meetings (kate.kiefer@aad.gov.au).

The main venue for the meetings will be the Hotel Grand Chancellor (HGC), which is located adjacent to the fishing port and close to the center of Hobart, the capital city of the state of Tasmania. Conference facilities at the HGC include a ballroom/exhibition space of 1,200 square metres, a 1,100-seat concert hall, and up to 8 other major function rooms. These will be supplemented with function rooms at other venues (predominantly the Old Woolstore Hotel) in the same precinct and within 5 minutes walking distance from the HGC. Details of the HGC facilities are available at <http://www.ghihotels.com/hgc/>. Accommodation ranging from 4.5 star deluxe standard at the HGC to budget accommodation, all within walking distance of the meeting venues, will be available for delegates.

Leishman and Associates (<http://www.leishman-associates.com.au>), a company with much experience organizing large conferences in Hobart, has been appointed to manage the SCAR/COMNAP meetings. A web site providing detailed information about the meetings will be established soon and will be updated regularly. Delegate registration, booking for functions, accommodation booking, and abstract/paper submission and distribution to reviewers will all be available online. IT facilities and internet access will be available for Delegates at the meeting venue.

The proposed theme of the SCAR Open Science Conference is “*SCAR research for the IPY and beyond: developing a legacy for future Antarctic science*”, and the suggested structure of the 3-day meeting is:

- Wednesday 12 July:** Single Plenary
Opening formalities, keynote addresses, forum. Posters.
- Thursday 13 July:** Three SSG (discipline) sub-plenaries
Invited and contributed papers. Posters.
- Friday 14 July:** Parallel sessions. Posters.

The local organizers propose holding fewer and more multi-disciplinary parallel sessions than were held in Bremen in 2004: perhaps 6-8 parallel sessions. The SCALOP Symposium (theme to be determined) will be held in parallel with the SSG sub-plenaries on Thursday. It is our objective to integrate as much as possible the SCAR and SCALOP sessions, and to encourage cross participation. A conference fee will be charged for the Open Science Conference, with a reduced fee for full-time students. The fee has not yet been set, but will be similar to that charged for the Bremen OSC.

Advice from the SCAR Executive and from SCAR Scientific Steering Groups is required urgently on topics for the OSC sub-plenaries and parallel sessions, and on potential keynote addresses.

A number of social functions are being planned as part of the meetings.

Ian Allison
1 June 2005

Attachment: Draft meeting schedule (indicative only)