



IASC Council Meeting

28 March 2008
Syktyvkar, Russia

Schedule

09.00-10.30	Council - Open Session
<i>10.30-11.00</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.00-13.00	Council - Open Session (continued)
<i>13.00-14.00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00-15.00	Strategy Groups - Executive Sessions
<i>15.00-15.30</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15.30-17.00	Council - Executive Session

Provisional Agenda

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Annex

Council - Open Session

- ANNEX 2.1a:** IASC structure and strategy to support science development (late paper).
- ANNEX 2.1b:** List of participants of the IASC Workshop, 5 February 2008.
- ANNEX 2.2.1.1:** Second Announcement of the SCAR/IASC Open Science Conference.
- ANNEX 2.2.1.2:** Membership of the SCAR/IASC Bipolar Action Group (BipAG).
- ANNEX 2.2.1.3a:** Summary of the SCAR/IASC/CliC Workshop on Recent High Latitude Climate Change.
- ANNEX 2.2.1.3b:** Summary of the SCAR/IASC/CliC Workshop on Ice Sheets and Sea Level.
- ANNEX 2.2.3:** Proposal for an IASC-IASSA Letter of Agreement.
- ANNEX 2.2.4:** Proposal for a SCAR-IASC-WCRP Memorandum of Understanding on the co-sponsorship of the Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) Program.
- ANNEX 2.3.4:** Program of the second SAON Workshop.
- ANNEX 2.5.1:** Workshop Report: Arctic Coastal Zones at Risk.
- ANNEX 2.5.4:** Status report: Human Dimensions of Arctic Environments: A Multilingual Web Resource (late paper).
- ANNEX 2.5.5:** Science Plan for Arctic Coastal Dynamics II.
- ANNEX 2.5.6:** Letter from the Working Group of Arctic Glaciology.
- ANNEX 3.1:** Minutes of the last ISIRA Meeting.

IASC Council – Open Session

28 March, 09.00-13.00

1 OPENING AND REPORTING

1.1 WELCOME AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

1.2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The Secretariat received only one comment on the minutes of the Council Meeting in Hanover 2007: under item “**4.4 New Initiatives - Network for Arctic Archeologists**” the wording "without any financial support" should be deleted.

Council is asked for approval.

1.3 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.4 PRESIDENT´S REPORT

1.5 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY´S REPORT

2 MAIN ISSUES

2.1 IASC STRUCTURE AND STRATEGY TO SUPPORT SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT

At the Arctic Science Summit Week 2007 in Hanover (USA), IASC Council generally agreed that a proposal for a new IASC structure including Terms of Reference and Rules and Procedures should be developed by the Executive Committee and presented to the Council for final approval at the ASSW 2008 in Syktyvkar.

Based on the recommendations of the Strategy Groups and Council Members received in Hanover and other following discussions, the Executive Committee has developed a proposal for the new IASC structure and funding strategy. To inform the relevant Arctic (and Antarctic) organizations about the IASC restructuring and to involve them in the restructuring process, the heads of all organizations that are linked to the new IASC structure have been invited to a one day workshop in Stockholm, 5 February 2008.

- ***The outline of the new IASC structure and funding strategy is given in ANNEX 2.1a.***
- ***The list of participants of the IASC Workshop, 5 February 2008 is given in ANNEX 2.1b.***

The President will introduce the proposal for a new IASC structure and strategy to support science development. Council Members and other participants of the meeting are invited to comment on the proposal. The discussion will be continued in the IASC Strategy Groups (see below).

A final decision should be made in the Executive Session of the Council Meeting (see below).

2.1.1 IASC Regional Board

The IASC Regional Board (RB) has continued to discuss its position within the new IASC structure during the last months. The 2008 RB meeting will be held on March 26 prior to the Council Meeting. The main objective of this meeting will be to reach consensus about the future role and position of the RB, especially taking into consideration the recommendation in the R&S Report and proposed new IASC structure. The RB Chair, Steven Bigras, will summarize the outcome of these discussions.

Council is asked to note the report. A final decision should be made in the Executive Session of the Council Meeting (see below).

2.2 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

2.2.1 Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)

2.2.1.1 SCAR/IASC Open Science Conference

IASC and SCAR have agreed to jointly organize the IPY mid-term conference entitled “Polar Research - Arctic and Antarctic Perspectives in the International Polar Year” in St. Petersburg (Russia), 8-11 July 2008. This joint SCAR-IASC Open Science Conference will be the main event of the Biannual SCAR Meeting. Louwrens Hacquebord, co-chair of the conference organizing committee, will provide a status report.

More information is available at the conference website: www.scar-iasc-ipy2008.org.

- ***The second announcement is given in ANNEX 2.2.1.1.***

Council is asked to note the report.

2.2.1.2 Bipolar Action Group

In October 2007 the Executive Committee decided to set up a joint SCAR/IASC Bipolar Action Group (BipAG). The Secretariats of SCAR and IASC were asked to invite the national representatives to nominate candidates.

The terms of reference for BipAG are

- to advise the SCAR and IASC Executive Committees on the development of instruments such as workshops, programs and networks to address bipolar issues and
- to advise the SCAR and IASC Executive Committees on the development of mechanisms to nurture the IPY 2007/2008 legacy, with a special focus on the roles of IASC and SCAR.

Based on the nominations received, the SCAR and IASC Executive Committees have set up the action group which started its work in February 2008.

- ***The final membership approved by the SCAR and IASC Executive Committee is given in ANNEX 2.2.1.2.***

Council is asked to note the progress.

2.2.1.3 Joint SCAR/IASC Workshops

SCAR and IASC have organized a joint workshop on Recent High Latitude Climate Change in Seattle (USA), 22-24 October 2007, which was also co-sponsored by WCRP-CliC.

➤ ***A summary of the workshop is provided in ANNEX 2.2.1.3a.***

Recognizing the importance of ice sheets in controlling global sea level, and the inadequacies in current efforts to model the disintegration of ice sheets in response to a warming climate, the SCAR and IASC Executive Committees, together with WCRP-CliC have decided to organize a workshop, which will be held in St. Petersburg (Russia) in conjunction with the SCAR/IASC Open Science Conference.

➤ ***A summary of the workshop is provided in ANNEX 2.2.1.3b.***

Council is asked to note the development.

Please note that a joint SCAR/IASC Presentation will be given at Project Day by Jörn Thiede (SCAR) and Volker Rachold (IASC). This presentation provides an update on joint SCAR/IASC activities and is based on the SCAR/IASC presentation held by Colin Summerhayes (SCAR) and Volker Rachold (IASC) at the ASSW 2007 Project Day in Hanover (USA).

2.2.2 Arctic Council

The last meetings of the Arctic Council were held in Tromsø (12-13 April 2007) and in Narvik (28-29 November 2007). The Executive Secretary participated in the meetings and gave a short IASC Presentations at both meetings including an overview of the proposed new IASC structure.

A short summary of the meeting will be presented by the Executive Secretary. More information about new and ongoing Arctic Council projects will be presented at Project Day:

- Snow, Water, Ice, and Permafrost in the Arctic (SWIPA), presented by Odd Rogne
- Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic (VACCA), presented by Birgit Njåstad
- Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP), presented by Christoph Zöckler

Council is asked to note the development.

2.2.3 International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA)

Following the recommendations of the IASC Review and Strategy Group, the Executive Committee has been working with IASSA towards developing a Letter of Agreement (LoA) between the two organizations. Joan Nymand Larsen from IASSA will introduce this agenda item.

- ***The proposal for an IASSA-IASC LoA is given in ANNEX 2.2.3.***

Council is asked to approve the proposed LoA between IASC and IASSA.

2.2.4 Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) project of the World Climate Research Program (WCRP) and SCAR

IASC has been in contact with WCRP and SCAR on coordination of research on Arctic and global change. A specific way of strengthening the cooperation between the three organizations was identified in the course of these consultations. WCRP and SCAR propose to IASC to become a sponsor of their joint Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) project. If this proposal is accepted by IASC Council, an update of the existing WCRP/SCAR Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the co-sponsorship of CliC to include IASC as a new CliC sponsor will be required. Vladimir Ryabinin from WCRP will introduce this agenda item.

- ***The proposed WCRP-IASC-SCAR MoU on the co-sponsorship of CliC is given in ANNEX 2.2.4.***

Council is asked to approve the proposed MoU between IASC, WCRP and SCAR on the co-sponsorship of CliC.

2.2.5 Arctic Ocean Sciences Board (AOSB)

The relationship between IASC and the Arctic Ocean Sciences Board (AOSB), in particular the role of AOSB in the new IASC structure, was on the agenda of the last Executive Committee and Council Meetings.

Under this agenda item Harald Loeng, Chair of AOSB, will summarize AOSB's view regarding the new IASC structure. AOSB generally supports the suggested Scientific Standing Committee (SSC) structure of IASC. AOSB views itself as the main component of the SSC for the Marine System and therefore could be the first SSC operating right away. The main issues that have to be clarified over the next months are (1) membership, (2) timing and (3) finance. Financial support for AOSB is currently coming from the US National Science Foundation. Thus, AOSB would continue for a transition

phase of another 18 months before appointing its members under the new IASC structure.

Council is asked to note the report. A final decision on the new IASC structure will be made in the Closed Session (see below).

2.2.6 International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS)

ICSU Council has agreed to form a new International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS), from the 2005-2007 Union Commission on Cryospheric Sciences. This development should bring cryospheric sciences to the forefront in discussions within ICSU.

The IACS officers are:

- President: Georg Kaser (Austria)
- President-elect: Ian Allison (Australia)
- Secretary General: Manfred Lange (Germany)

IASC's relationship to the new organization was discussed in the Executive Committee and also with SCAR. The existing Letter of Agreement between SCAR and IASC was sent to IACS aiming for a tripartite agreement between IASC, SCAR and IACS.

Council is asked to note the development.

2.3 MAJOR PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Under this agenda item short status reports of some major planning activities will be given. These reports are for information only and do not require any decisions of the Council. Please note that some of these activities will be introduced at Project Day. Thus, the reporting under this agenda item will be kept brief.

2.3.1 International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II)

The final report of the 2nd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II), entitled "Arctic Research – A Global Responsibility" and published by the ICARP II Steering Group and the ICARP II Secretariat at the Danish Polar Center in Copenhagen (Denmark), has been released in October 2007. The report includes a synopsis of the ICARP II process and summaries of the 12 ICARP II Science Plans. The full Science Plans are available on an accompanying CD-ROM.

The IASC Secretariat took over the ICARP II website (www.icarp.dk) which was moved to the new IASC website under the ArcticPortal (www.iasc.se). The ICARP II documents including the final report and the science plans are available for download.

The release of the ICARP II final report was announced in an international teleconference, end of October 2007.

Council is asked to note the report.

Please note the following presentation at Project Day:

- ❑ 2nd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II), presented by Kristján Kristjánsson and Bernie Coakley.

2.3.2 International Study of Arctic Change (ISAC)

The International Program Office (IPO) for the International Study of Arctic Change (ISAC) with Maribeth Murray as the ISAC Director is currently being set up in Stockholm.

Council is asked to note the report.

Please note the following presentation at Project Day:

- ❑ International Study of Arctic Change (ISAC), presented by TBD.

2.3.3 International Polar Year (IPY)

The last meetings of the IPY Joint Committee (JC) were held in Paris, April 2007 and in Quebec, October 2007. The Executive Secretary participated in the meetings and will provide a short summary.

Council is asked to note the report.

2.3.4 Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON)

The first workshop on Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks was held in Stockholm, Sweden, on 12-14 November 2007.

The second workshop, to be held in Edmonton, Canada, 9-11 April 2008, will be hosted by the Canadian IPY Secretariat.

- ***The program of the second SAON Workshop is given in ANNEX 2.3.4.***

A third workshop in Finland is planned for 13-15 October 2008, to be hosted by the Finish Meteorological Institute.

More information is available on the SAON website: www.arcticobserving.org.

Council is asked to note the report.

Please note the following presentation at Project Day:

- Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON), presented by David Hik

2.4 ARCTIC SCIENCE SUMMIT WEEK (ASSW)

2.4.1 ASSW 2009

The ASSW 2009 will be held in Bergen (Norway), 23-28 March 2009 and will be the first ASSW that is organized according to the new structure with a stronger focus on science.

Consequently, a Scientific Steering Group (SSG) has been appointed by the Arctic organizations that are represented on the ASSW International Coordination Group. IASSA has been invited to join the Coordination Group and to nominate a representative for the ASSW 2009 SSG as well.

The ASSW 2009 SSG comprises:

- Louwrens Hacquebord (IASC) (Chair)
- Harald Loeng (AOSB)
- Jörn Thiede (EPB)
- John Calder (PAG)
- Marty Bergmann (FARO)
- Joan Nymand Larsen (IASSA)
- Asgeir Sorteberg (Local Host, Norway)

Council is asked to note the development.

A presentation on the ASSW 2009 will be given at Project Day:

- Arctic Science Summit Week 2009, Bergen (Norway), presented by Harald Loeng

2.4.2 ASSW 2010

An offer to host the ASSW 2010 in Greenland will be presented by Denmark/Greenland.

2.5 OTHER IASC ACTIVITIES

Under this agenda item other IASC sponsored activities will be presented mostly for information only. Again, some of these activities will be introduced at Project Day. Thus, the reporting under this agenda item will be kept brief.

2.5.1 Workshop: Arctic Coastal Zones at Risk

This workshop on the impact of global climate change on the Arctic coastal zones was jointly organized by IASC, the Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zones (LOICZ) program of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP) / International Human Dimensions Program on Global Environmental Change (IHDP), the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) and the International Permafrost Association (IPA) and held at the Polar Environmental Centre in Tromsø (Norway), 1-3 October 2007.

- ***The workshop report which was jointly published by IASC and LOICZ is given in ANNEX 2.5.1.***

A follow-up meeting of the organizing committee and chairs of the workshop breakout groups was held in conjunction with the Arctic Frontiers conference in Tromsø, 24-25 January 2008. During this meeting an outline and timeframe for a report/assessment focusing on the state of the Arctic coast entitled “*Responding to Change on Arctic Coasts - Circumpolar State and Capacity Assessment*” has been developed.

Please note that a presentation will be given at Project Day:

- ❑ Responding to Change on Arctic Coasts - Circumpolar State and Capacity Assessment, presented by Hugues Lantuit

Council is asked to note the development.

2.5.2 Arctic Paleoclimate and its Extremes (APEX)

APEX is a network research program aiming to understand Arctic climatic changes beyond instrumental records. The particular emphasis is to focus on the magnitude/frequency of the climate variability and, in particular, the “extremes” versus the “normal” conditions of the climate system. It is an interdisciplinary program that integrates marine and terrestrial science and utilizes modeling and field observations. APEX involves scientists from 15 European countries, Canada and USA and is one of the coordinating programs for paleoclimate research during the IPY. For more information about APEX, please visit: www.apex.geo.su.se.

Please note that a presentation will be given at Project Day:

- ❑ Arctic Paleoclimate and its Extremes (APEX), presented by Dmitry Subbetto

Council is asked to note that the Executive Committee agreed to endorse APEX as an IASC network.

2.5.3 Polar Archaeology Network (PAN)

The Polar Archaeology Network (PAN), encompassing Arctic, Subarctic, and Subantarctic archaeology, is a forum to meet the need for addressing scientific issues, research policies, education, public outreach, cultural heritage and other questions relating to archaeology and early history of the Arctic and Antarctic. Goals of the PAN are:

- to strengthen continuity and development of archaeological research, education and public outreach in the polar regions of the world
- to further and strengthen international contacts and collaboration among and between scientific environments and researchers from the North and the South dealing with polar archaeology
- to communicate archaeological research to the wider community of polar researchers
- to promote dialogue and collaboration between researchers and the public
- to encourage interdisciplinary approaches to and circumpolar and global perspectives on polar prehistory and early history
- to facilitate development of new methodological and theoretical directions
- to enhance awareness of research on cultural resource management and the protection of sites and monuments in the Arctic and Antarctic
- to encourage and promote the involvement of local communities in the development and the conduct of archaeological projects

Please note that a presentation will be given at Project Day:

- ❑ Polar Archaeology Network, presented by Louwrens Hacquebord

Council is asked to note that the Executive Committee agreed to endorse PAN as an IASC network.

2.5.4 Human Dimensions of Arctic Environments: A Multilingual Web Resource

At its last meeting during the ASSW 2007, Council had agreed to support the project "Human Dimensions of Arctic Environments - A Multilingual Web Resource" which is led by the Stefansson Arctic Institute in Akureyri, Iceland. The web resource aims at disseminating information on Arctic cultures and environments moving beyond the image of the Arctic as a frozen wasteland and wilderness without people. The new web resource, built on the existing webpage www.thearctic.is will provide a venue for scientific collaboration, communication and dissemination, seeking to enhance understanding of key human dimensions of Arctic social and ecological systems.

- ***A status report provided by the Project Leader Niels Einarsson is given in ANNEX 2.5.4.***

Council is asked to review the status report.

2.5.5 Arctic Coastal Dynamics (ACD) II

Arctic Coastal Dynamics (ACD) was an IASC Project that ended in 2007. The project group has developed a Science Plan for the second phase of the project.

- ***The Science Plan for ACD II is given in ANNEX 2.5.5.***

As an active and ongoing project that originated with IASC support, the Project Leaders (Paul Overduin and Nicole Couture) requested to retain IASC affiliation as an IASC Network.

Council is asked to note that the Executive Committee decided that ACD II should receive continued IASC endorsement as an IASC Network. The Executive Committee further decided that other former IASC Projects will only receive this endorsement if they provide a clear science plan.

2.5.6 Working Group on Arctic Glaciology (WAG)

At its last annual meeting in Obergurgl (Austria), 30 January 2008, the Working Group elected Andreas Ahlstrøm (Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland) and Martin Sharp (University of Alberta, Canada) as the new co-chairs of WAG.

- ***A letter to IASC is given in ANNEX 2.5.6.***

Council is asked to note the development and to approve WAG's proposal to become an IASC Expert Group or Network.

3 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE INITIATIVE IN THE RUSSIAN ARCTIC (ISIRA)

The last meeting of the International Science Initiative in the Russian Arctic (ISIRA) was held back-to-back with the Heads of the Arctic and Antarctic IPY Secretariats (HAIS) Meeting in St. Petersburg, 5-6 November 2007.

- ***The minutes of the meeting are given in ANNEX 3.1.***

The ISIRA national reports are available on the IASC website:

www.arcticportal.org/iasc/links/welcome-to-isira

Council is asked to note the report.

3.2 PACIFIC ARCTIC GROUP (PAG)

Organized under IASC, the Pacific Arctic Group (PAG) has the mission to serve as a Pacific Arctic regional partnership to plan, coordinate, and collaborate on science activities of mutual interest.

Vice President Jackie Grebmeier will give a short report about the last PAG Meeting which was held in Canada, October 2007, and about a PAG IPY synthesis activity which will also be presented at Project Day by John Calder:

- ❑ Pacific Arctic Group (PAG) Synthesis Activities, presented by John Calder

At its last meeting the Executive Committee noted the latest development of PAG and agreed that it will be important to clarify PAG's future development in view of the new IASC structure, i.e. a sub-group of IASC or an independent organization.

It was decided that this question should be discussed with PAG. A letter was sent to the current PAG Chair, John Calder. PAG's response will be presented to the Council.

Council is asked to note the development. A final decision on the matter will be made in the Executive Session of the Council Meeting (see below).