



IASC INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC
SCIENCE COMMITTEE

May 2014

IASC PROGRESS

Highlights from the ASSW and the AOS 2014

With this edition of its newsletter, IASC is pleased to provide a summary of the main outcomes of the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) 2014 and the 2nd Arctic Observing Summit (AOS), which were held in Helsinki (Finland) last month. The ASSW 2014 and

AOS were arranged in the facilities of the University of Helsinki and the Finnish Meteorological Institute and a total number 470 scientists, students, policy makers and other professionals from 32 countries attended the summit. The 16th ASSW was the largest ever

and the business meetings of IASC and the ASSW partner organizations, as well as several side meetings, attracted 330 participants. The AOS was for the time first held in conjunction with an ASSW and with about 220 participants it was also very well attended.

IASC Welcomes New President and Vice-Presidents

IASC is pleased to introduce the members of its new Executive Committee who were elected at the ASSW 2014. **Susan Barr** (Norway) was elected new IASC President, taking over the presidency from **David Hik** (Canada), whose 4-year term came to an end. Susan Barr has worked solely on polar matters since 1979, within the fields of cultural heritage management and polar history. She was the first full-time cultural heritage officer for the Norwegian Arctic, followed by 16 years at the Norwegian Polar Institute and since 1998 has been the senior advisor on polar heritage at the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage. She was Founding President of the International Council on Monuments and Sites' Polar Heritage Committee and was IASC Vice President for 4 years before being elected President. She sits on the editorial board of several polar journals and is board member of the Fram Museum in Oslo and the Norwegian Polar Club. She has considerable

polar field experience and has authored books and articles concerning polar history and cultural heritage.

David Hik will continue to work with the Executive Committee in his function as Chair of the 3rd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III), Vice-Chair of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) and Co-Chair of the International Polar Partnership Initiative (IPPI).

IASC Council re-elected Vice-President **Naja Mikkelsen**, Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland, for another 4 years. **Larry Hinzman**, International Arctic Research Center, Fairbanks AK, and **Vladimir Pavlenko**, Russian Academy of Sciences, were elected new Vice-Presidents. The Executive Committee is complemented by the fourth Vice-President **Huigen Yang**, Polar Research Institute of China, and the Executive Secretary **Volker Rachold**.



David Hik, IASC President 2010-2014, handing over the presidency to Susan Barr, new IASC President as of 8 April 2014.



IASC Council Members during the ASSW 2014

Austria Joins the IASC Family

IASC Council approved the Austrian application for IASC membership and welcomed Austria as the 22nd IASC member country. Austria will be represented in IASC through the recently established Austrian Polar Research Institute (APRI). The APRI Executive Secretary **Wolfgang Schöner** will serve as the Council Member. Council recognized not only Austria's long history in Arctic research, but also its current research program, which is facilitated through the APRI.

<http://www.polarresearch.at>



Carl Weyprecht and Julius von Payer, leaders of the 1872-1874 Austro-Hungarian North Pole Expedition (source: Wikipedia).

IASC History Publication

IASC 25th anniversary in 2015 presents the opportunity to summarize and review IASC's contributions and recognize those that have been instrumental in its founding, development and growth. Recognizing that the IASC planning process served as a stimulus for initiating circum-Arctic thinking, including the circum-Arctic governmental Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS), the anniversary will present a comprehensive compilation of IASC's history. Printed as a special issue of IASC's Bulletin, the publication will compile and analyze the history and development of IASC and its initiatives and achievements. The publication is being edited by **Odd Rogne, Volker Rachold, Louwrens Hacquebord and Robert Corell**.

New and Renewed Partnership Agreements

To strengthen the commitment of jointly supporting international Arctic research, IASC and its partners signed one new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and renewed two existing partnership agreements.

European Polar Board (EPB)



Recognizing their common goal of working internationally on polar science and technology to increase our understanding of Earth's Polar Regions and their connections to the global system, the European Polar Board (EPB), the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and IASC signed a MoU. Taking advantage of the complementarities of the three signatory organizations, this MoU will increase the cooperation between IASC, SCAR and the entities managing the European polar infrastructures, with the EPB providing the "European dimension".



SCAR President Jeronimo Lopez-Martinez, IASC President David Hik and EPB Chair Harald Loeng signing the Memorandum of Understanding.

International Permafrost Association (IPA)



SCAR and IASC also agreed to continue their partnership with the International Permafrost Association (IPA). The renewed MoU identifies a joint commitment to the excellence in the field of permafrost and polar research, to the pursuit of scientific advances, public awareness and advice to policy makers as well as professional development of young researchers. SCAR, IASC and IPA intend to combine their efforts in particular in the field of permafrost research so as to raise the level of impact of all three organizations.

Pacific Arctic Group (PAG)



With a renewed Letter of Agreement, the Pacific Arctic Group (PAG) and IASC agreed to continue their partnership. Recognizing the common interests in science related to the Arctic Ocean and its peripheral seas, PAG and IASC intend to work together to advance scientific knowledge, to jointly support education and outreach efforts, and to jointly provide advice to policy- and decision-makers who require scientific information as the basis for their actions.

International Science Initiative in the Russian Arctic (ISIRA)

The recent ISIRA meeting held on the 7th of April during the ASSW 2014 in Helsinki got together all the national members and 14 early career scientists to share information about on-going and planned international and bi-lateral research projects in the Russian Arctic. The introductory report presented by the ISIRA Chair **Arkady Tishkov** highlighted the perspectives of ISIRA beyond the International Polar Year. His report was complemented by a presentation on the integration of social sciences projects and ideas given by **Tatiana Vlasova**.

The new open format of the meeting allowed the participation of over 50 attendees in the discussion. All 14 young scientists from all

member countries had a chance to introduce themselves and their research projects to the group. National members of ISIRA assisted by young scientists gave brief introductions to their countries' ongoing research activities in the Russian Arctic, which have been reported to IASC Secretariat earlier in detailed inventories. In the concluding remarks of the meeting, the future activities of the ISIRA group, including the developing of the website and the group's contribution to ICARP III, were discussed. All inventories and relevant information about ISIRA can be found at <http://iasc.info/index.php/home/groups/advisory-groups/isira>
Yulia Zaika

IASC Fellowship Program

During the ASSW 2014 in Helsinki, IASC launched the fellowship program for early-career scientists. The idea behind this initiative was to combine travel support that IASC has been providing to young researchers to attend ASSWs already for a number of years with a more substantial involvement of young professionals into works of the IASC Working Groups (WG). As such, in collaboration with the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS), a group of early-career scientists

from different countries and of different backgrounds was selected and invited as rapporteurs to meetings of IASC WGs of their interest. Next to drafting minutes to provide support to the IASC Secretariat, young scholars had a chance not only to observe, but also actively contribute to proceedings of the WGs and engage in discussions with representatives of all the IASC countries and member organizations. As both IASC members and fellows found it a very fruitful and mutually beneficial experience,

the IASC Council endorsed the fellowship initiative, which will have its continuation also after ASSW 2104.

Malgorzata Smieszek, IASC Fellow, Social and Human Working Group.

"I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet so many outstanding scientists, staff members, and students. I was incredibly impressed with the level of international collaboration and sense of community apparent throughout the working groups and meetings. In visiting Helsinki, Finland, it was my hope to identify potential collaborators, funding sources, and methods to plan for successful research projects in the Arctic Ocean. As one of my proposed project combines Arctic Ocean ecology, marine animal physiology, ecological modelling, deleterious anthropogenic influences (oil spills and/or loss of sea ice extents), and social sciences of indigenous communities, I could not have asked for a better opportunity to meet and talk with the collection of talent and intellectual resources at the MWG meeting, ASSW 2014, and the APECS workshop. I was immersed in ideas."

Paul Suprenand, IASC Fellow, Marine Working Group.



IASC Fellows at ASSW 2014: Yoo Kyung Lee (IASC Secretariat), Elena Kuznetsova, Volker Rachold (IASC Secretariat), Paul Suprenand, Louis-Philippe Roy, Noemie Boulanger-Lapointe, Candice Lys, Emily Choy and Malgorzata Smieszek (left to right). Not on photo: Jeffrey Ross

2nd Arctic Observing Summit (AOS)

The 2nd Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) was the first AOS that was held in conjunction with an ASSW and the feedback received and the high number of participants clearly showed that this integration was well received. Following this model, the 3rd AOS will be arranged at the ASSW 2016 (see next page).

The discussions at the summit were based on the outcome of the first AOS, held in Vancouver last year, but also expanded to new topics. The below first draft recommendations, concluded at the five AOS sessions, were presented at a high-level panel of decision makers on the last day of the summit by **Peter Schlosser**, who was co-chairing the AOS Organizing Committee along with **Eva Krümmel** and **Mikko Strahlendorff**:

Stakeholders and Arctic Observation

- Create more inclusive and iterative communication platforms for planning Arctic Observations;
- Establish improved dialogue between holders of traditional knowledge and science;
- Example from European Arctic: need for land-use studies using Arctic observing.

Coordination for Improved Arctic Observing

- Establish internationally coordinated funding with common calls for and common review of proposals;

- Use Belmont Forum as pilot for multi-nation project funding;
- Establish funding mechanisms for research and stakeholder observations;
- Identify funding sources for sustained, operational observations.

Technology and Innovation

- Share technology and technology development to reduce cost;
- There have to be high-risk investments into technology and there has to be room for failure in development of new technology;
- Enhance cooperation between industry and scientific community in technology development.

Remote Sensing Solutions

- Arctic user requirements should be included in prioritizing Low Earth Orbit missions and to motivate specific polar missions;
- Start preparing for real-time service;
- Priority: carbon cycle, permafrost, snow cover monitoring.

Data Management

- Open access to data in itself is not sufficient. Data uptake should be increased through appropriate easy-to-use data interfaces;

- Data system designers have to be informed better by needs of data holders and data users;
- Build on knowledge and data systems that already exists;
- Develop interoperable data infrastructures to save cost.

The full report of the AOS will be published in summer 2014 and it will also include the **recommendations of the first AOS**, namely to

- Improve cross-sectoral and collaborative approaches to the collection and maintenance of data;
- Create a stakeholder advisory group to provide advice on observational need;
- Better utilize, and adopt modern technology for Observing System Design and to more closely cooperate with global systems observation initiatives during the design phase.



<http://www.arcticobservingsummit.org>



The Third International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III) was formally launched at the ASSW 2014 Common Day on April 8. All ICARP III partner organizations and the five IASC Working Groups presented their activities and initial plans for the next year. The ICARP III symposium, to be held at the ASSW 2015 (see below), will mark the closure and culmination of the ICARP III process and it will present and discuss the outcome of the planning process, namely a consensus statement identifying the

most important Arctic research needs for the next decade and a roadmap for research priorities and partnerships.

<http://icarp.iasc.info>.

IASC Medal

The 2014 IASC Medal was awarded to Julian Dowdeswell as a World leader in the field of Arctic glaciology, recognizing his outstanding and unique contributions to the understanding of glacier dynamics and ocean - ice sheet interactions.



IASC Medalist 2014: Julian Dowdeswell, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge.

Upcoming ASSWs

The ASSW 2015, including the **Fourth International Symposium on the Arctic Research (ISAR-4)** and **ICARP III**, will be held in **Toyama (Japan)** on **23-30 April 2015**.

For more information see the 2nd Circular (to be published shortly) and the website: <http://assw2015.org>.



The newly elected IASC Vice-President **Larry Hinzman** presented the invitation from the US Polar Research Board to host the **ASSW 2016**, including the **3rd AOS**, in **Fairbanks, Alaska (USA)**. The offer was gladly accepted and it was agreed that the summit would be on **12-20 March 2016**.



Campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks



Finally, the Czech delegate **Josef Elster** invited IASC and the ASSW partner organizations to meet in the Czech Republic in the following year. The offer was very well received and it was confirmed that the **ASSW 2017**, including a **Science Symposium**, would be held in **Prague (Czech Republic)**.

IASC Council

Country

Organization

Representative

Austria	Austrian Polar Research Institute (APRI)	Wolfgang Schöner
Canada	Canadian Polar Commission	David Hik
China	Chinese Arctic and Antarctic Administration	Huigen Yang, Vice-President
Czech Republic	Czech Centre for Polar Ecology	Josef Elster
Denmark/Greenland	Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation	Naja Mikkelsen, Vice-President
Finland	Delegation of the Finnish Academies of Science and Letters	Kari Laine
France	Institute Polaire Français	Yves Frenot
Germany	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	Karin Lochte
Iceland	RANNIS, The Icelandic Centre for Research	Thorsteinn Gunnarsson
India	National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR)	Sivaramakrishnan Rajan
Italy	National Research Council of Italy	Carlo Brabante
Japan	Science Council of Japan	Tetsuo Ohata
The Netherlands	The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research	Louwrens Hacquebord
Norway	The Research Council of Norway	Susan Barr, President
Poland	Polish Academy of Sciences, Committee on Polar Research	Jacek Jania
Russia	The Russian Academy of Sciences	Vladimir Pavlenko, Vice-President
Republic of Korea	Korea National Committee on Polar Research	Byong-Kwon Park
Spain	Comité Polar Español	Manuel Catalan
Sweden	The Swedish Research Council	Mats Andersson
Switzerland	Swiss Committee on Polar Research	Martin Lüthi
United Kingdom	Natural Environment Research Council	Cynan Ellis-Evans
USA	Polar Research Board	Larry Hinzman, Vice-President