



IASC INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC
SCIENCE COMMITTEE

IASC PROGRESS

April 2016



Iceland to host the IASC Secretariat from 2017

Iceland, which is represented in IASC by the Icelandic Research Council (RANNIS), will host the IASC Secretariat from the beginning of 2017 in Akureyri.

The government of Iceland decided to allocate 35 million Icelandic Kroner annually (approx. 250.000 Euro) to the operation of the secreta-

riat for the next 5 years (2017-2021).

Since 2009, the IASC Secretariat has been located in Potsdam, Germany and financed by the Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI) and the German Science Foundation (DFG). Earlier it was located in Sweden and Norway. The decision on the relocation of the IASC Secretariat was taken at the IASC Council meeting held at

ASSW 2016 in Fairbanks, Alaska in March this year. Akureyri hosts institutions dealing with Arctic issues, including the Stefansson Arctic Institute, the Arctic Council Working Groups PAME (Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment) and CAFF (Conservation of Arctic Fauna and Flora), the Iceland Arctic Cooperation Network and the Arctic Portal.



Port of Akureyri, Iceland, the new location of IASC as of 2017

Arctic Science Summit Week attracts more than 1000 participants

Since 1999, IASC and its partner organizations convene the annual Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW). With more than 1000 participants from more than 30 different nations and more than 130 different institutions, the ASSW 2016 was the largest ever. The Summit, hosted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks on 12-18 March, included both the business meetings of the various ASSW partner organizations, including numerous side meetings, but also the 3rd Arctic Observing Summit (see next page).

For the first time, the Arctic Council decided to use the ASSW to hold the Senior Arctic Officials meeting back to back with the scientific meetings. The International Arctic Assembly Day in the middle of the week provided an excellent opportunity for a dialogue between scientists and policymakers to translate scientific research into specific plans and actions responding to a rapidly changing Arctic. For more information please see www.assw2016.org.



Conference banquet at ASSW 2016 in Fairbanks (Alaska), 12-18 March 2016

An International Review and Recommendations for the Future of IASC

The IASC Founding Articles call for a regular review of the organization. The first review was undertaken in 1996 and the second in 2006. IASC Council decided that ten years after the second review and after the completion of the Third International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III), it would be timely to conduct another review of IASC and appointed an international group of experts to serve on the IASC Review Committee.

Members include the chair Colin Summerhayes (Scott Polar Research Institute, UK), Gunn-Britt Retter (Saami Council, Norway), Penelope Wagner (Norwegian Meteorological Institute), Craig Tweedie (The University of Texas at El Paso, USA), Hong Kum Lee (Korea Polar Research Institute), Tatiana Vlasova (Russian Academy of Science) and the secretary Nate Bauer (International Arctic Research Center, Fairbanks USA).

Colin Summerhayes, former Executive Director of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), presented the final report of the Review Committee at the ASSW 2016.

For more information please see: <http://iasc.info/iasc/organization/2016-review>

Symposium: Do we speak the same language of science?



IASC Fellow Malgorzata (Gosia) Smieszek opening the ASSW 2016 Symposium „Do we speak the same language of science?”

IASC particularly promotes cross-discipline thematic activities and encourages interactions between its five Working Groups. An important ASSW 2016 event to further such cross-cutting initiatives was the Symposium „Do we speak the same language of science?” which was organized and led by Malgorzata (Gosia) Smieszek, IASC Fellow of the Social & Human Sciences Working Group (SHWG). In this well-attended event invited speakers both from IASC Working Groups and beyond spoke on research methods, challenges and limitations of human, social and natural sciences and discussed with the audience effective means of communication

between disciplines as well as best practices for the pursuit of interdisciplinary research in the Arctic. In the first keynote speech of the session, Louwrens Hacquebord, founding Chair of IASC’s SHWG, recalled the beginnings and developments that led to the recognition of social sciences as polar sciences within IASC. In the second keynote speech, Thomas Armstrong, Chair of the Arctic Council “Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic” (AACA) project, addressed means for effective connection of science and decision-making, essential in developing responses and adaptation actions in the Arctic.

Conference Statement of the 3rd Biennial Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) released

The 3rd Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) was held on 16-18 March 2016 in conjunction with the ASSW 2016 in Fairbanks. More than 450 delegates from 30 countries met to identify a way to create an internationally supported Arctic observing system that meets the urgent information needs of those who are affected by and responding to rapid Arctic change from the local to the global level. The delegates included scientists, representatives from government, business and non-profit organizations and indigenous leaders from throughout the Arctic. Seven major recommendations that emerged from the AOS are highlighted in the final Conference Statement:

<http://www.arcticobservingsummit.org/aos-2016-conference-statement-0>



John Walsh receives the IASC Medal 2016 during ASSW 2016

John Walsh receives IASC Medal 2016

John Walsh received the prestigious IASC medal for advancements in Arctic science at the ASSW 2016 and delivered the IASC Medal Lecture.

The IASC Medal Committee (David Hik (Chair), Yves Frenot, Jackie Grebmeier, Joan Nymand Larsen, Sivaramakrishnan Rajan) unanimously decided to honor Dr. John Walsh for exceptional contributions to modeling and evaluating climate change impacts in the Arctic, particularly with regard to his sustained and distinguished contributions to quantitatively improving our understanding of the Arctic, from climate and weather extremes to hydrology, sea ice variability and the human dimensions of climate change impacts; and for his outstanding record of service and leadership to the wider Arctic science, education and policy community.

IASC and SCAR Arctic and Antarctic Think Tank

IASC and the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) have a strong history of addressing joint challenges for both the Arctic and the Antarctic. The most recent International Polar Year was of course one example. In an effort to continue to work together to jointly address Polar issues, the two organizations held an Arctic and Antarctic Think Tank meeting in Potsdam, Germany to strategize future priorities.

SCAR recently completed a forward-looking vision of important Antarctic research questions (SCAR Horizon Scan) and IASC went through the 3rd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III), which also produced forward-looking Arctic research needs. There are many overlapping issues that have arisen during these processes and to help advance Polar Science, SCAR and IASC agreed to establish a joint Polar Task Force.

Other topics of the Think Tank meeting included the structure, composition, and goals of the joint SCAR/IASC conference POLAR 2018, which will be held in Davos, Switzerland (see next page, upcoming ASSWs). It was agreed that the International Scientific Organizing Committee of the

conference would be co-chaired by Martin Schneebeli (Switzerland, SCAR Delegate and IASC Council Member), Karin Lochte (Germany, SCAR Vice President and IASC Council Member) and Huigen Yang (China, IASC Vice President and SCAR Delegate).



Participants of the SCAR/IASC Arctic and Antarctic Think Tank Meeting in Potsdam, Germany, 24-25 February 2016 (left to right): Josefina Lenz (IASC Fellow), Lucilla Spini (ICSU Head of Science Programs), Martin Schneebeli (co-chair POLAR 2018 Conference), Ruth Vingerhagen (APECS President), Heike Midleja (IASC Administrative Assistant), Jenny Baeseman (SCAR Executive Director), Larry Hinzman (IASC Vice President), Azizan Abu Samah (SCAR Vice President), Chuck Kennicutt (SCAR past President), Terry Wilson (SCAR Vice President), Vladimir Pavlenko (IASC Vice President), Karin Lochte (SCAR Vice President), Susan Barr (IASC President), Jeronimo Lopez Martinez (SCAR President), Naja Mikkelsen (IASC Vice President), Volker Rachold (IASC Executive Secretary) and Huigen Yang (IASC Vice President).

Publication of the ICARP III Final Report



The official outcomes of the **Third International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III)** were presented at the ASSW 2016 International Arctic Assembly Day. The report, entitled "Integrating Arctic Research – A Roadmap for the Future" presents the key messages that emerged from the 2-year ICARP III process. Initiated by IASC with engagement from its partners, ICARP III provided a process for integrating priorities for forward-looking, collaborative, interdisciplinary Arctic research and observing, and for establishing an inventory of recent and current synthesis documents and major developments in Arctic research.

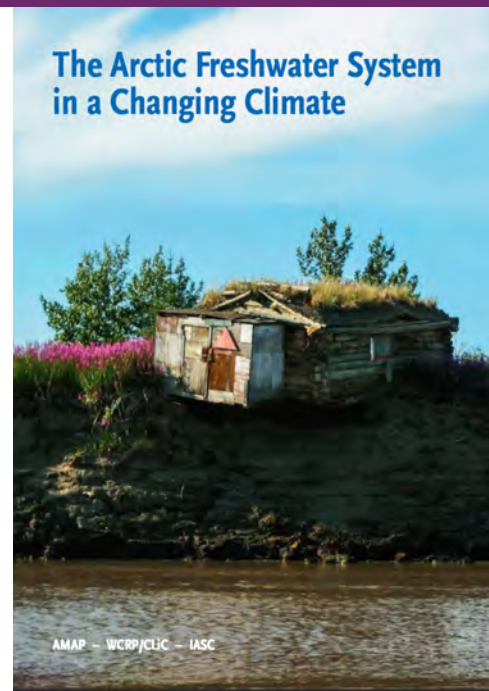
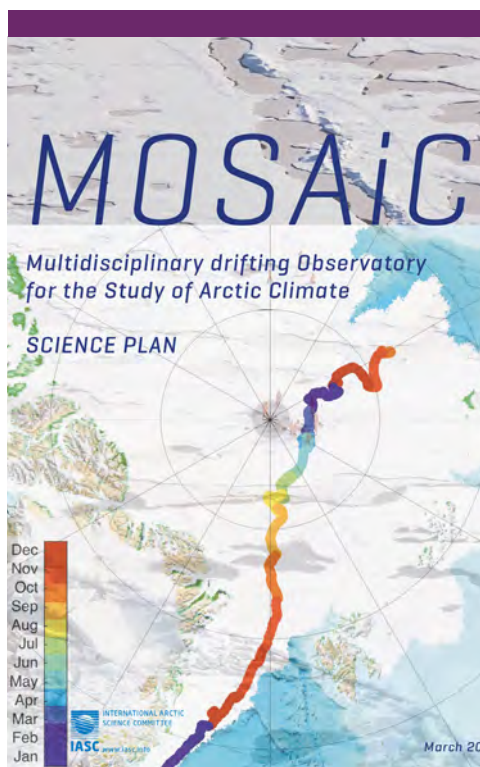
http://icarp.iasc.info/images/articles/downloads/ICARPIII_Final_Report.pdf

Publication of the MOSAiC Science Plan

The Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAiC) is a key international flagship initiative under the auspices of IASC and a major contribution to ICARP III.

The Science plan lays out the scientific vision and design of the MOSAiC initiative.

<http://iasc.info/images/news/MosaicSciencePlan2016.pdf>



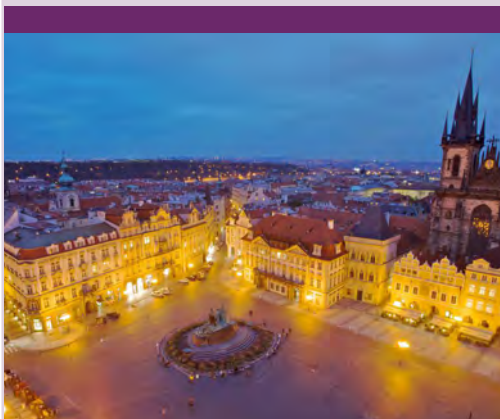
Release of "The Arctic Freshwater System in a Changing Climate" Report

The report is an assessment produced jointly by the World Climate Research Programme's Climate and Cryosphere Project (CliC), IASC and the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) as a contribution to ICARP III. The AFS Summary report is based on the scientific articles that have been peer-reviewed and accepted for publication in a Special Issue of the Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences.

http://iasc.info/images/news/2016/AFS_Report.pdf

Upcoming ASSWs

ASSW 2017, Prague (Czech Republic)
31 March - 07 April 2017

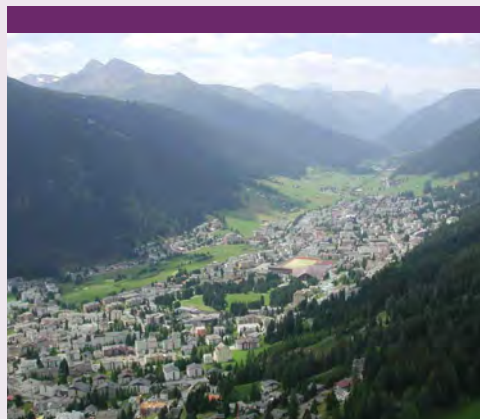


The ASSW 2017 will be held in Prague (Czech Republic) on **31 March - 07 April 2017**.

A Science Symposium, entitled "A Dynamic Arctic in Global Change" will take place on 04 - 07 April and include the three sub-themes: (1) Changes in the Arctic, (2) Global Implications of Arctic Changes, and (3) Impacts of Global Changes on the Arctic.

<http://www.assw2017.eu>

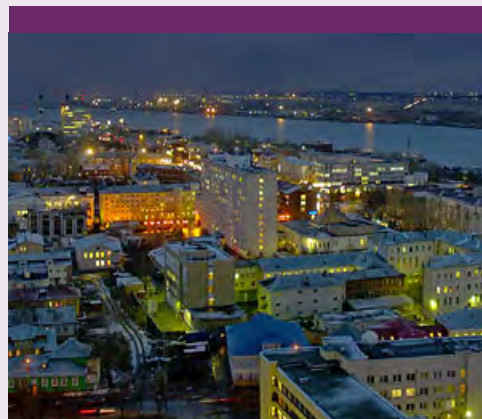
ASSW 2018, Davos (Switzerland)
15 - 27 June 2018



The ASSW 2018 will be held in conjunction with the conference "POLAR 2018" in Davos (Switzerland) on **15-27 June 2018**. POLAR 2018 is a joint Open Science Conference of IASC and SCAR and will also include the IASC and SCAR Business Meetings.

<http://www.polar2018.org>

ASSW 2019, Arkhangelsk (Russia)



The ASSW 2019 meeting will be held in Arkhangelsk, Russia (dates to be confirmed) and include a Science Symposium. The theme of the Science Symposium will be defined by the ASSW partner organizations.

IASC Council

Country

Organization

Representative

Austria	Austrian Polar Research Institute (APRI)	Wolfgang Schöner
Canada	Canadian Polar Commission	Wayne Pollard
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)	M. Ravichandran
Italy	National Research Council of Italy	Carlo Brabante
Japan	Science Council of Japan	Tetsuo Ohata
The Netherlands	The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research	Peter Jordan
Norway	The Research Council of Norway	Susan Barr, President
Poland	Polish Academy of Sciences, Committee on Polar Research	Jacek Jania
Portugal	Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology	João Canario
Russia	The Russian Academy of Sciences	Vladimir Pavlenko, Vice-President
Republic of Korea	Korea National Committee on Polar Research	Yeadong Kim
Spain	Comité Polar Español	Manuel Catalan
Sweden	The Swedish Research Council	Magnus Friberg
Switzerland	Swiss Committee on Polar Research	Martin Schneebeli
United Kingdom	Natural Environment Research Council	Henry Burgess
USA	Polar Research Board	Larry Hinzman, Vice-President