

Welcome to the first edition of the International Polar Year (IPY) International Programme Office (IPO) quarterly newsletter. The aim of this newsletter is to provide you with updates on IPY IPO activities throughout IPY 2007-2008. However, first an introduction to the IPY IPO staff! From left to right, Cynan Ellis-Evans, Rhian Salmon, Nicola Munro, David Carlson and Camilla Hansen (based in Sweden) and Odd Rogne (not in picture) is based in Norway.



Update on IPY Endorsed Full Proposals

The final deadline for the submission of full coordinated proposals was 31st January 2006. To date 218 proposals have been endorsed by the IPY Joint Committee (JC), 168 are Science, 49 are Education and Outreach and 1 for Data Management. The IPY Planning chart, which can be found at www.ipy.org, shows all IPY endorsed projects. At the recent IPY JC 3 meeting, held in April, the JC agreed that the formal review process for submitting full coordinated proposals has ended. The IPO still accepts and welcomes new Expressions of Intent - please contact ipyipo@bas.ac.uk for further information.

Data Management Update

NSIDC and the IPY IPO hosted the Data Management Sub-committee meeting and workshop at the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, UK, between the 2nd - 4th March, 2006. More than forty participants from thirteen countries attended the workshop, which followed the first meeting of the IPY Data Policy and Management Sub-committee. Participants developed specific

Special Requests

It is hoped that there will be an IPY Summary Conference at the end of IPY at which we would like to be able to show off the achievements of IPY! IPO will very shortly submit a letter to all IPY National Committees, soliciting nominations of venues and contributions of associated support. It is hoped that the IPO can put forward these ideas to the JC at their next meeting.

The next Joint Committee meeting takes place in Svalbard, September 26th - 28th, 2006. For this meeting, we would appreciate it if each National Committee could put forward a report outlining their national IPY activities to the Joint Committee. These reports need to be with the IPO by 1st September, 2006 at the latest.

recommendations on engaging archives, data discovery and access methods, standards and interoperability and ways to ensure that all IPY data are captured and readily available. Further information can be found at <http://www.ipy.org/news/story.php?id=149>. The IPY JC, at its April meeting, confirmed the IPY [Data Policy](#).



March meetings

IPO was represented in many meetings at the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) in Potsdam, which was held at the end of March, 2006. During this event the International Permafrost Association's coordination meeting for their IPY Permafrost activities took place and the IPY Observations Sub-committee initial meeting was held.

IPY at European Geosciences Union (EGU)

In April, IPY sessions at EGU in Vienna provided an opportunity for IPY to showcase a range of its Science. Ten coordinated project coordinators gave presentations at an EGU Union Session on IPY and the IPY Booth proved to be very popular for participants to have more detailed discussions and acquire some IPY literature. In addition to the Union Session, there were several splinter meetings (POLENET, APEX, TEMPORE), a town meeting on IPY data management and sessions on new technologies for IPY and on Education activities for the International Years.

IPY Joint Committee 3 (JC) Meeting

Following discussions at the IPY JC meeting on April 20-22, 2006, it was agreed that the JC would advocate internationally for increased national funding. As a result of this, the IPO sent out two letters to each IPY National Committee or National Point of Contact. The first letter encouraged each nation to fund IPY research and to include support for data management as a component of that funding. The second letter requested national funding contributions to the international coordination efforts of the IPO and the IPY sub-committees.

Antarctic Treaty Consultative Forum (ATCM) 12th – 23rd June

IPO were involved in organising IPY events and activities at the 29th Antarctic Treaty Consultative meeting in Edinburgh in June. Dave Carlson presented a talk entitled 'IPY and the Antarctic environment' to the ATCM Committee for Environmental Protection where he made the case that IPY

ATCM Continued...

represented an unprecedented opportunity to understand global and local environmental issues in Antarctica, but in doing so that IPY must attend its own collective environmental impact. The PowerPoint presentation and narrative from this talk are now on the IPY website. June 19th saw a whole day devoted to IPY during ATCM at which an excellent selection of speakers attended to discuss IPY Science and activities and plans in the Arctic Council. The treaty delegates produced a strong Edinburgh Declaration in support of IPY – a copy of this has now been posted on the IPY website.

Update on IPY Education and Outreach Activities

With the arrival of the new Education and Outreach coordinator, Rhian Salmon, IPY Education and Outreach activities have gained momentum. There have been two main tasks, starting with re-development of the IPY web portal. A working group has outlined what ipy.org needs to do (target audience, content such as blogs, news, press releases, links and resources, maps, calendar and images etc). Certain tools/pages will be developed in the interim and put up on the current site as a way of collecting and providing information until the new site goes live. The second task has been to collect media, education and outreach activities for each IPY endorsed project, in particular, 60 word summaries. These are important as they provide information for journalists, educators, individuals etc on IPY Science.

Up and coming events.....

16th - 18th August – Education and Outreach Executive Meeting, US
26th - 28th September – JC4 Meeting, Svalbard
2nd – 4th October – AAAS Arctic Division Science Conference, Alaska

If your National Committee has any events or activities you want advertised in forth coming IPY IPO newsletters, please send details to ipyipo@bas.ac.uk.

