

**INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR 2007 – 2008**  
**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE**  
**IPY PLANNING GROUP**

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**International Polar Year 2007-2008**  
**Planning Group Meeting 1 (PG1)**  
**July 31 – 2 August**  
**ICSU, Paris, France**

**MEETING SUMMARY<sup>1</sup>**

Members present:

C. Rapley, R. Bell, R. Bindshadler, V. Kotlyakov, O. Orheim, H. Peterson

Liaisons present:

M. Kuhn (IUGG), H. Schalke (IUGS), C. Smith (ICSU)

Co-ordination:

C. Elfring

*IMPORTANT NOTE: TENTATIVE DATES FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE ICSU IPY PLANNING GROUP (IPY-PG2) WERE PROPOSED FOR 17-18-19 DECEMBER IN PARIS, FRANCE.*

**Vision for IPY**

To begin, the group reviewed its Terms of Reference and the initial proposal to ICSU and sought to clarify a clear statement on the value of an International Polar Year and why it should be conducted. Key points agreed to include:

Why Polar?

Poles are a Key Part of the Global System

- Drive Changes Globally
- Changes in the Poles are Occurring Rapidly
- Global Changes are Amplified at the Poles

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<sup>1</sup> These notes are an overview of the major discussions and decisions. The names of people who volunteered to do various tasks are provided in the outline distributed by C. Rapley, and are not duplicated here. But where assignments are noted in this summary, they are marked “\*\*\*”.

- Poles are a Unique Repository of Global Change Information
- Multidisciplinary Framework ensures holistic insights into planetary processes

#### Why International?

##### Challenging Polar Environment Fosters International Collaboration

- International Collaboration Enhances Research and Knowledge
- Partnered research innovation and financial efficiency
- Science Collaboration builds International Harmony

#### Why a Year?

##### A Focused Effort will Produce Accelerated Understanding of our Planet

- An Intensive multidisciplinary program ensures holistic insights into planetary processes
- Recent technology and logistic advances provide opportunity to implement new modes of planetary study
- Lay the Foundation for Future Generations
- Focused Collaborative effort will Produce a Major Benchmark

The Planning Group continued to discuss its Terms of Reference, with input from the ICSU representative, and decided to revise the Terms to be sure they include the key elements from ICSU – that IPY involve both poles, that it be multi-disciplinary, and that it be truly international. We will also go a step further and draft a constitution that more fully reflects the goals and responsibilities of the Planning Group and the purposes of IPY 2007-2008. In summary, we agreed to the following:

#### IPY Selection Criteria

- Address compelling science issues
- Which would not otherwise occur
- Multi-National
- Attract and develop next generation of polar scientists
- Engage the public

#### Also taken into account:

Multidisciplinary Facets  
Bipolar  
Innovative technology / methods  
Societal relevance

The original Terms of Reference approved by ICSU will be revised to reflect these discussions (especially importance of dealing with both poles, including social scientists, being truly international, and focusing on science, not politics) (\*\*Bindschadler). A draft constitution will be developed for consideration by the PG at its next meeting (\*\*Bindschadler).

The PG discussed timing and the first driver is the need to submit a draft science plan to ICSU about a month before the ICSU Executive Board meetings in February 2004. They understand the importance of getting real input from participating nations, and that there is not much time for this before January. So it is acknowledged that the draft science plan will be general and evolving.

The PG had discussions about coordinating with other bodies and activities. We talked

at length about coordinating with the UNESCO International Year of Planet Earth.

\*\*Henk Schalke, liaison from IUGS, will be instrumental in helping us with this task. He will provide the IYPE Action Plan when its available. Michael Kuhn, IUGG liaison, explained how the IGY+50 planning evolved at their recent meeting in Japan. It had been intended as a minor symposium on history, but there was consensus to do more. They are developing an “eGY”, a way of collecting and mining data since IGY. He will keep up informed on this; they are very interested in IPY.

There was significant discussion of how to work with the WMO on its IPY initiative. Also how to deal with IHY if that turns into a separate activity. There was great sensitivity to the fact that there are many IPY discussions and ideas being suggested and we want an open process that doesn't make anyone feel we are leaving them out. To start, at least, we need to encourage discussion and ideas; selecting some areas for emphasis will come later. PG members will play critical roles in communicating with the various interested parties, and all will be asked to talk at relevant meetings, do outreach, etc.

\*\* It will be important to approach the space agencies as soon as possible, if there is a chance of coordinating space assets for IPY. ESA, US, Canadian, Indian, etc.

Need to offer coordination with all relevant ICSU unions and bodies (WCRP, IGBP, Diversatas, IHDP, etc.) Need outreach to relevant other organizations and research activities of particular interest, such as Arctic Council, Arctic Climate Impact Assessment.

At second meeting of PG (PG2 ) we will need to return to the issue of coordination with other activities.

The PG discussed how to encourage nations to organize some group or point of contact to facilitate IPY planning in their national setting. What is the purpose of the National Committees? In general, we agreed they should:

- Help develop ideas that meet IPY goals
- Be a stimulus or conduit for IPY concepts and ideas from their nations
- Advocate the IPY concept within their science communities but also to educators, media, funding organizations, etc.
- Coordinate their national activities and encourage international collaboration
- Assist in the coordination of assets, platforms, logistics

The structure can be whatever suits the nation. If a group (eg, National Committee), the membership should reflect the IPY vision (both poles, multidisciplinary, social science, focus on science not politics)

#### Letter to Interested Nations:

\*\* PG decided to write a letter to all nations that are ICSU members explaining the IPY concept and inviting them to participate, either by establishing a NC or some other point of contact as fits their needs. We are asking them to send their views of what IPY should be as soon as possible (by the next PG meeting, so by mid-December).

We agreed to that the following would be recipients of the letter (or a variation) and items to be covered in the letter:

Variations of letter to:

- All 101 ICSU nations and all ICSU unions
- SCAR (with request to distribute to all member nations via NCs)
- IASC (with request to distribute to all member nations via NCs)
- Arctic Ocean Sciences Board (with request to distribute to participants)
- SCOR, ESSP and other ICSU interdisciplinary bodies
- WCRP - CliC,
- FARO, COMNAP (all representatives)
- EPB for info and to forward to member organizations and to EU

Letter will:

- Provide brief statement on history of IPYs, reasons for this IPY
- Explain that interest/enthusiasm building, have many endorsements, and ICSU has formed a Planning Group. Attach list of PG members
- Planning Group striving to facilitate an open process. Has been listening and hears that community wants an IPY that [LIST WHY & WHAT].
- Time is tight; need to move ahead quickly to give more concrete form to this overarching vision. After listening at community meetings and looking at ideas being circulated, PG has identified three broad themes that are likely to be among those pursued (having the elements above) and are looking for input to be sure these are acceptable and whether there are others that should be considered.
- State that “there will be a focused programme but at this point, PG needs the polar science community in all interested nations to give input on what sub-themes (science questions, programmes but not necessarily specific projects) should be included. PG will look at range of advice and try to give increasing focus.
- Also need to know of desired major field initiatives requiring coordinated use of platforms (eg, satellites, ships etc). Will need to move these along promptly, if community agrees they are important aspects of IPY.
- Provide examples of the types of sub-themes that might fall under these themes [ATTACH LIST]
- Call for nations interested in IPY to tell us “yes, we are interested in continuing to receive emails and information on IPY” and current status of your IPY efforts, if any, as soon as possible (set deadline of 3 weeks after email).
- Request each participating nation to establish a method (national committee, point of contact, or whatever suits them) to communicate with ICSU IPY PG and facilitate their nation’s participation. [FURTHER DEFINE ROLE OF THE NC/POC - PROVIDE EXAMPLE TERMS OF REFERENCE]
- By PG2 (December 15), need Statement of Intent, including name of key contact.
- Whatever mechanism chosen, especially if NC, request that involve people that reflect the key components of IPY – bipolar, multi-disciplinary, including social science, consider needs for outreach and education.
- Provide overall timeline of activities
- Ask for input from nations – by mid-November (?) of their views of what IPY 2007-2008 “should be”
- Tell them they are free to distribute this call for ideas to anyone or group
- Mention “what next” in terms of planning activities

- Mention that will include emphasis on education and outreach; that want all activities to give major emphasis to involving the next generation of polar scientists). Will do focused follow-up on data (esp. will be contacting ICSU data organizations (eg, CODATA) and others already working on data in Arctic and Antarctic. Will be outlining broad data policies, based on existing structures and policies.
- Set clear deadlines (to get as much as possible by December PG2 mtg) and description of what we need by end of 2003 (one pagers)

TONE: Openness to ideas; PG is trying to listen to and reflect what community thinks can be of real value and compelling interest. ICSU's key instructions – that effort be truly international, address both poles, address a wide variety of disciplines and include interdisciplinary approaches. Understand that nations have different processes for decision making and funding and are building in flexibility and inclusiveness.

LETTER SHOULD: Give some concrete guidance on what we want back so that aren't overwhelmed with information and get some consistency of input. Eg: "In your response, clearly identify a point of contact for continued communication. When suggesting ideas to be considered, limit your input to 2 pages per idea. Include a title, contact person and contact information, and abstract description of the concept. This is not a formal science proposal; this is a mechanism to create a compendium of IPY ideas that then can be sorted and considered."

VARIATION OF LETTER: Letter asking for NC/POC should go to ICSU bodies, copied to SCAR and IASC. Others get variation that says "NC/POC has been requested from XXX" so that multiple bodies are not creating same thing. But includes everything else.

DISTRIBUTION OF CALL FOR INPUT: Beyond letters:

- "News" piece in Science, Nature, other as possible (WHO?)
- US website (announce on ARCTICINFO, ANSWER, other listservs)

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#### IPY Science Questions, Themes and Programmes:

The PG decided on three major themes, at least as a starting point to gather community input. These are:

#### **Major Themes**

- Exploring New Frontiers
- Understanding Change at the Poles
- Decoding Polar Processes

To judge if these potential overarching themes captured all the things the PG has been hearing discussed in different nations and in different communities, we did an exercise to see what kinds of example activities might fit within these themes:

IPY 2007-2008  
SCIENCE THEMES AND EXAMPLE SUB-THEMES

1. Exploring New Frontiers
  - the ice and sub-ice environment
  - polar biodiversity and ecosystems to understand evolution and responses to change
  - dynamic changes in the Earth's interior
  - the polar night (night = winter)
  
2. Understanding Change and the Poles
  - change in polar societies: history, drivers, stresses and opportunities
  - creating a polar benchmark (eg, climate, biology, solid Earth)
  - environmental and social change
  - stability of the cryosphere
  - implementing integrated polar observing networks
  - now and then: comparing data and information across the IPYs and data mining IGY
  
3. Decoding Polar Processes
  - the sun – earth connection
  - roles of the Poles in global climate (includes paleo, polar oceanography, global carbon budget, stability of the cryosphere)
  - polar genomics and ecosystem function
  - pollution and health (transport, accumulation, etc)

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As the PG discussions continued through the two days, a timeline was drafted and evolved. The timelines is included at the end of this document.

The PG discussed the various endorsements that IPY has received (European Polar Board, US Polar Research Board, Arctic Ocean Sciences Board, International Arctic Science Committee, Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research). We just received a copy of a resolution passed at the recent meeting of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties ; a similar resolution from the Arctic Council would be ideal and PG members are looking into how to proceed.

Communications & Education/Outreach Issues:

Sample logos were reviewed and one will be refined further that might be acceptable; \*\* Elfring will return it to the National Academies Press, see that the changes are made, and circulate it for comment.

\*\* Rapley will take the lead in having an IPY internet site developed by BAS staff (D. Walton). The domain name "IPY" and "International Polar Year" have already been

purchased with the intent of conveying these to ICSU so it holds the master website. ICSU staff (Moustafa Mokrane) will provide assistance with format to ensure consistency. In time, we will link to the US IPY website <<http://dels.nas.edu/prb/ipy/>> where an interactive forum has been developed. We can use this forum to ask questions and have discussions, to get input from anyone with access to the internet.

Web page content will include:

- Brief history of IPYs over time
- IPY Terms of Reference (revised)
- Planning Group activities and requests for input
- IPY timeline
- Links to various other IPY sites and relevant information
- Copy of the letter to the community seeking input
- Other information as it develops

#### Education and Outreach:

Regarding education and outreach (E/O), the PG realizes these will be major challenges and will require significant effort. For now, the priority is to encourage all participating nations to make these priorities and include knowledgeable people on their national committees. E/O avenues will include the web, TV, film, print media (popular to scientific), museums, school, scouting programs, science and adventure organizations, etc). Especially any education offices within polar program bodies. We hope each participating nation will make contact and brief any “big name” communicators.

It is expected that the PG will host some kind of education and outreach workshop (see timeline) as a way to provide concentrated attention to this issue. It would involve the relevant people from national committees plus others and would seek to design a strategy for this to be an exciting part of IPY 2007-2008. This would happen after the Science Groups are formed and we have more concrete plans, but early enough for the E/O people to have real input into the Science Groups. The workshop would bring together: experience people from polar communications offices in existing science organizations, a variety of educators (museums, schools, etc), some high profile media people, UNESCO education program representative, and the chairs of the IPY Science Groups, and some from the IPY-PG. It would be the beginning of building an E/O network and some would be paired with specific Science Groups.

#### Secretariat:

It will be essential to have an IPY 2007-2008 secretariat to provide significant energy to IPY planning, coordination, and implementation. It would ideally have an Executive Director, Project Assistant, and Information Officer. Something like that would be expensive (est US\$250k) so while we hope that some nation will bid to host it, we will probably need innovative ways to fund all of what is needed. Perhaps shared or loaned personnel might be available. Foundations might be approached for funding.

#### Getting the Word out about IPY 2007-2008:

The next months are critical to get people talking about what IPY should be and engaged in helping it take form. PG members will attempt to get on the agenda at as many already planned meetings as possible (Arctic Science Summit Week, SCAR/COMNAP meeting, etc.) There was discussion of how PG might use an “open science conference” to gain input into our IPY efforts, either in planning or once most

plans are in place and thus it would focus on implementation. This is included on the Timeline, but will require additional discussion at PG2.

#### Data Management:

It is expected that the PG structure will evolve to include a small number of Science Groups (probably 3), an Education/Outreach group, and a Data Management Group. This last group will need to be discussed at PG2 in depth. To begin, we need some general idea of how others have planned similar things, that we might build upon. There are many resources (the Arctic Data Directory, the World Data Centers, etc). Our work will be to articulate broad policies. All IPY projects will need to input their data somewhere open, preferably into existing structures. We will seek a way to get some briefing or paper for PG2 in December 03.

The PG meeting adjourned on Saturday 2 August at 12:30 pm.

Note: the ICSU staff person assigned to follow IPY will be Daniel Rodary; Carthage Smith participated in this meeting in his place.

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### **IPY PLANNING TIMELINE**

Blue arrows indicates opportunities for ideas to come into the process. Small numbers indicate the approximate month that the PG meeting/activity should occur.

