

INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR

Polar Weeks, 2009 & 2010

This International Polar Year has stimulated an intense focus on Polar Regions and on Polar Science. Thousands of scientists, students, teachers and polar partners have explored polar issues and celebrated IPY through eight global Polar Days. As the IPY research program moves toward analysis and results and as IPY participants plan for a large international conference in Oslo in June 2010, the IPY International Programme Office plans two Polar Weeks, in October 2009 and March 2010, with the theme:

What Happens at the Poles Affects Us All

These Polar Weeks have four goals:

- To expand the IPY global networks of motivated and enthused educators;
- To raise the visibility of polar issues and polar organizations;
- To enhance the development of polar science educational materials; and
- To develop long-term education and outreach partnerships for polar science.

In October (October 5th through 9th) the IPY Polar Week will focus on recruiting new individual and institutional partners, will stimulate increased engagement by polar partners, and will highlight classroom activities developed for the new IPY Polar Resource Book. In March 2010 the Polar Week will focus on local community-building activities, will connect new and existing partners in science outreach, and will stimulate global enthusiasm for June on-line and on-site events. Both polar weeks will feature fresh accessible science, live web events, fun classroom activities, virtual balloon launches and spontaneous global inter-connections - activities that have made IPY Polar Days effective and enjoyable.



Links:

Polar Days: http://www.ipy.org/index.php?ipy/detail/international_polar_days/
Oslo 2010 IPY Science Conference: <http://www.ipy-osc.no/>

An international group of volunteers, supported by the IPY International Programme Office, organizes and conducts these Polar Weeks on behalf of a larger network of concerned and engaged educators. We seek to inform global citizens about the local relevance of urgent physical, ecological and social changes occurring in the polar regions of our planet.

Specific roles for existing polar partners (APECS, University of the Arctic, International Antarctic Institute, CliC, IASC, SCAR, etc.): assist the production of the Polar Resource Book; support the IPY EOC volunteers; support development of interactive polar science outreach activities; plan together for maximum education and outreach impact of the June 2010 events; stimulate enhanced interactions with a focus on IPY events in 2012.

Specific roles for new partners (ICSU or WMO members, public service organizations): develop connections to local volunteers and educators; develop organization to organization connections; support local events; plan a collective presence in Oslo in June 2010.