

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVOLUTION OF SCAR, 1958–2006

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SCAR Subsidiary Groups

Working Groups

I SCAR	I	Meteorology, cosmic Physics, biology, physiology and oceanography	February 1958
	II	Geology, glaciology, morphology and cartography	
	III	Seismology, gravity and vulcanology	
II SCAR	I	Biology, physiology and oceanography	August 1958
	II	International cooperation and publications	
	III	Weather Central and studies of the atmosphere, earth and ice	
III SCAR		Cartography	September 1959
		Exchange of Information	
		Biology	
		Meteorology and Physical Oceanography	
		Upper Atmosphere Physics	
		SCAR Programme amendments	

Permanent Working Groups

The concept of Permanent Working Groups was established at IV SCAR and a start was made on regularizing the working groups. It appears that, until then, working groups were set up afresh at each SCAR meeting to cover the needs at the time and involving those present. The report of IV SCAR shows that there were several “working groups” in operation under the defined “Permanent Working Groups”. These would probably have been equivalent to the more familiar “subcommittees” of recent years. Any new organization will take a little time to establish its working practices and SCAR was no exception. It might be worth noting that at IV SCAR there were 15 national and Union Delegates present accompanied by 49 observers and advisers, that latter group largely constituting the members of the working groups. Thus there was a total of 64 participants at IV SCAR for the full 5-day meeting; a sizeable contrast to the 300+ participants who attended the 1998 meeting.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVOLUTION OF SCAR, 1958–2006

IV SCAR	Geology Meteorology Biology Logistics Cartography Communications	R W Willett W J Gibbs R Carrick D M Tyree G R Laclavère A H Sheffield	September 1960
V SCAR	Biology Communications Geodesy and Cartography Geology Geomagnetism Glaciology Logistics Meteorology Oceanography Solid Earth Geophysics Upper Atmosphere Physics	R Carrick A H Sheffield B P Lambert R W Willett T Nagata C Lorus D M Tyree W J Gibbs M M Somov E L Robertson F Jacka	October 1961

Extract from Report of V SCAR:

Punch cards – *Recommendation V.M–15*. That SCAR notes with satisfaction that most members are committing their meteorological data to punch cards, and the USA has offered to punch at cost the Antarctic meteorological data of those members without punch card facilities.

VI SCAR August 1962

There were reports from the various working groups but also a “Report of the Special Working Group on Forward Scatter Observation in the Antarctic during the IQSY”. This Special Group was probably equivalent to a modern SCAR Group of Specialists, established for a finite period of time to examine a particular problem.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVOLUTION OF SCAR, 1958–2006

VII SCAR

September 1963

Two Working Groups (Geology and Oceanography) met at VII SCAR. This was normal at that time when most meetings of Working Groups were held in the margins of their major disciplinary meetings, conferences or symposia.

VIII SCAR

August 1964

At VIII SCAR the *ad hoc* Working Group of Delegates discussed the date of the next meeting and decided that it should be in 1966, with subsequent meetings to be arranged as necessary. In effect, this set the pattern for future biennial meetings of SCAR.

At this meeting SCAR welcomed the Antarctic Treaty Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora and proposed that the Ross Seal and Fur Seals should be designated Specially Protected Species but noted that the Ross Seal population “may be higher than was formerly believed”.

The SCAR Executive Committee held its first separate meeting in New York, September 1965. Dr L M Gould (President). Rear Admiral R N M Panzarini (Vice-President) and Dr G de Q Robin (Secretary) were joined by Mr H W Wells at the invitation of the President.

IX SCAR

September 1966

The Working Group of Delegates recommended that full SCAR Meetings of Delegates should be held every two years together with two to four of the Working Groups. It also recommended that the Executive Committee would meet in alternate years at which some working groups or subgroups would be present (a total of about 20–30 persons).

The Working Group on Meteorology recommended to National Committees that their representative should be “an active research man”!

SCAR also drew to the attention of National Committees the need to appoint “active research workers” to Working Groups and that they should be “able to devote time to assisting with SCAR problems”.

The Working Groups on Geology and Solid Earth Geophysics were encouraged to meet together and a joint meeting of the Working Groups on Oceanography and Biology was held.

The Working Group on Geomagnetism was disbanded.

A proposal to establish specialist subgroups, of three or four scientists, under Working Groups was discussed.

Executive Committee Meeting

July 1967

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVOLUTION OF SCAR, 1958–2006

A summary of progress with the formation of fifteen groups of specialists was received.

The list of Working Groups shows that the Working Group on Communications was also disbanded by this time but the topic was included within the Working Group on Logistics.

X SCAR

June 1968

Reports on activities were received from five Groups of Specialists, and “a summary report on the progress of the twelve groups of specialists was received”.

The Working Groups on Geology and Solid Earth Geophysics agreed to meet at future SCAR meetings and to hold a joint session routinely.

Executive Committee Meeting

July 1969

XI SCAR

August 1970

The organization and structure of SCAR was revised in April 1970 and was reviewed by the Delegates. It was agreed that the Executive should revise the SCAR Constitution in the light of discussions at XI SCAR.

An *ad hoc* Meeting of Officers of Working Groups present at XI SCAR agreed to retain the present working group structure and that the groups should meet in conjunction with regular SCAR meetings every four or six years.

It was agreed that members of the Executive should hold office for a four-year term with the Secretary being eligible for election to a second term.

Executive Committee Meeting

Moscow 1971

The Executive noted a proposal to initiate a European Antarctic programme but that no action was required by SCAR at the moment.

XII SCAR

August 1972

The Group of Delegates agreed that there should be an Executive Secretary for SCAR.

The Working Group on Biology recommended that the Antarctic Treaty protected areas, under the “Agreed Measures”, should be divided into two categories: Conservation Reserves and Scientific Reserves. These eventually became SPAs and SSSIs. It was also suggested that SPAs

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVOLUTION OF SCAR, 1958–2006

should have management plans. It was also noted that “Antarctica can serve as a unique and useful baseline for global pollution”. Some monitoring programmes were recommended.

The Subcommittee of Specialists on Seals of the Working Group on Biology proposed that the Subcommittee should become a Group of Specialists and stressed that the members should “should meet as a group of independent scientists rather than as national representatives”.

Delegates agreed to establish a “Working Group of Specialists on Seals” with R M Laws as convenor, and agreed that the Quaternary Group of Specialists should become the Group of Specialists on Late Cenozoic Studies of the Antarctic with E M van Zinderen Bakker as convenor.

Executive Committee Meeting

July 1973

At this meeting there was a move towards formalizing the groups of specialists. There were three such Groups of Specialists: on the Ice Shelf Drilling Project under J H Zumberge; on Late Cenozoic Studies under E M van Zinderen Bakker; and on Seals under R M Laws.

The Executive received a report of a meeting to establish an International Glaciological Programme for the Antarctic Peninsula.

XIII SCAR

September 1974

The Working Group on Human Biology and Medicine was formally constituted with M J Rivolier as Secretary. This brought the current total of Permanent Working Groups to ten:

Biology	Geodesy and Cartography	Geology	Glaciology	Human Biology and Medicine
Logistics	Meteorology	Oceanography	Solid Earth Geophysics	Upper Atmosphere Physics

The groups of specialists on Scientific and Technical Problems affecting Antarctic Telecommunications was disbanded having completed its task. In future, matters relating to this subject will be considered by the Working Group on Logistics, known colloquially as SCARLOG.

The SCOR-SCAR Polar Oceans Conference in May 1974 recommended that “efforts should be made to encourage marine ecosystem studies”.

Executive Committee Meeting

June 1975

The Biology Working Group’s Subcommittee on Marine Living Resources of the Southern Ocean was up-graded to the status of a Group of Specialists with the formal title: Group of Specialists on Living Resources of the Southern Ocean, under S Z El-Sayed as convenor. The other three formal Groups of Specialist at this time were: on Ice Shelf Drilling Projects, Late Cenozoic Studies, and Seals.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVOLUTION OF SCAR, 1958–2006

In considering the Report of VIII ATCM, the Executive agreed to respond to the request for information on the possible environmental effects of mining operations in the Antarctic.

It was reported that the President (T Gjelsvik) had represented SCAR at the opening of the new South Pole Station in January 1975.

XIV SCAR

October 1976

SCAR Delegates approved the report of the Group of Specialists on Living Resources of the Southern Ocean and the proposal to establish the programme on Biological Investigation of Marine Antarctic Systems and Stocks (BIOMASS).

The Group of Specialists on Environmental Impact Assessment of Mineral Resources Exploration and Exploitation in the Antarctic (EAMREA) were established with J H Zumberge as convenor.

The Working Group on Logistics presented a report of discussions on a proposed Cooperative Air Transport System for Antarctica (CATSA). It is worth noting that the proposals were never put into effect, for various reasons, and the whole question was re-visited in April 1995 at a SCALOP Workshop on Antarctic Air Transport Networks.

Executive Committee Meeting

July 1977

XV SCAR

May 1978

The Federal Republic of Germany and Poland were admitted as Members of SCAR, the first new members since SCAR was established in 1958 by the original countries taking part in the IGY.

Executive Committee Meeting

June 1979

The resignation of P Welkner as Vice-President prompted discussion of increasing the size of the Executive and widening the eligibility of election to the Executive beyond the Permanent Delegates.

XVI SCAR

October 1980

The German Democratic Republic was admitted as a Member of SCAR, subject to the establishment of a National Committee.

A new Group of Specialists on Antarctic Climate Research was established with M J Rubin as Convenor.

It was decided to replace the Group of Specialists on EAMREA with a new Group of Specialists on Antarctic Environmental Implications of Possible Mineral Exploration and Exploitation (AEIMEE) with R H Rutherford as convenor.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVOLUTION OF SCAR, 1958–2006

Executive Committee Meeting

September 1981

The Executive urged all National Committees to appoint Alternate Delegates to SCAR and to send both Delegates to meetings, beginning with XVII SCAR.

XVII SCAR

July 1982

The Executive now comprises the President (J H Zumberge); two Vice-Presidents (R M Martinez Abal and J P De Wit), Secretary (G A Avsiuk) and the Past-President (G A Knox).

The Working Group on Oceanography was disbanded and SCOR will be expected to take up the focus on oceanography in the Southern Ocean. Observers were present from Brazil, China, India, Italy and The Netherlands.

Executive Committee Meeting

September 1983

The formation of a new Group of Specialists on Antarctic Sea Ice was approved. It will be co-sponsored by SCOR.

It was noted that SCOR had established a new Working Group on the General Circulation of the Southern Ocean (SCOR WG 74) with SCAR as co-sponsor.

XVIII SCAR

October 1984

Brazil and India were admitted as Members of SCAR.

The proposal for having Associate Members of SCAR was discussed for the first time.

Executive Committee Meeting

August 1985

R Fifield, commissioned to prepare a text reviewing Antarctic Science, submitted a draft for consideration.

In reviewing the SCAR Working Groups, the continuing need for a Working Group on Meteorology was discussed, and the need for such a large group to handle medical research was questioned as the provision of health care services might be more appropriately linked to the Working Group on Logistics.

Interest was expressed in the first outline of the proposed IGBP and a SCAR response to ICSU was prepared.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVOLUTION OF SCAR, 1958–2006

XIX SCAR

June 1986

China was admitted as a Member of SCAR.

Observers were present from Finland, Italy, Korea, Netherlands, Peru, Spain, Sweden and Uruguay. The category of Associate Member was agreed and would be submitted to ICSU for approval. It was suggested that all the countries represented as observers, and possibly Canada, Denmark and Switzerland, might become Associate Members.

It was agreed that the Working Group on Meteorology would be disbanded but that the Working Group on Human Biology and Medicine would continue in its present form.

The proposal to disband the Group of Specialists on Southern Ocean Ecosystems and their Living Resources was confirmed and it was agreed that the BIOMASS Executive should continue to oversee the programme to its completion. It was also agreed to establish a new Group of Specialists on Southern Ocean Ecology, with J-C Hureau as convenor, to be co-sponsored by SCOR.

The programme of Biological Investigations of Terrestrial Antarctic Systems was supported in principle.

The establishment of a panel of experts on Waste Disposal, chaired by J E Bleasel, was agreed.

Two new Groups of Specialists on Structure and Evolution of the Antarctic Lithosphere, I W D Dalziel as convenor, and on Evolution of Cenozoic Palaeoenvironments of High Southern Latitudes, P-N Webb as convenor, were established.

The proposal to amalgamate the Working Groups on Geology and on Solid Earth Geophysics was rejected but it was agreed that the two groups would continue to work closely together.

Executive Committee Meeting

July 1987

It was noted that Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Peru and Uruguay had joined SCAR as Associate Members. Concern was again expressed at the growing number of stations on King George Island.

The President (C Lorius) expressed concern at the growing pressure on SCAR from other organizations and believed that SCAR would need to make a conscious decision on the extent of its international role or whether it should retain a low profile as stated in the introduction to the Constitution.

It was proposed that a Group of Specialists on Environmental Affairs and Conservation (GOSEAC) should be established.

It was noted that the Managers of National Antarctic Programmes (MNAP) had met in conjunction with a meeting of the SCAR Working Group on Logistics.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVOLUTION OF SCAR, 1958–2006

Executive Committee Meeting

March 1988

The Republic of Korea joined SCAR as an Associate Member.

It was agreed to establish GOSEAC at XX SCAR.

The Executive agreed to establish a SCAR Steering Committee for the IGBP co-chaired by C Lorius and G E Weller.

The intended establishment of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) was noted.

The proposal to hold an Antarctic Science Conference was suggested.

XX SCAR

September 1988

The title of the Working Group on Geodesy and Cartography was changed to Geodesy and Geographic Information. The Working Group on Logistics would be disbanded as soon as the MNAP Group had established its Standing Committee on Antarctic Logistics and Operations (SCALOP).

The Working Group on Upper Atmosphere Physics will be disbanded and replaced by a Working Group on Atmospheric Sciences with three major areas of interest 1) the lower atmosphere: troposphere to stratosphere; 2) the middle atmosphere: stratosphere to mesosphere; 3) the upper atmosphere: mesosphere upwards. M J Rycroft will be chairman of the new Working Group. [Note that in practice this proved to be unworkable because there was no control over who was appointed as national representatives to the working group so that there was no guarantee that there would be adequate representation in each of the major areas of interest.]

The new Group of Specialists on Environmental Affairs and Conservation was established with W N Bonner as convenor.

A new *ad hoc* Committee on the Coordination of Antarctic Data was established with R G Barry as chairman.

A planning group for the Antarctic Science Conference was established with G Hempel as chairman. The Executive will consider invitations to host the conference from Germany, New Zealand and the USA.

Executive Committee Meeting

June 1989

It was noted that the first meeting of the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes (COMNAP) will be held in October 1989 and that, with the establishment of SCALOP, the SCAR Working Group on Logistics will be disbanded.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVOLUTION OF SCAR, 1958–2006

XXI SCAR

July 1990

Finland, Korea, Netherlands and Spain were confirmed as Full Members of SCAR and Colombia was admitted as an Associate Member.

It was agreed that membership of the Executive should be increased by the addition of a third Vice-President.

It was agreed that the Working Group on Atmospheric Sciences should be divided into two Working Groups: on Physics and Chemistry of the Atmosphere (PACA) with D H Bromwich as chairman; and on Solar-Terrestrial and Astrophysical Research (STAR) with L Lanzerotti as chairman.

The Groups of Specialists on Antarctic Sea Ice and on Antarctic Climate Research will be disbanded and their activities absorbed with SCAR activities for the IGBP.

Detailed plans for the Antarctic Science Conference “Antarctic Science – Global Concerns” were tabled. Germany will host the Conference in Bremen during September 1991.

Executive Committee Meeting

June 1991

XXII SCAR

June 1992

Ecuador was confirmed as a Full Member of SCAR and Pakistan and Estonia were admitted to Associate Membership.

A report of the global change workshops held in Bremerhaven in September 1991 was presented and the draft text of the document “the Role of Antarctica in global Change. Part II: an International Plan for a Regional Research Programme was tabled for discussion.

A report of the Antarctic Science Conference “Antarctic Science – Global Concerns” was presented.

A new Group of Specialists on Global Change and the Antarctic was established with C R Bentley as convenor.

The *ad hoc* Committee on the Coordination of Antarctic Data was disbanded and a new SCAR-COMNAP *ad hoc* Planning Group on Antarctic Data Management was established with A Clarke (SCAR) and M R Thorley (COMNAP) as co-chairmen.

Executive Committee Meeting

October 1993

The efforts being made by SCAR to resolve the issue of electromagnetic interference at SSSI No 2, Arrival Heights on Ross Island, were noted.

A first draft of the revised Constitution and Rules of Procedure was tabled.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVOLUTION OF SCAR, 1958–2006

A joint meeting was held with the COMNAP Executive.

XXIII SCAR

September 1994

Canada, Ukraine and Bulgaria were admitted as Associate Members of SCAR.

The structure of the sub-groups beneath the Group of Specialists on Global Change and the Antarctic was substantially revised by the Delegates. The establishment of the Global Change Project Office in Tasmania was noted.

A new structure for financial contributions to SCAR was adopted by Delegates.

Executive Committee Meeting

September 1995

A draft report of the workshop on the subglacial Vostok Lake was tabled.

XXIV SCAR

August 1996

It was noted that Colombia had withdrawn from Associate Membership of SCAR.

The Groups of Specialists on Structure and Evolution of the Antarctic Lithosphere, and on Evolution of Cenozoic Palaeoenvironments of High Southern Latitudes were disbanded. The Group of Specialists on Southern Ocean Ecology was also disbanded after consultation with SCOR as co-sponsor of the Group.

The President of IASC, Professor M Magnusson, addressed the Delegates and sought closer cooperation with SCAR on matters of common interest.

The SCAR-COMNAP *ad hoc* Planning Group on Antarctic Data Management was disbanded and replaced by a new SCAR-COMNAP Joint Committee on Antarctic Data Management.

Executive Committee Meeting

August 1997

It was agreed that SCAR should become a member of the Polar Libraries Colloquy to further the dissemination of information on polar literature.

A joint meeting was held with the COMNAP Executive.

The 1998 Membership of SCAR was as follows:

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVOLUTION OF SCAR, 1958–2006

Full Members

Argentina	Australia	Belgium	Brazil	Chile	China	Ecuador	Finland
France	Germany	India	Italy	Japan	Korea	Netherlands	New Zealand
Norway	Poland	Russia	South Africa	Spain	Sweden	United Kingdom	United States
Uruguay							

Associate Members

Bulgaria	Canada	Estonia	Pakistan	Peru	Switzerland	Ukraine
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The 1998 subsidiary groups of SCAR were as follows:

Working Groups

Biology	P D Shaughnessy	Human Biology and Medicine	D J Lugg
Geodesy and Geographic Information	A Clarke	Physics and Chemistry of the Atmosphere	D H Bromwich
Geology	M R A Thomson	Solar-Terrestrial and Astrophysical Research	A D M Walker
Glaciology	H Miller	Solid-Earth Geophysics	D Damaske

Groups of Specialists

Global Change and the Antarctic	J H Priddle
Environmental Affairs and Conservation	D W H Walton
Seals	D B Siniff

Other subsidiary groups

SCAR Standing Finance Committee	R Schlich
SCAR-COMNAP Joint Committee on Antarctic Data Management	L Belbin

XXV SCAR

July 1998

Canada up-graded from Associate to Full Membership of SCAR.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVOLUTION OF SCAR, 1958–2006

Delegates agreed that SCAR should establish a new Group of Specialists on Antarctic Neotectonics (ANTEC) with Dr Terry Wilson as Convenor.

Six papers addressing different aspects of SCAR strategy and operation were tabled and discussed. This led to adoption of the proposal that the Executive Committee should establish a small *ad hoc* group to conduct an internal review of SCAR. This eventually became the ad hoc group on SCAR Organization and Structure (SOS)!

Delegates adopted a new Recommendation (SCAR XXV–22) encouraging National Committees to designate their National Antarctic Data Centres (NADCs) as soon as possible. It was also noted that Resolution 6 (1998) had been adopted at XXII ATCM encouraging governments to support the Antarctic Data Directory System by identifying NADCs in their countries.

The SCAR Executive Committee held a joint meeting with the COMNAP Executive Committee.

Executive Committee Meeting

September 1999

The Executive received an Interim Report on the work of the *ad hoc* Group on SCAR Organization and Strategy.

A joint meeting was held with the COMNAP Executive.

XXVI SCAR

July 2000

The Working Groups on Solid-Earth Geophysics and on Geology agreed to merge to form a single Working Group on Geosciences.

K A Erb, United States MNAP, briefed Delegates on the principal activities and outcomes of the COMNAP XII Meeting held during the previous week.

J H Priddle reported that the Group of Specialists GLOCHANT had proposed a future strategy for SCAR global change science, and drew delegates' attention to the recommendations of a circulated document. He noted that current successful programmes require continuing support and that the closure of the programme office in Australia, due to the resignation of the Project Coordinator I D Goodwin, created a need for direct input and support from SCAR to individual projects.

P M Smith, Chairman, of the ad hoc Group on SCAR Organization and Strategy, made a verbal presentation to Delegates of the report of the ad hoc Group. The Delegates divided into four discussion groups that reached a high degree of agreement on the adoption or otherwise of the twenty recommendations in the report. It was agreed to form an ad hoc Group on Transition to determine implementation of recommendations 4, 5 and 9 during a transitional period.

The SCAR Executive Committee held a joint meeting with the COMNAP Executive Committee.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVOLUTION OF SCAR, 1958–2006

Executive Committee Meeting

August 2001

Estonia has offered to withdraw from Associate Membership of SCAR.

The Executive adopted the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Transition and will implement its proposals.

It was noted that at XXIV ATCM the protection for Antarctic meteorites requested by SCAR was adopted as a Resolution rather than a Measure and was not as robust as SCAR would have liked.

UNEP invited SCAR to contribute to a Regionally-Based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances. Dr J H Priddle agreed to undertake this project for the Antarctic region.

XXVII SCAR

July 2002

Peru up-graded from Associate to Full Membership of SCAR.

SCAR has won the Prince of Asturias Award for International Cooperation 2002. The jury “expressed its satisfaction at being able to recognize such important cooperation for the benefit of the international scientific community”.

In implementing the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on SOS, the Delegates agreed that at this meeting there should be two Delegate Committees: on Scientific Affairs, and on Standing Committees.

The Working Groups on Biology, Geodesy and Geographic Information, Geosciences, Human Biology and Medicine, Physics and Chemistry of the Atmosphere, and Solar-Terrestrial and Astrophysical Research held their closing meetings and reorganized themselves as the new Standing Scientific Groups (SSGs) on Geosciences, Life Sciences and Physical Sciences with their various subsidiary Action and Expert Groups.

The Director of the Scott Polar Research Institute had agreed to provide additional space for an enlarged SCAR Secretariat.

The President proposed that he would undertake to revise the SCAR Constitution, SCAR Rules of Procedure and Rules of Procedure for SCAR Subsidiary Groups to accommodate the changes.

It was noted that the year 2007–08 will be the 50th Anniversary of the International Geophysical Year (IGY). This is an important anniversary for SCAR because it was the unprecedented success of the IGY in the Antarctic that prompted ICSU to establish the Special (subsequently Scientific) Committee on Antarctic Research at a meeting (I SCAR) in The Hague, The Netherlands, during February 1958. Various suggestions were made for possible major research programmes in the Antarctic to celebrate this anniversary.

The Delegate Committee on Scientific Affairs recommended that the informal group that had proposed the new programme on Antarctic Climate Evolution (ACE) should be formally constituted as a Scientific Programme Planning Group (SPPG).

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVOLUTION OF SCAR, 1958–2006

The SCAR Executive Committee held a joint meeting with the COMNAP Executive Committee.

Executive Committee Meeting

July 2003

A joint meeting was held with the COMNAP Executive Committee.

The Chief Officers of the Standing Scientific Groups presented reports of activities since XXVII SCAR.

Proposals were received for five SCAR Scientific Research Programmes.

The Executive Committee welcomed a detailed presentation of progress in the preparations for the XXVII SCAR meeting, including the Open Science Conference.

The Executive Committee welcomed the news that ICSU has approved the establishment of a Steering Committee for the International Polar Year 2007–08. It was recognized that this will also coincide with the 50th Anniversary of SCAR and that the proposed role of SCAR in the IPY should be emphasized.

The Executive noted that the SCAR Constitution and Rules of Procedure were being rewritten to accommodate the new SCAR structure and organization.

The Review Panel for the SCAR Fellowship Programme (funded by the Prince of Asturias Award to SCAR) selected five applicants, each to receive an award of \$10,000.

It was agreed that the participation in the Executive meeting of the Chief Officers of the SSGs had proved to be extremely effective and that this practice should continue.

XXVIII SCAR

October 2004

The President introduced Dr Colin Summerhayes, the newly appointed Executive Director of SCAR, to the meeting.

The meeting opened with a general discussion forum on the future of SCAR and its role in Antarctic science.

Switzerland up-graded from Associate to Full Membership of SCAR.

Malaysia was admitted to Associate Membership of SCAR.

The SSG on Life Sciences proposed that the Expert Group on Human Biology and Medicine should amalgamate with the COMNAP Medical Network (MEDINET). SCAR Delegates indicated approval but the proposal was rejected by COMNAP. Nevertheless, the President was able to comment on the cordial and constructive relations that now exist between SCAR and COMNAP.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVOLUTION OF SCAR, 1958–2006

The Delegates noted that all of the SRP proposals had received a large number of “A” ratings leading to each proposal being rated “A” overall. The review comments received and Delegates’ advice will be incorporated into the proposals and the revised documents will be published on the SCAR web site.

The Executive Director reported on progress with the implementation of the recommendations of the SCAR Review. The reorganisation process is now substantially complete.

The Executive Director introduced the Draft SCAR Strategic Plan 2004–10.

Delegates agreed to adopt the revised version of the SCAR Constitution and the revised version of the SCAR Rules of Procedure.

Delegates approved the formation of the “SCAR Advisory Committee on the IPY” and recommended that SCAR should involve COMNAP, IASC and FARO in its discussions on the development of the IPY.

Delegates agreed with the need to increase the annual contributions to SCAR and agreed to bring the new scheme to the attention of national funding agencies.

Executive Committee Meeting

July 2005

The Executive Committee welcomed to the meeting Dr Marzena Kaczmarek, the newly appointed Executive Officer.

The Executive Committee considered the possible advantages that might accrue from merging COMNAP and SCAR at some point in the future. There was no firm conclusion, but there was general agreement that such a merger could possibly have a positive impact. However there was doubt about the likelihood that such a prospect would be acceptable to COMNAP at this time.

The Executive received a report from the meeting of the SCAR Chief Officers.

The Executive agreed that the Implementation Plans for the ACE and SALE SRPs were mature and could be published, whereas the plans for AGCS, EBA and ICESTAR SRPs needed more work.

The Executive Committee decided that there should be three different SCAR Medals. “The President’s Medal” will be awarded once every four years for extraordinary achievements in Antarctic science. The second medal will be “The SCAR Medal for Antarctic Science Excellence”, and the third medal will be “The SCAR Medal for International Scientific Coordination”. These two SCAR Medals will be awarded every second year, and will be presented during the Open Science Conference.

A joint meeting was held with the COMNAP Executive.