

**REPORT FROM THE 8 NOVEMBER 2005 PARTNERSHIP IN ICE CORE  
SCIENCES MEETING - IPICS II  
16-19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2005  
EUROPEAN POLAR CONSORTIUM OFFICES, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**

---

IPICS is the International Partnership in Ice Core Science. It is a bipolar initiative. In planning the way ahead in ice core science the IPICS consortium developed 5 white papers for its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, which took place in Brussels. The titles are:

- (i) The oldest ice core: A 1.2 million year record of climate and greenhouse gases from Antarctica;
- (ii) The last interglacial and beyond: A northwest Greenland deep ice core drilling project;
- (iii) Processes of climate change: Synopsis of ice cores documenting the sequence of events from the last glacial to the present;
- (iv) The IPICS 2k Array: a network of ice core climate records for the last two millennia;
- (v) Drilling technology.

The SCAR Executive Director opened discussion last year with IPICS about the possibility of SCAR becoming a co-sponsor of IPICS, so as to be sure that SCAR both influenced and benefited from IPICS developments.

The SCAR Executive Officer attended the IPICS II meeting in order to gain detailed information about this new programme, to express SCAR's lively interest in this initiative (supported by a SCAR presentation), and to propose and discuss SCAR co-sponsorship of IPICS.

Some IPICS members are already involved in ice core projects that are within SCAR's interests: e.g. ITASE (the International Trans-Antarctic Expedition) Programme, or DRILL (the newly formed SCAR Expert Group in Ice Drilling Technology). Many IPICS scientists are also members of SCAR SSGs or SRPs. Some of them were involved in the past in another SCAR programme – GLOCHANT, and its sub-programme – PICE. SCAR scientists in ACE have a considerable interest in (i) above, while ACE and AGCS scientists have an interest in (iii) above. These factors explain SCAR's interest and its wish to serve as an umbrella organization.

IPICS activities are carried out in both the Arctic and Antarctic. Thus SCAR co-sponsorship provides a possibility for deepening SCAR's collaboration with IASC and PAGES.

The main goal of the meeting was a discussion on the 5 White Papers being written by IPICS Community (4 on science and 1 on ice drilling technology). Another major goal was to exchange information about the national activities and plans for the next few years within the IPY framework and beyond, so as to identify the needs of individual countries and find satisfactory solutions on which the Partnership would be based. The members

also discussed urgent issues on development of environmental friendly drilling technologies.

Both PAGES and SCAR presented their point of view and their expectations in connection with IPICS (the SCAR presentation is available upon request from the SCAR Secretariat). During the meeting I had an opportunity to investigate how SCAR is seen by the scientists outside SCAR. I discovered that few people know about the recent changes in SCAR structure and way of working and therefore I modified my original presentation so as to add information about recent changes in SCAR. I had an impression that scientists genuinely appreciate it if a representative from SCAR takes part in science meetings. From our perspective these meetings provide another, more personal, form of communication with scientists. By attending such meetings we can identify the urgent issues that might need special attention from SCAR, without a need to be specifically told about them. The meetings also provide an opportunity to tighten the links between the Executive of SCAR and the scientists, to observe the development of collaborations, and to provide some help to initiate new ones.

I was unable to attend the closing discussion on how IPICS would like to relate to umbrella organizations. However, we expect a report from the IPICS meeting to SCAR from Dr Rob Mulvaney. The Chairman of the IPICS II meeting, Dr Eric Wolff, expressed the wish to discuss the possible levels of co-sponsorship and partnership between IPICS and SCAR during an informal meeting at SCAR Secretariat in early December 2005 (scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup>). The potential for SCAR to formalise its link to this important scientific community seems quite high.

*[Post meeting note: at the SSG Interactions Workshop in Amsterdam, November 22-24, the Executive Director was asked to invite Dr Wolff to join the Steering Committee for ACE, so as to cement the link between ACE and IPICS (Dr. Wolf is already on one of the ACE Task Teams),]*

## **ANNEX 1. SCAR AND IPICS – A PLAN FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP**

### **THE PROPOSAL**

This note is to propose to Chief Officers of Standing Scientific Groups in Physical Sciences and Geosciences, as well as leaders of ACE and AGCS that SCAR formally elects to become a co-sponsor of IPICS, the International Partnership in Ice Core Science.

### **WHAT DO CHIEF OFFICERS OF SSG-PS, SSG-GS AND LEADERS OF ACE AND AGCS NEED TO DO?**

SCAR Executive Director requests

- that they accept in their respective SSG meetings in Hobart a short (e.g. 20 minutes) presentation on IPICS and SCAR;
- that they arrange for their respective SSGs to approve SCAR's co-sponsorship of IPICS; and
- that they request, in their reports to the Delegates, that the Delegates endorse this co-sponsorship;
- that they agree to budget for the expenditure of roughly US\$2-4000 p.a. to facilitate IPICS meetings on topics relevant to their SSGs.

### **BACKGROUND**

IPICS is a bipolar initiative that brings together the scientists planning the way ahead in ice core science for the next 15 years on a time-scale consistent with that of SCAR's 5 main scientific research programmes. Plans are being developed through 5 main research avenues, 4 of which (referred to below) are germane to SCAR, the other of which concerns Greenland. IPICS originated outside SCAR, but SCAR is already involved in IPICS in three main ways:

- ITASE (which is now part of AGCS) is an integral part of two IPICS programmes: "The IPICS 40,000 year network: a bipolar record of climate forcing and response", and "The IPICS 2k Array: a network of ice core climate and climate forcing records for the last two millennia";
- ACE involves studies of ice cores as part its plan to investigate climatic variability prior to the Holocene. These studies are directly relevant to a third IPICS programme: "The oldest ice core: A 1.5 million year record of climate and greenhouse gases from Antarctica";
- SCAR's SSG-PS has created a new Expert Group on Ice Core Drilling, a topic of considerable interest also to IPICS.

Given these mutual interests, benefits will accrue to both organisations through closer association as partners in the international polar science network.

It is likely that IPICS will also seek partnership (co-sponsorship) with PAGES and possibly with IASC (since IPICS is bipolar).

The current proposal is the result of discussions that began last year between Eric Wolff and Colin Summerhayes, and which continued this year (a) at the IPICS-II meeting in Brussels on October 16-19th, which Marzena attended to present the SCAR position, (b) at the SSG Interactions meeting in Amsterdam on October 22-24, where we discussed the possibility of co-sponsorship at some length, and (c) today (December 5<sup>th</sup>) in Cambridge, where Marzena and I met with Eric Wolff (now an IPICS Co-Chair).

### **IPICS-SCAR LIAISON**

We shall need to consider the precise mechanism to choose for liaison between the two organisations. Colin Summerhayes' recommendations are as follows:

- a) Eric Wolff is already a member of 2 ACE Task Forces, so it would be useful to invite him to be a member of the ACE Steering Committee, which he is willing to do, and which Martin Siegert has agreed to.
- b) Reporting to SSG-GS on the links between ACE and IPICS could happen either through Eric (if he is available), or through Martin.
- c) Paul Mayewski is the logical link between AGCS and ITASE and IPICS;
- d) Joan Fitzpatrick is developing the ice drilling group programme and is the natural link between SCAR and IPICS on this topic.
- e) Marzena Kaczmarek should be the central SCAR liaison point with IPICS, because she carries Secretariat responsibilities for matters glacial, and we cannot have SCAR's ACE and AGCS and ice drilling representatives on the steering committee. It seems likely that she will be made an ex officio member of the IPICS Steering Committee;
- f) The links between SCAR and IPICS can be reported to SSG-PS (a) by Marzena; and/or (b) by Paul Mayewski (on the links between ITASE and IPICS); and/or (c) by Rob Mulvaney of BAS, who is a member of both the IPICS Steering Committee and SSG-PS; and/or (d) by Joan Fitzpatrick on ice drilling technology.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

IPICS will have its own web site, which will carry the SCR logo somewhere if the Delegates accept the notion of co-sponsorship.

SCAR will create a section for the ACE and AGCS web pages to highlight ice-core science and the IPICS links. These will link to the IPICS web site and the 5 IPICS project descriptions.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

IPICS scientists will be encouraged to submit abstracts that may form the basis for an ice drilling session in Hobart in July 2006.

IPICS-III may take place in China in late 2006, or early in 2007.