

Welcome to the second issue of the International Polar Year (IPY) International Programme Office (IPO) bi-monthly newsletter. IPY is co-sponsored by the International Council for Science (ICSU) and World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). The aim of this newsletter is to provide you with updates on IPY IPO activities throughout IPY and alert you to any new developments or events.



Svalbard, September 2006

IPY Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony for IPY will take place on Thursday 1st March 2007 in Paris at 1000GMT. This will be attended by the IPY Joint Committee, members of the IPO, and guests. We will issue an IPY international press release on Monday 26th February, as part of the lead up to the Opening Ceremony.

There will be many national and regional launch events planned for the weeks leading up to and after the IPY Opening Ceremony on 1st March 2007. At the recent IPY Education and Outreach (EOC) sub-committee meeting, a temporary 'launch event task force' was established. This group will look for ways to encourage and connect the many events. The formal education working group of the EOC sub-committee is also working on plans to involve as many schools as possible.

As your national and regional plans develop, please provide details to Camilla Hansen camilla.hansen@vr.se so that we can add these events to both the list of launch events and to the IPY calendar.

Update on IPO Activities

Dave Carlson presented an overview of IPY at the 7th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic region in August. He also travelled to Grenada, Spain in early September to

attend a national symposium where IPY Education and Outreach played a major role.

The IPO are currently developing the new website which will be launched at the end of this year (2006). In addition to introducing IPY and its projects, science, and history, there will be specific pages for educators, media, youth, and IPY participants. We will also have a web-blog, calendar, and a section conveying the latest IPY news.

To date, 227 full coordinated proposals have been endorsed by the IPY Joint Committee. The IPY Planning chart, which can be found at www.ipy.org, shows all IPY endorsed projects. Over 50,000 people from more than 60 nations are currently involved in IPY. Although the formal review process for submitting full coordinated proposals is closed, the IPO still accepts and welcomes new Expressions of Intent – please contact ipyipo@bas.ac.uk for further information.

Special Requests

The IPO will have an IPY booth at AGU in December. If you have any IPY related materials (leaflets, posters, dvd's, cd's etc) that you would like us to display, please email us at ipyipo@bas.ac.uk by Monday 13th November.



September/October Meetings

IPY Joint Committee Meeting

The IPY Joint Committee (JC) held its fourth session at UNIS in Longyearbyen, Svalbard, 26-28 September, 2006 – the first JC meeting to take place in the Arctic. The main discussions focussed on the launch event, national events, data coordination and funding.



IPY Joint Committee, UNIS, Svalbard, September 2006

Heads of the Arctic IPY Secretariats Meeting

The first meeting of the Heads of the Arctic IPY Secretariats (HAIS) was held in Washington, US, 5–6 October, 2006. The purpose of this meeting was to invite heads of national IPY secretariats to exchange information, particularly on the present funding status, and to discuss issues of potential joint interest. For practical reasons, the participants came from the northern hemisphere (hence called Arctic). However, both Polar Regions were included in these discussions. A full report from this meeting can be found at <http://www.ipy.org/national>.

Regional Workshop on African Involvement in IPY 2007-2008 and International Heliophysical Year (IHY)

The Regional Workshop on African Involvement in IPY 2007-2008 and IHY was held in Cape Town on October 25-27 with the support of the ICSU Regional Office and the South African National Foundation for Research. Cynan Ellis-Evans represented the IPO and made a presentation on International Opportunities from the IPY. The audience was primarily South African scientists and research council representatives but also included representation from several other African countries, including Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia. There was obvious enthusiasm for the IPY and outcomes from the meeting included the intention to

establish a website for IPY that could represent all interests of African countries.

Nordic Countries meet in Stockholm

Chairs and secretariats of national committees in Nordic countries met 26-27 October at the Swedish Research Council in Stockholm with representatives from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. The aim of the meeting was to exchange IPY plans and ongoing activities. There is a gradual picture emerging of funding as funding agencies are taking their decisions for 2007 and beyond. There was a comprehensive discussion on legacy and it was agreed that this should be fundamental to their activities and data management and monitoring were considered as an essential part of the legacy. Information and outreach activities were also discussed and it was agreed to investigate possibilities to build a common Nordic web based information site and also issue a special Nordic IPY magazine due to be published in connection with the launch of IPY, March 2007. If agreement is reached, pending national committee decisions, the website will be edited in Stockholm and the magazine in Copenhagen, although contributions will come from across Norden.

Update on EOC Activities

The first meeting of the Education, Outreach and Communication (EOC) sub-committee was held in Bremerhaven, Germany, October 19-21, 2006. The primary goals of the meeting were to support or establish strong working relationships between committee members, identify clear goals and strategies on a 6 month and 2-year perspective, and clarify methods of communication across IPY activities. It was decided that the main effort of work of sub-committee members between November 2006 and March 2007 should be focussed in working groups, these being media, launch, formal education and informal education.

Upcoming events...

8-11 November 2006 – Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP), Beijing, China

11-15 December – American Geophysical Union (AGU), San Francisco, USA

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

