



# THE IASC MISSION

The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) is a non governmental, international membership organisation that encourages, promotes and facilitates cooperation:

- ◆ in all aspects of Arctic research,
- ◆ in all countries engaged in Arctic research, and
- ◆ in all areas of the Arctic region

IASC strives to integrate human, social and natural sciences concerned with the Arctic and provide advice on Arctic issues.



# Main Activity

- **Main Activity**  
is to develop research projects for which circumarctic or international cooperation is required
- **Project Ideas**
  - **Project ideas** may be proposed by members, users, individuals, etc.
  - **Selection** is made by IASC Council
  - When a project idea is accepted, an international project planning group is appointed to develop a science and implementation plan



# Strong Support for IPY 2007-08

Based on:

- Previous IPYs:
  - Significant contributions to Arctic Research
  - Made history
- Use the IPY anniversary to achieve
  - Another bold step forward
  - New historical achievements



# IASC's Continuing Support

- ASSW 2003:
  - IASC Council expressed enthusiastic support
  - Seed money to speed planning
- Nominated Arctic candidates to the IPY Planning Group
- Recommendation to Arctic Council for endorsing IPY 2007-08
- Advice to the IPY Planning Group
- ASSW 2004:
  - Congratulating the IPY Planning Group with the IPY Outline Science Plan
  - Confirming strongly our commitment to IPY



# Themes and Challenges

- IPY Outline Science Plan:
  - Excellent start, important to focus on a few, major themes
- Take advantage of ongoing planning processes



# **ACIA ICARP II, CEON & AOOS and ISAC**

- **ACIA – Arctic Climate Impact Assessment:**
  - nearly completed
  - identifying gaps in our knowledge
  - reported in Reykjavik in November 2004
- **ICARP II: The Second International Conference for Arctic Research Planning**
  - planning initiated
  - draft science plans for about 10 themes
  - Copenhagen November 2005

# **ACIA and ICARP II, CEON & AOOS and ISAC (cont.)**

- **ISAC – International Study of Arctic Change**
  - planning initiated (chair: Prof. Leif Anderson, Sweden)
  - close to IPY themes 1 and 2
- **CEON – Circumarctic Environmental Observatories Network**

## **AOOS – Arctic Ocean Observing System**

- Arctic is “data poor”
- make Arctic quality data, including those from IPY, easily available

# Principles for Scientific Investigation

## International Polar Year

- “The Earth should be studied as a planet.”
- “Coordinated and synchronized observations are necessary to provide information on characteristics, changes and the distinctive nature of phenomena in space and time.”
- “Interrupted series of observations can have only relative value.”
- “Results of much greater scientific value can be expected if standard observations are made by observers using similar instructions for recording phenomena at simultaneous periods, and who exchange the results of their observations without discrimination.”

# Principles for Scientific Investigation International Polar Year [1882-1883]

- “The Earth should be studied as a planet.”
- “Co-ordinated and synchronized observations are necessary to provide information on characteristics, changes and the distinctive nature of phenomena in space and time.”
- “Interrupted series of observations can have only relative value.”
- “Results of much greater scientific value can be expected if standard observations are made by observers using similar instructions for recording phenomena at simultaneous periods, and who exchange the results of their observations without discrimination.”

Karl Weyprecht 1879

Selections from “Principles for Scientific Investigation, International Polar Year” (Extracted from Heathcote, N. H. de V., and A. Armitage, [1969]. “The First International Polar Year: Origin, Planning and Programme” in Chapman, S., ed., *Annals of the International Geophysical Year*, Vol. 1, Pergamon Press, London, pp. 6-17).



# Some Specific ASSW 2004 Comments

- Welcome ICSU/WMO: Building on each other's strength.
  - Marry science and observing systems
- Human dimension, incl. human, socio.economic and health issues
- Building on ongoing and planned activities
- "The Shift"
- Access
- Global: Focus global agencies etc. on polar regions for IPY
- Post-IPY: IASC, SCAR and others
- Joint Statement (Arctic Council, COMNAP, EPB, FARO, IASC, SCAR etc.)



## **FARO: Forum of Arctic Research Operators ("COMNAP" of the Arctic)**

- IPY special issue on their agenda for ASSW
- Strong supportive message
- Important partner in implementing IPY
- Executives of COMNAP/SCAR and FARO to consult in August
- Logistical planning for IPY to be started this autumn