

HAIS: Heads of the Arctic IPY Secretariats

Draft **MINUTES** (as of 22 October 2006)

The first HAIS meeting was held 5-6 October 2006 at the National Academies of Science, Washington DC, USA

The idea with this meeting was to invite heads of national IPY secretariats for exchanging information, particularly 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 the discussions. See later in these minutes about organising future meetings.

A provisional agenda was distributed by IPO (after earlier inviting potential participants for comments), and with the flexibility to re-draft the agenda after the national status report had been given in order to tailor the agenda to the needs and interests of the participants.

The meeting was organised in sessions, and the following persons chaired one session each: Chris Elfring, Cynan Ellis-Evans, Olav Orheim and Karen Edwards,

Participants: see List of participants, Appendix I

1: Welcome and Opening

Chris Elfring welcomed participants to the National Academies of Science, and informed that the Polar Research Board served as the US National IPY Committee. (Elfring is Director of PRB).

Participants introduced themselves who consisted mainly of Heads or Chairs of National IPY Secretariats, see List of participants for details.

The goals of the meeting were briefly discussed with the general agreement to re-visit main issues after national status report had been given.

2: National Status Reports

Most IPY secretariats have earlier this year assisted in a national funding review process, whose outcomes are known or becoming known this autumn. The timing of the meeting intended to capture some of the outcomes, as well as other major issues the national committees/secretariats were concerned about at international level.

The national reports contain considerable information, and rather trying to summarize them it was agreed to make them available on the IPY web site (<http://www.ipy.org>).

Such reports were given for:

Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Poland, Russia, United Kingdom and the USA.

In addition to the status information given at the meeting (see IPY web site), most countries have established national IPY web sites which give regular up-dates. The following web sites were recorded:

- Canada: <http://www.ipycanada.ca>
- Denmark: <http://www.ipy.dk>
- Iceland: (not yet ready)
- Italy: <http://www.polarnet/csm/IPY>
- Japan:
- Netherlands: <http://www.ipy.nl>
- Norway: <http://www.polaryear.no/>
- Sweden: <http://www.ipy.se>
- Poland:
- Russia: <http://www.ipyrus.aari.ru> and <http://www.ipyeaso.aari.ru>
- United Kingdom: <http://www.ipyuk.org>
- USA: <http://www.us-ipy.org> and <http://www.us-ipy.gov>

In addition to HAIS, the following organisations had representatives at the meeting: AOSB (Arctic Ocean Sciences Board), EPB (European Polar Board), FARO (Forum of Arctic Research Operators), and NSF/OPP (National Science Foundation, Office of Polar Programs). Several other international organisations were interested in the HAIS meeting, but unable to send a representative, see List of participants.

The involvement in IPY by these organisations can be found on their regular web sites. EPB had established a special IPY web sites, which can be found at: <http://www.euroipy.org>

3: Communications – International Organisation

Karen Edwards presented her paper on this issue (see HAIS papers on the IPY web site) as an introduction to an open discussion.

Some key issues arising from the paper and/or the discussion:

- Better coordination between international and national/regional events, (the discussion about the IPY Launch event occurring later proved well this need)
- Clarification of what the EOC Sub-committee will cover and the interaction between the Sub-committee and national committees, (the first meeting of the EOC Sub-committee will be held 18-20 October)
- Major legacies: Which are they and which should they be? (identified as a major topic to be discussed on day 2, see later in these Minutes)

4: Agenda topics

Following the presentations on day 1, the HAIS had a discussion on which topics they wished to focus on during day 2.

The outcome was:

- Funding
 - National funding status and updates
 - Interactions between HAIS re funding
 - Other sources of funding
- Interaction of national committees and sub-committees – information flow
 - International coordination, timing, funding decisions, logistics
 - Duplication
 - Regional dimension?
 - How to involve Antarctic HAIS?
 - Launch coordination – global calendar
- Major legacies of the coming IPY (grand challenges) and the OECD
 - Polar data and observing/monitoring systems
 - New funding structure for international polar projects
 - Human issues, persistent pollutants
- Other comments
 - Should national committees be existing after IPY ?
 - Strengthening the IPO – monetary support as well as secondments (distributed management)
 - Identify policy issues
 - Data management

Comment: Most of the issues were covered on day 2. However, it is recorded here both as a check-list and as a potential source of agenda items for future meetings.

4.1 Funding

The national status report on day 1 included known funding at national level, so this funding session focussed on international funding needs.

- The overall picture

Dave Carlson is monitoring national funding and so far his estimate of 'new money'; i.e. funding beyond current level, was USD 220 mill., expected to increase shortly to USD 330 mill. The estimate is based on information from 10 nations (Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Malaysia, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, UK, and USA.)

- IPO

UK had provided some basic funding for the IPO. However, there are other common expenses (for instance travel support for the sub-committees) that needs to be raised. A request to the National committees had produced only a few responses (Canada, Netherlands, USA), and HAIS were encouraged to have this need in mind.

Further, expectations were far beyond resources. One way of filling this gap was for countries to provide secondments; i.e. persons to work for IPO based at their home institution. Some positive responses were already received (New Zealand, Norway, Sweden.)

As to the most urgent needs in IPY IPO, the following were mentioned:

- Data Coordinator,
- Funds for web site content management and maintenance
- Funds for printed materials etc (for material, especially posters, for teachers)
- Press Coordinator (in particular for the next 6 months)

- Project funding

A basic dilemma for international projects based on multinational funding is to get an overview of project funding status; i.e. to which extent the total project is being funded and which strategies to adopt for scaling the project to the real funding obtained.

Project coordinators will be the first to know, and another 6 months may elapse before they have the full overview.

- Interactions between HAIS/IPO

First step is to identify the real funding situation for each project. Several HAIS have a direct dialogue with Project leaders in their country as they convey the outcome of the national funding process to them. Similarly, the IPO needs a funding status on each project by contacting the Project leaders.

It was agreed that those HAIS having a direct contact with Project leaders (in their own country) and the IPO coordinate their communication with Project leaders.

Secondly, after knowing the gaps, it was foreseen a need for communication between HAIS who are supporting under-funded projects with a view to consider alternative funding, potential for private funding etc.

- IPY Launch Event

The IPY Launch Event will be undertaken by the two international organisations who officially initiated IPY; i.e. ICSU and WMO. It will be undertaken in Paris and with teleconnections to Poles and others.

The detailed programme will become known later, and the EOC Sub-committee is likely to have an advisory role in working out details.

During the discussion, various ideas were put on the table.

However, the conclusion was that ICSU/WMO were the ‘parents’ and national launch events as well as others should coordinate with the main event, which should have precedence.

4.2 Legacy

Several major challenges and legacies had been touched upon under 4: Agenda Topics.

David Hik introduced this session with his paper ‘Broadening the Legacy’ which is available together with the other HAIS-1 papers on the IPO web site. The basic question is:

‘How will we harness the efforts, resources and momentum of IPY to ensure that its impact is substantive and long-lasting?’

The goal is to *ensure a legacy for IPY beyond its scientific outcomes, by working to enhance international Arctic and Antarctic science cooperation beyond 2009.*

This can be achieved by an international consultation and dialogue exercise, with three principal components:

- focus for legacy issues
- create a forum for discussion and action
- “legacy minder”

More details are given in the paper. However, the last component may need an explanation here:

“Legacy-minder and Champions’ network:

Throughout the IPY period and beyond ensure that attention and action given to IPY legacies that are broader than scientific outcomes”.

This legacy thinking coincides with the OECD Global Science Forum (GSF), which has recognized the pivotal role of IPY as a platform for building international scientific cooperation.

David’s suggestion for next step were:

- Make broadening the legacy part of the IPY process
- Identify partners, link with and build upon other efforts
- Learn from other efforts to formalise international polar science cooperation
- Be opportunistic to identify fora to engage governments, northern communities, science organizations, private sector and potential partners and supporters
- Identify champions

With this introduction and the earlier discussion on ‘Agenda Topics’ participants had an active brainstorming with a number of potential legacy themes such as: monitoring, polar data and observing systems, political legacies, partnership building for international funding including involving private funds, ‘Arctic Ocean Treaty’, coordinated study on AON implementation etc.

It was agreed that this theme should be followed up, and with the following actions:

- ***David Hik was willing to take the lead and was tasked with working out some terms of reference,***

- *Seek approval from the IPY Joint Committee*
- *Consider establishing a new IPY Sub-committee on Legacy, alternatively starting up with an ad-hoc group*

Initial action: David Hik

5: Other issues

5.1 Comments on the meeting - next meeting

Participants agreed that a series of IPY meetings at this level and with concrete approaches and issues were very valuable. Consequently, it was agreed to meet in

Copenhagen, February 1 & 2, 2007

Henning Thing, Danish Polar Center will be hosting the meeting.

Chairs: Chris Elfring, US (past chair) & Henning Thing, Denmark (current chair)

5.2 IPO – national committee communications

Comments by some HAIS indicated a need for improvement in this communication, particularly reports from sub-committees. This issue may be more technical than factual as such reports can be found by a search on the IPY web site, but not featuring directly on the main page.

A new lay-out of the IPY web site will be introduced in 6 weeks.

5.3 HAIS: Arctic & Antarctic

There were diverse opinions on HAIS becoming ‘global’ (Arctic and Antarctic) in membership. The conclusion was to keep HAIS as it is, and encourage other regions (Australasia, South America) to form similar groups. The reason was travel time and expenses, if a global group should be formed – in addition to the fact that a very large group will be less effective. Good communication and networking between groups can bind the groups well together. Most of the HAIS countries have Arctic as well as Antarctic research, and both are covered in the HAIS group.

5.4 HAIS: Objectives and Members

Following the discussion at the end of the meetings, the following could be listed as initial

Objectives are to provide a platform to:

- Provide support and enhance the capacity amongst national Secretariats
 - Develop and facilitate collaborations among IPY countries
 - Discuss common/practical challenges with the view to achieving/facilitating resolution
 - Develop advice for consideration/implementation by IPO/JC
 - Share information about international, national, and regional IPY programs and initiatives
 - Assist each other in meeting common objectives
- (this listing can be revisited at the next meeting)

Members are national representatives who are active members in the planning and implementation of IPY programs within their own nation.

5.5 Eurasian Sub-office (EASO)

Sergey Priamikov introduced the IPY Sub-office which has recently been established at AARI in St. Petersburg with funding support from Germany, Norway, Sweden and the USA. The Eurasian part constitutes almost 50 % of the Arctic. The main tasks for the office will be information and coordination, including advice on access to the Russian Arctic.

The EASO web site is found at:

<http://www.ipyeaso.aari.nw.ru>

Sergey demonstrated the wealth of information already available on this web site both as to logistics and IPY projects, including IPY plans for many of the Arctic countries. Readers are kindly asked to visit the web site for details.

Everybody was invited to add information to this web site, for instance by providing links to similar web sites.

6 Closure

Chris Elfring and her staff was warmly thanked for excellent hosting of the meeting !