

HAIS –Heads of Arctic and Antarctic IPY Secretariats

HAIS - 6

Draft MINUTES, rev. 6.2.09

The meeting was held 26 January 2009 at British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge

Participants:

- Canada: David Hik
- Finland: Kari Laine
- IASC: Volker Rachold
- IPO: David Carlson and Odd Rogne; Nicola Munro and Rhian Salmon (part of the meeting)
- Japan: Hajime Ito
- The Netherlands: Martijn Los
- Norway: Olav Orheim
- Sweden: Anders Clarhäll
- SCAR: Colin Summerhayes
- United Kingdom: Cynan Ellis-Evans (chair and host of the meeting)

Late regrets:

- European Polar Board: Paul Egerton
- Iceland: Ragnar Baldursson
- Poland: Alexander Guterch
- Russia: Sergey Priamikov

1: Welcome and Introductions

Cynan Ellis-Evans welcomed participants to British Antarctic Survey (BAS), which is an institution under the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC.)

Total staff amounts to 450, of which 140 researchers. BAS operates 5 stations in Antarctica, 2 ships, 5 aircrafts and 4 Twin Otters. The NERC station in Ny-Ålesund is managed by BAS, and the UK is likely to increase its activities in the Arctic by various bilateral agreements and coordinated access to UK polar infrastructure/logistics overseen by a new UK Arctic Office hosted at BAS and headed by Cynan Ellis-Evans. Its first activities include servicing a newly signed Canada-UK MoU facilitating Canadian access to UK Antarctic operations and UK access to Canadian Arctic infrastructure.

2: Approval of Minutes

As to the Minutes from the last meeting, these had been circulated for comments and additional information. The revised version was thereafter made public on the old IPY web site at:

<http://classic.ipy.org/national>

This web site contains all HAIS minutes as well as most of the earlier agenda papers. The Minutes from HAIS-6 and all electronic agenda papers will be made available at this web site.

The HAIS-5 Minutes were accepted as presented.

3: Reporting from the last Joint Committee meeting (JC-7)

The Minutes from the JC-7 meeting was enclosed to the HAIS - 6 agenda, and David Carlson summarized the main outcomes.

He also referred to a 'State of Polar Research' document initiated at JC-7, and which had been extensively worked on between meetings. This document will be published shortly.

There was some disappointment among the HAIS members that the JC had not gone deeper into the recommendations that emerged from HAIS-5.

4: Update on IPY

4.1 Continuation of the IPO: Status and Needs

The JC had strongly recommended that the IPO should continue until the 2010 conference, and a request for support had been sent to the international polar science community.

Dave Carlson gave an overview of the current status and needs. This overview referred to funds directly coordinated by the IPO (does not include secondments). For the hand-over period (starting 1 April 2009 and lasting 18 months), the total request was for €539.882, whereas €259.841 was committed to date (USA, Norway, Canada) and € 280.041 still needed. UK had indicated interest in potentially contributing to the pot but had not yet made a clear decision at the time of this meeting. Spain was thought to be considering providing a financial contribution.

During the discussion, Sweden indicated a possible contribution amounting to € 30.000.

As to the secondments, Norway informed the meeting that their contribution (Odd Rogne) will be reduced to 1 day a week, whereas United Kingdom (Cynan Ellis-Evans) will continue as needed until the IPO close.

Conclusion:

As 1 April 2009 is only 2 months away, it is imperative to clarify the funding possibilities for the 18 months hand-over period. Dave Carlson was advised to use the material presented for producing a more targeted document containing:

- What you need and what you need it for (tasks, justification)
- What you have committed already, and
- What you miss

Action:

Immediately after the meeting, Dave Carlson acted on this advice, and circulated a document that gives:

- *A one page financial overview*
- *The needs, and*
- *Past and ongoing activities*

This new document has been sent to all HAIS members, who are kindly asked to assist in identifying potential funding or advice on such opportunities, and preferably doing so as soon as possible.

The document is also a part of these Minutes, and will be made available on the classic IPY web site together with these Minutes.

4.2 IPY Science Conference 2010

Olav Orheim gave a status report:

- 100 session proposals under the 5 themes, possible gaps will be considered
- 100 persons will be involved in the selection
- Most of these persons have been identified, including the 5 chairs

Comments from the discussion included a request to put proposals on the web site (like the EoIs). Should be no problem as long the status the proposal is made clear.

Conclusion:

Good progress. Names of chairs and committee members to be put on the web site shortly.

Web site: www.ipy-osc.no

4.3 Information on 2012 conference in Canada

David Hik informed that a preliminary planning for the 2012 conference had started, with Kathrine Fisher at the federal IPY office in charge. It will be held in one of the larger cities with easy access internationally. A proposal for funding is being worked

out. There will be a Steering Committee, and a liaison person to gain experience from the 2010 conference.

Advisory comments from the discussion:

- Establish an international steering committee, and as the goal for the conference earlier was said to be science and policy, you should draw on IASC and SCAR for the science side, and on Arctic Council and the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting on the policy side.
The way in which the 2010 conference was organized could also serve as a model.
- Results from the 2010 conference could be valuable for the 2012 conference, and links should be established to tie the two together.

4.4 National IPY closing ceremonies: latest status and opportunities for links

Rhian Salmon gave an overview. More detailed information is or will be added on to the IPY web site, where you will find information on international celebrations as well as national events.

IPY projects will also contribute, and we need to coordinate so press releases not come too clustered.

Fact sheets from various countries (how many projects and persons etc.) could also be useful.

Closing vs. Celebration:

The word celebration is being used rather than closing, as most of the IPY projects (and some activities) will continue after 1 April.

Information from HAIS members:

- Italy and UK will have a bilateral celebration in May 2009 at the Italian Embassy in London. UK will have a UK-IPY Conference in the first half of 2010 coordinated with other IPY related outreach activities.
- Finland will have a national conference as celebration
- Japan will have a special celebration for young people to which old polar people will be invited.

Action:

Information on national celebrations to be sent to Rhian Salmon (for adding to the web site)

5: IPY legacy issues

Dave Carlson informed that an IPY legacy discussion paper had been prepared for the last JC meeting. This paper included the HAIS input and comments.

However, the JC chose to have their own discussion on IPY legacies aiming more at securing scientific legacies, and that discussion may continue.

Discussion:

- We need more documentation about IPY legacies, so historians will know what was achieved during this IPY. IPO is the logical body to assemble such an overview (inventory)
- IASC and SCAR are the logical science bodies to take on the science legacies. IASC and SCAR will have to clarify which legacies they are interested in taking care of alongside the science legacies for instance observations and data management.
- Other IPY legacies – as for instance those mentioned in the Arctic Council IPY legacy paper – will have to have defined, agreed ‘homes’ before the IPY come to an end
- Canada is discussing an ‘IPY legacy facilitation office’. At present, the idea is to secure Canadian IPY legacy. However, an international perspective could be considered.

Conclusion:

There is a need for clarifying which potential IPY legacies exists, and who will take on the responsibility for carrying them forward.
 Creating and maintaining a simple IPY Legacy Inventory seems to be the basic need.

5.2 Arctic Council proposal

During the last year, the Arctic Council has been discussing potential IPY legacies of interest to them. At their Senior Arctic Official (SAO) meeting in November 2008, they agreed to take on this task as a project.

The proposal contains the following elements:

- Continued support to the establishment of SAON
- Initiate a process to consider issues related to access for scientists to all areas of the Arctic
- Improved research coordination and funding across the Arctic community
- Continued support to ongoing recruitment and international capacity building (such as APECS)
- Initiate a project to consider the IPY scientific results in the context of society and governance, aiming to:
 - Conduct a scoping study
 - Consider mechanisms to ensure knowledge is brought forward for societal use (such as SWIPA)
 - Convene an AC IPY Legacy Workshop to discuss further the potential mechanisms for communication and societal use of IPY research.

The timeline for this project is:

1 March for the Scoping Study (e.g. is ongoing until then), and
 1 April for the Workshop Report (the workshop is held during ASSW 2009)

Discussion:

It was noted that education was not covered in the proposal, and should be considered. This question relates also to the future of the IPY EOC group.

Action:

Clarify the future of the IPY EOC, and make the AC IPY legacy group aware of the current lack of consideration of education legacies and the future of the IPY EOC.

5.3 IASC and SCAR

It has been anticipated that IASC and SCAR will become the home of many IPY legacies and carry them forward.

However, these organizations will have to discuss and agree internally on such a task, and how it can be implemented.

IASC has its Council meeting in late March, and SCAR is meeting in August. It is anticipated that these meetings will clarify the situation.

5.4 Polar observing activities

5.4.1 SAON

A brief status report was given by Odd Rogne, who also distributed a written summary.

The Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) Initiating Group (IG) had finalized their report 'Observing the Arctic', which has now been widely distributed. This report is based on several, major international workshops and other contributions. The report contains 4 overarching recommendations addressed to AC countries and others.

The first recommendation proposes the establishment of the Arctic Observing Forum (AOF), which is intended to serve as a means for implementing the recommendations.

Discussions within the IG member organizations (including the Arctic Council) is ongoing, both by studying the Report and in particular the draft Terms of Reference for the AOF.

The IG members (except AC) has agreed on a preliminary deadline by 1 March for comments, so they can have consultations during ASSW 2009, and with a final deadline 1 April 2009.

Consultations between the AC working groups have been ongoing since early December, and SAON is on the agenda for the coming SAO consultations and in the draft ministerial declaration to be agreed in April.

SAON has received broad support also outside the Arctic Council and the IG member organizations, such as the Arctic Parliamentarians, EU, the Monaco conference (at which also many European and non-European countries expressed their support), the new US Arctic Policy document etc.

Copies of the SAON Report as well as the ToR for the AOF were distributed at the meeting.

Further information can be found at:

www.arcticobserving.org

5.4.2 Antarctic terrestrial and ocean observing activities

Colin Summerhayes reported that SCAR has:

- Established a Data Management Group, whose aim is to collect metadata for the Antarctic
- Developed an Implementation Plan for the Multidisciplinary Action Group of SCAR's SSG/PS Pan-Antarctic Observations System (PAntOS), a copy of this plan was made available before and at the meeting.
- Southern Ocean Observing System, which is a part of PAntOS and also a part of GEOSS (to ensure that these data to be a part of a global system).

All these systems are currently under development.

5.4.3 EU polar interests

There are plans for strengthening European Union activities in the Arctic, notably contributing to observing networks and research in the Arctic, and these documents will gradually emerge. They are linked to an EU policy change as to the Arctic.

One of the papers:

'The European Union and the Arctic Region' communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, had been circulated as an agenda paper.

The comprehensive report from the Monaco conference (which was an initiative of the French EU Presidency) is under preparation.

Recently, the French 'Senat' took some follow-up actions, information was circulated separately after the HAIS meeting.

5.5 Polar infrastructure

5.5.1 Developing Canadian plans

David Hik reported that

- The Canadian Polar Commission last year published a report called 'Beacons of the North', which covers research infrastructure in the Canadian North
- An international group of experts had worked out a 'Vision for the Canadian Research Initiative', which relates to a vision for Canadian research stations in the North. These reports were triggered by the earlier political announcement about a major Canadian research station to be established in the Canadian North. Both reports will be made available together with these Minutes on the IPY classic web site.

There are also plans for renovating their icebreaker fleet, including building of at least one new polar class vessel.

A bilateral MOU on polar research has been signed with the UK (mainly on access to each others' polar stations and logistics), possibly also with other nations.

In the 'Speech to the Throne' (intentions of the Federal Government for the coming year), a re-organization of polar programs was mentioned and further funding for polar infrastructure.

Continuity of IPY projects is the main concern at present. A possible strategy is to build up infrastructure, which in turn require research programs to fill them up,

5.5.3 SIAEOS (Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System)

Olav Orheim reported on the SIAEOS, whose goal is to 'establish an Arctic Earth Observing System in and around Svalbard that integrates the studies of geophysical, chemical and biological processes from all research and monitoring platforms' SIAEOS is an opportunity for Europe to establish the central node in the global monitoring of the High Arctic.

SIAEOS is based on existing stations and is now on the ESFRI Roadmap, which means that it has passed the first stage in the EU system for potential funding allocation.

In 2009, they will develop an application for the 'Preparatory Phase' in the 7th Framework Programme of the EU.

All this preparatory work is funded by Norway, whereas the SIAEOS would be implemented in 2012 at the earliest.

The funding needs are in the range of NOK 100-150 mill. on investments, and about NOK 20-30 mill. annually for running costs.

More information is available on the web site.

Olav mentioned also that a Norwegian research icebreaker is in planning.

The new South Korean icebreaker Araon will hopefully make its first polar voyage in the Arctic during 2010.

5.5.4 Aurora Borealis

Aurora Borealis is a plan for achieving a 'European Research Icebreaker and Deep-Sea Drilling Vessel'. The German Ministry was the major proponent for this new capability.

The technical design, business plan etc. will be ready in 2009 and the funding process will start during this year, estimated to take about a year. Provided funding is successful, the building will start in mid-2010.

Jørn Thiede had kindly provided a ppt for information (agenda paper as well as to appear on the web site).

Some HAIS members expressed concerns about this project noting that countries like the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom did not support the idea at present, and others like Norway and Finland had no commitments so far. Dave mentioned that various interests in Germany favour a Polarstern replacement instead as a strategy better fitting their oceanographic interests. The recent EU Arctic communication stated that it could potentially contribute funding to build Aurora Borealis.

Aurora Borealis was also promoted by the European Polar Board (which is serving as a European polar coordinating body), although it was unclear if Aurora Borealis was agreed in EPB.

Conclusion:

HAIS encourage closer cooperation between EPB and IASC&SCAR

6: IPY after 1 April 2009

6.1 National plans for IPY continuation

Members reported on national plans for continuation of IPY activities:

- UK:
 - Efforts are underway to increase and better coordinate future UK activities in the Arctic
 - A UK Arctic Coordination Office funded by NERC being established at BAS
 - Increased funding for Arctic infrastructure may appear in due course and funding for Arctic science is being facilitated through specific Calls within the NERC Funding Strategy.
 - Links and MOUs with Arctic countries regarding Arctic access and use of infrastructure is seen as a primary focus for UK developing its Arctic activities.
- Norway:
 - Aiming at keeping the IPY funding level for the future
 - The strategy is to use the IPY experience and outcomes, together with increased Arctic significance, as justification for future funding
- Finland:
 - Same strategy as for Norway
 - An increased/improved infrastructure is being worked out
 - An evaluation of polar research funding is ongoing
- Canada:
 - IPY funding will continue until 2011

- The Netherlands:
 - Aiming at keeping present funding level
 - Using the IPY achievements as justification
 - Plans for merging polar research

6.2 National IPY committees

After some exchange of information as to how national IPY committees were linked up in various countries, the conclusion was that the IPY committees were temporary and would either be disbanded or integrated into national polar research committees.

At national level, the legacies of the IPY would then be the responsibility of the national polar research committees.

7: JC and HAIS

7.1 JC to end 1 March 2009?

After the HAIS-6 agenda was put together, it had been clarified that the JC would have another meeting after 1 March 2009 – most likely in 2010. Details will be discussed at the JC meeting at the end of February

7.2 Is there a need for HAIS post-IPY

Exchange on views, which could be summarized as follows:

- HAIS has been a useful forum for the IPY period
- Long-term responsibilities for IPY legacies will rest with IASC and SCAR
- There will be a transition period from 1 April until the Oslo conference, IASC and SCAR will need some planning time for taking over
- Members of HAIS could serve as advisors in that transition period

Conclusion:

HAIS to continue until 2010, and awaiting a clarification of the IASC and SCAR plans this autumn.

8: Any other business

8.1 Next meeting

It was assumed that IASC and SCAR would have finalized their take-over plans by September, hence a HAIS meeting was tentatively agreed on **Friday 16 October**, be held in Oslo, Norway with Olav Orheim as host.

8.2 The Geneva Celebrations

Dave gave an overview of the present plan for this event. It will be held the day after the JC meeting, and much in line with the style of the Opening ceremony in Paris. About 280 invitations were just sent out (all national committees, all project coordinators etc.)

8.3 National status report from Poland

As Alexander Guterch was unable to attend this meeting, he had prepared a brief status report that had been made available to all participants.

In addition to being a status report, it also gives some information on the continuation of Polish IPY projects (ref. Item 6.1).

8.4 US Arctic policy document

This document was circulated as a late paper as it gives Arctic policy directions from a major Arctic country.

The paper has a section E on 'Promoting International Scientific Cooperation' (p. 5-6), and which supports issues such as (see item 5: Implementation):

- Access for scientists, 5 b
- Circumpolar observing network (SAON), 5c
- Regular meetings of Arctic science ministers (implications for IASC, multinational research funding etc.), 5d
- Strengthen partnerships with academic and research institutions (IASC etc.), 5f

Although this was one of the last documents signed by the past president (dated 12 January), most of the main elements in it are likely to survive under the new president. The suggested regular meeting of Arctic science ministers was seen as a particularly significant proposal.

9 Closure and thanks

The host kindly invited all for dinner in the evening (to celebrate the Chinese New Year in a Chinese restaurant in Cambridge), and was properly thanked not only for an excellent dinner, but also for a well prepared, hosted and chaired meeting!