

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

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Dear HAIS Colleagues:

Please accept my apologies for missing our second meeting in Denmark. Although it is no substitute for being part of our interesting discussions, I offered to provide my thoughts about the challenge of maintaining a vibrant, visible IPY across the full two years of IPY. This short discussion paper outlines some of the challenge that we will all face. My goal is to spark additional thinking on this topic so that each of us, in the realms in which we operate, finds ways to keep IPY in the public eye throughout the two years. I'm asking questions, not answering them. This is a parallel line of thinking that should be considered in addition to the planning related to leaving a long-term legacy.

Regards, Chris Elfring

DISCUSSION PAPER

MAINTAINING IPY MOMENTUM THROUGH TWO YEARS

Chris Elfring, US National Committee for IPY

We live in an age where attention spans are short and where news gets old in an instant. The official launch in Paris on 1 March 2007, and the various national and regional kick-off events scheduled around that date, will ensure a first wave of attention. If these events go well, we will have established a baseline familiarity with what IPY is and why it is happening. The words "IPY" and "International Polar Year" will become part of the public lexicon.

But awareness of IPY is only one step and two years is a long window of time to maintain IPY visibility. How can we ensure that International Polar Year remains an exciting, relevant, and well-known event across two full years, from March 2007 until March 2009? How can we build some depth of understanding – that is, how can we make more of the content of IPY science available as it is produced? And conversely, do we need to worry about avoiding "IPY over-kill" or turning into a trite phrase.

Questions to be considered include:

- How to keep funding flowing to the research so planned IPY activities move from concept to implementation to results.
- How to keep funding flowing to the education and outreach activities so these continue throughout the two years (and aren't just happening in the first six months).
- How to encouraging new science and new education & outreach activities to become part of IPY even after the kick-off.
- How to keep government official informed about IPY so they maintain interest and ownership.
- What can be done to make IPY results (whether science or education & outreach) available as soon as possible so that results are seen during the IPY window.
- What can be done to maintain IPY as a globally coordinated event (not dissolving to a lot of separate national activities).
- What can be done to ensure timely and open access to data.
- What can be done to ensure wide distribution of education & outreach materials (two years gives us time to go deeper than the first wave of attention and, perhaps, reach under-served audiences).

ADDENDUM

Comments on Access to the Scientific Literature (contributed by Paul Uhler, US NAS, Committee on Data)

The issue of timely and open access to the scientific literature is one that is both part of maintaining IPY momentum during IPY and a legacy issue. The following is a record of a conversation I had with Dr. Paul Uhler, a fellow staffer here at the US National Academy of Sciences, who runs our efforts related to data issues (CODATA). Paul is in contact with the IPY DIS committee. I thought his relatively specific thinking would prove useful to our HAIS group.

“I believe that IPY DIS is already focusing sufficiently on the data access issues, but I am not yet aware of how access to the literature is being addressed. Here are some suggestions I have regarding more open access to the literature from the IPY to form part of the "legacy" activities. (This information has also been provided to Mark Parsons, the IPY DIS co-chair.)

1) Survey the Open Access (OA) journal literature to determine which journals are thematically appropriate for IPY-related output and make that information broadly known to IPY researchers. IPY reserachers should be encouraged--but not required--to publish in these outlets. There also may be some journals that would be willing to print special issues and this should be investigated.

2) Strongly encourage all IPY researchers to self archive their journal articles when publishing in non-OA journals. Creative Commons has developed a license that authors

can use with their subscription journal publishers when submitting their articles and signing the copyright form. It is basically an addendum to the copyright assignment form that allows self archiving and provides acceptable terms and conditions. See the Science Commons Web site at: <http://sciencecommons.org/projects/publishing/index.html> and look under Author Addenda. Many journal publishers might be willing to accept this. The IPY DIS could provide leadership in this regard. This is not controversial, but needs some promotion. It would be a great benefit to the community and not just for IPY.

3) Work with the existing non-OA journal publishers to see if some deal can be worked out to label all IPY-related articles and provide OA to them via the publishers themselves, even with some time delay, if necessary. This would be a more effective way to ensure OA than relying on individual investigator initiative as suggested in #2, although there is no reason not to pursue #2 as well.

4) Develop an OA thematic repository at one of the universities that is playing a leading role in IPY (perhaps in Canada?) for depositing or linking to such articles, the grey literature (conference proceedings, theses, government reports and official documents, etc), as well as all the related data.

I am interested in promoting this line of action further with IPY (and with other major research programs) in connection with the CODATA Global Information Commons for Science Initiative.”