

USNC for the IPY

October Newsgram

<http://us-ipy.org>

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Dec 13-17: AGU Fall Meeting (San Francisco, CA)

Jan 9-13: AMS Annual Meeting (San Diego, CA)

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1. USNC Vision report available

The report *A Vision for the International Polar Year 2007-2008* is now available for purchase from the National Academies Press (www.nap.edu). Free PDF copies are also available at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/11013.html>. The vision of the U.S. National Committee is to recognize the International Polar Year by presenting an overview of potential science themes, enabling new technologies, and providing public outreach opportunities to both individuals and scientific communities. The committee recommends that the U.S. scientific community and other agencies use the IPY to initiate a sustained effort aimed at assessing large-scale environmental change and variability in the polar regions; include studies of coupled human-natural systems critical to societal, economic, and strategic interests in the IPY; explore new scientific frontiers from the molecular to the planetary scale; design and implement multidisciplinary polar observing networks that will provide a long-term perspective; invest in critical infrastructure (both physical and human) and technology to guarantee that IPY 2007-2008 leaves enduring benefits for the nation and for the residents of northern regions; and engage the public by providing useful information about polar regions in the global system. These tactics will also help to advance general science literacy in the nation.

2. PRB IPY Workshop report available

A pre-publication version of the report *Planning for International Polar Year 2007-2008: Report of the Implementation Workshop* is now available for free viewing at <http://books.nap.edu/catalog/11110.html>. A final bound report will be available in a few months. This report summarizes IPY discussions of the recent National Academies workshop on the IPY. To further IPY planning, the National Academies' Polar Research Board organized a 2-day workshop on July 8-9, 2004 in Washington, DC, aimed at discussions between the National Academy of Sciences and Federal agencies. The Workshop, attended by 47 agency representatives and scientists, focused on how the U.S. might address move ahead in developing a suite of coordinated scientific activities in the context of both known and potential international IPY interests. The workshop was organized around three main sessions - opening agency remarks made in the context of current understanding of international interests, discussion on possible U.S. and international IPY science and technology initiatives, and discussion of IPY implementation and next steps.

3. ICSU/WMO announces call for pre-proposals

The ICSU International Polar Year Planning Group held its final meeting 13-17 September in Paris, France, and the group is preparing its final report, which will contain the outline science plan and discussions on implementation, outreach, and data management. This document will be submitted to ICSU and available to the community in late October. As one of its tasks at the meeting, the ICSU IPY Planning Group proposed a timeline for development and submission to ICSU-WMO of pre-proposals so it can begin the process of identifying those projects to be granted status as part of the official IPY activities portfolio. To meet the needs of the ICSU-WMO, the goal is to have a submission deadline of Monday, 10 January 2005 for short (approximately 4 page) pre-proposals. (It is encouraged that these pre-proposals go through the relevant National Committee, so there will be a December deadline for submission to your relevant National Committee). Full ICSU-WMO proposals would be due in June 2005 (remembering that ICSU-WMO will not be granting funds, just conveying the status being part of IPY; the submission of proposals seeking funding will go through regular national proposal processes). Details of the pre-proposal structure and requirements will be circulated in a joint letter from WMO and ICSU in mid-October. These details will be announced and posted on the ICSU/WMO IPY website at <http://www.ipy.org> and at the U.S. National Committee for IPY website <http://www.us-ipy.org> as soon as they are available. Please note that the goal of the US National Committee is to facilitate US community involvement in IPY, and not to screen out proposals. Passing the pre-proposal through the USNC will allow us to check to make sure that all aspects of the request are addressed, and it allows us to form a list of IPY proposals from the U.S. Also, please be aware that gaining the ICSU-WMO "IPY Stamp" for a program is a totally separate issue from getting your program funded. Investigators who seek funding for projects should submit through the normal peer review processes at US funding agencies.

4. IPY special sessions at AMS announced

The 85th AMS Annual Meeting will be held 9-13 January 2005 at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, California. It is being organized around the broad theme of "*Building the Earth Information System*" and the role that science can play in decision-making for society. The final agenda for the Polar Meteorology and Oceanography session has been posted to the AMS web page at http://ams.confex.com/ams/Annual2005/techprogram/programexpanded_269.htm. A special session on IPY will occur on Tuesday morning, where agency (NSF, NOAA, NASA, Canada) program leaders will present the latest planning for the upcoming International Polar Year. This session will be followed by an IPY poster session highlighting observational techniques, programs and products/data that have a high likelihood of contributing to IPY activities. The schedule for oral talks is as follows:

Tuesday, 11 January 2005: Session 2 International Polar Year - Invited Presentations

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| 8:30 AM | 2.1 Update on Plans for the International Polar Year (Invited Presentation)
Sheldon Drobot , The National Academies, Washington, DC; and D. H. Bromwich |
| 8:45 AM | 2.2 NOAA's potential contributions to the International Polar Year (Invited Presentation)
Richard D. Rosen , NOAA, Silver Springs, Maryland; and J. Calder |
| 9:00 AM | 2.3 National Science Foundation Plans for the International Polar Year (Invited Presentation)
Karl A. Erb , NSF, Arlington, VA |

- 9:15 AM 2.4 [NASA Activities in support of International Polar Year \(IPY\) \(Invited Presentation\)](#)
Jack A. Kaye, NASA, Office of Earth Systems, Washington, DC
- 9:30 AM 2.5 [Canada and the International Polar Year \(Invited Presentation\)](#)
Barry E. Goodison, MSC, Downsview, Ontario, Canada

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We encourage your comments on this newsletter as well as on the reports and activities of USNC. To provide input, contact rschiflett@nas.edu.

The USNC is a committee under the Polar Research Board of the National Academies. The nation turns to the National Academies -- National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council -- for independent, objective advice on issues that affect people's lives worldwide. USNC members include: Mary Albert, *Chair*, Cold Regions Research and Engineering Lab; Robert Bindschadler, NASA; Cecilia Bitz, University of Washington; Jerry Bowen, CBS News; David Bromwich, The Ohio State University; Richard Glenn, Arctic Slope Regional Corp.; Jacqueline Grebmeier, University of Tennessee; John Kelley, University of Alaska-Fairbanks; Igor Krupnik, Smithsonian Institution; Louis Lanzerotti, Bell Laboratories/Lucent Technologies; Peter Schlosser, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory; Philip Smith, Science Policy and Management; George Somero, Stanford University; Cristina Takacs-Vesbach, University of New Mexico; Gunter Weller, University of Alaska-Fairbanks (ret.); Douglas Wiens, Washington University; Mahlon Kennicutt, Texas A&M University; Patrick Webber, Michigan State University; Terry Wilson, The Ohio State University; Robin Bell, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory; and Sheldon Drobot, National Research Council.

We encourage you to share this newsletter with colleagues.