

CHRONICLE

3rd IASC Council Meeting, Abisko, Sweden, April 1993

The 3rd Meeting of the IASC (International Arctic Science Committee) Council took place in Abisko, Swedish Lapland, from 26 to 30 April, 1993. All fourteen countries-members, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom and USA participated, and an observer from Switzerland was present. The Regional Board meeting of eight Arctic countries (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and USA) was being held simultaneously.

The meetings were hosted by the Abisko Scientific Station of the Swedish Academy of Sciences, with the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat (Prof. A. Karlqvist and Ms A.-S. Rickby) in charge. The IASC Council and Regional Board meetings were presided by Dr F. Roots (Canada) and Prof. A. Karlqvist (Sweden) as their President and Chairman, respectively.

The Committee on Polar Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences was represented by its Chairman Prof. K. Birkenmajer (IASC Council member) and its Scientific Secretary Dr S.M. Zalewski (as observer).

In the third year of its activity, IASC has already shown good progress in scientific work at working group level. The most active Working Group on Global Change (Chairman Prof. G. Weller, Alaska), the first one to have been organized, has a co-ordinating responsibility for the Arctic region. After a successful workshop last year in Reykjavik, the group proceeded with a draft on Scientific Plan for a Regional Research Programme in the Arctic on Global Change. The IASC Council accepted an offer from Finland to host an Arctic Global Change Programme Office at the Arctic Centre in Rovaniemi.

An advisory group has been established by the IASC Council meeting with representatives from IASSA (International Arctic Social Sciences Association) and indigenous people of the Arctic in addition to a few from IASC.

The Working Group for Geophysical Compilation and Mapping established in 1992 is broadening its co-operation among the IASC countries. Its Chairman (Acad. I.S. Gramberg) was able to present in Abisko a map of magnetic anomalies in northern Russia, Siberia inclusively, as a product of the group's work. Bathymetry, magnetics and seismics are the topics of the subgroup's work.

The *ad-hoc* Working Group for Marine Geology (Chairman Dr G.L. Johnson, USA) held their meeting in Copenhagen prior to the 3rd IASC Meeting, and had finalized their proposal in form of an implementation plan. The group will meet next year to elect new chairman and continue its scientific work. There will be a liaison between the geophysical and marine geology working groups.

An *ad hoc* group on Arctic Glaciers (acting chairman Dr J.O. Haugen, Norway) is under organization, with meeting scheduled for September 1993 in Cambridge (UK).

Causes and effects of the Arctic Ozone Depletion was another subject for debate and the need for more knowledge of the effects of increased UV-B radiation on Arctic biota was expressed.

A new International Science Initiative in the Russian Arctic (ISIRA) received encouragement from many organisations and individuals to the effect that IASC take a major initiative to the benefit of Arctic Russian science.

IASC Mission and Strategy documents were finalized. IASC will focus on interdisciplinary science at a circumarctic or international level. IASC will also provide a forum in which other Arctic science organizations will be invited to join in interdisciplinary science. There is already an established relation with some other Arctic organizations, and discussions are ongoing with ICSU (International Council of Scientific Unions) and SCAR (Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research). IASC will apply for associate status with ICSU and will seek co-operation at working-group and groups of specialists levels with SCAR, in addition to exchanging observers with SCAR (at IASC Council and SCAR Delegates meetings).

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