

Name of the Union

Activities' Report - Year 2016

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1. Introduction

The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) is a non-governmental, international scientific organization. The [Founding Articles](#) committed IASC to pursue a mission of encouraging and facilitating cooperation in all aspects of Arctic research, in all countries engaged in Arctic research and in all areas of the Arctic region. Overall, IASC promotes and supports leading-edge multi-disciplinary research in order to foster a greater scientific understanding of the Arctic region and its role in the Earth system.

With this goal in mind, IASC, Initiates, coordinates and promotes scientific activities at a circumpolar or international level; Provides mechanisms and instruments to support science development; Provides objective and independent scientific advice on issues of science in the Arctic and communicates scientific information to the public; Seeks to ensure that scientific data and information from the Arctic are safeguarded, freely exchangeable and accessible; Promotes international access to all geographic areas and the sharing of knowledge, logistics and other resources; Provides for the freedom and ethical conduct of science; Promotes and involves the next generation of scientists working in the Arctic; and Promotes bipolar cooperation through interaction with relevant science organizations.

2. Main activities carried on by (Union name) during 2016 relevant for Italy and for CNR

Most of the activities carried out in 2016 were centered around the ASSW (Arctic Science Summit Week) that was successfully held from April 23 to 30, 2016 in Fairbanks, USA

During the first 4 days, committee meetings of IASC and other Arctic organizations were held to discuss ongoing and new research projects, as well as the role of Arctic science in society, science priorities for the coming decade and new strategies to promote international cooperation

The next ASSW will be held in April 2017 at Prague.

During the ASSW there was a report of the five IASC Working Groups. Each WG leader presented a brief status reports of the WG activities in 2014 and an outlook on their future plans.

Atmosphere WG –

Cryosphere WG –

Marine WG –

Social & Human WG –

Terrestrial WG –

As I already mentioned last year there is a lack of geosciences research within the IASC Working Groups.

To promote system-scale activities within IASC and to encourage the WGs to explore activities which are of interest to three or more of the WGs, IASC is promoting crosscutting activities. Three of them seem to be relevant for CNR:

1. "Cutting barriers in snow knowledge" led by Martin Schneebeli (Cryosphere Working Group)

Snow influences all IASC working groups from arctic bio- and geosystems through to human values and practices. The concrete goal of this workshop is to come up with a product for better interaction of researchers concerning snow related questions in the Arctic and to build a network.

2. "Do we speak the same language of science?" led by Malgorzata (Gosia) Smieszek (IASC Fellow on the Social and Human Working Group)

With the aim of strengthening the communication and dialogue among representatives of humanities, social and natural sciences, this Symposium arranged at ASSW 2016 will advance the development of crosscutting

initiatives among IASC WGs, hence translate into more interdisciplinary research proposals and completed projects.

3. "Community based Research - Does and Don'ts in Arctic Science" led by Josefina Lenz (IASC Fellow on the Terrestrial Working Group)

This international workshop, to be arranged in conjunction with the International Conference on Permafrost (Potsdam, June 2016), will facilitate an exchange among Early Career Researchers of various fields of research and Indigenous Peoples' spokespersons to discuss permafrost research with and in northern communities.

It was also carefully discussed the future IASC Strategy and several recommendations were given to the document (attached) :

- It is important to involve the IASC Working Groups;
- IASC is an independent scientific organization and as such should promote international cooperation and the freedom of research;
- The inter- and trans-disciplinary approach should be promoted;
- Involving indigenous peoples and incorporating traditional and local knowledge should be of high priority; IASC should consider involving the business community;
- IASC should cooperate with the Forum of Arctic Research Operators (FARO) in terms of the implementation of the new Polar Code;
- The IASC Fellowship Program is very successful but the involvement of more Asian early career scientists should be encouraged;
- The strategy should be finalized by the end of 2016 and implemented next year;
- It is important that the strategy is developed in consultation with all IASC member countries

3. Activities carried on by (Italian Delegate name) within the Union during 2016 and impact on the Italian scientific community

The Italian Delegate continuously informed the Gruppo di Lavoro Artico about the possibility within IASC and in particular in his role of National representative in the Programme Committee for SC5 (Climate action, Environment, ...) where Arctic topic are of primary importance. In this respect it is worth mentioning the Cryosphere Call, briefly summarized here:

LC-CLA-07-2019: The changing cryosphere: uncertainties, risks and opportunities

- a) Sea level changes:
- b) Changes in Arctic biodiversity:
- c) Sustainable opportunities in a changing Arctic:
- d) Arctic standards:

All these calls are of great interest for Italian researchers.

4. Evaluation of the participation in terms of benefits and membership cost

- The fees paid by CNR to participate to IASC is fully justified, in the light of the increasing role that our country exert in polar research. Please note that the fees will slightly increase in 2017.
- One of the greatest benefits in participating to the IASC activities is that of encouraging and facilitating cooperation between Italian and international researchers in all aspects of Arctic research and in all areas of the Arctic region
- It is extremely important to encourage the participation of Italian Scientists to the governing bodies of IASC and of the Working Groups and in particular in key positions such as those of vice-Chair and Chair.
- It is important that the presence of the Italian Researchers in the WGs will be supported at all levels within our national scientific community
- Improve the exchange of information between the *Gruppo di Lavoro Artico* within the CNR and the IASC community and the Tavolo Artico
- Improve the presence within the IASC activities of the national researchers involved in social sciences
- Candidate Italy to host one of the ASSW in the future

5. Evaluation of Italians' attendance and how to improve interest and involvement

Italian attendance to the ASSW is quite low, mainly limited by the lack of financements

6. Italian experts with important roles within the Union or within related Commissions and Programs (if known)

Carlo Barbante is currently National Representative for the Programme Committee in SC5-H2020, where most of the Calls related to the Arctic are discussed

Enrico Brugnoli is currently the Italian National representative in European Polar Board

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2016 CNR Commission activities

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8. Notes (if any)

In case you need further information, please contact me via mail (barbante@unive.it) or at the phone: +30 041 2348942

9. Conclusions

It is important that Italian scientists take an active part in the governing bodies of the WGs


Signature, Carlo barbante

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