

IACS (International Association of Cryospheric Sciences)

Activities' Report - Year 2016

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1. Introduction

The International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS) is the youngest associations inside IUGG. In 2007 during the General Assembly in Prague, IACS became the eighth IUGG association replacing the former International Commission on Snow and Ice of IAHS.

One of the main IACS objectives is to support the cryospheric sciences promoting and sponsoring workshops and symposia organized by its divisions, working groups, as well as other organizations.

2. Main activities carried on by IACS during 2016 relevant for Italy and for CNR

Every mid-October of each year there is the deadline for presenting supporting proposals to IUGG for symposia, workshops, summer schools etc to be held during the next year (<http://www.iugg.org/meetings/guidelines.php>). The proposal must be sent to the IACS Secretary General and the subsidy is not high (about 2000 USD for each activity) but it can be used for promoting the participation of early career researchers. The IACS Secretary General (IACS website: www.cryosphericosciences.org) is Andrew Mackintosh (andrew.mackintosh@vuw.ac.nz).

Moreover, IUGG is also supporting Grant applications with the involvement of at least two IUGG associations (the next deadline is 18 April 2018). The proposals must be submitted to the Secretary General.

3. Activities carried on by Barbara Stenni within the Union during 2016 and impact on the Italian scientific community

During 2016 my role was to divulgate the IUGG/IACS related activities and opportunities that can be of interest for the Italian glaciological community, such as the 2017 Scientific Assembly in Wellington (New Zealand) and the supporting funds for meeting/workshop/symposia/summer school to be held during 2017 and organized by the Italian Scientific community with topics related to the cryosphere.

This information has been spread to the scientific glaciological community (Italian Glaciological Committee and a mailing list associated to a COST action).

Thanks to the spreading of this information a proposal has been submitted by Dr. Laura De Santis (OGS, Trieste) for the "Past Antarctic Ice Sheet (PAIS) conference" to be held in Trieste from 10 to 16 September 2017. This request has been approved and funded by IACS with 1000 euro for supporting early career scientists and/or scientists from developing countries. The IACS will appear as a sponsor on conference documentation and website.

The impacts are mainly related to the possibility for the Italian scientific community to develop new collaborations at international levels during these events.

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

Although the financial support for symposia and summers schools is quite limited, obtaining the involvement and sponsoring from IACS is of fundamental importance for promoting the Italian scientific activities in the field of the cryosphere. The sponsoring, apart from supporting young scientists, is also attracting the attention of international scientists to these events which are the logical places for implementing new research collaborations at international level. As such, the participation at the Union is of fundamental importance.

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

Although the quite diverse topics presented at the 2015 General IUGG Assembly in Prague, the Italian participation to IACS related sessions, has been quite limited, apart from the session on “ice core and climate”. This could be due, at least in part, to the young age of the IACS association which only from 2015 has an Italian delegate.

For fostering the interest and the involvement of the Italian scientific community, apart from increasing and improving the divulgation of information, it would be desirable a limited funding from CNR for supporting the proposals that have been selected for funding from IUGG and its associations. Moreover, a CNR support to the Italian IACS delegate to participate to the scientific IACS Assemblies taking place each four years but postponed of two years respect to the IUGG General Assembly, would be necessary. This would allow a greater Italian involvement to the IACS association activities and perhaps creating new working groups or the participation to the existing ones, that at present are not including Italian scientists.

A step forward for a better participation of Italian scientists in the future could be linked to the fact that starting from February 2017 it is possible to individually subscribe to IACS without any fee. The instructions can be found at the link: <http://www.cryosphericsscience.org/iacsMembership.html>

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

There are no Italian experts with apical roles inside the IACS but there are experts in other related programmes as reported in the following: Carlo Barbante, Delegate CNR in IASC (International Arctic Science Committee) and Giovanni Macelloni, Alternate Italian Delegate in IACS/IUGG and Member of the Italian Scientific National Commission of Antarctica (CSNA).

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

I have participated via teleconference to the first two meeting of the CNR-IUGG Commission (president Prof. G. Panza, Scientific Secretary Dr. Teodoro Georgiadis) on 21 July and 28 November 2016. During the first meeting, the duties of the commission have been explained and some actions have been evaluated for a better Italian participation to the IUGG activities. During the second meeting the funded proposals have been presented. Moreover, a draft list of Italian experts interested (or in some way related) to IUGG, with a role in commissions, working groups of each associations, has been created (see above for the cryosphere).

8. Notes (if any)

None.

9. Conclusions

The participation of the Italian scientific community to the IACS activities is still quite limited and part of this limitation probably comes from the fact that only from 2015 this association has an Italian delegate. However, a better Italian participation could derive in the future from the recent possibility to subscribe individually to IACS. Apart from improving the spreading of the information, it would be desirable that the CNR could support, with at least limited funds, both the Italian funded proposals and the participation of the Italian delegate to the IACS scientific assemblies.

Signature



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