

International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)

2017 Activities' Report

Carlo Barbante

Most of the activities carried out in 2017 were centered around the ASSW (Arctic Science Summit Week) that was successfully held from April 02 to 07, 2017 in Prague, Czech Republic with a total of 800 participants from 28 countries.

The ASSW was the largest annual Arctic Science Meeting in the world, and this was the first time it was held in Japan. 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.

During the final 4 days, joint sessions were held. During the about 30 scientific sessions, there were many presentations and much discussion about Arctic natural science as well as human and social science. The next ASSW will be held in June 2018 in Davos, Switzerland. It will be a joint SCAR and IASC Symposium entitled POLAR 2018 www.polar18.org.

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 2016 and an outlook on their future plans.

A description of the WP activities can be found on <https://iasc.info/working-groups>.

It is also important that Italian scientists will take an active part in the governing bodies of the WGs. We are not present.

The Executive Secretary of IASC provided a status report on the main activities of the IASC Secretariat, including an overview of outreach and communication activities, such as the IASC Bulletin 2016, the IASC History Publication and the new ICARP III and IASC History websites.

Some recommendations for a better participation of the Italian scientists

1. 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.
2. The new activities of the Italian CAS are perfectly suited for the IASC

3. 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
4. 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
5. 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
6. It is important that the presence of the Italian Researchers in the WGs will be supported at all levels within our national scientific community
7. Improve the exchange of information between the *Gruppo di Lavoro Artico* within the CNR and the IASC community
8. Improve the presence within the IASC activities of the national researchers involved in social sciences
9. Candidate Italy to host one of the ASSW in the future
10. If you need to have access to the documentation please feel free to contact me.

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