

International Arctic Science Committee

Activities' Report - Year 2020

Carlo Barbante – ISP-CNR

1. Introduction

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic early in the year forced the transition of the annual Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) from a large gathering of participants from around the world to a completely virtual meeting. The ASSW attendees quickly rearranged their schedules, presentation formats and strategies to meet with colleagues. Although we initially grieved the lost opportunity to visit Akureyri, Iceland, and the chance to join personal discussions to share and gain insights, we quickly came to the realization that this virtual conference worked very well.

2. Main activities carried on by IASC during 2020 relevant for Italy and for CNR

The primary benefit was the opportunity to convene and coordinate multiple independent but related Arctic programs. ASSW2020 also played host to the Pacific Arctic Group, the Asian Forum of Polar Sciences, INTERACT, the Ny-Ålesund Science Managers Committee, the Forum of Arctic Research Operators, the International Science Initiative in the Russian Arctic, the Arctic Funders Forum, the European Polar Board.

ASSW2020 also featured meetings of the Arctic Observing Summit and Science for a Sustainable Arctic. These large meetings were held concurrently to promote communication and the translation of scientific understanding into policy. During the Science for a Sustainable Arctic symposium, participants explored how the research community, the people of the Arctic and policy makers can work together to respond to a rapidly changing Arctic. This important meeting began with the theme of "International Science Cooperation in the Arctic". It was a wonderful opportunity to hear the visionary perspectives of those who are helping to guide our nations in addressing the challenges of a rapidly changing Arctic.

3. Activities carried on by Carlo Barbante within the Union during 2020 and impact on the Italian scientific community

We had continuous exchange of ideas with the Italian representatives in the IASC Working Groups. The Italian national participation to these WGs was low in the past years, because of the difficulties of supporting the participation of Italian researchers. Since when the Ministry of University and Research established the *Programma di Ricerche in Artico*, it was possible through the Arctic Scientific Commission to support to the participation to the WGs of some Italian Researchers.

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

Although it is a bit premature to see the results of Italian participation to the WGs, I think that this will bring into the Italian Arctic research system and CNR in particular, an important networking with the international research community, which may lead in the future to the participation to common research initiative and sharing of facilities.

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

The Italian National Community has to be more present within the Social and Human WG. These themes are more and more important in the Arctic research especially considering the role of our Country as an Observer member in the Arctic Council. 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.

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

Italian researchers are now sitting in almost all the WGs. This has been a great achievement, since the WG is the place where most of networkings are carried out.

- Atmosphere WG – Stefano Decesari (ISAC-CNR)
- Cryosphere WG – Andrea Spolaor (ISP-CNR)

- Marine WG – Tommaso Tesi (ISP-CNR)
- Terrestrial WG – Antonello Provenzale (IGG-CNR)

Composition and activities of the WG are reported in the <https://iasc.info/working-groups/>

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2020 CNR Commission activities

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8. Notes (if any)

All the documents stored in the IASC web site are available upon request.

9. Conclusions

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. I think that in a few years we will be in a position to propose someone

Signature

Place and date - Venice, 07 April 2021

Carlo Barbante
