

IACS (International Association of Cryospheric Sciences)

Activities' Report - Year 2017

Barbara Stenni

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. Web site: <http://www.cryosphericosciences.org/index.html>

2. Main activities carried on by IACS during 2017 relevant for Italy and for CNR

In 2017, IACS has supported with 1000 € the PAIS (Past Antarctic Ice Sheet Dynamics) Conference held in Trieste (Italy) from 10 to 16 September 2017. This international conference, related to a SCAR (Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research) programme had a great impact on the Italian and international scientific (200 scientists from 18 countries) communities dealing with climate and cryosphere researches, in particular focusing on Antarctica. The aim of this conference was to evaluate the state of the Antarctic ice sheet and its contribution to sea level changes in the past as well as in the future.

IACS organized an Open Bureau Meeting during the IACS Scientific Assembly held In New Zealand in February 2017.

Since mid-February 2017, it is possible to individually subscribe to IACS without any fee. As a member it is possible to receive regular information about IACS activities and opportunities (IACS News, 3-4 times a year), be eligible to engage in IACS activities and bodies, be eligible for IACS sponsorship and financial support for workshops, summer schools, and other IACS-sponsored activities, be eligible for the IACS early-career scientist prize if qualified as ECS. The membership will also help to provide travel grants for early-career scientists and scientists from developing countries to attend IACS/IUGG symposia, since IACS receives a head tax (~ EUR 30/person) for every IACS assembly registrant who identifies with IACS as primary affiliation.

In general, this IACS' initiatives are significant since they allow the Italian scientific community to endorse their activities at international level.

3. Activities carried on by Barbara Stenni within the Union during 2017 and impact on the Italian scientific community

Also in 2017 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 IACS Scientific Assembly in Wellington (13-17 February 2017 in Wellington, New Zealand) and the supporting funding possibilities by IUGG and IACS. The newsletter from IACS has been forwarded to the Italian glaciological community.

I have promoted the individual membership to IACS inside the Italian glaciological community. This fact has received a positive acclaim from many Italian colleagues.

Following a IACS call for proposing sessions at the next IUGG General Assembly to be held from 8 to 19 July 2019 in Montreal (Canada) Montreal, I have proposed a session entitled "New frontiers in paleoclimate reconstructions and proxy interpretations from ice cores", conveners Barbara Stenni (Italy), Anaïs Orsi (France) Nancy A. N. Bertler (New Zealand), T. J. Fudge (US).

The impacts are mainly related to the possibility for the Italian scientific community to highlight its expertise as well as develop new collaborations at international levels.

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

As I already pointed out in my previous report, although dealing with a limited financial support obtaining the involvement and sponsoring from IACS is of fundamental importance for promoting at an international level the Italian scientific activities in the field of the cryosphere. To my knowledge no association fee is required.

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

The possibility to individually subscribe to IACS without any fee starting from February 2017, could lead to a higher participation of the Italian glaciological community to IACS activities, although it is important to consider that IACS is the youngest IUGG associations and only from 2015 there is an Italian delegate.

For fostering the interest and the involvement of the Italian scientific community it would be desirable at least 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 inside one of the five existing divisions or the participation to the existing ones, that at present are not including Italian scientists.

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) and member of the Cryonet Team of the Global Cryosphere Watch - of WMO (GCW-WMO).

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2017 CNR Commission activities

I have participated through email exchanges at the activities requested by the CNR-IUGG Commission (president Prof. G. Panza, Scientific Secretary Dr. Teodoro Georgiadis) among which the preparation of a network of experts related to the IUGG system.

8. Notes (if any)

None

9. Conclusions

The participation of the Italian scientific community to the IACS activities, although still quite limited, part of this limitation being ascribed to its recent establishment, could show up an increase interest due to the possibility to individually subscribe 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 proposals funded by IACS as well as supporting, at least in part, the participation of the Italian delegate to the IACS scientific assemblies.

Signature



Venezia, 14/05/2017