

**LETTER OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH
(SCAR)
AND
THE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SCIENCE COMMITTEE
(IASC)**

Preamble

In July 2011, following agreement by IASC Council and SCAR Delegates, the Presidents of SCAR and IASC renewed their Letter of Agreement from 2006. The letter recognized that there are many common interests between SCAR and IASC in scientific research in the polar-regions, and that there is much to be gained from developing a synergy between SCAR and IASC in polar and bipolar research. The development of this link in 2006 was designed to enable the two organizations to make a more effective contribution than they might otherwise make to the success of the International Polar Year (IPY). SCAR and IASC agreed to combine their efforts in selected fields and activities so as to raise the level of impact of both organizations in terms of making scientific advances and of advising policy makers (for example of the likelihood and likely effects of climate change), as well as to avoid duplication.

With the present letter SCAR and IASC agree to continue this partnership, taking into account the development of both organizations during the last five years and the lessons learned from the IPY 2007/2008 and the POLAR 2018 joint science conference.

1. SCAR

SCAR is a thematic organisation of the International Science Council (ISC). It was founded during the International Geophysical Year (1957-1958) and as of 2021 comprises 45 Member Countries and 9 ISC Unions.

SCAR's geographical remit covers Antarctica and the surrounding Southern Ocean including the Antarctic Circumpolar Current. SCAR's mission is to be the leading non-governmental, international facilitator and advocate of research in and from the Antarctic region, to provide objective and authoritative scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty and other bodies, and to bring emerging issues to the attention of policy makers.

SCAR's coordination of scientific research takes place through its three Science Groups on Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Geosciences and a number of Standing Committees. They currently focus their efforts on several major international Scientific Research Programmes (SRPs) addressing major, priority scientific issues of global or fundamental importance requiring fieldwork and/or observations in the Antarctic. Most of these programmes are interdisciplinary in nature and will last for up to 8 years.

Currently they cover topics such as quantifying the Antarctic ice sheet's contribution to past and future global sea-level change, the prediction of near-term conditions in the Antarctic climate system on timescales of years to multiple decades and fundamental science questions, relating to the conservation and management of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. In addition, a number of Expert Groups (EG) and Action Groups (AG) plan and effect cooperative research in areas of special interest requiring attention in the short term (AG; 2-4 years) to medium term (EG 2-8 years). Every two years, SCAR brings the scientific community together in a major international Antarctic Open Science Conference. For further details on SCAR see <https://www.scar.org>.

2. IASC

IASC is a non-governmental, international scientific organization and affiliated to the International Science Council (ISC) as an International Scientific Associate. It also provides objective and independent scientific advice to the Arctic Council and other organizations on issues of science affecting the management of the Arctic region.

The IASC mission is to encourage and facilitate cooperation in all aspects of Arctic research, in all countries engaged in Arctic research and in all areas of the Arctic region. To fulfill its mission, 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.

Rather than defining human and environmental boundaries, IASC tries to bridge those boundaries. IASC is also committed to recognizing that Traditional Knowledge, Indigenous Knowledge, and "Western" scientific knowledge are coequal and complementary knowledge systems, all of which can and should inform the work of IASC.

To achieve this mission, IASC:

- Initiates, coordinates and promotes scientific activities at a circumarctic 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 polar cooperation through interaction with relevant science organizations.

IASC was established in 1990 and today comprises 24 member countries. It is governed by a Council consisting of one delegate appointed by each of the national member organizations. The Council sets priorities and guides the work of the organization.

The core elements of IASC are its five Working Groups (WGs): Atmosphere, Cryosphere, Marine, Social & Human and Terrestrial. The main function of the WGs is to encourage and support science-led

international programs by offering opportunities for planning and coordination, and by facilitating communication and access to facilities.

WGs also support cross-cutting projects to explore activities which straddle disciplinary lines. They are funded by at least two of the five WGs or the International Science Initiative in the Russian Arctic (ISIRA). The objective of this WG-spanning program is to promote system-scale activities within IASC and to encourage the WGs to explore interdisciplinary activities, in particular across the natural and social sciences.

IASC draws on this structure to identify scientific priorities, open up opportunities for international science planning, promote free access to Arctic areas and provide for the freedom and ethical conduct of science. For further details on IASC see <http://www.iasc.info>.

3. Common Interests and Practices

SCAR and IASC share a number of common interests and practices, which makes it relatively easy to collaborate by arranging workshops, conferences, and reports on topics of mutual scientific interest, in developing integrated plans for scientific research, in promoting communications to the public, and in providing advice to policy makers.

Both SCAR and IASC were active members of the ISC (former ICSU)/WMO Joint Committee that steered the IPY process and have a joint interest in helping ensure the IPY legacy, focusing on four key aspects: (1) scientific cooperation, (2) development of observing systems, (3) data and information management and (4) development of early career scientists.

Both SCAR and IASC are strongly committed to collaborating in conducting the fifth International Polar Year in 2032-2033.

4. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

As the preeminent international and interdisciplinary polar organisations, IASC and SCAR are committed to ensuring that the opportunities provided through their internal and external processes, activities and events are delivered in ways that support participation regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religion, race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic status, disability, physical appearance, age or career status. IASC and SCAR recognize that forms of systemic discrimination intersect with each other and present unique challenges for individuals and communities.

SCAR and IASC are committed to ensuring a safe, productive and welcoming environment for all, and to take practical measures to progress these commitments through combined actions in support of the polar research community.

5. Declaration of Intent

SCAR and IASC intend to continue and extend their joint efforts in selected fields and activities, to be decided by mutual agreement. Combining efforts in selected fields and activities requires no change to the terms of reference of either organization, and carries no financial implication. To facilitate the process, SCAR and IASC agree (this list is not exhaustive):

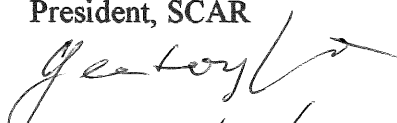
- (i) to encourage appropriate linkages between the relevant existing SCAR Standing Committees and Science Groups, and IASC Working Groups, and with other scientific organizations;
- (ii) to encourage their scientific communities to develop joint polar projects and approaches in appropriate fields;
- (iii) to work together in arranging workshops, conferences, and reports on topics of mutual scientific interest (including but not limited to the planning of another joint POLAR conference in 2028);
- (iv) to exchange ideas on best practices in the development of polar observing systems and other innovations in technology;
- (v) to exchange ideas on best practices in data and information management and promoting joint efforts of the Arctic Data Committee and the SCAR Standing Committee on Antarctic Data Management (SCADM), among others the regular Polar Data Forum and the Polar to Global Online Interoperability and Data Sharing Workshops / Hackathons;
- (vi) to develop combined approaches to communicating to ISC and to the wider community on the significance of polar research in providing solutions for societal issues, including their respective experience in giving advice to the Arctic Council and Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and to IPCC;
- (vii) to continue supporting the next generation of polar researchers, in line with their joint agreement with the Association of Early Career Polar Scientists (APECS);
- (viii) to invite each other to attend the meetings of their major bodies (SCAR Delegates' Meeting and IASC Council);
- (ix) to exchange newsletters and advertise each other's newsletters and websites on their own websites.
- (x) to sharing of best practices to reduce our carbon footprint

The agreement will remain in force for 5 years, thereafter be reviewed and continued as appropriate.

Signed

Yeadong Kim

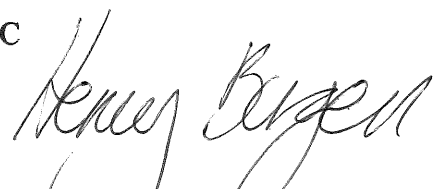
President, SCAR


Date 20/05/22

Henry Burgess

President, IASC

Date


20 May 2022