

## **Report on SCAR Conference and Delegates Meeting**

SCAR, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, is an ICSU interdisciplinary committee, and it is charged with the initiation, promotion and co-ordination of scientific research in Antarctica. SCAR evolved from the Special Committee on Antarctic Research established by ICSU to co-ordinate the scientific research of the twelve nations active in Antarctica during the International Geophysical Year 1957-58. The membership of SCAR comprises the National Committees of national scientific academies or research councils of those nations which are active in Antarctic research, relevant ICSU Scientific Unions, and Associate Members which are those national scientific organizations planning to become active in Antarctic research.

SCAR Delegates meet biennially to determine SCAR policy and strategy. The Delegates elect a President and four Vice-Presidents from amongst themselves who, together with the Immediate Past President, constitute the Executive Committee, which is responsible for conducting the day-to-day administration of SCAR through its Secretariat and Executive Office at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, United Kingdom. SCAR also holds, prior to the Delegates Meeting, a major Open Science Conference to draw attention to Antarctic issues, along with meetings of the Standing Scientific Groups that are designed to finalize the Science Programmes for eventual approval by the Delegates.

The XXX biennial meetings of SCAR were held in Saint-Petersburg and Moscow (Russia). The business meetings of SCAR subsidiary bodies, the SCAR Open Science Conference and the annual meeting of the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes (COMNAP) and its Standing Committee on Antarctic Logistics and Operations (SCALOP) were held in Saint Petersburg during the first week (5-11 July 2008). The Delegates Meeting was scheduled in Moscow for the second week, 14-16 July 2008.

The SCAR Second Open Science Conference was well attended with about 1150 participants. The programme comprised 550 oral presentations and 670 posters. There were 29 thematic sessions altogether, including one on education and outreach and up to 11 parallel sessions each day. The SCAR medals were awarded as part of the Opening Ceremony. The 2008 medal for Excellence in Antarctic Research was awarded to Angelika Brandt (Germany), the medal for International Scientific Coordination to Claude Lorius (France), the President's Medal to Vladimir Kotlyakov.

At the Delegates Meeting in Moscow Malaysia has been admitted as a Full Member of SCAR and Romania has been admitted to Associate Membership. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) was admitted for Union Membership. The total membership of SCAR numbered now, 31 Full Members, 4 Associate Members and 9 ICSU Union members. On the Executive Committee Chris Rapley (UK) became Past-President for a term of two years and was replaced by Mahlon C. Kennicutt as President. Z. Zhang and M. C. Kennicutt have completed their terms of Office as Vice-President and were replaced by Ad Huiskes (The Netherlands) and Rasik Ravindra (India). Reports on and

reviews of the five SCAR Scientific Research Programmes were presented by the leaders of these programmes. Delegates approved the ACE, AGCS, EBA, and SALE programmes for four additional years. ICESTAR was approved to the end of 2009, after which it will become an Expert Group. Based on advice from the Fellowship Review Panel the Executive approved the award of four SCAR Fellowship for the 2007-2008 season and three SCAR Fellowships for the 2008-2009 season. Sergio Marensi, the Chairman of the Standing Finance Committee, presented the financial statements for 2006 and 2007 which were approved by the Delegates. The 2008 provisional budget was revised making a number of cuts as recommended by the Finance Committee. The 2009 and 2010 provisional budgets were tabled and approved. The next SCAR Executive Committee Meeting will meet in association with COMNAP in summer 2009 in Punta Arenas. The XXXI SCAR meeting will be in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in August 2010 with the Open Science Conference being held back-to-back. The USA offered to host the XXXII SCAR meeting in 2012 and Spain offered to host a future SCAR meeting in 2014.

During the St. Petersburg Conference, Ian Allison, President-Elect of the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS), signed a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of IACS that determines future cooperation between SCAR, IASC (International Arctic Science Committee), and IACS. Such arrangement builds the foundation for IUGG's organized and sustained attention to cryospheric sciences. IACS was invited to attend the SCAR Delegates Meeting in Moscow, and G. Kaser, Association's President, attended the meeting as an observer.

Received from R. Schlich, acting liaison officer of IUGG to SCAR and  
from G. Kaser, IACS President