

## *IAMAS News Update*

### *February 2004*

**Sapporo in 2003 to Beijing in 2005:** While the activities of IAMAS are most visible at our biennial gatherings, there is a great deal that goes on between these events to both prepare for them and to sustain the many other roles that IAMAS and its scientists play in promoting international scientific activities and collaborations. To complement and provide context for the constant updates of activities on the IAMAS Web site, we are hopeful that this news update, which we plan to send around every six months, will help to summarize what is underway for national representatives, for the leadership of the various commissions, and for others interested in IAMAS activities. In these news updates, we would like to include reports on progress on various activities and indicate tasks that need to be worked on as we move toward the next meeting.

One of the activities we are working on is to get a newsletter started. John Turner is developing a plan for this and we hope to be able to get this started later this year. For the newsletter, and for this update, we welcome contributions from the commissions and from national representatives relating to matters of interest across IAMAS. We expect that the structure and content of our communications will develop as we go along. Please pass any suggestions along to us.

For 2004, we would also like to wish you all a productive and Happy New Year, and express our collective appreciation for your cards and notes.

Mike MacCracken, President  
Roland List, Secretary-General  
John Turner, Deputy Secretary-General

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**Sapporo Report:** Our success at Sapporo will be reported in the upcoming annual report of IAMAS to IUGG. Roland will have that available soon for distribution.

**Planning for the Beijing Scientific Assembly:** Since our meeting in Sapporo, there has been significant progress in preparing for the 2005 scientific assembly in Beijing, to be held 2-11 August. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) has been formed and includes participation from about a dozen and started working on many aspects of the effort. A Web site is now open (<http://www.IAMAS2005.com>) and the first announcement of the meeting is available. SG List visited Beijing in November 2003 to meet with the LOC and tour the meeting site and discuss arrangements for the meeting—everything seems to be moving along very well. The second circular for the meeting is planned for distribution in June 2004.

**Scientific Program for IAMAS2005:** Based on discussions following our meetings in Sapporo, “The Fascinating Atmosphere: Changeable and Changing” has been agreed to as the scientific theme for IAMAS2005. Suggestions for over 60 symposia were assembled in the weeks following Sapporo. In the months since, the proposals have been reviewed by the LOC and then further refined and, in appropriate cases, combined into a list of about 40 that are

currently under development. For each, under Roland's leadership, conveners are being sought and brief descriptions are being prepared. This task will be wrapped up in the next couple of months so that the listing of planned symposia can be included in the second circular for IAMAS2005 to be issued this spring.

**The IAMAS web site (<http://www.iamas.org>):** The Internet now plays a central role in the coordination of international science and it is essential for an organization such as IAMAS to have an informative web site that is kept up to date. Over the last few months we have therefore carried out a complete re-design of the site and moved it on to the servers at the British Antarctic Survey. The site contains planning information for our next Assembly in Beijing, information on activities of our commissions, contact details for all of the officers and dates of future meeting. Of course we rely heavily on all those involved with IAMAS to provide news items for inclusion on the site, along with details of upcoming meeting. We would also welcome feedback on how you would like the web site to develop. [And kudos to John Turner for all his efforts on this.]

**Calendar of Upcoming IAMAS and Commission Meetings:** The Web site maintains a listing of meetings of the various IAMAS commissions and of other meetings of interest. For this listing to be useful, please remember to send notices of meetings to John Turner for posting.

**Report on Effects of Pollution on Precipitation:** At the Sapporo meeting, IAMAS and then IUGG passed a resolution that called for formation of a panel jointly with WMO to prepare a state-of-the-science summary of what is known and not known about the effects of pollution, as for example from biomass burning, on precipitation. Roland List, IAMAS SG and the IUGG liaison to WMO, working with Len Barrie of WMO (and also IAMAS), have been able to get this process going. The IAMAS/IAHS panel is to be led by Peter Hobbs of the University of Washington. More news on this from Roland in the near future.

**IAMAS Tasks:** Several suggestions were offered at the IAMAS business meetings in Sapporo, with the request that some proposals or responses be provided back for consideration at IAMAS2005:

- a) With respect to suggestions about how to improve the conduct of meetings, a major point was to work to better integrate the poster and oral sessions; for the Beijing meeting, the poster area will be immediately adjacent to the meeting rooms and the lunches that are being provided through the registration fee will be available in the poster area. In addition, the timing for poster displays will also be better integrated with the session timing, which should help greatly. Please pass along any additional suggestions to Guoxiong Wu (representing the LOC as well as IAMAS) and Roland List.
- b) It was recommended that resolutions to be considered by IAMAS be provided in advance. We will certainly ask to have resolutions submitted in advance and will circulate these; however, it seems impractical to not allow consideration of resolutions on issues at, at least, the first session of the IAMAS business meeting, for consideration at the second session. When meeting with IUGG, their timetable can force earlier action on behalf of IAMAS, and we will strongly encourage early submission of any resolutions that are to be passed along to IAMAS when we all meet in Congress every four years. Again, however, resolutions can arise from other sources so we really need to be able to

consider resolutions as they do arise. Thoughts on any steps we might take would be appreciated.

- c) It was suggested by the US delegation that all elections should be contested—that is, the nominations committee should recommend at least two candidates for each position. Discussion at the meeting and subsequently identified a number of difficulties in making this mandatory. To allow further discussion about this, a note about various points that have come up will be posted soon on the IAMAS Web site, and others are invited to offer their thoughts and ideas. A number of other entities have a system similar to that of IAMAS that allows for multiple nominations from the nominating committee and for nominations from the floor (some require multiple sponsors for the nominations).

**Commission Terms of Reference:** At the IAMAS business meeting in Sapporo, it was again requested that the Commissions check that their Terms of Reference are up-to-date. The draft version submitted for consideration by the International Commission on Climate is undergoing further modification based on suggestions at the meeting (e.g., introducing provisions for handling of funds, etc.) and can possibly serve as a model for use by others. It is hoped that commissions can provide their current or revised terms of reference for consideration by IAMAS well before the next meeting.

**Interactions with IUGG:** Right now, the main activity is getting various association proposals into shape and off to ICSU for funding in near future (main IAMAS one relates to support for the biomass panel activities). The IUGG Executive Committee will be meeting in late August this year. Among the topics will be issues relating to the organization of IUGG, liaisons with various groups, etc.

**IAMAS Booklet:** The IAHS has printed a very nice booklet in honor of its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary (see <http://www.cig.enscm.fr/~iahs/> --see listing for their anniversary brochure). This booklet has a two-page spread on each of its commissions and explains the role and function of IAHS. It would take a bit of work, but it would be very nice to have a similar booklet for IAMAS and its commissions, even if it is only available over the Web rather than printed. We would be interested in hearing any indications of general interest in pursuing such an effort and of anyone who would be interesting in taking on coordination of this task (including such efforts as layout).

**Liaisons:** As one part of our activities, members of IAMAS and its commissions serve as liaisons to other organizations. In addition, IAMAS officers and members are also asked to serve as liaisons to organizations by IUGG, and then even as liaisons from these other organization to still other organizations or projects. These activities are undertaken both to provide these other organizations the views and expertise of scientists in the atmospheric sciences and to help encourage cooperation, coordination, and efficiency in the conduct of various scientific activities. In order to help encourage the broader awareness that these liaison activities are intended to encourage, we will be working to develop a listing of the many liaison roles and to provide a means, via the Web, for these liaisons to provide updates on upcoming meetings (in case anyone has an item they would like the liaison to raise) and a brief summary of relevant results from recent meetings (or at least a Web link to a location where meeting results are provided). Please see the IAMAS Web site for further information.

**International Polar Year/International Year of Planet Earth:** Planning continues to move forward on the suggestions for an IPY and for an IYPE. Michael Kuhn is the IUGG liaison to the international IPY committee (see <http://dels.nas.edu/us-ipy/icsuipy.html>) and serves as liaison to the IYPE planning activity (see [http://www.iugs.org/iugs/news/iype\\_02.htm](http://www.iugs.org/iugs/news/iype_02.htm)).

**IAMAS as a possible IPCC Technical Reviewer:** In moving toward preparation of its Fourth Assessment Report, to be completed in 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently invited nominations for authors and reviewers. With the encouragement of several commission representatives, a form was submitted nominating IAMAS for consideration as a technical reviewer (as part of the IPCC process, quite a number of other organizations do provide reviews). The notion is that we would, through the commissions, invite individuals to provide expert reviews of chapters within their expertise. This pathway would allow interested and qualified scientists from around the world to participate in the review process. In addition, responding at this stage would provide an opportunity early in the process of the preparation of the assessment to introduce views, such as those raised at the Sapporo meeting, that certain areas of atmospheric sciences are not receiving adequate attention. In participating, we would not be providing an association or commission position on the assessment. Nor would the reviews be indicated as coming from governments. Instead, they would be indicated as coming from independent experts in the field. In that the draft chapters are not expected to be available for review until perhaps 2006, it may be some time before we hear about the result of the nomination of IAMAS for this responsibility.

**Future IAMAS Meetings:** At the Sapporo meeting, the IUGG voted to hold its 2007 Congress in Perugia, Italy. At the IAMAS2005 meeting, we will need to decide where we will hold our 2009 scientific assembly. IAPSO has approached us and suggested that we hold another joint meeting with them, and we have indicated our preliminary agreement. Given where meetings have recently been held, it would be most appropriate, it would seem, if the site could be in the Americas or Africa, and national committees may want to start thinking about possibilities so that we have proposals for consideration in Beijing.