

# Noticeboard

## Diary

☞ Further dates for your diary

2000

22–23 Sept ☞ **H.U. Sverdrup Symposium: The role of ocean/sea-ice/atmosphere interaction in polar and sub-polar climate**, Tromsø, Norway. Contact: kibsgaard@npolar.no

6–10 November ☞ **Workshop on the Impacts of UV on Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems**, held as part of the SPARC-2000 meeting, Mar del Plata, Argentina. Contact: fotobiol@cpsarg.com

7–8 December **XXIII Symposium on Polar Biology**, Tokyo, Japan. Contact: Secretariat, XXIII Symposium on Polar Biology, National Institute of Polar Research, 9-10, Kaga 1-chome, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo 173-855, Japan, Tel: +81-3-3962-4569, Fax: +81-3-3962-5743, Website: <http://ww.isc.nipr.ac.jp/~penguin/>  
E-mail: iwao@nipr.ac.jp

2001

4–8 June ☞ **International Glaciological Society 4th International Symposium on Remote Sensing in Glaciology**, Maryland, USA. Contact: Secretary General, IGS, Lensfield Rd, Cambridge CB2 1ER, UK. E-mail: Int\_Glaciol\_Soc@compuserve.com

16–20 July **Detecting Environmental Change: Science and Society**, London, UK. Contact: c.stickley@ucl.ac.uk  
Website: <http://nmw.ac.uk/change2001/>

23–27 July **Physics and Chemistry of Ice**, Canterbury, UK. Contact: J. Dore, University of Kent, Canterbury,  
Website: <http://kiwi.ukc.ac.uk/physics/events.html> E-mail: pcice@ukc.ac.uk

4–8 June ☞ **International Glaciological Society International Symposium on Ice Cores and Climate**, Kangerlussuaq, Greenland. Contact: Secretary General, IGS, Lensfield Rd, Cambridge CB2 1ER, UK.  
E-mail: Int\_Glaciol\_Soc@compuserve.com

27 Aug–1 Sept **SCAR VIIIth International Biology Symposium**, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Contact: Netherlands Committee for Antarctic Research, Netherlands SCAR Committee, PO Box 93120, 2509 AC The Hague, The Netherlands, E-mail: alw@nwo.nl

2002

8–19 July ☞ **SCAR XXVII**, Shanghai, China.

2003

8–12 Sept ☞ **International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences (ISAES)**, Potsdam, Germany

## Remaking SCAR

At the recent SCAR XXVI in Tokyo much of the time during the Delegates meeting was assigned to discussions on the recommendations for reorganisation put forward by the Ad Hoc Group on SCAR Organisation and Structure. All the National Committees had received their report in advance of the meeting and it was clear that most of the proposals were uncontested. Delegates broke into smaller groups to discuss the options for a way forward and then in plenary considered how the agreed features could be implemented. Fundamental to a new SCAR are changes in the work of the Delegates, a new committee structure and a much improved communications network centred on an upgraded and better resourced SCAR office. Critical to this is more adequate resourcing to meet increasing demands for a better Web site, more active involvement with outside bodies and global programmes and a more proactive stance for SCAR. It was agreed that a new post of Executive Director would be created to implement these changes in SCAR office and provide the impetus for change throughout the organisation.

The key changes to structure hinge round a series of linked proposals to establish two delegate committees (one for science programmes and the other for management and external affairs). Reporting to these will be three standing committees for science (biological sciences, geological sciences and physics) and an unresolved number for management (but probably including JCADAM, finance and a committee dealing with responses to the Antarctic Treaty). Most other activities would be treated as Task Groups, a category that could cover both the present international programmes such as APIS and EVOLUNTA and well as Groups of Specialists like Neotectonics.

To work out the implementation of the more difficult decisions - principally those concerning committee structure and function - a transition group was formed to represent the principal stakeholders (delegates, chief officers, Executive and the original Committee). There needs to be agreement on all the major changes well in advance of the next meeting in Shanghai in 2002 so that the new structure can be implemented and SCAR can take on a more dynamic role in representing the Antarctic in world fora.

D.W.H. WALTON