

International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008

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The International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008 is a large scientific programme focused on the Arctic and the Antarctic. IPY, organized through the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), is actually the fourth polar year, following those in 1882-3, 1932-3, and 1957-8. In order to have full and equal coverage of both the Arctic and the Antarctic, IPY 2007-8 covers two full annual cycles from March 2007 to March 2009, with thousands of scientists from over 60 nations. The concept of IPY 2007-2008 is of an international programme of coordinated, interdisciplinary scientific research and observations in the Earth's polar regions: 1) to explore new scientific frontiers, 2) to deepen our understanding of polar processes and their global linkages, 3) to increase our ability to detect changes, 4) to attract and develop the next generation of polar scientists, engineers and logistics experts, and 5) to capture the interest of schoolchildren, the public and decision-makers.