

Activities in International Polar Year 2007-2008

Sato Natsuo IPY 2007-2008 national committee[1]

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<http://polaris.nipr.ac.jp/~ipy/>

The International Polar year, IPY, presents opportunity to promote the polar research through international cooperative projects and to unveil the status and the change of the planet Earth. IPY starting in 1882-83 was repeatedly carried out with an interval of 50/25 years. In 1957-58 the latest one of the series was held under the name of International Geophysical Year (IGY). Japan started the Antarctic activities at the opportunity. The Years 2007-2008 are the fiftieth anniversary of the IGY. The International Council for Science (ICSU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) jointly proposed the IPY2007-2008 as the 4th activity. A variety of international organizations announced their participation and submitted more than 1,000 numbers of proposals for Arctic and Antarctic research. In Japan, the national committee was established under the Science Council of Japan. The scientists of institutes and universities are preparing the polar observation projects. The extensive polar region with its severe working conditions obliges each IPY research project be International cooperative. IPY 2007-2008 states the outreach activity as one of the major objects. For instance, a Polar Open Forum for junior and high school students held in order to broaden the interest in polar sciences to the next generation.