

International System on Arctic Science and Japanese activities

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IASC is established in 1990 as an associate of ICSU and strongly cooperated with Arctic Council (meeting of Arctic countries) with official partners of SCAR, IASSA, APECS, IACS and WCRP. As far as the Arctic Science, IASC is considered to be the most important international committee. However, IASC are willing to change its public image and efficiency. IASC has already strengthened its relationship with several polar and global organizations. In 2008, IASC and SCAR signed a memorandum of understanding with WCRP on the co-sponsorship of the Climate and Cryosphere, CliC program. IASC is discussed to set up new Scientific Standing Committees such as Terrestrial System, Marine System, Cryosphere System, Atmosphere System and Social System.

Since the Arctic Scientific Summit Week (ASSW) was first organized at Tromsø in 1999, it was tenth anniversary in 2009. Under an initiative of International Arctic Science Council (IASC), the purpose of the summit is to provide opportunities for coordination, collaboration and cooperation in all areas of Arctic science, and to combine science and management meetings to save on travel and time.

As mentioned by Tetsuo Ohata, JAMSTEC, in the ISAR-1 which was set 4-6, November, 2008 at Mirai, the Structure of Arctic Research in Japan was introduced and discussed. Then, he also noticed unified meetings on Japanese Arctic activities. This consideration implies the international system on Arctic science. In Japan, the Science Council of Japan covers the national subcommittees of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) of Science Council of Japan. In 2008, ISAR-1 established by the organizing committee, in other words, Arctic Research Consortium in Japan has been in a body making every effort to facilitate the smooth proceeding.

I would like to introduce the recent international Arctic systems and discuss on the Japanese activities.