

Invitation to Participate in

The WMO/GEO/WCRP IPY Legacy Workshop on Sustaining Projects' Contributions to WMO Global Cryosphere Watch and Global Earth Observation System of Systems

WMO Headquarters, Geneva, 3-5 December 2008

This announcement is addressed to scientists and managers involved in conducting, funding and coordinating cryospheric research and observations, and especially International Polar Year (IPY) projects related to various aspects of cryosphere.

IPY has now advanced into the second half of its field phase. The participants and sponsors of this unique scientific programme anticipate that IPY will generate results of significant value to society, and have therefore started to seek ways of sustaining its legacy of observing systems, data products and information services. The World Meteorological Organization's Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW) is an initiative welcomed by the Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress in May 2007. Along with related initiatives, such as Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON), Pan-Antarctic Observations System (PANTOS) and others, GCW has the potential of making a critical contribution to safeguarding the IPY legacy through maintaining support for many cryosphere-related IPY projects. Once established, the GCW will provide authoritative cryospheric data and information to a wide range of users. In this capacity, GCW will constitute a valuable component in the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), as well as scientific work in support of policy decisions and managing risks associated with climate change, thus providing a strong contribution to a broad range of societal benefits.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), through its Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) project, are therefore jointly sponsoring an "IPY Legacy Workshop on Sustaining Projects' Contributions to WMO Global Cryosphere Watch and GEOSS". It will be held on 3-5 December 2008 at the WMO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Workshop will discuss topics such as:

- Introduction and further development of the WMO GCW concept;
- Discussion of IPY projects' accomplishments and need for sustaining the activity;
- Contribution of projects to determining the state and fate of the cryosphere;
- Identification of specific IPY project components, such as sites and facilities that are key for polar cryosphere monitoring and research;
- Identification of IPY cryospheric projects capable of contributing significantly to the GCW;
- Recommendations for observational activities and facilitating, where necessary, a transition from research-based to "operational" status;
- Recommendation of measures to ensure sustained flow of data from the projects and continuing activities; and
- Search for users and sources of support for IPY projects and/or their components that should be sustained.

We welcome your participation and contribution to this Workshop. You can register and submit an abstract online at the Workshop website <http://clic.npolar.no/gcw/gcw.php>. The deadline for registration is 31 October 2008. The format and final content of the Workshop will be developed by the Programme Committee. Should you require additional information on the Workshop or GCW, please do not hesitate to contact either Dr Vladimir Ryabinin of the WCRP (vryabinin@wmo.int) or the CliC International Project Office (clic@npolar.no). We would appreciate hearing from you and look forward to your contribution to this important IPY Legacy Workshop.