PRB Newsletter - Special Edition

Report Released: Lessons and Legacies of International Polar Year 2007-2008

We are pleased to announce the release of the new report, Lessons and Legacies of International Polar Year 2007-2008, published under the guidance of the Polar Research Board (PRB). To download a free PDF of the prepublication version of the report and the 4-page Report in Brief, please click here.

International Polar Year 2007-2008 (IPY) was an intense, coordinated field campaign of observations, research, and analysis. IPY engaged the public to communicate the relevance of polar research to the entire planet, strengthened connections with the Indigenous people of the Arctic, and established new observational networks. Overall, IPY was an outstanding success. Legacies and Lessons of the International Polar Year 2007-2008 explains how activities at both poles led to scientific discoveries that provided a step change in scientific understanding and helped translate scientific knowledge into policy-relevant information. At a time when the polar regions are undergoing a transformation from an icy wilderness to a new zone for human affairs, these insights could not be more timely or more relevant. From outreach activities that engaged the general public to projects that brought researchers from multiple disciplines and several nations together, the legacies of IPY extend far beyond the scientific results achieved, and valuable lessons learned from the process will guide future endeavors of similar magnitude.

If you plan to be in Montreal for the 2012 IPY Conference: From Knowledge to Action, stop by the session Synopsis of IPY Key Findings and Other Recent Polar Research on Monday, April 23 at 1:30 PM to hear more about this report.
Mark your Calendar: Webinar Discussion on May 2

Please join us for a webinar presentation and discussion with co-chairs Bob Bindschadler and Julie Brigham-Grette on Wednesday, May 2 at 1:00 PM EDT. REGISTER HERE for the webinar or contact Lauren (lbrown2@nas.edu) for more information.

About the PRB

The Polar Research Board (PRB) is a unit of the National Academies dedicated to enhancing understanding of the Arctic, Antarctic, and high-latitude regions and providing guidance to Congress, federal agencies, and the nation on cold region issues. The PRB facilitates participation of U.S. scientists in two international, nongovernmental polar scientific organizations—the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC). The Board accomplishes its mission by:

- providing a forum for the polar science community to address research needs and policy issues;
- conducting studies and workshops on emerging scientific and policy issues in response to requests from federal agencies and others;
- providing program reviews, guidance, and assessments of priorities, and;
- facilitating communication on polar issues among academia, industry, and government.

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