



**International Association of Meteorology & Atmospheric Sciences 2011 Report**  
([www.IAMAS.org](http://www.IAMAS.org))

IAMAS is one of the eight associations dealing with the Earth system and its environs that make up the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG). The scope of IAMAS includes the atmospheres of the Earth and other planets. IAMAS is made up of ten International Commissions (IC) that play a major role in carrying through IAMAS activities. The ten ICs cover (alphabetically) *Atmospheric Chemistry and Global Pollution* (ICACGP), *Atmospheric Electricity* (ICAE), *Climate* (ICCL), *Clouds and Precipitation* (ICCP), *Dynamical Meteorology* (ICDM), the *Middle Atmosphere* (ICMA), *stratospheric Ozone* (IOC), *Planetary Atmospheres and their Evolution* (ICPAE), *Polar Meteorology* (ICPM), and *atmospheric Radiation* (IRC). Many of these commissions play international leadership roles in their specialty areas [see [www.iamas.org/Commissions.html](http://www.iamas.org/Commissions.html)]. This set of commissions provides an important supplement and extension to the leadership and research role of the *World Meteorological Organization* (WMO), which is the governmental entity with a comparable scientific scope to IAMAS; for example, the IOC entered into a *letter of agreement* with WMO for the establishment of an ad hoc expert team that will assess ozone absorption cross sections used in atmospheric observations.

The highlight of the past year has been the organization and convening of the Scientific Assembly in Melbourne, Australia, which ran from June 28 through July 7. At IUGG2011, IAMAS organized or co-organized several of the dozen Union symposia that are planned as well as participating in 13 of the joint association symposia and 14 IAMAS-only symposia for the roughly 3000 participants in the overall meeting. Topics of the symposia ranged from consideration of the paleoclimatic context for current climate change to projections for the future, from polar to upper atmosphere, and from weather extremes to planetary atmospheres, so a very broad scope. An interesting factoid was that the US and European satellite and scientific data have now agreed that the irradiance of the quiet Sun is  $1360.8 \text{ W/m}^2$ , which is a few  $\text{W/m}^2$  less than has been traditionally used for some decades. Another highlight was an IUGG resolution recommending use of the new equation of state for ocean water that resulted from the SCOR WG on that topic. Recent exciting discoveries from space missions relative to the atmospheres of outer giant and terrestrial planets were also reported.

IAMAS also held its General Assembly in Melbourne, with the highlight being the election of new officers to join the continuing ones, such that the new Bureau of IAMAS is (asterisk indicates a new officer):

- **President:** Dr. Athena Coustenis\* of France (planetary atmospheres), to serve 2011-15. Dr. Coustenis was also selected by IUGG to be the IAMAS liaison to SCOR (as an aside, her interests include not only planetary atmospheres, but also planetary oceans, which appear to exist below the surface on Titan and other natural satellites, for example). Dr Coustenis indicated her pleasure therefore in taking up this responsibility and how exciting it should be for her to follow the activities of SCOR and to highlight the connection with her own field.
- **Past President:** Dr. Guoxiong Wu of China (weather and climate dynamics), to serve 2011-15.
- **Vice-Presidents:**
  - Prof. Joyce Penner\* of the USA (atmospheric chemistry), to serve 2011-15.
  - Dr. John Turner\* of the UK (polar meteorology), to serve 2011-15. Dr. Turner is also the liaison to SCAR.
- **Secretary-General:** Dr. Hans Volkert, Germany (mesoscale and mountain meteorology); completing his 8-year term (2007-15).
- **Members-At-Large:**
  - Prof. Ernesto Hugo Berbery of Argentina/USA (dynamic meteorology and monsoons), to complete term, 2007-15.
  - Dr. Vladimir Kattsov of Russia (polar meteorology and climate), to complete term, 2007-15.
  - Prof. Daren Lu\* of China (radiation and the middle atmosphere), to serve 2011-2019.
  - Prof. Colin Price\* of Israel (atmospheric electricity), to serve 2011-2019
  - Prof. Tetsuzo Yasunari of Japan (dynamic meteorology and climate), to complete term, 2007-15.

In addition to electing officers, IAMAS approved revising its statutes and by-laws and establishment of a young scientist award. One of the provisions in the revised statutes, mirroring a change approved in the IUGG statutes, is to establish an Affiliated Member category to which international research and professional entities (including groups such as SCOR) are invited to apply. There is neither cost nor official responsibility involved, but instead the opportunity for joint planning of activities and carrying out of mutual objectives (e.g., capacity building, outreach and education, etc.).

A potentially important IAMAS initiative that gained acceptance by other associations at the IUGG General Assembly is formation of what seems likely to be named the Union Commission on Climatic and Environmental Change (UCCEC). The notion is that UCCEC will both work to build links across the associations within IUGG and also be the IUGG link to the emerging set of research activities being developed by ICSU in cooperation with the national research program managers that are part of the Belmont process and International Group of Funding Agencies, now coming together as “The Alliance.” How this will all actually work out is still under discussion as new IUGG and association officers assume their roles.

In addition to participating in the IUGG and IAMAS Scientific Assemblies, the IAMAS commissions also carry on a number of activities between the IAMAS and IUGG assemblies. In addition to helping organize symposia at a range of scientific meetings led by other organizations (such as, among other, the European Geosciences Union, the American Geophysical Union, the Asian Oceania Geosciences Society etc), planned conferences coming up include:

- (a) The International Commission on Atmospheric Electricity (ICAE) will hold the XIV International Conference on Atmospheric Electricity (ICAE 2011) in Rio de Janeiro from 7-12 August 2011.
- (b) The International Commission on Clouds and Precipitation will hold the 16th International Conference on Clouds and Precipitation in Leipzig, Germany from 30 July to 3 August 2012.
- (c) The International Radiation Commission will hold the International Radiation Symposium 2012 from 5 - 12 August 2012 in Berlin, Germany.
- (d) In addition to convening a number of regional workshops, the International Commission on Air Chemistry and Global Pollution will co-sponsor many of the symposia being held at the International Global Atmosphere Chemistry (IGAC) meeting in Beijing, China 17-21 September 2012.

Also in Melbourne, planning began for the joint IAMAS/IACS (DACA) Scientific Assembly to be held 8-12 July 2013 in Davos, Switzerland. It is also expected that IAPSO and IAHS will be co-sponsors of some of the symposia to be organized. At this meeting, planning will also begin for the XXVI IUGG General Assembly, which IUGG decided to hold in July 2015 in Prague.

Prepared by M. MacCracken and A. Coustenis

Submitted by Athena Coustenis, IUGG/IAMAS representative to SCOR

[23 August 2011]