

INTERNATIONAL HELIOPHYSICAL YEAR - UK MEETING

Society of the Antiquaries Lecture Theatre, Burlington House, London

December 8, 2003

Notes by Richard Harrison

Structure of the Meeting

Chair; Richard Harrison

Presentations Given

The International Polar Year (IPY) – Professor C. Rapley (BAS)

The International Heliophysical Year (IHY) – Professor R. Harrison (RAL)

Antarctic International Magnetometer Network (AIMNet) – Dr M. Freeman (BAS)

IUGG/IAGA Plans for IGY+50 – Dr D. Kerridge (BGS)

Followed by open discussion.

Attendees

Andy Breen (Aberystwyth), Barbara Bromage (UCLAN), Chris Davis (RAL), Bob Forsyth (Imperial College), Mervyn Freeman (BAS), Richard Harrison (RAL), Steve Hughs (Imperial College), David Kerridge (BGS), Jim Lang (RAL), Helen Mason (Cambridge), Sarah Matthews (MSSL), Chris Rapley (BAS), Steve Schwartz (QMC),

Others unable to attend due to a serious rail breakdown south of Reading, or due to illness, were Paul Cannon (QinetiQ), Dave Neudegg (RAL) and Mike Hapgood (RAL).

Aim of Meeting

- To establish UK interest in IHY.
- To make plans for input to IHY planning.

Recommendations

1. The meeting confirmed that there is UK interest in IHY and that we wish to support it.
2. The added value of IHY was recognised, in that it enhances the missions and observatories in which the UK is investing and has invested.
3. A need to obtain PPARC interest in IHY was recognised, in particular because of the following points (i) the clear links between the goals of IHY and the PPARC-supported newly emerging GRID technology, (ii) the strategic links between PPARC and NERC science that the IHY/IPY provides, which is certainly currently in favour.
4. The Joint Observing Programme (JOP) approach met with approval, though there is a need to define a major objective, which will be a selling point – e.g.

Quiet Sun Year. This is simply to stress *what is new* to the politicians. Andy Breen and Barbara Bromage to draft a case for such an overarching goal, principally as a tool to sell to PPARC/the UK etc...

5. If the JOP approach is adopted, there must be filters to assess incoming requests (to reject 'bad or mad' requests) and a mechanism to check that JOPs are being exploited properly.
6. Several issues were raised with regard to the running of the IHY. (i) There is much activity in e-science and the GRID – we must establish that these activities will deliver on time for the IHY and that we use them effectively; (ii) for some SOHO JOPs, workshops were used to discuss and design campaigns, e.g. for the Whole Sun Month – such workshops could be incorporated into the IHY planning; (iii) we could include virtual meetings, by e-mail; (iv) we must stress that IHY provides a benchmark, much as IGY did; (v) outreach must be considered properly – we must link in to schools and the public at the appropriate time; (vi) many datasets are public domain but many are not – this is an issue which must be catered for.

Actions

1. Set up a UK IHY Group – consisting of the attendees, including Alan Rodger and Mike Hapgood, to discuss UK IHY issues as and when required.
2. Provide basic Web page to place basic UK IHY information, including the Powerpoint talks from this meeting.
3. Start discussions with PPARC. Richard Harrison to raise this with Sue Horne. However, once we have clear goals, try to lobby Ian Halliday.
4. Andy Breen and Barbara Bromage to draft an over-arching goal statement for us in the UK – e.g. Quiet Sun Year (see above).
5. Contact should be made with Hermann Opgenoorth (ESA) and, possibly BNSC (Dave Hall?) to outline what IHY is and to establish some kind of blessing (possibly even funding????).
6. Contact Sir John Houghton, chair of UK IPY committee to inform his committee about the IHY plans.
7. Ensure that there is an IHY presence at the NAM and the UKSP/MIST meetings in 2004.
8. Sarah Matthews to establish planned delivery schedules for AstroGRID to assess compatibility with IHY.
9. Richard Harrison to contact Joe Davila to pass on details of the meeting.
10. The Group will stay in contact as the IHY situation evolves and steer the UK needs within the project.