

Content

President's Message	1
Prof. Konrad Steffen (1952-2020)	2
Introducing... Mary Scholes, IAMAS Vice- President	3
Meeting News	3
AAS Impact Factor	4
IAMAS Website News	4
Dr. Jing Li, IAMAS Early Career Representative	4

President's Message

Dear IAMAS colleagues and friends,

It has been a difficult time for all due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I trust that you remain healthy and are taking precautions to follow the advice given to us by public health scientists. Indeed, it seems to me that "science" has grown in stature as a result of public health, and, of course, everyone is waiting and hoping that a successful vaccine will become available soon.



In spite of these hopes, IAMAS along with our partners for our proposed meeting in 2021 (i.e. BACO-2021) have decided to have an online-only meeting. One primary reason is the delay of three of our commission meetings (International Commission on Clouds and Precipitation conference in India, the International Global Atmospheric Chemistry meeting in Manchester, U. K. and the Quadrennial Ozone Commission meeting in Seoul, South Korea) have all been delayed to 2021, so would conflict with BACO-2021. We are planning for a 2021 virtual meeting for the same week in 2021 (19-23 July 2021). This will be composed entirely of invited speakers covering a variety of topics of interest to our BACO-2021 association partners (IAPSO, the International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans, and IACS, the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences). These will probably take place over a 2-hour time slot each day (to be decided), but will be recorded for viewing at a time convenient for your local time. We hope that you will find these interesting and accessible.

In addition to planning for BACO-2021, we have been thinking about early career scientists and how to get them more involved in both our day-to-day business and at upcoming meetings. We plan to award the biennial IAMAS Early Career Scientist award during our 2021 on-line meeting, so that one of the invited presentations will be a summary of work by the winner of that award. Commission nominations for this award will be due in November 2020. In addition, our call for an early career scientist to work with the Bureau had 11 applications. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Jing Li has been chosen (see page 4 for more information). She will be invited to take part in our

monthly meetings and give advice that reflects the views of our younger colleagues.

We have also been working to provide a single platform for all of the websites of our commissions, which was a request from them at our Cape Town meeting in 2017. Several commission websites have been imported to our new system with the new versions ready to go online soon.

This issue of the newsletter includes information on the backgrounds of one of our Vice-Presidents, Mary Scholes (South Africa). We hope this introduction piques your interest.

Joyce Penner
President, IAMAS

Prof. Konrad Steffen (1952 - 2020)

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Prof. Konrad “Koni” Steffen following an accident during fieldwork at Swiss Camp on the Greenland Ice Sheet. Koni was a major figure in polar climate research and will be sadly missed by his family and many friends and collaborators.

Koni was born in Zurich, Switzerland in 1952 and obtained his undergraduate and Doctor of Science degrees at ETH, Zurich, where he subsequently became a lecturer. In 1986 he began a long association with the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), University of Colorado, Boulder, initially as a Visiting Fellow and culminating in him becoming Director of CIRES from 2005 to 2012. Subsequently he returned to his native Switzerland where he held a number of senior positions, including Professor at the Institute for Atmosphere and Climate, ETH and Director of the Swiss Federal Research Institute.



He had wide interests in glaciology, polar meteorology and high latitude climate change, and published on subjects as diverse as remote sensing of sea ice, the impact of volcanic eruptions on the Greenland Ice Sheet and temperature changes in the interior of East Antarctica. While he made extensive use of satellite data throughout his career, much of his research was conducted through field campaigns, and a major achievement was the establishment in 1990 of Swiss Camp on the summit of Greenland. This was very prescient as Greenland has experienced extensive surface melting in recent decades and ice loss is making a large contribution to current sea level rise.

Koni was active on many committees concerned with the cryosphere and climate change, including the World Climate Research Program Climate and Cryosphere program and the European Space Agency's Climate Change Advisory Board. He will be known to many within the IUGG community through his service as Vice President of the IUGG Commission on the Cryospheric Sciences.

We send our condolences to his family.

John Turner

Introducing... Mary Scholes, IAMAS Vice-President



I am a Vice-President of IAMAS. I am a graduate of the University of the Witwatersrand and currently a full professor in the School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences, where I hold a Research Chair in Systems Analysis. My research activities focus on systems analysis in a variety of disciplines including soil fertility, food security and biogeochemistry in savannas, plantation forests and croplands. For many years I studied nitrogen cycling in semi-arid savanna systems and was particularly interested in tracking nitrous oxide emissions from soils across the seasons, where rainfall, is the major trigger for emissions in our hot and dry savannas. South Africa is mostly dependent on the burning of fossil fuels for electricity generation, resulting in large amounts of NO_xs and SO_xs in the atmosphere. I have been studying the impacts of deposition of these gases on the acid, mineral soils

of our region. Most recently, we have installed a ground-based spectral radiometer (Pandora – 2S) and we are monitoring the atmospheric composition over the Wakkerstroom area of Mpumalanga and Potchefstroom in the North West Province of South Africa. These data, combined with data from the Tropospheric Monitoring Instrument and the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network over the Mpumalanga-KZN escarpment TROPOMI, will be the foundation on which pollutant climatology of the area and surrounding areas will be built. I chaired the International Global Atmospheric Chemistry Committee which was part of the large IGBP programme and this committee provided a rigorous global scientific platform for atmospheric chemistry research. In addition, I served on the Science Advisory Board of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Mainz for many years.

Meeting Updates

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, several planned meetings have been postponed, including:

The IAMAS-sponsored Quadrennial International Radiation Symposium planned to be held in Thessaloniki, Greece, from 6 to 10 July 2020 has been postponed to 14 to 18 June 2021 to be held at the same location.

The IAMAS-sponsored International Conference on Clouds and Precipitation planned to be held in Pune, India, from 3 to 7 August 2020 has been postponed to 2021.

The International Global Atmospheric Chemistry Conference planned to be held in Manchester, UK, from 14 to 18 September 2020 has been postponed to 12 to 16 September 2021 to be held at the same place.

The IAMAS-sponsored International Ozone Commission Quadrennial Ozone Symposium QOS2020 planned to be held in Seoul, Rep. of Korea, from 4 to 10 October 2020 has been postponed to 3 to 9 October 2021 to be held at the same location.

Dr. Jing Li, IAMAS Early Career Representative

After consideration of a slate of excellent nominations, Dr. Jing Li of Peking University, China will be joining the Bureau of IAMAS as our Early Career Representative. Jing will be involved in the day-to-day running of our association and helping to promote the activities of IAMAS and its commissions amongst the next generation of atmospheric scientists.

Dr. Jing Li received her bachelor's degree from Peking University in 2006, and her PhD from Columbia University in 2011. She joined the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences of Peking University in 2015, after spending four years as postdoc and research scientist at NASS GISS. Her research focuses on understanding the role of aerosols in the climate system and the impacts of climate on air pollution. She uses advanced remote sensing techniques and mathematical methods to retrieve aerosol optical properties from the ground and space, and to integrate different datasets to produce more accurate information. She also uses global and regional climate models to study the radiative effects of aerosols, and how climate change and climate anomalies affect aerosol variability. She has published more than 40 peer reviewed papers and received funding from the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the Ministry of Science and Technology of China. Due to her achievements in atmospheric radiation and remote sensing, she won the 2019 Elsevier/JQSRT Richard Goody Award.



IAMAS website news...

IAMAS will soon launch a newly designed website! IAMAS commissions will be able to host their pages on our server, using a website template that we have created. In addition, we can help commissions set up their sites. More information about moving commission pages to our new site will be emailed to commission officers very soon.

Updated impact factor for *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences*

The impact factor for the IAMAS associated journal *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences* (AAS) has risen to 2.9, from 1.9. AAS is organizing several special issues (<https://www.springer.com/journal/376/updates/17268134>), focusing on the following research topics:

- Climate Change and Variability of Tropical Cyclone Activity (**submission deadline: February 28, 2021**);
- Summer 2020: Record Rainfall in Asia – Mechanisms, Predictability and Impacts (**submission deadline: March 1, 2021**); and
- Cloud–Aerosol–Radiation–Precipitation Interaction: Progress and Challenges (**submission deadline: May 31, 2021**).

