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Introduction by Dr. Keith Alverson, IAMAS Secretary-General

Happy New Year. Many of our commissions are planning events in 2026, supported in part through funding made available through the IAMAS and IUGG calls made late last year. It is thus primarily a year for focused commission-lead activities. The IAMAS Bureau very much hopes these events will strengthen the foundational disciplinary pillars of our broad community and encourages publicizing these events and their outcomes on the IAMAS website (iamas.secretary@gmail.com) and in our Newsletter (john.turner.cambridge@gmail.com)



This said, 2026 will also be a year of preparations for larger IUGG-wide scientific cooperation at the IUGG assembly in Incheon, Korea 16-22 July 2027 (<https://iugg2027korea.org>)

Scientific program of the 2027 IUGG assembly

The program committee held a first meeting on 13 January and will meet again on 10 March and 5 May. To develop the program in a timely and inclusive manner, IAMAS commissions are asked to add one (minimum) to five (maximum) proposed symposia to the google sheet linked below by Tuesday 3 March. I have pre-inserted two symposia as examples of the content expected for this first compilation of suggestions. To contribute content to the sheet you will need to request permission to 'view' (anyone is welcome) or 'edit' (IAMAS commission officers only) the sheet at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12CsppbjSo8VfqcyB0ed01017Dl0sEbDwhhUeAXds4Ig/edit?usp=sharing>.

Additionally, we will nominate an IAMAS Union Lecturer and Early Career Researcher (ECR) Medallist for presentations and awards at the conference.

Further information on nominating will be distributed in due course, but if anyone has suggestions or general thoughts on these in the meantime feel free to email me at iamas.secretary@iamas.org .

Early Career Researchers

IAMAS would like to take the opportunity of the Incheon meeting to strengthen participation of ECRs in all of our activities. In this context, an information gathering assessment of ECR activities by our commissions will be distributed this quarter. The proposed information gathering from our commissions will include questions such as:

- Do you have one or more ECR on your leadership group? If so, who?
- Do you have a dedicated ECR group? Who is on it?
- Do you participate in, or wish to participate in, an IUGG-wide ECR-Net group. How?
- Do you see value in an overarching IAMAS ECR group? If so who would you wish to nominate to join?

IAMAS has proposed, and many other associations tentatively supported, the idea of an ECR day either directly before or during the IUGG Assembly. IAMAS may wish to participate with other associations to develop a proposal for IUGG funding to support such a day, in addition to providing IAMAS support directly. If successful, we might hold another such day at our assembly in Manchester in 2029.

Any IAMAS ECR interested in assisting the Bureau in gathering information, planning ECR events, and deciding on how to best support ECR engagement in IAMAS moving forward please email me at iamas.secretary@gmail.com.

Leadership positions within IAMAS

Another milestone for IAMAS during the 2027 assembly will be the transition to new leadership. Our President, Andrea Flossmann, and both Vice-Presidents, John Burrows and Mary Scholes, will come to the end of their terms at the assembly, as will some of our Members-at-Large. The Secretary-General, Keith Alverson, has expressed his willingness to serve a second (and final) term. Any IAMAS scientists interested in, or with nominations for, leadership positions are encouraged to contact the chair of the nominations committee, Past-President Joyce Penner (penner@umich.edu). In addition, many of our commissions will be changing their leadership, and interested scientists are encouraged to contact the commission leadership in this regard.

In conclusion, 2026 is a year primarily focused on commission activities. IAMAS members are encouraged to learn about and engage in these directly with the commissions. At the same time, at the IAMAS level, preparations for the next IUGG assembly in Incheon, Korea 16-22 July 2027 are ramping up and we hope the community will also engage with these preparations, including through (1) suggesting symposia for the scientific program (2) helping with a dedicated effort to better engage with ECRs and (3) stepping forward to provide new leadership at IAMAS and in our commissions.

The Second IGAC-iCACGP Early Career Researcher online conference

On 25 September 2025, the global atmospheric science community gathered for the second IGAC-iCACGP Early Career Researcher (ECR) Online Conference. Building on the success of the inaugural 2023 event, this conference provided a vibrant, accessible, and truly global platform for the next generation of scientists to connect and share their research.

“Follow-the-Sun” Model for Accessibility

To ensure maximum inclusivity, the conference ran continuously for 19 hours, spanning three major regional blocks: Asia/Oceania, Africa/Europe/Middle East, and the Americas. This innovative format successfully lowered geographical and financial barriers, resulting in:

- 750+ registered attendees from around the world.
- 208 poster presentations showcasing cutting-edge ECR research.
- A dedicated, volunteer-led organizing committee of 22 ECRs from 12 different countries.

Interactive Networking and Virtual Innovation

The event was hosted on the Gather Town platform, which provided a virtual venue featuring a plenary hall, poster rooms, and dedicated networking spaces. This allowed for both structured regional highlight talks from nine outstanding ECR speakers and spontaneous interactions between participants. Interactive icebreaker sessions further connected hundreds of ECRs with peers and senior scientists in lively, small-group discussions.

Equipping the Next Generation: Skills Workshops

A major highlight of the 2025 program was a series of “Skills Workshops” designed to provide practical training on modern research tools. Organized in partnership with the WCRP Academy and Microsoft, sessions included:

- Artificial Intelligence: Applications for atmospheric and climate science.
- Virtual Training: Unlocking ATMO-ACCESS virtual training tools.
- Academic Productivity: Leveraging Microsoft Copilot for research and academia.

Mentorship and Recognition

The conference benefitted immensely from the support of mid- and senior-career scientists who volunteered their time to judge posters and provide mentorship. We are also grateful to our sponsors, including IAMAS, whose support provided the crucial funding for event licenses and the Best Poster Prize.

Six winners were awarded the Best Poster Prize, receiving full funding to attend the iCACGP-IGAC 2026 Science Conference in Crete, Greece.

The prize winners at the IGAC-iCACGP online conference



Report on the SCOR annual meeting

Santa Marta, Colombia

Prof. Andrea Flossman, IAMAS President

In the November 2024 IAMAS newsletter I discussed my duties as President of IAMAS towards IUGG via membership of its Executive Committee and maintaining and developing links to its associations and external bodies. The work of IUGG is of relevance to many scientific organizations, some of which are inter-governmental, such as those affiliated with the United Nations. Others are interdisciplinary bodies of the International Science Council (ISC, the parent body of IUGG), while other organizations have a particular interest in the work of specific associations.

IUGG regularly nominates scientists to be liaisons with external organizations, with the appointees tasked with promoting communication and co-operation. A list of the IUGG liaisons can be found at <https://iugg.org/partners/partner/liaisons-and-representatives/>.

After my election as President of IAMAS, I was appointed by IUGG as liaison to the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR). Although IAPSO, our sister association concerned with ocean research, has close links to SCOR, the atmosphere is essential for many ocean processes, hence the membership of the IAMAS President on the SCOR Executive Committee. I was therefore invited to attend the SCOR 2025 Annual Meeting,



Attendees at the 2025 SCOR Annual Meeting in Santa Marta, Colombia

which was held in Sante Marta, Colombia between 29 – 31 October 2025 and was organized and hosted by the Colombian marine research laboratory INVEMAR (<https://www.invemar.org.co/en/home>). The meeting was preceded on 28 October by a symposium promoting interactions between the SCOR community and Colombian scientists, with special attention on early career researchers involved in ocean science. SCOR, like IUGG, is a body of ISC and an international non-governmental, non-profit organization. SCOR activities focus on promoting international cooperation in planning and conducting oceanographic research and solving methodological and conceptual problems that hinder research. SCOR also conducts several activities that build the capacity of ocean science in developing countries, with every SCOR activity including members from developing nations. Approximately 600 scientists from nearly 60 countries currently participate in SCOR activities.

SCOR's activities rely on a number of initiatives involving working groups, research activities and infrastructure projects. Working groups (<https://scor-int.org/work/groups/>) have a maximum of 10 Full Members and 10 Associate Members, who deliberate on a narrowly-focused topic and develop a peer-reviewed publication and/or some other product that will advance the topic on which the working group is focused. The group's work is intended to be completed in four years or less. Fourteen new working group proposals were submitted for consideration after the 2025 SCOR call for proposals and three were selected to add to the already existing groups that gave reports on their progress.

SCOR has been instrumental in planning and coordinating several large-scale ocean research projects and provides a mechanism for international scientists to develop and implement such projects. Currently five projects are supported: GEOTRACES (Marine Biogeochemical Cycles of Trace Elements and Isotopes), SOLAS (Surface Ocean – Lower Atmosphere Study), IMBeR (Integrated Marine Biosphere Research), IQOE (International Quiet Ocean Experiment), IIOE-2 (International Indian Ocean Expedition 2), which all reported on their progress during the meeting. The SCOR Executive Committee nominated me as liaison to SOLAS, as it has the closest links with IAMAS. The current SOLAS science plan terminated in 2025 and I am also involved in the writing of the new science plan, which is currently being finalized. The new science plan then needs approval from all sponsors and will be published soon.

Reports were also given by the SCOR Infrastructural Projects (<https://scor-int.org/work/infrastructure/>): SOOS (Southern Ocean Observing System), IOCCP (International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project), COBS (Changing Ocean Biological Systems), GlobalHAB (Global Harmful Algal Blooms) and JCS (Joint Committee on Seawater (IAPWS (the International Association for the Properties of Water and Steam)/SCOR/IAPSO)). In addition, affiliated intergovernmental and partner organizations each gave reports on their activities. I reported on current IAMAS activities and the Busan IAMAS-IACS-IAPSO Joint Assembly which was held in 2025 in South Korea.

The next SCOR annual meeting will be held in Helsinki, Finland between 8-10 September 2026. SCOR is interested in further developing collaborations with IAMAS and encouraged us to make the IAMAS community aware of the funding opportunities provided by SCOR for travel support and fellowships. Their focus is primarily on helping individual scientists from developing countries to be involved in ocean activities and to network with scientists from developed countries. Details about the organization of SCOR and funding opportunities can be found on the SCOR web page: <https://scor-int.org>.

Report on the Second International Symposium on Lightning Physics and Lightning Meteorology (ISLPM2025)

From 3 to 6 June 2025, the Second International Symposium on Lightning Physics and Lightning Meteorology (ISLPM2025) was successfully convened in Beijing. This symposium was initiated by Professor Xiushu Qie, the President of the International Commission on Atmospheric Electricity (ICAE). ISLPM2025 was co-hosted by the Institute of Atmospheric Physics (IAP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences. It brought together more than 120 experts and scholars from countries and regions including China, the United States, France, Germany, Japan, and Russia. Throughout the four-day event, delegates carried out in-depth discussions on core issues such as lightning detection, thunderstorm physics, Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications, and climate change, and explored new avenues for multidisciplinary integration to address the increasing frequency of global extreme weather events.

The symposium sessions included 43 invited and oral presentations, along with 36 posters, which presented the latest breakthroughs in the field. Discussions centred on the rapid advancements in detection technologies and the innovative application of AI in nowcasting. A notable highlight of the symposium was the 20th anniversary review of the Rocket-triggered Lightning Experiment carried out by the IAP in Binzhou, Shandong Province. The triggered lightning experiments not only provided invaluable first-hand data for physical research but also provided crucial technical support for practical lightning protection in power systems, aerospace and disaster mitigation.

The event received support from IAMAS, ICAE, and the National Natural Science Foundation of China. The success of ISLPM2025 has further enhanced the international academic influence of lightning physics and meteorology, establishing a solid basis for future global research cooperation and disaster prevention endeavours.



Group photograph of ISLPM2025 participants.

News from the IAMAS commissions

The International Radiation Commission

A special issue on the 2024 International Radiation Symposium has just been published in the IAMAS affiliated journal *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences* <https://link.springer.com/journal/376/volumes-and-issues/43-2>



The International Commission on Clouds and Precipitation

ICCP will sponsor two workshops in 2026.

A pre-EGU Ice Cloud Workshop will take place at the University of Vienna on 30 April and 1 May 2026. The focus of the workshop will be on the role of ice and mixed-phase clouds in a changing climate, bridging small- and large-scale processes, modelling and observations. The workshop will involve scene-setting talks and discussion-driven sessions, designed for deep scientific exchange allowing active involvement of all participants. This workshop should lay the groundwork for a document outlining key open questions and future directions, potentially leading to an opinion paper.

A workshop on Advancing Cloud and Precipitation Research and Applications in Africa will take place at the University of Nairobi, Kenya between 20 and 24 July 2026. The workshop will be jointly sponsored by ICCP and the International Commission on Tropical Meteorology (ICTM). Five topics have been identified for discussion at the workshop: cloud microphysics, aerosol-cloud interactions and convection; observations, measurement techniques and data integration (including satellite data); modelling, prediction, nowcasting and extreme weather; artificial intelligence and machine learning across the weather-climate chain; and climate change, urbanization, and future directions. The workshop will consist of inspirational keynotes, technical plenary contributions, poster and discussion sessions, and practical sessions.

The International Commission on Polar Meteorology

The International Commission on Polar Meteorology (ICPM) is looking forward to the upcoming 21st Workshop on Antarctic Meteorology and Climate, which is an endorsed ICPM event. It is being held in Charleston, South Carolina on 16-18 June 2026. Meeting details will be posted in the coming weeks here at the meeting website: https://amrdc.ssec.wisc.edu/meetings/wamc_2026. Further news is that Matthew Lazzara, President of ICPM, has just returned from his eleventh deployment to Antarctica, working on the Antarctic Automatic Weather Station network. As of this writing, the season is still in progress with 14 sites serviced so far and more possible before season end.



Matthew Lazzara and Lee Welhouse at Siple Dome automatic weather station.

Prof. Roseanne Diab

We are very sorry to hear of the passing of the distinguished scientist Prof. Roseanne Diab who for many years was a major figure in the atmospheric sciences, both in her home country of South Africa and also internationally. Prof. Diab had a long and influential career, where after obtaining her PhD from the University of Virginia in 1983, she returned to South Africa, beginning her career-long association with the University of Durban-Westville (now the University of KwaZulu-Natal) where she rose to become Professor of Environmental Sciences in 2001. At the university she carried out important research into a number of fields within the atmospheric sciences, including climate change, air quality, tropospheric ozone and dispersion modelling. In addition to her research, she made many contributions to science policy, including as Executive Officer of the Academy of Science of South Africa and Director of GenderInSITE, a global initiative to advance gender equality in science, technology, engineering and innovation, particularly in developing regions. She was also Co-Chair of the Inter-Academy Council panel that reviewed the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. During her distinguished career she received many honours, including fellowships of the African Academy of Sciences, the World Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Science of South Africa.



Prof. Diab had a long involvement with IAMAS through its Executive Committee and commissions, and by convening symposia, such as the joint IAMAS–IAPSO assembly in Melbourne in 1997 as the world began grappling seriously with the issue of climate change. Her research into tropospheric ozone led naturally to involvement with the International Ozone Commission into which she was elected as a member in 2004 at their Quadrennial Ozone Symposium and she served in that capacity until 2012. Her interest in air quality brought her into contact with IAMAS’s International Commission on Atmospheric Chemistry and Global Pollution of which she was an active member.

Further details of Prof. Diab’s career and contributions to science and policy can be found at <https://twas.org/article/obituary-professor-roseanne-denise-diab#:~:text=she%20lived%20by-,Prof.,community%20she%20so%20deeply%20enriched>.

We send out deepest condolences to her family and many friends.

AGU petition over US withdrawal from climate-related treaties

The American Geophysical Union has called for scientists to sign a petition regarding the U.S. leaving the IPCC and other critical global climate and environment organizations and treaties. If you would like to sign the petition it can be accessed at <https://agu.quorum.us/campaign/152816/>. It is not necessary to be a member of AGU to participate, though they ask you to provide a home institution, a web home page and a field of work in order to check the existence and validity of the signatures collected.

Space debris

On 18 and 19 February 2026 two events addressing the often overlooked topic of space debris will take place in Halle (Saale), Germany. Registration is available via the Leopoldina website (<https://www.leopoldina.org/>).

An evening public lecture on 18 February will be given by Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Glassmeier:

“Between Sky and Earth: Spaceflight, the Atmosphere, and Sustainability”

<https://www.leopoldina.org/veranstaltungen/veranstaltung/event/3303/>

On 19 February, a one-day symposium entitled “Burning Satellites – A Risk to the Atmosphere and to Us?” will feature a range of high-level presentations:

<https://www.leopoldina.org/veranstaltungen/veranstaltung/event/3304/>

Both events are organised by the Leopoldina Working Group on Space Debris, on which IAMAS Vice-President Prof. John Burrows is a member.

Phishing emails

Cyber criminals are still targeting IAMAS members and everyone needs to be on their guard when they receive unexpected emails, especially any that are concerned with financial matters. These may appear to be from IAMAS officers, but actually come from unusual email addresses such as IAMAS_president@gmail.com, Presidents_office@hotmail.com or similar. The emails often refer to some form of problem or crisis that requires you to transfer money urgently. They may state that they don't have their credit card with them so can't do the transfer themselves. Or they are stuck somewhere and have lost their wallet. The English is often poor, with a strange and unfamiliar greeting and erratic capitalisation. They promise to repay you the sum as soon as possible. Below is a recent example of a phishing attempt (including spelling and syntax errors) that contains many of the statements that should raise a flag:

“I sincerely apologize for the inconvenience, I urgently need your assistance with a transfer of \$3,850 for an IAMAS logistics welfare Support payment. I'm away on a vacation and I do not have my internet banking access card reader to make the transfer and our treasurer is indisposed, as a result, will not be able to make the transfer at the moment. Please let me know if you can possibly help with the transfer as soon as possible because of its urgency on behalf of IAMAS and if I can forward you the details for the transfer. Rest assured I will personally reimburse you as soon as I'm back.”

However, these criminals are very inventive and are constantly coming up with new ways to try to deceive people. If in any doubt at all about a message you should contact the IAMAS officers to confirm its validity using only the email addresses on the IAMAS website at <https://www.iamas.org/current-officers/> . Never reply directly to the suspect email nor click on any links in the message.

IAMAS and IUGG support of meetings in 2026

Each year IAMAS and IUGG contribute financially to the organisation and running of meetings and workshops, with a particular emphasis on enabling the attendance of Early Career Researchers. In 2026 IUGG will support seven IAMAS-led meetings, with contributions totalling \$20,500. IAMAS will be providing financial support of \$57,500 for 12 meetings and workshops. Those receiving support are listed in the table below.

IAMAS	IUGG
ICAE General Assembly (ICAE2026) Barcelona, Spain	ICMA APARC General Assembly, Pune, India
ICMA Trends workshop Beijing, China	iCACGP SOLAS Summer School, CEPENE, Tamandaré, Brazil
ICMA Space Weather. Finland	iCACGP LAC Training Course, Santiago, Chile
iCACGP-IGAC Joint Conference, Heraklion, Crete	ICCL ITU Global Initiative on Resilience to Natural Hazards through AI Solutions, Geneva, Switzerland
ICCL International Conference on Climate Impacts in a Changing World, Uppsala, Sweden	IRC AMS Madison Summit Assembly, Madison, Wisconsin, USA
ICCL International workshop on assessing current and future regional climate change and its impacts on hazard. Kyoto, Japan	ECR committee Sea Ice School, Saroma, Japan
ICTM Urbanization and Extreme Weather in the Tropical African Continent, Nairobi, Kenya	Ad Hoc African Met Society. The First Scientific Conference of the AfMS, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
ICDM Diabatic processes across scales in the extra-tropics, Vienna, Austria	
ICDM 21st Cyclone Workshop, Bad Dürkheim, Germany	
ICPAE Europlanet Science Congress, The Hague, Netherlands	
ICCP Workshop Vienna, Austria	
ICCP Clouds and Precipitation Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya	

Upcoming meetings

Meetings supported by IUGG are indicated by an asterisk

2026

- The Climate and Cryosphere Open Science Conference, Wellington, New Zealand 9-12 February 2026. clim2026.com.
- The Surface Ocean Lower Atmosphere (SOLAS) project will participate in the Ocean Sciences Meeting 2026 (OSM26), which will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, from 22-27 February 2026. <https://agu.confex.com/agu/osm26/prelim.cgi/Home/0>
- Saroma Sea Ice School 2026, Saroma, Hokkaido, Japan, 28 February - 9 March 2026*

- Training course on modelling of atmospheric composition in Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, Chile, First semester of 2026*
- SOLAS Summer School from 9-27 March 2026, in Tamandaré, Brazil.*
- Conference of the African Meteorological Society, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 20-23 April 2026
- The European Geosciences Union Annual Meeting will take place in Vienna, Austria and online from the 3-8 May 2026. <https://www.egu26.eu/>
- Space Climate 10 Symposium. 9-12 June 2026, Åland/Ahvenanmaa, Finland. https://cosmicrays oulu.fi/space_climate2026/?page_id=53
- 21st Workshop on Antarctic Meteorology and Climate. Charleston, South Carolina, USA, 16-18 June 2026. https://amrdc.ssec.wisc.edu/meetings/wamc_2026
- ITU Global Initiative on Resilience to Natural Hazards through AI Solutions, Geneva, Switzerland, 7-10 July 2026*
- The 18th International Conference on Atmospheric Electricity. Barcelona, Spain 13-17 July 2026. <https://icae2026.upc.edu/119708/detail/18th-international-conference-on-atmospheric-electricity.html>
- Clouds, Precipitation and Urban Extreme Tropical Weather Workshop: The African Continent. 20-24 July 2026, University of Nairobi, Kenya. See <https://www.cloudsfor.africa/> .
- The 12th Scientific Committee of Antarctic Research Open Science Conference. Oslo, Norway 8-18 August 2026. <https://www.npolar.no/en/arrangement/scar2026/>
- The 46th COSPAR Scientific Assembly will be held 1 – 9 August 2026 in Florence, Italy. See <https://www.cospar-assembly.org/assembly>
- 7th Conference on Cloud Physics (CCP)/ The 17th Conference on Atmospheric Radiation (CAR), Madison WI, USA, 3-7 August 2026*
- The 12th Scientific Committee of Antarctic Research Open Science Conference. Oslo, Norway, 8-18 August 2026. <https://www.npolar.no/en/arrangement/scar2026/>
- The iCACGP-IGAC 2026 conference will take place in Heraklion, Crete, Greece during 7-11 September 2026* See <https://icacgp-igac2026.org/>
- The SCOR annual meeting. Helsinki, Finland, 8-10 September 2026.
- Atmospheric Processes and their Role in Climate (APARC) General Assembly, Pune, India, 12-16 October 2026*
- The 6th International Atmospheric Rivers Conference. 19 – 23 October, 2026, Porto, Portugal. See <https://cw3e.ucsd.edu/iarc2026/>
- The American Geophysical Union annual meeting (AGU26) will take place in San Francisco from 7-11 December 2026. <https://www.agu.org/plan-for-a-meeting/agumeetings>

2027

- The 29th IUGG General Assembly will be held in Incheon, Republic of Korea during 16-22 July 2027. <https://geodesy.science/event/iugg-general-assembly-2027/>

2028

- The next IRC Quadrennial Symposium. Date and location to be confirmed.
- The next Quadrennial Symposium Ozone Symposium. Date and location to be confirmed.
- The 20th International Conference on Clouds and Precipitation (ICCP) will be held at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology. The date will be announced in due course.

2029

- IAMAS/IAPSO Scientific Assembly. Manchester, UK. Dates to be confirmed.