This report covers the period from January 2015 to February 2016.

INTRODUCTION
The International Association for Cryospheric Sciences (IACS) is the Association of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) that is concerned with snow and ice science and which provides expert advice on cryospheric issues to governmental and non-governmental organisations. The objectives of IACS are to:

- Promote studies of cryospheric subsystems of the Earth and solar system.
- Encourage research in the above subjects by members of the cryospheric community, national and international institutions and programmes, and individual countries through collaboration and international co-ordination.
- Provide an opportunity on an international basis for discussion and publication of the results of the above research.
- Promote education and public awareness on the cryosphere, and facilitate the standardisation of measurement or collection of data on cryospheric systems and of the analysis, archiving and publication of such data.

ADMINISTRATION
A Bureau of 11 elected officers manages the business of IACS. The current IACS Bureau was elected at the IACS Plenary Administrative Meeting during the 26th IUGG General Assembly in Prague. In Prague, IACS also held two closed bureau meetings and an open bureau meeting for IACS partners and stakeholders. In attendance were Charles Fierz (IACS President), Regine Hock (new to Bureau, President Elect), Andrew Mackintosh (Secretary General), Olga Solomina (Vice President), Cunde Xiao (Vice President), Ian Allison (newly elected Vice President), Hiroyuki Enomoto (Head, Marine and Freshwater ice), Christine Schott Hvidberg (new to Bureau, Head, Planetary and other ices of the solar system), and Liss Andreassen (new to Bureau, Head, Glaciers and Ice Sheets). In addition, outgoing IACS bureau member Ralf Greve attended our first bureau meeting in Prague.

In other business, new IACS correspondents have been appointed to Italy (Barbara Stenni), Denmark (Andreas Ahlstrom) and Netherlands (Michiel van den Broeke). We have also made minor adjustments to our by-laws in accordance with the new IUGG statute 10d but also to allow for electronic voting, to provide more flexibility in achieving a quorum at Bureau meetings, and to allow heads of IACS divisions to appoint a deputy. We also renamed our Division III (formerly ‘Marine and Freshwater Ice’) to ‘Sea Ice, Lake and River Ice’ in order to improve its clarity and recognition.

Finally, IACS bureau members have recently been nominated to IUGG committees for the 2016-19 period; IACS President Charles Fierz is to chair the IUGG Statutes and By-Laws Committee, IACS Vice-President Dr Olga Solomina is to join the IUGG Honours and Recognition Committee, and IACS Secretary General Andrew Mackintosh will join the IUGG Visioning Committee. In addition, Christine Schott Hvidberg, Head, Planetary and other ices of the solar system, will represent IACS in the newly created Union Commission on Planetary Sciences.
ACTIVITIES
IACS facilitates the transfer of research methods and explores new avenues in cryospheric science through Standing Groups and Working Groups devoted to a theme or subject and composed of experts in the particular field of study. The currently active Working Groups (WG) of IACS are the ‘Randolph Glacier Inventory and infrastructure for glacier monitoring’ (2014 – 2018), ‘Glacier ice thickness estimation’ (2014-2018) and ‘MicroSnow’ (2012-2016). All three of these working groups are very active and held meetings at IUGG Prague. Information about the current working group activities can be found at http://www.cryosphericsciences.org/workingGroups.html.

The current Standing Groups (SG) are the Joint commission on Volcano-Ice Interactions (with the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior - IAVCEI), the SG on Glacier and Permafrost Hazards in Mountains (GAPHAZ, a joint SG with the International Permafrost Association IPA) and the Steering Committee of the Global Terrestrial Network for Glaciers (GTN-G). The latter was recently strengthened through the addition of Ben Marzeion (University of Bremen) and Stephen Briggs (European Space Agency).

IUGG Prague was a successful meeting for IACS, with well-attended sessions and associated side meetings by IACS Working Groups and Standing Groups. Of particular note for IACS in Prague was the award of the first IACS Early Career Scientist Prize to Dr Mathieu Morlighem from University of California, Irvine, for his paper ‘Deeply incised submarine glacial valleys beneath the Greenland ice sheet’ (Nature Geoscience 7, 418–422 (2014). In this paper, Dr Morlighem and his colleagues showed that outlet glaciers of Greenland are potentially more vulnerable to ocean warming than previously thought.

IACS also elected three honorary members in Prague; Professors Liz Morris, Georg Kaser and Atsumu Omura, who have each made fundamental contributions to the cryospheric sciences, and the development of IACS. See photograph below. The full citations for the three awardees can be found at http://www.cryosphericsciences.org/honoraryMembers.html.
Sponsorship of meetings and symposia
During 2015, IACS supported the following meetings and symposia.
- International Glaciology Society International Symposium on Glaciology in High Mountain Asia. Secretary General Andrew Mackintosh evaluated student talks and posters and presented awards to two early career scientists.
- IACS supported 4 Early Career Scientists from India, Russia, Turkey, and Hungary to attend the first APECS World Summit: The Future of Polar Research, Sofia, 6-8 June 2015.
- IACS co-sponsored the 1st Snow Science Winter School, Sodankylä, Finland, 8-14 February 2015.

Representation at international scientific meetings and IACS liaisons to other organizations
- President Charles Fierz represented IACS at the XVII WMO Congress and participated in a round table on ‘WMO Polar and High Mountain Activities’. He also participated actively in two Global Cryosphere Watch meetings as well as in the sixth session of the Panel of Experts on Polar and High Mountain Observations, Research and Services.
- Hiroyuki Enomoto, Head, Sea Ice, Lake and River Ice, represented IACS at the Council Meeting and other activities of the International Arctic Scientific Committee in Toyama, Japan, April 2015.
FUTURE ACTIVITIES


A joint IACS-IGS-CliC Symposium on International Symposium on the Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, 12th-17th February 2017 in Wellington, New Zealand (http://www.cryosphericsciences.org/downloads/iacs2017_firstCircWeb.pdf). This meeting will bring together three of the leading international associations focusing on the cryosphere; the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS), the International Glaciological Society (IGS) and the World Climate Research Programme Climate and Cryosphere Project (WCRP CliC). The conference will be hosted by Andrew Mackintosh, and based at his home institution, Victoria University, in the beautiful harbour-side city of Wellington. A strong international scientific committee has been established for this conference, chaired by IACS Immediate Past President Ian Allison. We hope to see many of you in Wellington during the height of the southern hemisphere summer, where there will also be a chance to visit the Tongariro volcanic world heritage area, and Aoraki Mount Cook, on the pre- and post-conference field trips.

IACS Early Career Award

The 2nd IACS Early Career Award is currently being judged by a committee chaired by IACS President Elect Regine Hock. We have received a good number of high quality applications. The place and time the award will be presented is not fixed yet.

IACS sponsorship of forthcoming meetings

IACS will co-sponsor the following scientific meetings in 2016:

- 2nd Snow Science Winter School, Preda, Switzerland, 14-20 February 2016. This event will also benefit from a IUGG grant.
- International Summer School in Glaciology, McCarthy, AK, USA, June 2016. This event will also benefit from a IUGG grant.