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29 June 2005

Dr Jerry Brown  
International Permafrost Association  
PO Box 7  
Woods Hole  
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Dear Dr Brown

As you are aware, IPY 2007-2008 will be an international programme of coordinated, interdisciplinary scientific research and observations in the Earth's Polar regions. The community response to the ICSU-WMO call in January 2005 for Expressions of Intent for IPY has been extremely positive, with over 1000 EoIs submitted to date.

One of the criteria for an IPY activity is that it should not conflict with existing plans, programmes and activities. IPY will have a time-limited observational period and in many cases IPY activities will contribute to the objectives of existing international programmes, many of which have strongly endorsed the IPY concept. The IPY Joint Committee plans to work closely with these existing programmes to further develop the EoIs into a set of strong, internationally collaborative core projects contributing to our common objectives.

The JC considers that the International Permafrost Association is an existing international activity which has objectives in common with IPY and with which we should cooperate closely. We hence warmly invite your involvement in IPY and your help in leading the development of a core IPY project through collaboration between those EoIs that have similar objectives to your own. The JC has tentatively identified a cluster of EoIs that address the objectives of your programme. You will find details of these under the topic of "Permafrost" on the IPY web site at [www.ipy.org](http://www.ipy.org). Details of all the other developing IPY core topics are also available at this site. If you wish to discuss the relationship between IPY and IPA further, please do not hesitate to contact the IPY International Programme Office in Cambridge ([ipyipo@bas.ac.uk](mailto:ipyipo@bas.ac.uk)).

The JC has called for the submission of fuller proposals with updated plans and more detailed information on funding and support for the deadlines of 30 June 2005, 30 Sept 2005 and 16 Jan 2006. You will find details of this proposal process at

[www.ipy.org](http://www.ipy.org). An essential requirement for IPY core projects is that they are managed by a self-organized and self-funded Project Steering Committee, and in the fuller project submissions, the JC will be assessing the level of proposed collaboration and looking for a viable management plan and organizational structure for such collaboration. We will also be looking for projects that have well developed data management and education and outreach plans [refer to “A Framework for the International Polar Year 2007-2008”].

We look forward to your continued involvement in IPY 2007-2008.

Yours sincerely,

Co-chairs of the Joint Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Allison', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ian Allison

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michel Beland', written in a cursive style.

Michel Beland