

IGBP hands over baton to Future Earth

IGBP will complete its mandate at the end of this year. The new initiative, Future Earth, is under way and poised to sponsor many of IGBP's projects and activities.

Its five secretariat hubs – one each in Montreal, Boulder, Paris, Tokyo and Stockholm – have been recruiting staff throughout the past year. Paul Shrivastava, formerly Professor of Sustainable Enterprise at Concordia University (Canada), is the Executive Director of Future Earth, based in Montreal. He was joined early in the Future Earth process by the Global Hub Director Fumiko Kasuga, a public health researcher, in Tokyo. Thorsten Kiefer, former Director of the Past Global Changes (PAGES) project, heads the Paris hub, while Anne H  l  ne

Prieur-Richard, former Acting Director of DIVERSITAS, is heading the Montreal hub. Josh Tewksbury, an ecologist and conservation biologist formerly at the University of Washington, was appointed the first Colorado hub director in September. The Stockholm global hub continued its search for a director at press time.

Many of IGBP's core projects have migrated or are in transition to Future Earth, and new activities are in the works. For example, the China National Committee has initiated an expert committee on disaster early warning in the context of global environmental change. Future Earth also recently put out a call for proposals to establish regional offices in Africa.

In preparation for its closure, the IGBP Secretariat in Stockholm archived important

documents pertaining to its institutional and scientific history as well as finances. Hard copies are to be stored at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. An electronic archive will be housed at the Paris headquarters of the International Council for Science (ICSU), which sponsors IGBP. The IGBP website will remain online until 2026.

Synthesis update

IN 2012 IGBP decided to launch an overarching synthesis focusing on the Anthropocene, Earth-system science and core-project accomplishments. Papers emerging from these three topics are currently undergoing peer review and should be published in the coming six months.

The seeds for the Anthropocene synthesis were sown at a workshop last year in Washington, DC. The workshop, which was co-sponsored by the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change, brought together natural and social scientists to explore the concept's many dimensions. The workshop led to the development of a suite of papers on topics including conceptualisation; modelling and methodological challenges; data needs; Anthropocene futures; and governance. The papers are being reviewed for eventual publication in the journal *Global Environmental Change*. Some of this work will inform a union session on the Anthropocene at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) fall meeting in December.

Papers on IGBP's contributions to Earth-system science and the accomplishments of its core projects are undergoing review for eventual publication in the journal *Anthropocene*.



IGBP landmark synthesis event at AGU

THE fall meeting of the American Geophysical Union (AGU), which takes place in San Francisco every December, is one of the largest annual gatherings of geoscientists. This year's meeting will witness a special package of activities to celebrate IGBP's legacy in the form of a landmark synthesis event. IGBP is co-sponsoring tens of scientific sessions that will showcase its final synthesis and the work of its core projects. The Secretariat has put special emphasis on raising funds to facilitate the attendance of more than 20 researchers from the developing world. Some of these researchers will participate in a two-day workshop on co-design and co-production of knowledge to be held at Stanford University in advance of the AGU meeting. Other events include an evening reception for the wider IGBP community and a music and dance performance by the group Bella Gaia.



The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

THANK YOU

MANY individuals and organisations have contributed to IGBP's success over the years. While it is impossible to thank them all individually here, we owe each of them a huge debt of gratitude. We acknowledge the tremendous efforts of the thousands of scientists who devoted their time to IGBP on a voluntary basis since its inception. IGBP would not have been the organisation it is without the work of past and present Secretariat staff. Particular thanks go to Charlotte Wilson, who has held together the office and staff with her dedication and diligence since she joined in 1999. Thanks also to all of the current and past staff of the Secretariat. We would also like to thank the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for hosting the programme for almost three decades.

– Karen Smyth, Acting Executive Director, IGBP

The Climate-Change Index brings together four Earth-system parameters: sea level; global average land-surface temperature; atmospheric carbon dioxide; and Arctic sea-ice minimum. The index gives equal weight to each parameter, thus not emphasizing one component more than another. As with previous years, the 2013 index shows an unequivocal rising trend. For more information about the methodology and the Climate-Change Index, see issue 74 of *Global Change* or go to the IGBP website (www.igbp.net/globalchange/climatechangeindex.html).

