



International Arctic Science Committee

Update to the Polar Research Board

16 April 2026

Matthew Druckenmiller

National Snow and Ice Data Center, University of Colorado Boulder

Lead U.S. Delegation to IASC

IASC President

Andrey Petrov

ARCTICenter, University of Northern Iowa

Alternate U.S. Delegate to IASC



International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)

- Non-governmental, international scientific organization, founded in 1990
- Promotes and facilitates cooperation in all aspects of Arctic research, in all countries engaged in Arctic research, and in all areas of the Arctic region
- Supports science development and advice through workshops, long-term programs, assessments, and science planning activities



International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)

25 Member Countries

5 Working Groups:

- Atmosphere
- Cryosphere
- Marine
- Social & Human
- Terrestrial

2 Standing Committees

- Indigenous Involvement
- International Science Initiative for the Russian Arctic (ISIRA)

1 Action Group

- Toward Responsible Arctic Climate Intervention Research and Evidence-based Information (CIAG)



U.S. Delegation to IASC

NATIONAL
ACADEMIES Sciences
Engineering
Medicine

IASC Council Delegates

- Matthew Druckenmiller (*lead*) – Univ. of Colorado Boulder
- Andrey Petrov (*alternate*) – University of Northern Iowa

Standing Committees

Standing Committee on Indigenous Involvement

- Laura Zimin – University of Alaska Fairbanks
- Liza Mack – Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association

International Science Initiative in the Russian Arctic (ISIRA)

- Vladimir Romanovsky – University of Alaska Fairbanks

Working Groups

Atmosphere Working Group

- Gijs de Boer – Univ. of Colorado Boulder
- Muyin Wang – University of Washington

Cryosphere Working Group

- Melinda Webster – Univ. of Washington
- Medley Brook – NASA

Marine Working Group

- Laurie Juranek – Oregon State University
- Claudine Hauri – University of Alaska Fairbanks

Social and Human Working Group

- Vera Kuklina – George Washington University
- Dominique Pride – University of Alaska Fairbanks

Terrestrial Working Group

- Michelle Mack – Northern Arizona University
- Craig Tweedie – Univ. of Texas El Paso



New Executive Committee

- Five elected seats (President and four Vice-Presidents) and Executive Sec.
- Operates as a board of directors
- Manages IASC's activities and budget between Council meetings
- Meets three-times a year



President
Matthew Druckenmiller

USA



Vice-President
João Canário

Portugal



Vice-President
Hiroyuki Enomoto

Japan



Vice-President
Monika Kędra

Poland



Vice-President
Gabriela Schaeppman-Strub

Switzerland



Executive Secretary
Gerlis Fugmann

**IASC
Secretariat**



Working Group Highlights

See WG webpages & IASC
Bulletin for more information

Atmosphere

- Cice2Clouds Sea Ice Field School in Feb/Mar 2026 in Hokkaido Japan
- Early Career Researcher Workshop for the Synoptic Arctic Survey 2 at ASSW 2026

Cryosphere

- Snow science winter schools; Standardizing protocols for measuring snow properties
- Developing a newsletter

Marine

- Expanding engagement of Indigenous Knowledge holders – 2 workshops at ASSW 2026
- Extensive contributions to Arctic Observing Summit 2026

Social & Human

- Strengthening dialogue between science and policy remains a key priority
- Strong focus on supporting ECR involvement and capacity building

Terrestrial

- Continuing to support T-MOSaIC (Terrestrial – Multidisciplinary distributed Observatories for the Study of Arctic Climate), launched in 2017
- Developing next strategic plan in response to ICARP IV outcomes.



Notable Updates

- IASC co-hosted the **Monaco Polar Symposium 2026**, with Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and SCAR: *Resulted in 15 draft flagship ideas for IPY; report available soon*
- **IASC Fellowship Program**: *8 new fellows announced amid record number of applications*
- Completed the external **IASC Organizational Review**
- IASC developing its **10-year Strategic Plan**, following ICARP IV, recent Organizational Review, strategy workshop at ASSW 2026, & IPY planning
- Transitioning the ICARP IV International Steering Committee into the **ICARP IV Implementation Committee**
- **IASC Action Group on Ethical Guidelines for Research on Climate Intervention (ERCI)** continuing its work (*Gijs de Boer is member from US*)



IASC



Aarhus, Denmark
25 March – 1 April 2026

<https://assw.info>

- 705 in-person attendees (+ 133 virtual)
- Second-most number of attendees from the U.S. (~95), following Denmark as the host nation
- Release of the ICARP IV Reports
- Included Indigenous Pavilion for the second year
- Hosted the three-day **Arctic Observing Summit (AOS)**
 - AOS to undergo a review (scope TBD) over the next six months, led by an emerging group of AOS partners



ASSW 2027 in Hakodate, Japan: 11 – 20 April 2027

- First Circular and Call for Community Meetings and Sessions in May 2026
- To include the ninth International Symposium on Arctic Research (ISAR-9)



Final Report

ICARP IV Final Outcomes

March 2026



ICARP IV
FINAL OUTCOMES REPORT
MARCH 2026



Community-wide undertaking coordinated by IASC to:

- identify the **most urgent knowledge gaps and research priorities** for the next decade
- recommend **approaches to address these needs**.

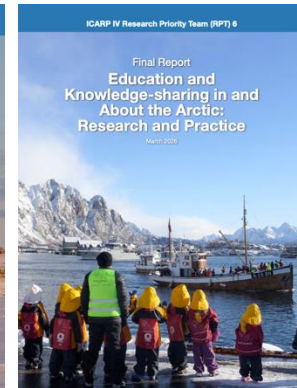
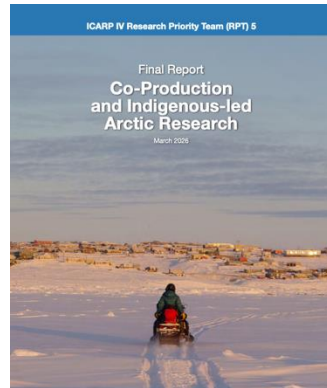
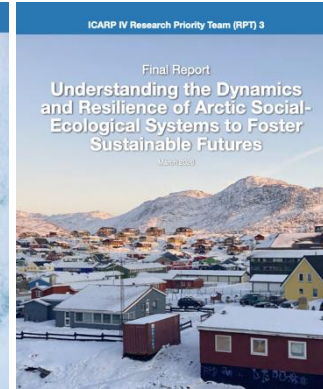
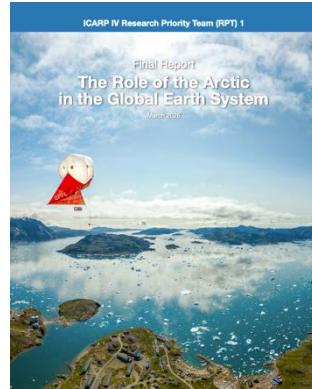
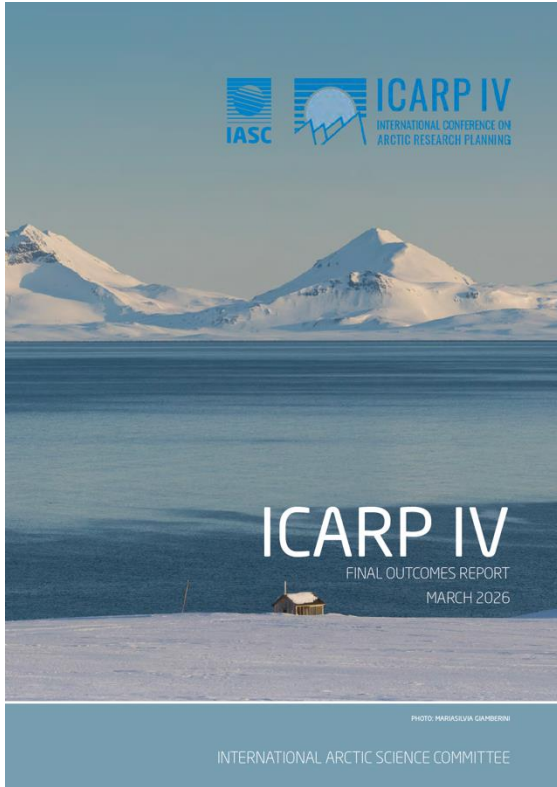
26 International Organizations

7 Research Priority Teams

200+ members

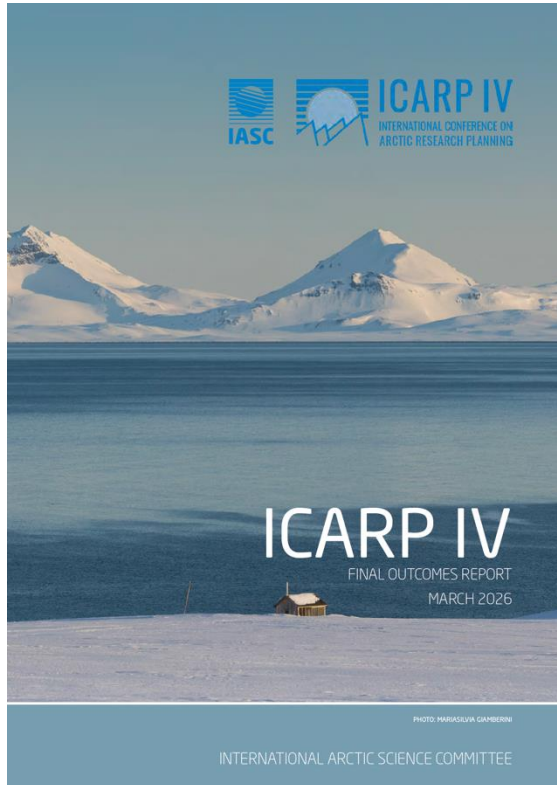
28 countries



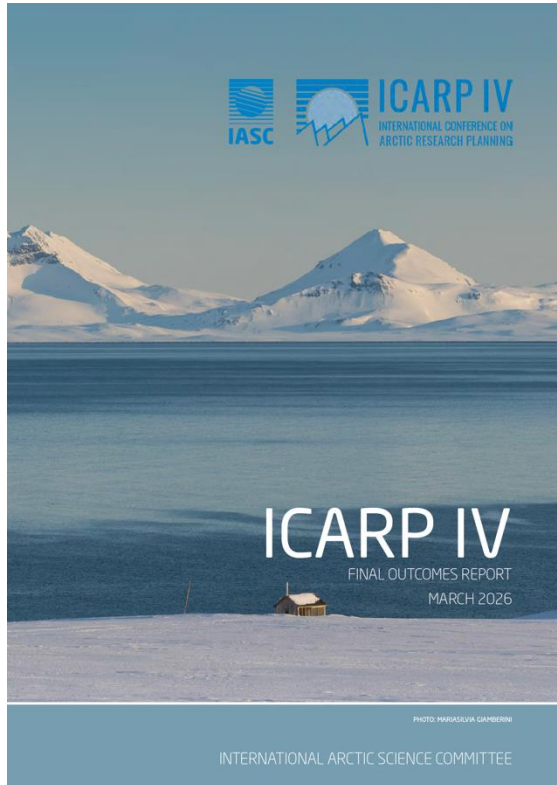


Available to
download on the
ICARP IV
website!





- Gaps in Scientific Understanding and Modelling Capabilities
- Improving Research Infrastructure, Data Accessibility, and Observation Systems
- Mitigation and Adaptation to Rapid Change
- How Research Should be Conducted
- Education and Outreach
- Governance, Policy, International Cooperation, and Funding Systems



- Extending observations of accelerating changes and establishing new baselines to guide actions
- Harnessing new tools and methods developed since IPY-4 – across disciplines and knowledge systems
- Advancing transdisciplinary research
- Robust, community-tested priorities for action
- Specific examples of gaps, needs and opportunities, with societal connection
- Above all...momentum and enthusiasm!



International Polar Year 2032-2033

Current Planning Status

Based on slides by the Interim IPY Secretariat



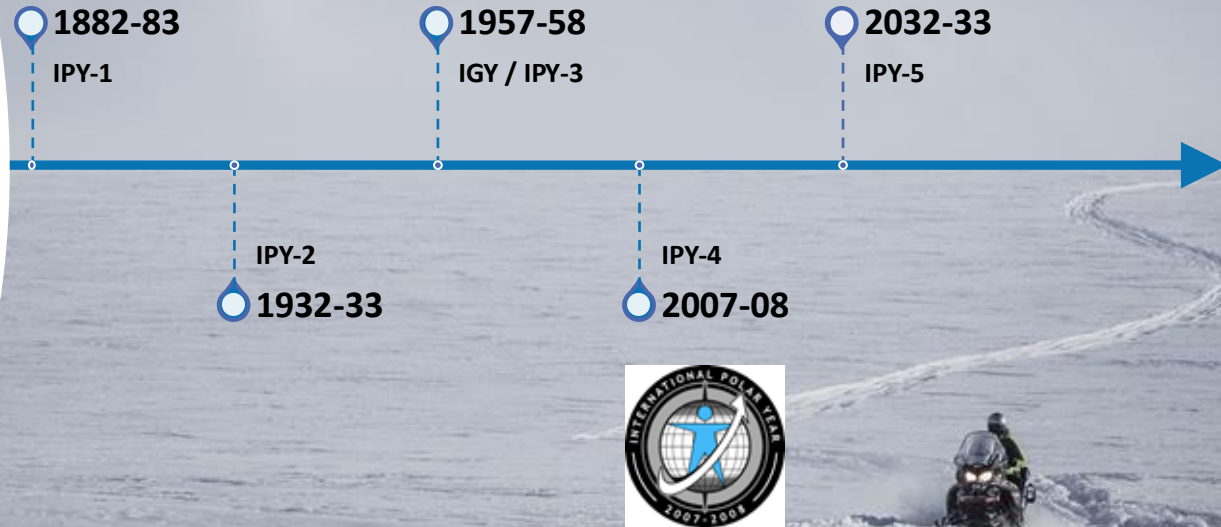
Photo: Matteo Monzali & Alami

IPY-5: A crucial new phase in organising regular IPYs

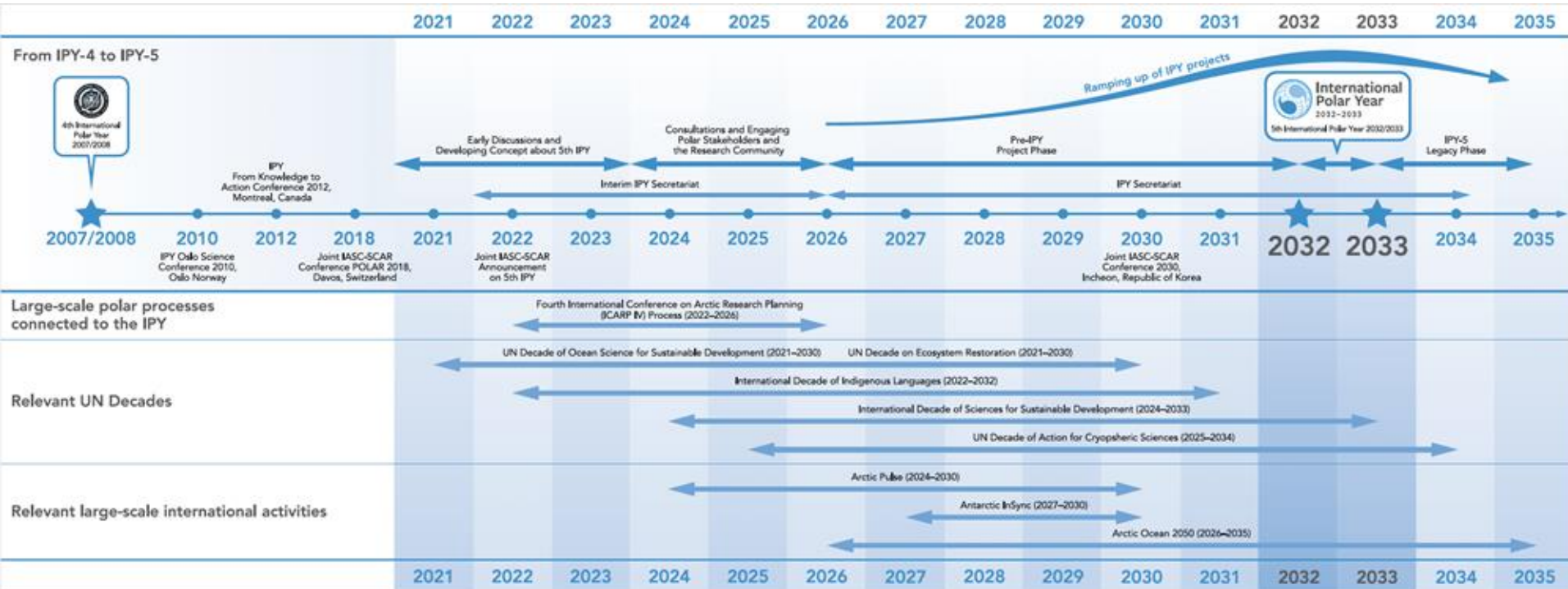
Building on:

- 4 groundbreaking IPYs convened between 1881 - 2009
- millenia of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge production

Long chain of coordinated polar research and credible scientific evidence on socio-ecological changes in the polar regions



IPY-5 Planning Timeline





5th International Polar Year 2032-33

Organisational Structure

IPY-5 Executive Committee

Moves planning efforts forward between IPY-5 Planning Group Meetings and takes overall responsibility for the direction and development of the IPY-5

Members: International Arctic Science Committee (IASC); Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR); World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), International Science Council (ISC)

IPY-5 Interim Secretariat

Interim Secretariat for the IPY-5 planning process until a longer-term funded arrangement is in place.

Operated by the Secretariats of IASC and SCAR with support of the ISC

IPY-5 Planning Group

Composed of representatives of regional and international organisations.

Members: More than 30 organisations as of October 2025!



IPY-5 Task Groups

Short-term groups working on addressing specific strategic aspects of the planning process.

Current Task Groups include: Vision and Priorities for the IPY-5; Indigenous Leadership and Involvement Coordination, Country and Funders Involvement; Capacity building and early career coordination; Data.



IPY-5 INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION

Call for IPY-5 National Committees!

Formed to coordinate national contributions to IPY-5 by:

- **Mobilising support:** secure funding, logistics, and resources
- **Coordinating activities:** plan, endorse, and deliver national/local projects for IPY-5
- **Coordinating endorsements:** coordinate the endorsement processes for national IPY-5 projects
- **Sharing data:** ensure availability of nationally collected IPY data
- **Engaging national institutions and society:** lead in education, outreach, and communication at the national level
- **Linking internationally:** channel information between the IPY-5 Planning Group and the National Committees through involvement in the IPY-5 NRCC
- Call opened in October 2025












Call for IPY-5 National Committees!

Starting 2026: IPY-5 National Representatives Coordination Committee (IPY-5 NRCC)

- Facilitate communication and cooperation between the various national IPY-5 planning efforts; and to
- Connect the national planning efforts with the international coordination of the IPY-5 led by the IPY-5 Planning Group and Executive Committee.
- Up to two representatives per IPY-5 National Committee



IPY-5 National Committees Progress

	Norway	Committee and secretariat created and funded
	UK	Committee created
	China	Committee is being formed, plans for large-scale projects
	Spain	Committee created, pending approval
	Germany	Process in final stages
	Netherlands	Process in final stages
	Poland	Process in advanced stages
	Sweden	Process launched
	Russia	Process launched
	Canada	Discussions open, complete by the end of 2026
	USA	Discussions open



5th International Polar Year 2032-33

Organisational Structure

IPY-5 Executive Committee

Moves planning efforts forward between IPY-5 Planning Group Meetings and takes overall responsibility for the direction and development of the IPY-5

Members: International Arctic Science Committee (IASC); Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR); World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), International Science Council (ISC)

IPY-5 Interim Secretariat

Interim Secretariat for the IPY-5 planning process until a longer-term funded arrangement is in place.

Operated by the Secretariats of IASC and SCAR with support of the ISC

IPY-5 Planning Group

Composed of representatives of regional and international organisations.

Members: More than 30 organisations as of October 2025!

IPY-5 Task Groups

Short-term groups working on addressing specific strategic aspects of the planning process.

Current Task Groups : Vision and Priorities for the IPY-5
Indigenous Leadership and Involvement Coordination,
Country and Funders Involvement;
Capacity building and early career coordination;
Data.

IPY-5 INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION

IPY-5 National Representatives Coordination Committee (IPY-5 NRCC)

To facilitate communication and cooperation between the various national IPY-5 planning efforts and to connect the national planning efforts with the international coordination of the IPY-5

IPY-5 National Committees

To coordinate national contributions to the IPY-5.

Starting 2026:

IPY-5 National Representatives Coordination Committee (IPY-5 NRCC)

- facilitate communication and cooperation between the national IPY-5 planning efforts;
- connect the national planning efforts with the international IPY coordination
- up to two representatives per IPY-5 National Committee

IPY-5 NATIONAL COORDINATION

Call for IPY-5 International Coordination Office Host(s)

- Expected operational period: 2027 – 2035
- Deadlines:
 - **6 February 2026:** Expression of Interest Letters
 - **1 June 2026:** Full bids
- Bids accepted from
 - Individual institutions or organisations
 - Consortia of multiple institutions or organisations in one or more countries



Call for IPY-5 International Coordination Office Host(s)

Expressions of interest reviewed by the IPY-5 Executive Committee

Three successful bids, moving to the next stage are:

- Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI), University of Tromsø (UiT); Korean Polar Research Institute (KOPRI); and Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH) — Central office plus two satellite offices. Contact: Harald Steen
- World Climate Research Programme Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) Project Office, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (USA) in collaboration with University of Wellington (New Zealand) — Central Office plus one satellite office. Contact: Meghan Taylor
- Inuit Circumpolar Council Greenland (ICC) and International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry — Indigenous IPY-5 Office. Contact: Anders Oskal



Call for IPY-5 Projects from 2026!

- **International Endorsement Process** for international projects involving multiple countries
 - Organised by IPY-5 International Coordination Office & Executive Committee
- **National Endorsement Process** for national to local-focused projects involving only one country
 - Organised by relevant IPY-5 National Committee

More info will be available on the IPY-5 website in 2026!

Projects can contribute to:

- Ramp-up period to IPY-5 (2026 – 2031), and / or
- IPY-5 (2032-33), and / or
- IPY-5 legacy period (2034 onwards)



Other steps include:

- Establish more Task Groups and through them develop longer-term committees
- Continue public consultations and engaging polar stakeholders, funders, rightsholders and the research community in defining and shaping the plans and visions for the IPY-5
- Coordination with other international processes (e.g. UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, UN Decade of Action for Cyrospheric Sciences)
- **For the Arctic: Implement the results of the 4th International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP IV) Process**





International
Polar Year
2032–2033

Photo: Gerlis Fugmann

**Contact the IPY-5 Interim
Secretariat!**



www.ipy5.info



ipy-secretariat@iasc.info



www.iasc.info

Contact Us

Matthew Druckenmiller
druckenmiller@colorado.edu

Andrey Petrov
andrey.petrov@uni.edu



Thanks to NSF for support of the U.S.
Delegation to IASC