

Space Weather observations and the Russian national Program of the International Polar Year

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The International Polar Year (2007-2008) is a major international scientific venture approved by the governments of 35 countries. The total number of the projects proposed for the International Polar Year (IPY) is 978, which are divided into 110 so called clusters of scientific topics. The main emphasis in the future studies will be put on exploration of the Earth's climate and paleoclimate, oceanography, sea ice cover dynamics, ecological problems and human activity in the polar regions. The Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute in Saint-Petersburg, Russia is chosen as the Eurasian sub-office of all activities in framework of the IPY. Space Weather observations are planned to be a substantial part of the scientific research during IPY. The ice drifting stations "North Pole" with many scientific tasks including Space Weather observations are planned to be a vital part of explorations in the Arctic. A special satellite mission called "Sever" (North) would be launched to monitor dynamics of ice cover of the Arctic ocean. In the Antarctica scientific activity in framework of IPY will include climatic and oceanographic explorations. A special attention will be given to multidisciplinary studies of underice lake Vostok and explorations of atmospheric electricity at Vostok station. In this paper the role of the Space Weather observations in all these and other projects will be discussed in details.