



International Partnerships in Ice Core Science-International Polar Year Initiative

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Ice cores have contributed substantially to understanding climate change. They provide convincing evidence of large, abrupt climate changes, and demonstrate the tight link between greenhouse gases and climate. However, there is a great deal more to learn. In 2004, representatives of all major ice coring nations agreed on a common agenda for the next decade. This agenda looks beyond established projects and includes coring over all available timescales, with highest feasible resolution. IPY provides an opportunity to launch this initiative. Some of the components of IPICS are also the subject of separate IPY submissions.

IPICS related events planned for IPY include:

- Searching for the oldest possible ice core record from Antarctica. The goal is to obtain ice at least 1.2 Myr old; substantial survey and modeling work will be required in IPY;
- Initiation of coring to recover the last interglacial and older ice from Greenland. The goal is to obtain a full record of the last interglacial, a period when the Greenland region at least was warmer than today;
- Starting a detailed spatial network of deep and intermediate-depth Antarctic ice cores. During IPY, cores will be collected at sites such as the Wesdt Antarc-

tic WAIS inland core, and Talos Dome, as part of a network that will help to elucidate climate dynamics across important climate transitions;

- Late Holocene climate change in high resolution in both polar regions. Building on the existing Antarctic ITASE network, cores with timescales up to 2000 years will be collected across both polar regions.