

**REPORT BY THE DBCP ACTION GROUPS TO THE
TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE DBCP, OBAN, UK, 27-30 SEPTEMBER 2010**

1) Summary

Name of Action Group	WCRP-SCAR International Programme for Antarctic Buoy (IPAB)
Date of report	31 July 2010
Overview and main requirements addressed	The Participants of the WCRP/SCAR International Programme for Antarctic Buoy (IPAB) work together to maintain a network of drifting buoys in the Southern Ocean, in particular over sea ice, to provide meteorological and oceanographic data for real-time operational requirements and research purposes.
Area of interest	South of 55°S and that region of the Southern Ocean and Antarctic marginal seas within the maximum seasonal sea-ice extent
Type of platform and variables measured	Ice buoys measuring the following: Basic variables: Buoy position, atmospheric pressure and SST Other variables: air temperature, ice and / or snow temperature, atmospheric pressure tendency, wind, snow and sea-ice properties and oceanographic variables
Targeted horizontal resolution	500 km x 500 km
Chairperson/Managers	Mr Shuki Ushio, NIPR, Japan
Coordinator	Dr Christian Haas, University of Alberta, Canada
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alfred Wegener Institut, Germany - Australian Antarctic Division, Australia - Australian Bureau of Meteorology - British Antarctic Survey, UK - Finnish Institute for Marine Research, Finland - GI, University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA - IARC, University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA - Institut für Meteorologie und Klimaforschung, Universität Karlsruhe, Germany - National Ice Center, USA - National Snow and Ice Data Center, USA - Met. Service NZ LTD, New Zealand - Norwegian Polar Institute, Norway - NSF, USA - National Institute of Polar Research, Japan - JAMSTEC, Japan - Programma Nazionale di Ricerche in Antartide, Italy - DAMTP, UK - SAMS, UK - University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada - CLS/Service Argos, France - South African Weather Service, South Africa - United Kingdom Meteorological Office, UK - CRREL, USA

Data centre(s)	
Website	http://www.ipab.aq/
Meetings	Biennial meetings
Current status (mid-2010)	An informal IPAB meeting was held at the International Antarctic Sea Ice Workshop on May 30, 2010, in Tromsø, Norway, where all of the most active IPAB participants were present. There were no deployments performed on sea ice in the 2009/2010 season, although numerous SVPs were deployed in open water by the Meteorological Services of South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.
Summary of plans for 2011	The Meteorological Services of South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand will continue to deploy SVPs in the open water zone during December 2010 to March 2011. In addition, 22 buoys will be deployed on ice during two research cruises in the Southern Pacific. Participants are encouraged to transmit their data to the GTS, and support by the coordinator has been offered.

2 Deployment plans for 2011

Buoys will be deployed during two research cruises to the Southern Pacific.

20 prototype ice mass balance buoys will be deployed by SAMS and BAS in the Bellingshausen Sea during a research cruise of RV James Clark Ross in November 2010. These buoys include GPS and thermistor chains through the snow and ice.

2 standard CRREL ice mass balance buoys will be deployed by the University of Texas San Antonio in the Bellingshausen and Amundsen Seas during a research cruise of IB Oden in November/December 2010. These buoys include GPS and thermistor chains through the snow and ice, as well as sonic rangefinders to measure changes of snow and ice thickness.

Other nation's research cruises are generally available for opportunistic buoy deployments, however, cruise tracks are generally not favourable of sustained deployments on ice floes with a good chance of survival through the summer.

3 Data management

3.1 Distribution of the data

3.1.1 Data policy

Data are generally freely distributed among IPAB participants as part of general scientific collaboration. Participants are encouraged to submit their data to the IPAB coordinator upon completion of their own scientific analyses.

3.1.2 Real-time data exchange

Participants are encouraged to transmit their data to the GTS. However, unfortunately only few data are actually being transmitted. Many participants are overwhelmed by new requirements due to increased usage of Iridium transmission.

3.2 Data quality

Data quality is an ongoing issue. QC is performed by the individual science groups, or by some national data centres and the DBCP if data are transmitted on GTS.