

## **IPY 2007-2008: Challenges and Stimulus for Global Data Access**

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### Abstract:

The International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008 exceeded many of its goals for partnerships, recruitment, communication and cutting-edge research; ICSU President Dr Yuan-Tseh Lee described it as "a triumph for global science". However, its primary strengths - widespread international participation and vast multi-disciplinary contributions - pushed IPY into uncharted and unfunded territory for global data access. In the face of growing international and interdisciplinary challenges, current and future science programmes small and large will find themselves in similar territory with respect to data. By evaluating IPY 2007-2008 as a test bed for free and open data access, and by exploring its rich array of data accomplishments on local or national or disciplinary scales, the global data community can and should use IPY as a stimulus for innovation and change in national and international, disciplinary and interdisciplinary identification, sharing and preservation of data.