

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR ICSU, THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE

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2006 is a doubly significant year for ICSU: it is both the 75th anniversary and the first year of a new era as laid out in the first ICSU Strategic Plan, 2006-2011. It is a time both to celebrate past successes and to begin addressing future challenges; from the International Geophysical Year fifty years ago, to the International Polar Year, a year hence. ICSU's contribution to strengthening international science for the benefit of society is focused on three overlapping areas: i) international, interdisciplinary research collaboration; ii) science for policy; iii) the universality of science, including capacity building and access to data. New initiatives are planned in each of these areas. To be successful these will need to build on the strengths of existing Interdisciplinary Bodies, such as SCAR, and truly engage the international scientific community, as represented by ICSU's international unions and national members. The fostering of effective strategic partnerships with other governmental and non-governmental organizations is essential.