



30 November 2005

Dear Associate Professor Michael Burton

On behalf of the ICSU/WMO Joint Committee for the International Polar Year 2007-2008 we wish to thank you for submitting a proposal entitled 'Astronomy from the Polar Plateaus' for consideration as an IPY activity. Success of the IPY depends fundamentally on excellent research and support and on a high level of international coordination, derived from the talents and energy of groups such as yours.

At its November meeting in Geneva the Joint Committee completed evaluations of all proposals received up to 30 September 2005 for scientific or educational significance, for consistency with the IPY themes, regions and time frames, for evidence of international collaboration, and for development of effective management plans covering communications, operations, data, and education and outreach. In addition, the Joint Committee examined each proposal for evidence of involvement by scientists from non-polar nations, for indications of interdisciplinarity within the proposal and of linkages to other IPY activities, and for evidence that activities proposed would contribute to an IPY legacy. The Joint Committee evaluated more than 200 coordination proposals and expects to evaluate one additional set of coordination proposals submitted by 31 January 2006.

The Joint Committee considers that your proposal as submitted includes very strong scientific, education and outreach components and demonstrates a high level of adherence to IPY themes and goals. The Joint Committee therefore endorses your proposal as a prominent and valued part of the IPY program. The Joint Committee intends that these endorsements will provide assistance as IPY participants seek funding for the work proposed.

The IPY International Programme Office will shortly provide additional guidance for project coordinators and steering groups, including description of initial IPY information management processes. As part of that information exchange, we will expect project coordinators to keep the IPO informed about funding status of their projects and about substantial changes from the projects as proposed. In all cases, we wish you enormous success with your component of the IPY.

Yours sincerely

Co-chairs of Joint Committee

Ian Allison

Michel Béland

cc: Dr Lucio Piccirillo

c/o British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge
CB3 0ET, United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)1223 221468 Fax: +44 (0)1223 221270 Email: ipyipo@bas.ac.uk