



ICELAND

Cooperative Activities under the SPS Programme

Since NATO began offering science cooperation to partners in 1992, scientists and experts from Iceland have had leading roles in 11 activities, and more have joined various cooperative activities as participants and key speakers.

Today, NATO science activities enable close collaboration on the two key priorities of **defence against terrorism** and **countering other threats to security** and are managed under the Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme. SPS activities contribute to NATO's strategic objective of partnership, helping to connect scientists and experts from NATO countries with their counterparts from Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue countries. All activities supported by the SPS Programme are approved by NATO nations on the basis of consensus.



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Compared to their counterparts of many other NATO nations, Iceland has not been very active in NATO science activities. This flier is an effort to encourage Icelandic scientists and experts to take-up more leading roles in the SPS Programme.

Examples of Activities

On 6 to 10 June 2010 Iceland will host an Advanced Research Workshop, entitled **“Global Climate Change and Local Adaptation”** in Hella, Iceland. The overall objective of the proposed workshop is to discuss and develop an integrated, multi-criteria, multi-hazard risk informed decision framework that will be suitable for evaluating changes in risk resulting from the consequences of climate change. The concept of national and global security has grown in recent years to include a broader array of factors that threaten the stability and interests of nations, including events that develop over short time periods (e.g. tsunamis and

floods) to those that develop over longer timeframes (e.g. famines, droughts and conflicts over water resources). The expected 50 participants will be organized into three working groups to address climate change adaptation in I) inland systems, II) coastal systems and III) military installations and operations.
[ref 983767]

Icelandic scientists have conducted research on **Climate Change Impacts on a Glacier-fed watershed in Iceland** in collaboration with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. The Icelandic Power company



The NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme

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Landsvirkjun and the Icelandic Power organization Orkustofnun provided the logistics and the sub-bottom profiling system. The results contributed to the understanding of the changes in the Lagarfljot basin which is relevant for its use in hydroelectric power generation.

[ref 961141]



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An Icelandic expert from the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the University of Akureyri has participated as a key speaker in the Advanced Research Workshop “**Groundwater and Ecosystems**” that took place in Turkey in September 2005. Among 26 experts from NATO and Partner countries exchanging their knowledge on monitoring, modeling and protection of water resources , Dr. Gunnarson spoke about the changing Artic environment and chaired the session on water resources effected by climate change. [ref 981736]

The SPS Programme is ready to consider applications from Iceland and collaborating NATO and Partner countries that would contribute to the climate change issues as identified at the NATO conference on “**The High North**” that took place on 29th January 2009 in Reykjavik. Other topics, for which Iceland could provide strong expertise, include human and social science, especially on forward looking security aspects to define the landscape of the 21st Century; geothermal energy and and sustainable use of natural resources.



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