

From the dedicated INTAS 2004 Workshop Recommendations to a Siberia environment Integrated Regional Study (SIRS)

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In July 2004, two joint key events took place in Tomsk Akademgorodok under the auspices of the Siberian Center for Environmental Research and Training (SCERT) of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (SB RAS).

The first one was the ENVIROMIS-2004 Conference, an event similar to CITES-2005 where this paper is being presented. Year after year, the ENVIROMIS/CITES conferences have been becoming a more and more important international event of the scientific global change community.

The second one was an INTAS Strategic Scientific Workshop (SSW) called “Towards integrated interdisciplinary study of the Northern Eurasia Climatic Workshop” and led under the auspices of INTAS association. The conclusions and recommendations of this strategic workshop were discussed and endorsed during a round table co-ordinated by SCERT and MEDIAS-France. They are of a paramount importance for the regional research about the regional aspects of global change in Siberia.

It was acknowledged that many disciplinary and interdisciplinary local and regional studies about environmental and climatic issues have been provided so far in Northern Eurasia and Siberia. An overarching vision of regional aspects and their diverse interconnections with global aspects should be considered now as part of the Earth System Science Partnership Integrated Regional Studies (IRS), which could lead to a Siberia IRS (SIRS) and Northern Eurasia IRS (NEIRS) projects. This requires bringing together scientists from several disciplines and sub-regions into a much wider approach and setting up the relevant structures to lead such integrative studies. They should not build a ‘scientific closed world’ but be bridged with and acknowledged by relevant decision policy makers in order to implement proper mitigation and remediation actions at managerial and political decision levels. The SSW identified that, for a number of important problems and directions, there are sound backgrounds (including research projects sponsored *inter alia* by the Russian Academy of Sciences and its Siberian Branch, the European Commission, the INTAS association, ISTC, the NASA NEESPI programme), but the challenge is to switch from a specific approach to an integrated one. The above events discussed major prerequisites and future steps needed for development an integrated Earth System research program. Fifteen strategic and nine technical recommendations endorsed at the events can serve as a solid basis of future implementation stages.

Although the overall classical scheme of integrated studies seems clear and a number of systems methodological issues have been additionally considered by recent international initiatives and activities (like the Global Carbon Project, GITOS, GICOS, GIOOS, NORTH,

NEESPI, etc.), there are many gaps and different opinions in scientific understanding the problem, relevant ways of institutional structuring of the SIRS and development of Integrated Earth System Models. Among others development of a regional Integrated Observing System and information infrastructure securing access to the gathered data are primary components of the SIRS. Also it is very important to clearly define users and potential donors of the program. The major goal of the Working Group is to examine the current understanding of the problem, highlight priority areas and outline immediate steps. The WG intends to serve as an international scientific coordinator of these activities. Now it is time to act. There is no doubt – both nationally and internationally - of importance and timeliness of development and implementation of the SIRS project in the framework of the ESS-P.