

## World Day for Glaciers and World Water Day 2026

UNESCO, WMO, and hundreds from the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation - 2025 (IYGP) community celebrated the World Day for Glaciers and World Water Day at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris on 18-19 March 2026, closing the IYGP and launching the new Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences (DACs) with dedicated sessions and side events highlighting the vital links between cryosphere and water.

The first day of sessions included high level opening remarks from The Director-General of UNESCO and Secretary-General of WMO and several ambassadors of nations that have shown a particular interest in glaciers and the cryosphere, including Tajikistan, France, the United Kingdom, China, Italy, Switzerland and Senegal.

A high-level panel session chaired by the co-chairs of the IYGP Advisory Board summarized the accomplishments of the Year, lessons learned and what remains to be done from a multidisciplinary perspective. As we transit from the IYGP to the DACs the tremendous challenges for the cryosphere due to global warming and the risks this poses for sea level rise, sea ice decline, snow cover, glacier and icesheet retreat, permafrost thaw, hydrological change, risk management and community adaptation was noted. Links and compatibilities between DACs and the International Polar Year in 2032-33 were explored.

The implementation of the DACs was outlined with the launch of the [Synthesis Report](#), which highlighted its governing mechanisms including five working groups: observations, predictions, risk management solutions, adaptation and policy engagement. WGMS director Michael Zemp and IACS, represented by Liss Andreassen, took part in panel discussions the first day.

### Side event Cryosphere in Crisis: Pathways for a Safe and Just Future

The second day included 24 side events on water, society and the cryosphere. The following topics were discussed: integrated observation and prediction systems, snowpack and permafrost decline, glacier retreat, ice sheet collapse and implications for sea level and downstream communities.

IACS held a side event 'Cryosphere in Crisis: Pathways for a Safe and Just Future' with reflections from IACS and presentation from the working group on [Cryosphere Stewardship](#).

In parallel, art and music exhibitions added a full cultural and emotional exploration of the deep impact of cryospheric loss on humanity and life on Earth. Implications for Indigenous communities were also explored.

Further information and links: [Full program of the celebration](#)

UNESCO: [Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences \(2025-2034\)](#)

Synthesis Report: [Document of the Cryosphere Decade](#)

*Report by John Pomeroy and Liss M. Andreassen, chair and member of the Ad Hoc Strategic Management Committee of the Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences (DACs)*



Anil Mishra (UNESCO) and Michael Zemp (WGMS) at panel discussion. Photo: UNESCO.



Carolina Adler and John Pomeroy, IYGP co-chairs. Photo: UNESCO.



Amy L. Lovecraft, Caroline Clason, Liss M. Andreassen and Bo Su arranged a side-event. Photo: Berill Markus-Bleir.



**2025  
2034**  
Decade of Action  
for Cryospheric  
Sciences



## IUGG 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, 16-22 July 2027 – Incheon, Republic of Korea

The [next IUGG General Assembly](#) will take place in Incheon in South Korea 16-22 July 2027 with the cryosphere sessions over 5 days in this period (July 16-20). We would like to ask for your help to identify outstanding candidates for possible nomination for two IUGG awards that will be presented at the general assembly:

### 1) [Early Career Scientist \(ECS\) Award](#):

This award honors early career scientists (within 10 years of PhD) for their outstanding research in Earth and space sciences and for their international research cooperation.

### 2) [Gold Medal](#):

This award is the highest honor of the IUGG for outstanding contributions to geodesy and geophysics and for unselfish international cooperation in research. IACS successfully nominated Valerie Masson-Delmotte in 2023.

You can nominate scientists for either or both awards by filling out [this form](#), **no later than 15 May**.

The IACS bureau will then do some pre-screening to identify the candidate(s) with the best chance of receiving the award in the IUGG-wide competition. Hence, in this first step we would only need some basic information about the candidate and some rationale for your nomination. We will then solicit full nomination packages for the pre-selected candidates. We do not accept self-nominations.

## Call for symposium proposal

IACS plans to lead or participate in the symposia listed below at the 29th General Assembly. Registration, abstract and travel grant submissions will open in October, but before then, we have the opportunity to propose additional symposia on core cryospheric science topics within the IACS remit (<https://cryosphericsscience.org/>). A symposium description in up to 300 words and a list of up to 5 conveners is required for a proposal. Please contact the IACS Secretary General ([richard.essery@ed.ac.uk](mailto:richard.essery@ed.ac.uk)) with proposals or for more information.

Cryosphere symposia at IUGG Incheon 2027:

- Advances in observations and modelling of glaciers and ice sheets
- Cryosphere stewardship
- Glacier change and hazard dynamics in High Mountain Asia
- Modelling and observations of snow processes
- Permafrost under changing climate
- Sea ice prediction across scales: Numerical models, AI/ML systems, observations and uncertainty
- Terrestrial cryospheric data assimilation and inverse modelling
- Advances in snow hydrology (IACS-IAHS)
- Coupling between the atmospheric and snow/ice surfaces (IACS-IAMAS)
- Dynamic processes in the marginal ice zone (IACS-IAPSO)
- Remote sensing of the cryosphere (IACS-IAHS-IG)
- Ice core records and climate dynamics: From past reconstructions to model integration (IACS-IAMAS)
- Ice sheet - ocean interactions and impacts (IACS-IAPSO)
- Volcano - ice interactions on Earth and beyond (IACS-IAVCEI)

### **Gerald Jones, 1936-2026.**

#### **A life in snow.**

Professor Gerry Jones was born in the village of Llandybie in Carmarthenshire, Wales, in 1936. He attended the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and graduated (B.Sc.) in 1957. In 1958 he taught chemistry at the Grammar School in Presteigne, Wales. In the autumn of that year, he emigrated to Canada where he commenced post graduate studies in the chemistry department of Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. He graduated (M.Sc. 1961; Ph.D. 1964) after studies on the conformation of monosaccharide derivatives. In 1971 he was appointed Professor at the Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS), Université du Québec, Québec City, (1971-1997), and subsequent to retirement, as Honorary Professor (1997-2007).



Professor Jones' research interests knew few bounds (!) but focused on the holistic study of cryospheric ecosystems, from microenvironments to the biome scale and to interactions with society. He had a particular passion for relationships between the physical dynamics of snow and ice, nutrient transformations and associated ecological processes involving microbes and forests through to mammals, and atmosphere-snow/ice cover-soil and vegetation interactions. He came alive during fieldwork and his favourite field study areas were northern and sub-arctic Canadian forest and lake systems.

Professor Jones was an inclusive leader, consummate scientific diplomat, compelling advocate and visionary strategist. He helped initiate the IAHS Inter-Celtic Hydrology Symposia where he promoted pioneering socio-hydrological investigations on the influence of snow hydrology and climate on the Welsh settlement of North America. He anticipated that cryospheric science could become a unique discipline deserving of global attention, something celebrated now by the UN's Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences. From 1999 to 2005, he served as President-Elect and President of the International Commission on Snow and Ice (ICSI) of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), an association of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG). At the request of the ICSI Bureau, and with the support of various IUGG Associations and other colleagues in the cryospheric community, he initiated a stepwise process during this period to elevate the status of ICSI to that of an IUGG Association, to be named the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS). In 2007 the undertaking came to fruition and IACS became the 8th Association of IUGG at the IUGG General Assembly at Perugia. He also supported the development of the International Commission for Snow and Ice Hydrology (ICSIH) of IAHS, becoming ICSIH's first honorary past president to ensure interdisciplinary studies of cryospheric hydrology. Professor Jones was an [Honorary Member of IACS](#), an Elected Fellow of the IUGG "for his pioneering contributions to the crosscutting field of snow ecology as well as for his relentless work towards the establishment of an International Association of Cryospheric Sciences within IUGG", and a Life Member of the Eastern Snow Conference (ESC).

In leisure times he devoted much of his attention to such favourite subjects as the social history of Wales, metaphysics, yr iath Gymraeg, the French language and culture of Québec, an appreciation of real ales and single malt whiskies, and following the fortunes of the Llanelli 'Scarlets'. Having been a fine scrum-half himself, he would defend the realm of this 'finest club in Welsh Rugby' as ardently as he promoted the role of snow and ice in the biogeochemistry of the Earth system.

Long may he rest in peace, whilst we enjoy the fruits of the work he did in shaping our modern appreciation of the great life force in the cryosphere and its importance for our planet and for the survival of humanity itself.

*John Pomeroy*

See full obituary with recollections from Georg Kaser on the IACS homepage: [Gerry Jones obituary – IACS](#)



*The Echaurren Norte Glacier, located about 50 km southeast from the city of Santiago, Chile, has been monitored continuously by the country's General Water Directorate since 1975. The evolution of this glacier in the last three decades is striking: not only has it shrunk in surface area by more than 50% (to merely 0,18 km<sup>2</sup> in 2023) but its surface properties have evolved due to the increased accumulation of rock debris from its surrounding slope. To this date, no clean ice is visible at the glacier surface. Echaurren Norte is one of two WGMS reference glaciers (with more than 30 years of ongoing glaciological mass-balance measurements) in all the Southern Hemisphere. It has therefore played a pivotal role in global-scale assessments of glacier mass change and must be replaced by expanding mass-balance measurements to nearby glaciers. See paper documenting the glacier in Vanishing Glacier Collection by [McPhee and others \(2026\)](#). Photo credit: Jorge Huenante, March 2025.*

## Vanishing Glaciers Collection

The Vanishing Glaciers Collection is a special issue of the Annals of Glaciology by the International Glaciological Society in collaboration with IACS. The nearly 30 papers describe the past, present and projected loss of glaciers across six continents, as well as the attendant consequences for glacier archaeology, biodiversity, tourism and glacier monitoring. The studies document glaciers in various states of demise in regions across six continents, including Svalbard, Iceland, Norway, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, New Zealand, Indonesia, USA, Canada, Peru, Bolivia and Chile. See published papers in the [Vanishing Glaciers Collection](#).

## WGMS network publication - Global glacier mass change in 2025

A joint publication from the Network of the World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS) describes results of the Earth's glaciers, separate from the continental ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica, during the hydrological year 2025. See also the WGMS news article: [https://wgms.ch/ncc\\_glaciers\\_in\\_2025](https://wgms.ch/ncc_glaciers_in_2025)

**Reference:** The WGMS Network (2026) Global glacier mass change in 2025. Nature Reviews Earth & Environment. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43017-026-00777-z>

## New GLIMS core team member

Andy Barrett, from the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC), is replacing Bruce Raup in the GLIMS core team. Andy has over 30 years of experience in cryospheric and hydrometeorological research. He started his career studying the subglacial hydrology of Findelngletscher and Gornergletscher, Switzerland, as part of the University of Manchester Alpine Glacier Project. For the past 25 years, he has been at the National Snow and Ice Data Center as part of the NSIDC Science Team and the NASA NSIDC DAAC, with research spanning snow hydrology, Arctic hydroclimatology, sea ice, and glaciology.



[IACS](#) is one of eight associations of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG). IACS organizes biennial scientific meetings and supports international Working Groups. IACS has six divisions: 1) Snow and Avalanches, 2) Glaciers; 3) Ice sheets, 4) Sea Ice, Lake and River Ice, 5) Cryosphere, Atmosphere and Climate, and 6) Planetary and other Ices of the Solar System. IACS offers [free membership](#) and sponsors workshops and events. The IACS newsletter is issued 2-4 times a year.