



What is SCOSTEP?

The Scientific Committee on Solar Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP) is a thematic body of the International Science Council (ISC). SCOSTEP promotes ISC's mission to strengthen international science for the benefit of society. SCOSTEP runs international interdisciplinary scientific programs and promotes solar-terrestrial physics research by providing the necessary scientific framework for international collaboration and dissemination of the derived scientific knowledge in collaboration with other ISC bodies. SCOSTEP seeks opportunities for interaction with national and international programs involving solar terrestrial physics elements to ultimately gain a full understanding of how the variability of the Sun affects the human society.

What does SCOSTEP do?

SCOSTEP has three main activities that address the needs of the solar terrestrial physics community worldwide: (1) Scientific programs, (2) Capacity building and outreach, (3) International Scientific Meetings. SCOSTEP has been running scientific programs for more than 40 years that are timely and relevant to the human society. The most recent scientific program was the "Variability of the Sun and Its Terrestrial Impact" (VarSITI), which addressed how Earth is affected by the long-term and short-term changes on the Sun. A new scientific program will launch in 2020. This program is called Predictability of the Solar-Terrestrial Coupling (PRESTO). PRESTO goals are to "address the predictability of 1) space weather on timescales from seconds to days and months, including processes at the Sun in the heliosphere and in the Earth's magnetosphere, ionosphere and atmosphere [and] 2) sub-seasonal to decadal and centennial variability of the Sun-Earth system, with a special focus on climate impacts and a link to the World Climate Research Program (WCRP) Grand Challenge Near-Term Climate Predictions".

Under capacity building, SCOSTEP disseminates knowledge gained from solar terrestrial research to the public and students using comic books, SCOSTEP Newsletter, and other media. The SCOSTEP Visiting Scholar program helps students to visiting advanced laboratories engaged in solar-terrestrial research. SCOSTEP has partnered with other international bodies such as the International Space Weather Initiative (ISWI) and COSPAR to train university students to become next generation scientists via international space science schools consisting of lectures and hands-on activities. SCOSTEP conducts timely international symposia in various parts of the world, including the quadrennial solar terrestrial physics symposia since 1966.

How is SCOSTEP governed?

SCOSTEP is governed by a General Council and the Bureau. The Bureau is constituted by the President, Vice-President, Scientific Secretary (ex-officio), and members from ICSU unions and interdisciplinary bodies: Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the International Union of Radio Sciences (URSI), the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA), the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP), the International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS), Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), and World Data System

(WDS). The General council consists of national representatives from about 36 member nations, 55 scientific discipline representatives, and experts appointed to run scientific programs.

How does SCOSTEP cooperate with international bodies?

SCOSTEP is a permanent observer at the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS). SCOSTEP provides input to the COPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities related to Space Weather. The scientific programs run by SCOSTEP are in cooperation with the ISC international unions and interdisciplinary bodies. SCOSTEP jointly undertakes capacity building schools and workshops in cooperation with the International Space Weather Initiative (ISWI) and the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).

How can my country benefit from SCOSTEP?

A SCOSTEP member country will have a say in the policy and functioning of SCOSTEP because the country will be represented in the SCOSTEP Council by a National Adherent Representative. The National Adherent Representative serves as a close liaison between SCOSTEP and the respective Adherents. The National Adherent Representatives also provide valuable advice in establishing the SCOSTEP scientific programs and as members of the General Council (GC) the Adherents participate in the governing and decision making of SCOSTEP. According the SCOSTEP Constitution the GC: 1) Reviews the scientific, financial and administrative activities of SCOSTEP and, if necessary, refers matters to the Bureau for further consideration; 2) Participates in the election of SCOSTEP's President and vice-President (every four years); 3) Determines the scale of annual subscriptions for Adherents, and 4) Considers and acts on the admission of Adherents. Scientists from a member country involved in Sun-Earth connection studies can connect with the rest of the global solar-terrestrial community. SCOSTEP can help organize international symposia, space science schools, and capacity building activities in the member country.

How does a country become a SCOSTEP member?

A responsible scientific body can write to the President of SCOSTEP seeking membership. The application letter should include the following: (i) list of solar-terrestrial physics activities in the country and the institutions that carry out these activities, (ii) the name and address of the responsible institution, (iii) the membership category, and (iv) the proposed name of the National Adherent Representative. After approval by the Bureau, the application will be presented to the SCOSTEP Council, which considers and acts on the admission of new member nations. In most countries the Academy of Sciences administers SCOSTEP affairs including selecting the National Adherent Representative from the solar-terrestrial physics community to the SCOSTEP General Council (GC) and sending annual dues to the SCOSTEP secretariat. SCOSTEP has a graduated scale of annual subscription, ranging from \$500/year to \$25,000/year (details are available from this office or on-line at the SCOSTEP website <http://www.bc.edu/scostep/>). Voting rights among Adherents on SCOSTEP financial matters are proportionate to the annual subscription given by each country. On scientific matters and all other business, the voting rights are equal.

Where can I find more information on SCOSTEP?

Details can be found on the SCOSTEP web site: <http://www.bc.edu/scostep> including SCOSTEP constitution, current officers, current Bureau members, General Council members, and all the

current activities. You can also send email to the President: Dr. Kazuo Shiokawa (Shiokawa@isee.nagoya-u.ac.jp), Vice-President: Dr. Daniel Marsh (Marsh@ucar.edu), Scientific Secretary: Patricia Doherty (Patricia.Doherty@bc.edu).

Mailing address:
SCOSTEP Secretariat Office
Boston College
Institute for Scientific Research
885 Centre Street
Newton, MA 02459
USA