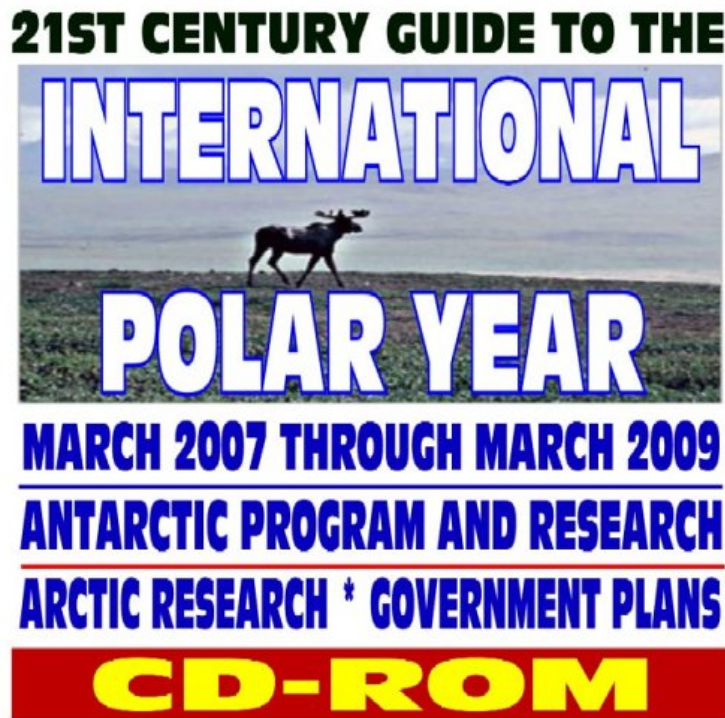


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This up-to-date and comprehensive electronic book on CD-ROM provides vital information on the International Polar Year (designated as March 2007 through March 2009) and government polar research, including South Pole Antarctic research stations and research in the Arctic. A concerted worldwide effort is underway to plan scientific and educational activities for the upcoming International Polar Year (IPY). Scheduled to officially begin in March 2007, IPY promises to advance our understanding of how the Earth's remote polar regions impact global climate systems, to bring about fundamental advances in many areas of science, and to fire the enthusiasm of young men and women for future careers in science and engineering. The vision for U.S. participation in IPY was formulated by the U.S. National

Committee for IPY, established by the Polar Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences. Articulated in "A Vision for the International Polar Year 2007-2008", the Committee identified seven recommendations for the U.S. science community and agencies to address during IPY. The U.S. IPY effort should: Use the IPY to initiate a sustained effort aimed at assessing large-scale environmental change and variability in the polar regions; Pioneer new polar studies of coupled human-natural systems that are critical to U.S. societal, economic, and strategic interests; Explore new scientific frontiers from the molecular to the planetary scale; Use IPY as an opportunity to design and implement multidisciplinary polar observing networks that will provide a long-term perspective. Invest in critical infrastructure (both physical and human) and technology to guarantee that the International Polar Year 2007-2008 leaves enduring benefits for the nation and for the residents of northern regions. Excite and engage the public, with the goals of increasing understanding of the importance of the polar regions in the global system and, at the same time, advance general science literacy in the nation. Participate as leaders in International Polar Year 2007-2008. There is extensive coverage of the NSF Office of Polar Programs (OPP) which manages basic research and operational support in the Arctic and the Antarctic. United States is a leading nation in polar science, and research results have global significance. Polar regions are unique natural laboratories. A range of research can be undertaken: Understanding Earth and its systems. Goals include achieving better understanding of polar regions' influence on and response to global heat distribution in the oceans and the atmosphere, adaptations of organisms to polar extremes, and the valuable records of past climates and atmospheric constituents in ice cores, polar ocean sediments, and other indicators. Exploring the geographical frontier. The central Arctic Ocean and the Southern Ocean are the least studied oceans, especially during winter. Performing science enabled by the polar setting. Polar conditions can enable research either not possible elsewhere or less effective elsewhere. Examples are the extremely dry atmosphere over the South Pole as a window for astrophysical study of the origins of the universe, arctic social sciences, and antarctic medical sciences. Included in the collection of reports, documents, and publications is material from the U.S. Arctic Research Commission on the research program, icebreakers, climate change and permafrost, oil spill response in ice-covered waters; the U.S. Antarctic Program Participant Guide; the Field Manual for the U.S. Antarctic Program USAP; and International Polar Year 2007 2009, and much more. In all, this CD-ROM has over 29,000 pages reproduced using Adobe Acrobat PDF software - allowing direct viewing on Windows and Apple Macintosh systems. Reader software is included on the CD. Our news and educational discs are privately compiled collections of official public domain U.S. government files and documents - they are not produced by the federal

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