

President's Message

It is my honor and privilege to serve as President of SCOSTEP. I look forward to leading the SCOSTEP efforts to serve the solar terrestrial physics (STP) community as effectively and efficiently as possible. Understanding how the variability of the Sun affects the human society has become highly relevant due to our increased dependence on ground space based technology. SCOSTEP promotes STP research by providing the necessary scientific framework for international collaboration and dissemination of the derived scientific knowledge.

Among my immediate priorities, I will focus on bringing the CAWSES II program to see its successful conclusion in 2013, and continuing the discussion on the next SCOSTEP scientific program to take effect in 2014. I will work hard with the SCOSTEP Bureau in expanding the capacity building activities to promote solar terrestrial physics and space science at various levels in developing countries. In particular, I intend to take steps to make scientific literature and outreach material available as widely as possible. SCOSTEP efforts are consistent with the priorities of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and its mission to strengthen international science for the benefit of society.

Solar variability and its impact on Earth's climate and space environment has been a focus in many developed countries over the past decade, although the effort started during the famous International Geophysical Year (IGY 1957-58). The open data policies of space agencies and international cooperation in space missions have been extremely beneficial in making significant scientific progress in our field. Under the backdrop of the current economic downturn, it is important for the international community to pool their resources and avoid duplications in finding solutions to the outstanding problems. Efforts such as the International Living With a Star (ILWS) and the International Space Weather Initiative (ISWI) recognize the need for global cooperation. SCOSTEP will identify synergy with other organizations such as ILWS and ISWI in promoting STP research and outreach.

There have been twelve STP symposia, conducted roughly every four years since the first meeting in 1966. STP symposia remain the primary venue for presenting our science results and interacting with the scientific community. Specialized symposia are also conducted in order to highlight the current SCOSTEP scientific program. SCOSTEP will continue to conduct these events in addition to supporting smaller workshops on STP research.

I take this opportunity to encourage the general council members to actively involve in SCOSTEP activities. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at nat.gopalswamy@nasa.gov. Contact information for the Bureau can be found on the SCOSTEP web site: <http://www.yorku.ca/scostep/>. I look forward to hearing from you.

Nat Gopalswamy

SCOSTEP President 2011-2015

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