

PRESS RELEASE

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Changing the guard: ICSU's new Executive Director in place

The International Council for Science (ICSU) welcomes Professor Deliang Chen as Executive Director from 1 February 2009. Professor Chen will provide critical leadership as ICSU moves into the exciting second stage of its Strategic Plan 2006–2011.

Welcoming this appointment, the President of ICSU, Professor Catherine Bréchnignac, said: 'I am delighted to welcome Professor Chen as the new Executive Director of ICSU. This appointment reflects ICSU's commitment to strengthening international science for the benefit of society. He brings with him a wealth of expertise, as a leader and an academic, at a key point in ICSU's evolution.'

Professor Chen is an internationally renowned climate researcher and is currently Professor of Physical Meteorology and August Röhss Professor of Physical Geography at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden.

Professor Chen said he was very much looking forward to taking up the challenging position of Executive Director: 'I am very excited at the prospect of leading ICSU as it continues to be one of the world's foremost organizations for science and I look forward to expanding ICSU's activities with integration and interaction among different disciplines, young scientists, and the developing world'.

He completed his PhD under the guidance of Nobel Prize winner, Paul Crutzen, before joining the University of Gothenburg in 1993, where he became a full professor in 2000—while still only 38 years of age. His research interests include regional climate change and variability in Sweden and China, climate dynamics, air pollution and geostatistics. One of his current projects is investigating the role of human activities in past and future extreme climates in relation to atmospheric circulation over Europe.

While living in Europe for over 20 years, he has maintained strong links with his native China, including: through the coordination of research projects; and as Science Director of the Beijing Climate Center of the World Meteorological Organization during 2002–07.

He is a prolific author with more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications, including contributions to the Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and has served as an editor on many leading journals.

A full CV for Professor Chen can be viewed at: rcg.gvc.gu.se/dc.

Professor Chen replaces Professor Thomas Rosswall who is retiring after seven years at the helm.

Professor Bréchnignac expressed her sincere thanks to Professor Rosswall, stating: 'His wisdom and guidance have been tremendous assets and we have been fortunate to have had the benefit of his experience during a time of great change at ICSU. We wish him all the best in the future.'

More information

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About ICSU

Founded in 1931, ICSU is a non-governmental organization with a global membership of national scientific bodies (116 Members, representing 136 countries) and International Scientific Unions (30 Members). The Council is frequently called upon to speak on behalf of the global scientific community and to act as an advisor in matters ranging from the environment to conduct in science. ICSU's activities focus on three areas: planning and coordinating research; science for policy; and strengthening the Universality of Science.