

**'West Coast Seminars'**  
on  
**Economic and Social Change in Russia and Eastern Europe**  
**(Glasgow, West of Scotland [Paisley campus] and Strathclyde Universities)**  
  
**Sixteenth Annual Series 2009-2010**

***'Soviet participation in the Second International Polar  
Year (1932-33):  
from international cooperation of scientists to a state  
project'***

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and

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**Wednesday 20 January 2010  
at 5.30 pm**

**University of Glasgow, CEES Seminar Room, 8-9 Lilybank Gardens**

**Tea and coffee will be available from 5.00**

**All Welcome**

This paper is discussed the preparation and participation of the Soviet scientists in the Second IPY in the broader context of development of Soviet science and international cooperation in science in the end of 1920s- beginning of 1930s. In 1925-28, when the idea of the Second IPY was began to circulate in the scientific community, the contacts between Soviet and German scientists are proved to be crucial for the development of international cooperation in the Arctic. In 1929-1930 the leading role in the preparation of the IPY was taken by the Polar Commission of the Academy of Science of the USSR which organized the first conference of the International Commission for the Preparation for the Second IPY. After that all work on preparation was transferred to the State Hydrometeorological Committee, and the state system of the Arctic research was created with the increased role of the Arctic Research Institute. Obviously, the success of the Soviet studies during Second IPY was due to both causes: cooperation of scientists and serious material and staff inflows which were in power only for the mighty state-supported project. The paper is based on archival materials, mainly from St. Petersburg branch of the Archives of the Academy of Science.