What is SCOSTEP?

The Scientific Committee on Solar Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP) is an affiliated 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 50 years that are timely and relevant to the human society. The most recent scientific program was the "Predictability of the Solar-Terrestrial Coupling (PRESTO)" in 2020-2024. PRESTO goals are to identify predictability of the variable solar-terrestrial coupling performance metrics through modeling, measurements, and data analysis and to strengthen the communication between scientists and users. A new scientific program is launched in 2026. This program is called "Cross-scale cOUpling pRocesses in the Solar-tErrestrial system (COURSE)" in 2026-2030. The COURSE program aims at facilitating a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach through focused, internationally coordinated efforts addressing the cross-scale coupling processes in the Sun-Earth system, i.e., in and between different regions, plasma regimes, and particle populations, ranging across short term (seconds to days) space weather to long-term (decades to centuries) climate timescales, a great variety of spatial scales from plasma kinetic scales to many AUs, and a wide range of energies (1 eV to GeVs).

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 ISC unions and

affiliated 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 more than 30-member countries and regions, more than 50 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/region benefit from SCOSTEP?

A SCOSTEP member country/region will have a say in the policy and functioning of SCOSTEP because the country/region 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.

What are the Membership Categories and Annual Subscription Fees?
Funding for the administration and activities of SCOSTEP are provided by the Adherent Countries annual subscription fees. Adherent countries select the level at which it wishes to subscribe. Voting rights among adherent countries/regions on SCOSTEP financial matters are proportionate to the annual subscription given by the countries/regions. On scientific matters and all other business, the voting rights are equal.

The categories, voting units and subscription fees are shown in the following table:

CATEGORY	UNIT	Subscription Fee
I	1	$500
II	2	$1,000
III	5	$2,500
IV	10	$5,000
V	20	$10,000
VI	35	$17,500
VII	50	$25,000

Where can I find more information on SCOSTEP?
Details can be found on the SCOSTEP web site: https://scostep.org 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@nagoya-u.jp), Vice-President: Dr. Bernd Funke (bernd@iaa.es), Scientific Secretary: Odele Coddington (scostep@lasp.colorado.edu).

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