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Coming in from the Cold – the Journey from Monitoring Glacier Fluctuations to the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences.

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The International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS) became the eighth and most recent association of IUGG at the general assembly in Perugia, Italy, in July 2007. IACS was launched in recognition of the importance of the cryosphere within the Earth system, particularly at a time of significant global change. It was the first new association of the Union to be formed in over 80 years and IACS celebrated its 10th anniversary only a year before the IUGG centennial. The forbearers of IACS, however, stretch back even further than IUGG, starting with the formation of the Commission Internationale des Glaciers (CIG) by the International Geological Congress in 1894. In this presentation we describe the history of the transition from CIG to IACS; the scientific objectives, programs and services that drove activities and changes; and some of the key events, products and individuals involved.