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Ian Allison is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Tasmania, an Associate of the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC and the former leader of the *Ice, Ocean, Atmosphere and Climate* program at the Australian Antarctic Division. He has studied ice and climate for over 45 years and participated in or led 25 research expeditions to the Antarctic. Ian has published over 120 peer-reviewed papers on Antarctic science on topics including ice shelf - ocean interaction, Antarctic weather and climate, sea ice, and the mass budget of the Antarctic ice sheet. He has been actively involved for many years in international collaboration in Antarctic science through bodies such as the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research and the World Climate Research Programme. He was co-Chair of the International Council for Science/World Meteorological Organisation Joint Committee for the International Polar Year 2007–2008, a two-year polar research program involving more than 130 internationally collaborative science projects, and 50,000 participants from 60 countries. He was also a lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Third, Fourth and Fifth Assessment Reports, and is currently the Past-President of the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences of IUGG. His work has been recognized through both national and international awards including Officer of the Order of Australia (for distinguished service to the environment as a glaciologist, to furthering international understanding of the science of the Antarctic region, and to climate research), the Australian Antarctic Medal, Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research Medal for International Coordination, Visiting Professor of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*) from the University of Tasmania.