

Hottest since 900AD

WASHINGTON: A panel of experts has found that the past few decades were warmer than any comparable period in the past 400 years.

And there is evidence that temperatures were higher in the past 25 years than at any other quarter-century since the year 900.

The report by the National Academy of Sciences was congressionally

mandated after another study showed unprecedented warming in the northern hemisphere towards the end of the 20th century.

Though direct temperature records date back only to 1860, scientists used data from glaciers, lake sediments, tree rings and other sources to determine temperatures in previous years.