



## APECS June Newsletter

As always, if there is something you would like to include in next months news letter, email [APECSinfo@gmail.com](mailto:APECSinfo@gmail.com) or to Alex at [alexandretn@gmail.com](mailto:alexandretn@gmail.com)

### Update from the President

Happy June, all polar butterflies out there!

First, let me start by congratulating all of us with our brand new organizational backbone! APECS has now developed a thorough set of organizational regulations, which enhances our integrity and credibility in the world of polar organizations. You should all pat your back: good APECS is entering an exciting summer – with the upcoming SCAR/IASC conference in St. Petersburg in only three small weeks! I am really looking forward to meeting many of you and finding new APECS members there. The Career Development workshop sounds so inspiring! Thanks to Liz Thomas and others for making this event come true. I will represent APECS at the IPY Joint Committee meeting July 4-5. Here I will learn more about how this important decision making body and use the hallways to put forward the APECS mission to help us shape the future of polar research!

And we need help to continue our great journey. Our highly valued Director is running out of funding soon and this means that APECS risk losing some of our most important organizational instruments; the APECS Directorate and Jenny Baeseman's skills and enthusiasm. The Executive Committee is therefore working hard to find a new host institution for our Directorate to avoid this serious situation.

APECS is now represented on the steering committee of the Arctic Science Summit Week in March of 2009 and the next IPY conference in Oslo in 2010. We have suggested that APECS will have a member in each sub-committee so that we can bring in the early career scientist perspective at all levels of the conferences. If you would like to get involved, please contact me or other members of the Executive Committee.

And speaking of the Executive Committee: Daniel Pringle and Hugues Lantuit will step down at the end of June after putting in a lot of effort. Thank you for everything you have done for APECS! Their tireless efforts and continued enthusiasm has been crucial to the success that APECS is today! These two fine gentlemen will be replaced by temporary Executive Committee members until the election in September. APECS is working to find replacements quickly so the transition will be smooth. If you would like to have direct influence on the future development of APECS, you should start thinking if you want to run for a position on the Executive Committee!

Thank you all for making APECS happen – on a everyday basis  
APECS greetings,  
Kriss Rokkan Iversen, APECS President

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## 1. APECS News and Updates

### APECS Education and Outreach

The APECS Education and Outreach group is developing a book for young researchers and teachers that will showcase some of the outreach initiatives that APECS members have been involved in for the IPY. This book will aim to prepare scientists for what they might encounter when they go into classrooms to share their research, as well as provide them with some of the resources that APECS members have developed for outreach. While we are working on this project, we will be putting up resources and outreach stories on the APECS website and we would really appreciate feedback, ideas and outreach stories/experiences from the APECS community.

Please send any question you may have to Mieke Sterken [Mieke.sterken@ugent.be](mailto:Mieke.sterken@ugent.be) and Melianie Raymond [Melianieraymond@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Melianieraymond@yahoo.co.uk).  
<http://arcticportal.org/apecs/outreach3>

### APECS Education and Outreach Resources

This month's resource is an interactive powerpoint presentation "ICE BASE" developed by Charlotte Taylor from New Zealand. Charlotte's ICE BASE resource explores the decision making process in determining a location for a new Antarctic research station, developing an understanding of the political and environmental concerns, as well as the practicalities of running an Antarctic research base. This resource won Charlotte first prize in a contest for secondary school students in NZ last year and is aimed at other secondary school students in her age group (16-18). Feedback on this resource is welcome!

<http://arcticportal.org/apecs/outreach/resources>

### National Committees – Portugal

Portugal continues to go strong in IPY activities, linking young polar scientists, polar science, education and outreach and society. Most recently, LATITUDE60! organized major events. In May, the 1st workshop on Portuguese Polar Science (with the presence of Dr. Paul Egerton, director of the European Polar Board - European Science Foundation) with various talks related to the status of polar science and discussions on the future of European polar research.

The second event was the WEEKEND ON POLAR SCIENCE. The Portuguese program for IPY LATITUDE60! organized a major event in Lisbon, at the Pavilion of Knowledge. It had the presence of Prof. Dave Carlson, Director of the International Polar Office of the International Polar Year. The main objective of the weekend was to emphasize the importance of the Polar Regions within IPY and provide a unique environment in which the general public could get in contact with Portuguese polar science community. It included activities for all public, from children to adults, including theatre plays, science exhibitions science talks, workshops and even a rock music concert. The number of participants was 5 times more than the first day and broke of the record of the pavilion (6000 people, more than twice of the previous record). Overall, it was another huge success

Finally, at an international level, LATITUDE60! was on ECSITE, in Bucharest (Hungary) meeting that got together major educational agencies (responsible on promoting science in a school environment) from Europe. Alexandre Trindade gave a talk named "Latitude60! From Portugal to Antarctica. Ciência Viva in the IPY." within the panel on "Climate Change: from uncertainty to action, the new roles for science centers in the society." and it was well-received.

### **IPY Report: June 2008**

This report can be viewed on-line at:

[http://www.ipy.org/index.php?ipy/detail/ipy\\_report\\_june\\_2008/](http://www.ipy.org/index.php?ipy/detail/ipy_report_june_2008/)

### **International Polar Year (IPY) Book Release Announcement**

The Arctic Institute of North America has released an updated version of a classic monograph that describes the expeditions of the First International Polar Year (IPY) of 1882-1883. "The Expeditions of the First International Polar Year 1882-83," by William Barr, focuses on the 14 expeditions that made up the first IPY. The foreword to the book was written by Dr. David Hik, Executive Director of the Canadian IPY Secretariat.

For further information and to order a copy, please go to:

Read more at: <http://www.arctic.ucalgary.ca>

### **The Tunza International Children's Conference on the Environment (17 to 21 June 2008, Stavanger, Norway.)**

The Tunza International Children's Conference on the Environment is organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with the Young Agenda 21 Foundation of Norway and will bring together 1,000 people (700 children and 300 chaperones from over 100 countries.

Within it, APECS, represented by José Xavier will be involved in three major activities:

1) Seminars for chaperones: The workshop titled "Climate Change and the International Polar Year" will promote APECS to a great number of educators from all over the world and my talk will be focused on why Polar Regions are important for non-polar countries.

2) IPY booth: I will be at the IPY booth, where I will have the unique chance to show APECS and the importance of the polar research and E&O initiatives carried out by young researchers.

3) Two live events will take place during those 5 days where children/educators will be able to meet polar scientists, ask questions, learn more about the science we do and how they can be more active in relation to climate change in the Polar Regions. From APECS perspective is an excellent change to speak to children and adults in a personal way.

Overall, APECS will benefit greatly in being in such event because it is rare to gather such amount of educators and children from such wide range of countries from all over the world. Also, being actively involved in organizing it, it clearly shows that APECS is well focused in promoting polar research and education and outreach activities in a world scale.

[http://new.unep.org/tunza/children/events/icc\\_2008/](http://new.unep.org/tunza/children/events/icc_2008/)

**For more information go to:** <http://arcticportal.org/apecs/news>

## **2. Polar News**

### **Methane Release Could Cause Abrupt, Far-Reaching Climate Change**

An abrupt release of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, from ice sheets that extended to Earth's low latitudes some 635 million years ago caused a dramatic shift in climate, scientists funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) report in this week's issue of the journal *Nature*.

Read more at: [http://www.nsf.gov/news/news\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=111554&govDel=USNSF\\_51](http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=111554&govDel=USNSF_51)

### **US Struggling to respond to climate shift**

Climate change is leaving its mark on US ecosystems sooner and more emphatically than biologists had expected.

Read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/495lhc>

### **Robots could soon rove Antarctica**

Robotic rovers have patrolled deep space and the deepest seas, but scientists are still struggling to create drones that can overcome the multiple challenges of exploring Antarctica.

Read more at: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/TECH/science/05/29/antarctica.robots.ap/index.html>

### **A survivor in Greenland: A novel bacterial species is found trapped in 120,000-year-old ice**

A team of Penn State scientists has discovered a new ultra-small species of bacteria that has survived for more than 120,000 years within the ice of a Greenland glacier at a depth of nearly two miles.

Read more at: [http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2008-06/ps-asi052708.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-06/ps-asi052708.php)

### **Meetings, Discussions and Celebrations at 11th UArctic Council Meeting**

The Council of the University of the Arctic (UArctic) met for a three-day intensive meeting in Edmonton, Alberta.

Read more at: <http://www.uarctic.org/singleNewsArticle.aspx?m=85&amid=4876>

### **High School Students from Around the World Meet in 'Pole-to-Pole' Videoconference**

On April 8, 2008, 60 middle- and high-school students from both ends of the globe participated in a special "Pole-to-Pole" videoconference where they could share information directly with each other about seasonal change in their environments.

Read more at: <http://www.uarctic.org/singleNewsArticle.aspx?m=83&amid=4753>

### **New WWF Report Available - "Arctic Climate Impact Science - an Update since ACIA"**

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF)'s International Arctic Programme announces the publication of an update report on the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA).

Read more at: <http://www.uarctic.org/singleNewsArticle.aspx?m=83&amid=4688>

and <http://www.panda.org/arctic>.

## **3. Upcoming Workshops, Meeting, and Opportunities**

### **Call for Abstracts and Symposium Announcement - "International Symposium on Arctic Research - Drastic Change Under Global Warming" (4-6 November 2008, in Tokyo, Japan)**

The Science Council of Japan Subcommittees for the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and the Climate in the Cryosphere Program (CliC) announce a symposium.

Read more at: <http://arcticportal.org/apecs/polar-meetings2>

### **Melnikov Centenary International Forum for Young Scientists (5-30 August 2008 in Russia)**

Melnikov CENTENARY INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS "The Present and Future of Geocryology" will be held under the auspices of the Melnikov Permafrost Institute, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Yakutsk.

Read more at: <http://arcticportal.org/apecs/polar-meetings2>

**Special Panel Session Announcement - Association of Polar Early Career Scientists, Nuuk, Greenland (22-26 August 2008)**

On behalf of the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) and the Northern Research Forum (NRF), an early career panel is being organized at the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS) meeting.

Please view the draft Early Career Workshop Preliminary Schedule at:

<http://studiopolar.com/career-workshop.html>. For further information, please contact: Arthur Mason: [amason4@asu.edu](mailto:amason4@asu.edu).

**A 10-day scientific excursion of BANG - Encountering the changing Barents (August 8-17, 2008)**

This excursion provides a great opportunity for PhD students to visit the scientific actors in the Barents region, to exchange knowledge, and to create own personal networks.

Read more at: <http://www.arcticcentre.org/?DeptID=25072>

**Special Session Announcement and Call for Abstracts - Ancient Polar Ecosystems and Environments: Proxies for Understanding (2008 Geological Society of America Houston, Texas 5-9 October 2008)**

The session will focus on multidisciplinary studies that encompass multiple proxy indicators of ancient high latitude ecosystems, particularly in the northern hemisphere.

Read more at: <http://psp.tamu.edu/news-1/special-session-announcement-and-call-for-abstracts-ancient-polar-ecosystems-and-environments-proxies-for-understanding.html>

**McMurdo Area Users Committee Meeting (Next Meeting July 28, 2008)**

The purpose of MAUC is to provide advice and recommendations to the USAP prime contractor (currently Raytheon Polar Services) on the support of science projects using USAP resources and facilities

Read more at: <http://psp.tamu.edu/news-1/mcmurdo-area-users-committee-meeting.html>

**Conference Announcement - "Gender and Climate Change" (19-22 October 2008)**

Third Global Congress of Women in Politics and Governance Center for Asia Pacific Women in Politics Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines

Read more at: <http://psp.tamu.edu/news-1/conference-announcement-gender-and-climate-change.html>

**For more information go to:** <http://arcticportal.org/apecs/polar-meetings2>

## 4. Recent Job Openings

**Postdoctoral Position Available - Soil Carbon Assessment for Alaska, University of Alaska Fairbanks**

Read more at: <http://arcticportal.org/root/home/apecs/jobs/-opportunities>

**PhD Position in Atmospheric Science – Norway**

Read more at: <http://arcticportal.org/root/home/apecs/jobs/-opportunities>

**Scientific Manager 2008 for UMS CNRS 3046 Mountains, The Mountain Institute, University of Savoy, France**

Read more at: <http://arcticportal.org/root/home/apecs/jobs/-opportunities>

**PhD Student Position Available - Climatic and Environmental Impacts of Volcanic Eruptions: Early- to mid-Holocene Explosive and Flood Lava Events in Iceland**

Read more at : <http://arcticportal.org/root/home/apecs/jobs/-opportunities>

**PhD Positions in Permafrost and Geomorphology**

Read more at : <http://arcticportal.org/root/home/apecs/jobs/-opportunities>

**Postdoctoral position in coupled ice and climate systems modeling**

Read more at : <http://arcticportal.org/root/home/apecs/jobs/-opportunities>

**Major EU programme announces 12 vacancies on Arctic nitrogen dynamics**

For full details, application procedures and closing dates, first go to <http://www.nsink.group.shef.ac.uk/> or contact Andy Hodson [a.j.hodson@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:a.j.hodson@sheffield.ac.uk)

**Varied Job Opportunities - North American Carbon Program**

Read more at: <http://www.nacarbon.org/nacp/job.html#post19>

**Ten Earth Science Positions**

Read more at: <http://earthsciences.gsfc.nasa.gov/index.pl?iid=2910>

**Ocean circulation and ice shelf melting on the Amundsen Sea continental shelf** Read

more at : <http://arcticportal.org/root/home/apecs/jobs/-opportunities>

**Physical oceanographer - British Antarctic Survey**

Read more at: <http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/employment/vacancies/job.php?tab=1&JobID=358>

**Museum Director Position Available - University of Alaska Museum of the North**

Read more at: <http://www.uarctic.org/singleNewsArticle.aspx?m=83&amid=4687>

**For more information go to:** <http://arcticportal.org/root/home/apecs/jobs/-opportunities>