



APECS Polar Science Policy Essay Contest for travel to the 2009 Antarctic Treaty Summit

With the changing climate in the Polar Regions comes an increasing need for better cooperation between scientists and policy makers. As early career researchers, we have an important challenge not only to do great science but to find ways to work with policy makers to set the direction of cooperation in the Arctic and Antarctic. We need to share our thoughts on environmental and political issues with our leaders so they can shape policy that will represent the views of young people throughout the world.

As part of this challenge, APECS, together with the organizers of the Antarctic Treaty Summit, are asking all young researchers to share their thoughts and opinions in form of an essay focusing on how to better integrate science and policy, and on the needs for new policy dealing with current issues in the Antarctic as well as the Arctic. Winners will receive a travel fellowship to represent the new generation of polar researchers at the Antarctic Treaty Summit, which will be held in Washington, DC **30 Nov – 3 Dec, 2009**. Deadline for submissions is **15 March 2009**.



Set forth as a legacy from the last International Polar Year (the International Geophysical Year), the Antarctic Treaty was established by seven claimant and five non-claimant signatories in 1959 and now engages 46 nations, representing nearly 90% of humankind.

This *Antarctic Treaty Summit: Science-Policy Interactions in International Governance* (<http://www.atsummit50.aq/>) will serve as a forum for discussing this resilient document and its impacts. This is a unique international, interdisciplinary and inclusive project, endorsed by the International Polar Year.

The goals of the conference include:

- Assessing lessons learned from the Antarctic Treaty System during the past five decades that have legacy value for international governance in general;
- Revealing precedents for cooperative planetary-scale governance from one our civilization's international spaces (i.e., outer space, deep sea and Antarctica);
- Establishing broad public awareness around the world about the visionary goals, strategies and achievements that have emerged from the Antarctic Treaty "in the interest of all mankind".

To ensure the voices of early career professionals are included in this important summit, the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) is asking for essay submissions from young professionals interested in science-policy interactions. The essays will be peer-reviewed and entered into a competition for travel scholarship funds to attend the summit and present the essay as part of a panel discussion. Furthermore, the essays will be published in the proceedings for this meeting and on the APECS website (<http://arcticportal.org/apecs>) to highlight the ideas of early career researchers and professionals. Publication of a special journal issue of the top essays is also under consideration.

The Antarctic Treaty Summit has guaranteed travel funds for one student, and an undetermined number of runners-up may also obtain travel grants when more funding becomes available. In addition to attending the summit, travel scholarship winners are asked to write a one-page summary of the meeting to be shared with the APECS membership.

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The essays should address one of the following topics:

1. Describe a major lesson that has arisen from the last 50 years of Antarctic Treaty System policy-making, and explain how it could be applied to another global or international commons of your choice.
2. What is the largest challenge the Antarctic Treaty System will face in the next 50 years, and how can scientists and policy-makers work together to start overcoming that challenge?
3. What example of science-policy interactions from outside of Antarctica holds important lessons for the Antarctic, and how could those lessons be applied?
4. What aspect of the *1991 Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty* do you think is the most significant for regulating human activities in Antarctica and why?
5. What are the most important steps scientists and policy makers can take together to increase international science collaborations and data sharing?

Essays are limited to 1000 words, should be single spaced, using at least 10-point Times New Roman or Arial font and written in English. If English is not your first language, this will be taken into consideration. Citations may be provided on a separate page if needed and should not count against the word limitations. Each individual participant may only submit one application and select only one essay question to answer.

Essays are to be submitted as a .pdf-file to APECSinfo@gmail.com by March 15, 2009.

Questions regarding the essay contest should be directed to APECSinfo@gmail.com.

With your essay, please submit the following information, which does not count toward the word limit:

Contact Information

Name
Department and Institution
Mailing Address
City, State/Province/Region
Country
Email address & telephone number

Career Stage (select one)

- High School Student
 - College Student
 - Graduate Student
 - Postdoctoral Researcher
 - Assistant Professor
 - Lecturer
 - Other - Please specify:
-

Educational Background

Please list all degrees, institutions, and years attended

Brief Biography

You should answer the following questions in 300 words or less:

- Describe the stage of your career and why you feel you fit the 'early career' status.
- What are your career objectives?
- What is your interest in the Antarctic Treaty System?
- What else should we know about you?