

Brief Report of the CBET Open Meeting 27 Aug 2016 - Renaissance Hotel Kuala Lumpur.

Attendees:

Karin Lochte (SCAR VP CBET), Azizan Abu Samah (SCAR VP Science), Jenny Baeseman (SCAR Executive Director), Eoghan Griffin (SCAR Executive Officer), Jose Xavier (Uni. Of Coimbra, Portugal/BAS, UK), Gerlis Fugmann (APECS, Executive Secretary), Rahul Mohan (NCAOR, India), Satoshi Imura (NIPR, Japan), Florica Toparceanu (NCAR, Romania), Daniela Liggett (Gateway Antarctica, New Zealand), Louise Huffman (Polar Educators International), Renuka Badhe (Executive Secretary, European Polar Board), Anna Maria Fioretti (CNR, Italy), Amanda Lynnes (IAATO), Emmanuelle Sultan (NMNH, France)

SCAR CBET Committee Chair Karin Lochte opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

Karin noted that the CBET Committee rarely meets in person and the meeting began with a discussion on what was being done for each of the restated objectives.

Some of the topics discussed are summarised here:

The possibility was discussed of providing hands-on workshops specifically aimed at training young researchers to be able to produce policy relevant content based on their work. These could be attached to existing regional meetings and use existing workshops (such as provided by UNEP) as a model for structure. Individuals in specific regions would need to be identified to act as a point of contact to identify opportunities.

Mentoring for fellowships applications was discussed and the need to act as point of connection between potential applicants and potential hosts was identified. The existing APECS mentoring list could be a starting point but it would require active development of linkages between applicants and hosts.

Within the Visiting Professor scheme there should be more weight applied to the potential for follow-up work when applications are assessed. Reports should also be distributed to the national committees and heads of institutes involved, encouraging follow-up.

It was noted that the issue of SSGs and SRPs working as network nodes would be addressed by an ad hoc Communication Action Group being set up. There is a need to address Communications across all of the SCAR activities, which is relevant to CBET but not limited to the CBET mandate.

The Action Group would also be able to assist CBET in identifying materials from SCAR groups or National Programmes to highlight SCAR science, which could be available as a general resource to promote SCAR to a variety of audiences.

Note was made that AnT-ERA for instance plans to engage in specific capacity building activities by having workshops in regions where the SRP is not well represented. Feedback on this activity will be important for CBET.

A specific SCAR Medal for Education, Capacity Building and Outreach was proposed and it was suggested that this could be "named" for a prominent leader in this field, e.g. the "David Attenborough Medal", and possibly attract sponsorship from the BBC or other media.

Specific CBET Roles and Objectives

Original roles defined to address the objectives were discussed (as outlined in the 2016 Delegates CBET paper) and a series of amendments made to better reflect the practical actions required.

Then roles to be defined were re-examined and a strategy of individual Committee members being responsible for each was devised with small teams supporting them.

The final list of roles with tasks was proposed to be:

1) Overseeing the review of our Fellowship applications and reporting (suggestion: Jose Xavier)

Tasks: Efficiency of the process, update FAQs and applications based on feedback, updating the list of reviewers, overseeing final selection process

2) Liaise with representatives in the Education field (suggestion: Advisory Team lead by Liz Pasteur, with Viviana Alder, Louise Huffman and Emmanuelle Sultan supporting, including representatives from APECS and PEI and IAI)

Tasks: Collating information on relevant external resources and opportunities for young scientist and educators, advising SCAR on best practices to support CBET activities, provide advice on producing materials etc.

3) Liaison with the SG, SRP and other Group leadership to monitor the level of funding for Early Career Scientists (ECS) and effectiveness as network nodes, specifically addressing openness towards the whole community (suggestion: Rahul Mohan and Satoshi Imura)

Tasks: Examine the Group reports extracting information on support for both ECS and developing programmes, consult with groups on examples of best practice

4) Liaison with the Development Council to investigate extra funding for the Fellowships and other programmes through additional voluntary contributions and other means (suggestion: Karin Lochte)

Tasks: Produce a funding strategy to be used for directed fundraising, develop interaction with IAATO for targeted funding etc.

5) Organizing mentoring to investigate the best way to provide support for potential Fellowship applicants (suggestion: APECS representative to work with SSGs and SRPs and specifically their junior officers (once that programme is created))

Tasks: Karin to send an official request to APECS for a representative to be appointed, request contact points from SSGs and SRPs to assist potential applicants with identifying hosts, develop questionnaire targeted at potential applicants from developing countries about their mentoring needs, organize translation of FAQs and information material.

6) Develop a plan for improved capacity building for developing Antarctic Research programmes (suggestion: Gary Steel assisted by Azizan and Daniela)

Tasks: Develop check list for how groups can help develop capacity and what is meant by a developing programme, develop list of discipline specific points of contact

Post meeting activities:

In order to move forward with these tasks online meetings will be conducted at least every 6 months for the committee, with the small groups supporting each role interacting more frequently.

These proposals were presented at the Delegates meeting and were approved, including the establishment of an Education, Capacity Building and Outreach Medal.

Details of the changes to the structure and roles for the CBET committee as a result will be updated on the SCAR website CBET section shortly.