



Fifty Years of Peace and Science

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Antarctic Treaty Summit: Science-Policy Interactions in International Governance



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The 50th anniversary of the signing of the *Antarctic Treaty* in Washington, D.C. will be on 1 December 2009. To celebrate this international landmark and the global vision of the twelve original signatories, the *Antarctic Treaty Summit: Science-Policy Interactions in International Governance* will be convened from 30 November through 3 December 2009 at the Smithsonian Institution to highlight lessons learned about international governance from this unique institution that was adopted “with the interests of science and the progress of all mankind” (www.atsummit50.aq).

The *Antarctic Treaty Summit* is endorsed by the International Council of Science / World Meteorological Organization joint committee for the International Polar Year, with the Smithsonian Institution as the hosting co-sponsor. Key support for the *Antarctic Treaty Summit* also comes from The Tinker Foundation, Marine Mammal Commission, American Geophysical Union, Scott Polar Research Institute at the University of Cambridge, Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California Santa Barbara as well as the US-UK Fulbright Programme, which is overseen by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State. The *Antarctic Treaty Summit* further involves key collaborations with the United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies, Association for Polar Early Career Scientists, Fulbright Academy of Science and Technology and Foundation for the Good Governance of International Spaces. In addition, there is coordination between the *Antarctic Treaty Summit* and the conference (*The Antarctic Treaty: Fifty Years of Preserving Peace*) that will be convened at Cumberland, Lodge in the United Kingdom in June 2009.

The character of the *Antarctic Treaty Summit* is international, interdisciplinary and inclusive. The *Antarctic Treaty Summit* is being coordinated by an international board with natural and social scientists, directors of national Antarctic programs and non-governmental organizations, and advisers to ministries of foreign affairs and the United Nations. The Board members come from Chile, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. Participants in this historic forum will include diplomats, scientists, legislators, administrators, lawyers, historians, artists, writers, educators, students and other members of civil society to share insights about governing international spaces beyond national jurisdictions (i.e., outer space, the deep sea and high seas, and Antarctica) “for peaceful purposes only.” To illuminate the science-policy lessons from Antarctica, engagement with government representatives from the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties is warmly welcomed.

Building on the original fourteen Articles of the Antarctic Treaty, the Parties have developed a successful system of international governance for the continent and its surrounding seas based on continuous consultation and consensus about common interests. Since the International Geophysical Year, science has served as a tool of diplomacy to facilitate international cooperation. “*Substantial research activity*” is the criterion for consultative status in the Antarctic Treaty System. Scientific and technical advice has enhanced the quality of policy-making by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties through special relationships with organizations that include the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research. Science has opened the doors to ecosystem-based management of Antarctic marine living resources through the *Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources* and provided guidance to manage and protect ecosystems through the *Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty*. There is a continuing interplay between the Antarctic Treaty System and other inter-governmental agreements where science plays an integral role. Lessons from these science-policy interactions are relevant to international governance, particularly of human activities in international spaces beyond national jurisdictions that extend across nearly 75% of the Earth’s surface.

The *Antarctic Treaty Summit* will involve plenary presentations with panel discussions during the first three days followed by a final day of topical workshops that will apply the science-policy lessons from the international, interdisciplinary and inclusive dialogues. The plenary sessions will involve: (1) Origin of the Antarctic Treaty; (2) Development of the Antarctic Treaty System; (3) Antarctica’s Role in Global Science; (4) Scientific Advice in the Antarctic Treaty System; (5) International Cooperation in Antarctica; (6) Interactions Between the Antarctic Treaty System and other International Regimes; and (7) Governing International Spaces: Lessons From Antarctica. The topical workshops on the fourth day will consider: (a) Ecosystem-Based Management; (b) Arctic Governance and Common Interests; and (c) History of International Spaces. Confirmed participants in the agenda include: His Excellency Ambassador Jorge Berguño (former Chilean Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva); Dr. Marie Jacobsson (Principal Legal Adviser on International Law to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Sweden and Member of the United Nations’ International Law Commission); Dr. Denzil Miller (Executive Secretary for the *Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources*); and Dr. Michael Richardson (Head of the United Kingdom delegation to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and *Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources* from 1992-2006).

Planning for the *Antarctic Treaty Summit* recognizes the historic opportunity for the United States, as the depository government, to host the XXXII Consultative Meeting during this golden anniversary year. The *Antarctic Treaty Summit* will both complement this governmental activity and provide a unique opportunity for the international community and public-at-large to both take part and to celebrate this remarkable institution on the 50th anniversary of its signature day in the city where it was adopted “*in the interest of all mankind.*” To adequately review the past and effectively address the future through science-policy interactions in international governance, the international board for the *Antarctic Treaty Summit* cordially invites representatives from the 47 signatories of the Antarctic Treaty (governing nearly 65% of the global human population) to actively engage in this International Polar Year event.

**For additional details about the *Antarctic Treaty Summit*,
please refer to the website:**

www.atsummit50.aq