



EXCOM/COs Meeting 2011

Edinburgh, 16,18,19th July 2011

Agenda Item: 2.4.7

Person Responsible: Takashi
Yamanouchi

Current Status of Planning of the SCAR Programme on Past and Future Change of the Antarctic Environment (PACE)

Executive Summary

Title: Current Status of Planning of the SCAR Programme on Past and Future Change of the Antarctic Environment (PACE)

Author: J Turner

Introduction/ Background: The PACE PPG plans to submit their proposal in time for the Delegates' meeting in 2012.

Important Issues or Factors: (what do EXCOM need to be aware of)

Recommendations/Actions and Justification: EXCOM are asked to approve progress with planning and to make recommendations/suggestions as appropriate.

Expected Benefits/Outcomes: A new SRP on the climate system

Partners: IPCC, other SCAR SRPs and PPGs, ACCE Expert group etc.

Current Status of Planning of the SCAR Programme on Past and Future Change of the Antarctic Environment (PACE)

At SCAR XXXI in Buenos Aires, Argentine in July 2010 the SCAR Delegates approved the creation of a new Programme Planning Group (PPG) on Past and Future Change of the Antarctic Environment (PACE). This programme is seen as a successor to the Antarctica and the Global Climate System (AGCS) Scientific Research Programme than has been in existence since 2004.

The goals of PACE are to deliver improved regional predictions of key elements of the Antarctic atmosphere, ocean and cryosphere, investigate the natural variability of the Antarctic climate system and understand the responses of the physical and biological systems to natural and anthropogenic forcing factors.

The members of the PACE PPG are John Turner (UK), Tas van Ommen (Australia), Siobhan O'Farrell (Australia), Alberto Naveira Garabato (UK), Liz Thomas (UK and APECS representative), Paul Mayewski (USA), David Bromwich (USA), Nancy Bertler (New Zealand) and Cunde Xiao (China).

Since SCAR XXXI the main focus of the PPG has been the planning of a meeting to develop the full PACE proposal that will be presented at SCAR XXII in Portland, USA in July 2012. The planning meeting will be held in Melbourne, Australia over 5-7 July 2011 in conjunction with the IUGG conference.

A primary form of data that we see being used by PACE are the global coupled atmosphere-ocean model runs that will form the basis of the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). These runs will be carried out for the Twentieth Century, and through the Twenty First Century with various greenhouse gas emission scenarios. The IPCC AR5 report is scheduled to appear in September 2013, but the output from the models is currently being made available via the Web. We are assessing the value of such data in predicting the evolution of the Antarctic environment over the next century and determining how it can be downscaled to give regional predictions.

John Turner
27 April 2011