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XXXII SCAR Delegates' Meeting

Portland, USA, 23-25 July 2012

Agenda Item:

9.3

Person Responsible:

R Badhe

Visiting Professor Scheme (draft)

Executive Summary

Title: SCAR Visiting Professor Scheme (draft)

Authors: R Badhe, R Ravindra

Introduction/ Background: The Visiting Professorship is for mid- to late career stage scientists and academics, whose work contributes to the scientific objectives of SCAR, and complements the SCAR Fellowship scheme. This Scheme is similar to Visiting Professor schemes run by our sister organisation, SCOR

Recommendations/Actions and Justification: Delegates are asked to consider the draft of this new scheme and comment as appropriate.

Expected Benefits/Outcomes: The main goal of the scheme is to promote capacity building in the host institute, develop long-term scientific links and partnerships, leading to advances in Antarctic research. The scheme provides mid- to late career stage scientists and academics the opportunity to contribute to SCAR's objectives and become actively involved in Antarctic research.

Budget Implications: For 2011-12, India has voluntarily contributed USD10,000 for starting this scheme, and from 2013 Delegates are asked to consider funding this scheme to USD 5,000 annually.

Visiting Professor Scheme

Background:

The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) is a non-governmental, interdisciplinary Scientific Body of the International Council for Science (ICSU). SCAR is the leading independent facilitator, coordinator and advocate of excellence in Antarctic science and research. SCAR identifies trends emerging from a greater understanding of the region, and brings these issues to the attention of policy makers. SCAR's major objective is to initiate, develop, and co-ordinate high quality international scientific research in the Antarctic and Southern Ocean region, and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system.

SCAR is pleased to announce that it is able to fund a 'Visiting Professor Scheme' this year. Details are provided below.

The SCAR Visiting Professor Scheme:

The scheme is designed to encourage the active involvement of scientists and academics in Antarctic research, strengthen international capacity and cooperation in Antarctic research.

The Visiting Professorship is for mid- to late career stage scientists and academics, whose work contributes to the scientific objectives of SCAR, as embodied by the [Standing Scientific Groups](#) and both the [current and upcoming Scientific Research Programmes](#). It provides them the opportunity to undertake short-term visits (1 to 4 weeks) to a facility in or operated by SCAR Member countries, to provide training and mentoring.

The ultimate goal of the scheme is to promote capacity building in the host institute, develop long-term scientific links and partnerships, leading to advances in Antarctic research.

The scheme is seen to complement the [SCAR Fellowship Scheme](#), by providing mid- to late career stage scientists and academics the opportunity to contribute to SCAR's objectives and become actively involved in Antarctic research.

Awards will provide an international return flight (Economy class) and a modest contribution to the living expenses for the visiting period, amount depending on the SCAR Member country being visited. The home institute of the visiting professor will bear all expenses incurred in his or her own nation (domestic travel, visa costs, etc.). The host institute will provide accommodation, office space and waive any bench fees that they might normally charge. The number of awards given by SCAR will depend on the quality of the applications and the total budget available. From SCAR, each award will be up to USD 2,500, depending on local factors.

Eligibility:

The SCAR Visiting Professor Scheme is for mid- to late career stage scientists and academics whose research contributes to SCAR's objectives. Either the home and host institutes must be one of the 36 SCAR Member countries, for a full list of countries, please visit [the SCAR Members and Officers page](#). The host institute has to be of a nation different from that of the (i) applicant's origin and (ii) current position.

Visiting Professorships are awarded purely on the selection criteria for competitive selection, which are clearly stated in the Evaluation section.

Both the host and home institutes must be willing to take part in the SCAR Visiting Professor Scheme. The scientist or academic must have full support from their home institute and provide a certificate confirming their employment status. Once SCAR has received in writing

the willingness of the proposed scientist or academic to participate in the proposed scheme, then the senior scientist from the host institute must submit their proposal.

How to Apply:

All proposals must be made using the [appropriate forms](#), which are simpler versions of the Fellowship forms and submitted electronically to the SCAR Secretariat (email info@scar.org).

The proposal texts should make it absolutely clear what activities will be carried out, what will be achieved, at what cost, and in what time frame. Guidelines for preparing the proposal are given in Section 8 of the Application form.

In order to apply, candidates are required to first contact and liaise with the appropriate host Antarctic project or programme, to secure the support of an organisation that would benefit from the visit.

Elements of the Application Form:

1. **Application Form** – Applicant must fill in, sign and date;
2. **Proposal** – Prepared by following the guidelines given in the Application form;
3. Applicant must send their application form and proposal (with relevant appendices) together by email to info@scar.org
4. Applicant must send **Cover note 1 to the Home Institute Referee**, and the Referee needs to forward it to SCAR (preferably by e-mail to info@scar.org);
5. Applicant must send **Cover note 2 to the Host Institute Referee**, and the Referee needs to forward it to SCAR (preferably by e-mail to info@scar.org).

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure a complete application package (Application Form, Proposal, Home Institute reference, and Host Institute note) reaches SCAR before the deadline. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Evaluation of Visiting Professor Scheme:

The review panel will comprise of representatives from the SCAR Capacity Building, Education and Training Committee, the SCAR Executive Committee and one or more of the Officers of the SCAR Standing Scientific Groups or their Alternates. The SCAR Executive Officer will evaluate all proposals on the basis of the scientific excellence the visit will provide. This evaluation will also take into consideration factors such as:

- The extent to which the visit will strengthen the scientific research capacity of nations with smaller or less well-developed Antarctic research programmes;
- The visits 'fit' with SCAR's place in science and with its scientific directions;
- The extent to which links have already been established with the proposed host institute.

Completion of Visiting Professors Scheme:

At the end of each Visiting Professorship, each candidate must provide a short report that will be published on the SCAR website. Reports should cover the scientific accomplishments, a budgetary report and be completed following a similar structure to those already on the website for the SCAR Fellowships.