

EUROPEAN POLAR BOARD

Editorial

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the second newsletter of the European Polar Board. It is my pleasure to have the opportunity to introduce this edition. I am a relative newcomer to the European Polar community, although I was a member of the Arctic Ocean Science Board more years ago than I care to remember! However, since joining the Board I have been impressed by the incredible energy and enthusiasm that exists in the European Polar Science community.

I think this energy stems not only from the wonderful scientific challenges of a fundamental nature that exist in the Polar Regions but also because there are a number of more applied or policy related challenges. In the latter category the 4th IPCC report identified the uncertainty about the future behaviour of polar ice-sheets as one of the largest uncertainties in being able to predict future sea-level rise – arguably one of the biggest challenges facing humankind today. It is clear that the polar science community must marshal its forces to address this question and it is good to see a major European project recently funded in this area – the [Ice2Sea EU FPVII project](#).

Of particular interest to the EPB are the six new projects recommended for funding (one which is subject to reevaluation) through the recent ESF/EPB PolarCLIMATE initiative. Details of these can be found later in this newsletter. The competition for funds was very high, as was the quality of the proposals. The Board looks forward to seeing the outputs from these projects as they develop and the input from the Polar Framework MoU.

An important current activity for the EPB is the development of a bid for a major activity to coordinate the wide range of European national Polar infrastructure (stations, ships, aeroplanes etc) – INFRAPOLAR. The cost of carrying out research in the Polar Regions always will be expensive and the development of a strategic network will enable national operators to make the most efficient use of their facilities through strategic partnerships and, where appropriate, joint programming. The quality of the science will benefit too because of new collaborations that will inevitably follow. It is the intention to submit the INFRAPOLAR proposal to the EU FPVII targeted call in December 2009.

I observe that there is a tremendous vibrancy in the European Polar Science Community as a result of the International Polar Year, which formally



Source: Alfred-Wegener-Institute, Germany

concluded in March this year. The IPY was an outstanding demonstration of international scientific collaboration at its very best. The statistics of the program are staggering: 170 projects involving more than 60 countries with a conservative estimate of €800 million value. These projects involved approximately 6000 people, both scientists and non-scientists, in a range of projects from the aurora to zoology. Of the total number of projects 50% were led by EU scientists – a very significant number and a testament to the strength in depth of European Polar Science.

IPY is now very much focused on its legacy and I am optimistic that there will be a number of enduring outcomes. One that I would like to highlight, with which I have had some involvement, is APECS – the [Association of Polar Early Career Scientists](#). I have had the great pleasure of being involved in some mentoring activities and panel discussions with APECS and these have all been fantastic. The current membership of APECS is approximately 1400 members from 40 countries. If you are an early career polar scientist and not already a member, I would encourage you to contact APECS and help shape the future of polar science.

In concluding, I would like to wish colleagues about to undertake field campaigns in the coming austral summer best wishes for a successful and safe field season and for those just returning from the North – I hope your results and findings are as exciting as you had hoped for. I look forward to hearing about wonderful new polar science from you all!

Best wishes,

Nicholas J P Owens

Director, British Antarctic Survey

Vice-Chair, European Polar Board

News

AURORA BOREALIS in G8 Magazine



AURORA BOREALIS was recently featured in the special G8 edition of the Italian magazine *Eccellenze Italiane*. The article looked in detail at the AURORA BOREALIS project and at EMSO, another related European Research Infrastructure for understanding global environmental change and natural hazards. This

magazine has been distributed to the Heads of State and over 4000 journalists. Visit Eccellenze Italiane's website. July 2009.

New framework to link up Europe's polar research

More than 26 leading scientific institutions across Europe are signing up to closer research cooperation through a new European Polar Framework agreement today in Brussels. The framework agreement is a major outcome from the four-year EUROPOLAR ERA-NET initiative, funded by the European Commission under Framework Programme 6, which ended in February this year. [Read the full article](#). 24th June 2009.

Euroandrill.com



EuroANDRILL, a scientific coordination group under the umbrella of the European Polar

Board, has just launched www.euroandrill.com. This site provides more information about the initiative, the participating partners and the technology used as well as news, links and photographs.

Staff Changes



Barbara Weber is replacing Lisa Moriamé during her maternity leave. Barbara can be reached at +33 3 88 76 21 65 or bweber@esf.org.

Photo by: Frédéric Remouchamps

Activities

EUROPEAN POLAR BOARD

At the European Polar Summit of 24th June 2009, the European Polar Board took over the Memorandum of Understanding for a European Polar Framework from the European Polar Consortium. The European Polar Board Executive Committee and Chairman Professor Carlo Alberto Ricci then met on 6th-7th July at the Ministry of Education, University and Research in Rome, Italy to plan actions for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding. Other items discussed were INFRAPOLAR Version II, the EPB Green Paper on European Polar Research and EPB communications. The next Plenary Meeting will be held on 15 October 2009 at the ESF/COST Offices in Brussels, Belgium. This meeting is open to EPB delegates only.

PolarCLIMATE

The PolarCLIMATE Review Panel met on 8th-9th June 2009 in Brussels, Belgium. The Review Panel members examined each of the 19 Full Proposals in great detail. They also took into consideration the anonymous assessments conducted by the external referees and the responses by the Project Coordinators. At the end of the two day meeting, the Review Panel presented a list of recommendations to the Programme Board. The Programme Board then met on 23rd June 2009 and decided to recommend six proposals for funding (one which is subject to revaluation). Discussions about a PolarCLIMATE networking phase are currently underway. More information can be found later in this issue.

ERICON AURORA BOREALIS

The Ericon-AB project is completing its first year of activity. However, even before its official start, major scientific and technical activities were performed within a project sponsored by the German Ministry of Scientific Research.

The Ericon-AB project will generate the strategic, legal, financial and organisational frameworks for European ministries and funding agencies to decide about the construction and operation of AURORA BOREALIS. The possibility to achieve this target is related to two general conditions: a) a critical number of European Countries which recognise political and strategic interest to have a powerful tool for scientific research in hitherto unexplored areas of the polar oceans, mainly the Arctic Ocean b) a strong international and interdisciplinary scientific interest which looks at AURORA BOREALIS as a unique tool to access not yet reached information for understanding the past environment and climate and

Activities

the structure and evolution of the polar oceans. Therefore, the project moved according to these two directions, developing several contacts with heads of Governmental and European Community Organisations, industry, as well as through conferences, seminars and meetings with academic institutions, research teams and International Projects, in a broad spectrum of disciplines. This work has been performed in the framework of the European Polar Board, which provided a crucial support with the promotion of the project itself and with further initiatives targeted to improve coordination and cooperation between the European and international polar institutions.

On the scientific level, the success of AURORA BOREALIS is first of all related to its capacity of integration into Priorities and Agendas of the National Polar Programs, but also with those major projects which address climate's evolution and earth's environment, which intend to respond to basic needs of humanity in terms of environmental conservation, safety and availability of energy resources and food.

In order to face these issues, a large number of scientific meetings and workshops have been held in many potentially interested countries (Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom, USA, Canada), with international scientific organizations (IASC, FARO, American Geophysical Union) and with large international research projects such as IODP / ECORD, ANDRILL, CAREX; moreover, relationships have established with other major European infrastructure projects (SIAEOS, EPOS, EMSO). In September, two important meetings will contribute to expanding the future use of AURORA BOREALIS: INVEST, a large, multidisciplinary, international community meeting, whose focus is to define the scientific research goals of the second phase of the IODP after 2013 and ACE, Antarctic Climate Evolution, which is expected to provide a new scientific strategy for Antarctic Climate studies.

EUROPOLAR/EUROPEAN POLAR SUMMIT

The EUROPOLAR ERA-NET project, financed by the European Commission Framework Programme 6, was officially closed at the European Polar Summit which took place on 24th June 2009 at the International Auditorium in Brussels, Belgium. The Summit meeting was moderated by Dr. Paul Egerton, the Executive Director of the European Polar Consortium. The event opened with short interventions by Dr. Gérard Jugie (Chairman of the European Polar Consortium),

Professor Ian Halliday (President of the European Science Foundation), Professor Carlo Alberto Ricci (Chairman of the European Polar Board) and Mr. Ivan Conesa-Alcolea of the European Commission.

The morning session started by looking at the political and strategic context of European polar programmes, at European Polar Research Infrastructures, assets and capabilities and at the convergence of European polar activities. The morning continued with presentations on planning for joint polar science programmes, the ESF BOREAS Programme and frameworks for polar policy advice to European governments. Representatives from the organisations participating in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) then joined together as Dr. Jugie signed the document and passed it to Professor Ricci representing the European Polar Board. Dr. Jugie concluded the morning session and brought EUROPOLAR ERA-NET to an official close.

In the afternoon, attendees received a detailed overview of the ERICON AURORA BOREALIS project. Professor Jörn Thiede, Chairman of the ERICON Stakeholder Council, opened this session with some general remarks. This introduction was followed by presentations on the political aspects of AURORA BOREALIS in the European Research Area, the technical innovation and capabilities of the European Research Icebreaker and lastly the science frameworks for the world's largest Polar Environmental Research Facility. Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the European Polar Summit. More information, including the agenda, presentations and pictures, can be found on the EPB site or by clicking [here](#).

Photo by: Frédéric Remouchamps

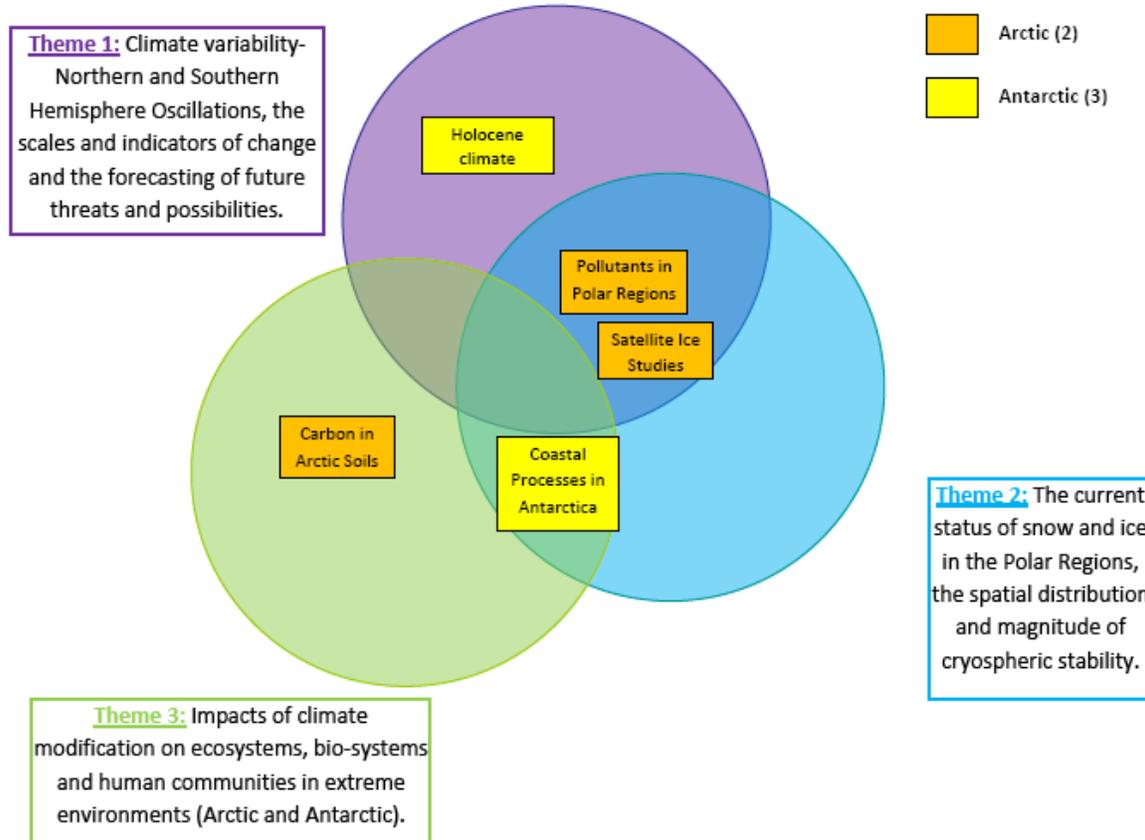


Dr. Gérard Jugie and Professor Carlo Alberto Ricci with the signed MoU at the European Polar Summit

PolarCLIMATE Projects

The Programme Board recommended six PolarCLIMATE proposals for funding (one which is subject to reevaluation). The proposals are spread across the three research themes and a near balance between the Arctic and the Antarctic.

Diagram of the Distribution of the 5 Full Proposals Recommended for Funding According to Scientific Themes and Geographic Focus



IMCOAST



Project Coordinator: Dr. Doris Abele (Alfred-Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, Germany)

Title: Impact of climate induced glacier melt on marine coastal systems in the West Antarctic Peninsula region

Abstract: IMCOAST is an interdisciplinary, innovative research project, linking causes and effects within the presently observed rapid climate change in the marine

coastal environment of the Antarctic Peninsula. IMCOAST builds directly on IPY-34 clicOPEN (climate change in coastal areas of the Antarctic Peninsula), and is planned as a high-resolution investigation focusing on 2 pilot areas King-George Island (KGI). The study site excels through its unique facilities with 9 permanent research stations and a strong background of information on coastal system status and functioning during the past 15 – 50 years (pending on the type of data). In an integrated, novel approach the team of glaciologists, geochemists, geologists and biologists will study the hierarchical chain of impacts produced by regional warming, the retreat of glaciers on the coastal sedimentary environment, patterns of deposition and sediment

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transport to the open ocean. Effects of changes in run-off and suspended matter will be linked to the observed shifts in the coastal biosphere, including experimental cause-effect studies of water column and benthic systems. The JRP will also evaluate impact and strength of late Holocene warm phases on the KGI coastal system. A central aim and legacy in IMCOAST will be a joint database for archiving IMCOAST and IPY-34, as well as related KGI data sets, following commonly accepted data archiving and access standards. IMCOAST will strengthen the European and international cooperation since partners from 9 European and 3 South American institutions are involved, each with long standing experience in Antarctic research or with important novel techniques, and by a unique regional data interface.

Principal Investigators/Associated Partners: PIs: Dr. Matthias Braun (University of Bonn), Professor M Del Carmen Dominguez (Universidad de Salamanca), Dr. Christian Hass (Alfred-Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research), Professor Hans Brumsack (University of Oldenburg), Professor Ann Vanreusel (University of Ghent), Professor Anita Buma (University of Groningen), Professor Andrzej Tatur (Polish Academy of Sciences); **APs:** Professor Jorge Arigony-Neto (Federal University of Rio Grande), Dr. Irene Schloss (Argentine Antarctic Institute), Dr. Eva Philipp (University of Kiel), Dr. Ricardo Sahade (University of Cordoba), Professor Andrzej Tatur (Polish Academy of Sciences), Dr. Stephen Roberts (British Antarctic Survey), Professor Hans Brumsack (University of Oldenburg), Professor Michael Staubwasser (University of Cologne), Dr. Dorothee Wilhelms-Dick (University of Bremen)

CryoCARB



Project Coordinator: Professor Andreas Richter (University of Vienna, Austria)

Title: Long-term Carbon Storage in Cryoturbated Arctic Soils

Abstract: Soil organic carbon (SOC) stored in the permafrost of the Arctic is one of the largest carbon reservoirs globally and is vulnerable to climate change. Despite its undisputed importance, the amount of arctic SOC remains ambiguous and poorly constrained. A significant proportion of this SOC is stored in the subducted organic matter of cryosols, suggesting that cryoturbation (i.e., the mixing of soil layers due to freezing and thawing) is one of the most important

mechanisms of arctic carbon sequestration. The major objectives of CryoCARB are therefore (i) to advance organic carbon estimates for cryoturbated soils including the carbon stored in the permafrost, (ii) to identify the major SOC stabilization mechanisms, focusing on organic matter quality, microbial community composition and on abiotic factors, and (iii) to assess the vulnerability of arctic carbon stocks in a future climate. CryoCARB is structured in work packages, dealing with carbon storage in cryoturbated soils (WP1), with quality and degradability of SOC (WP2), with microbial processes and community structure (WP3) and with the integrative modelling of SOC dynamics in cryoturbated soils (WP4). These WPs are linked and integrated by a set of joint sampling campaigns in Siberia (three transects), Greenland and Svalbard and by joint experiments that address the sensitivity of SOC to changing environmental conditions in the laboratory and in the field. The work will be supported by the development of a sound theoretical and conceptual framework and by mathematical modelling. CryoCARB represents a multinational collaboration between 8 European countries and Russia, applying an interdisciplinary approach to address critically important issues that link cryoturbated arctic soils to the global carbon cycle. Such a comprehensive undertaking, from molecular microbiology to landscape level carbon inventories and modelling of circum-arctic carbon storage in future climates, is new and has not yet been implemented anywhere for the Arctic.

Principal Investigators/Associated Partners: PIs: Professor Peter Kuhry (Stockholm University), Professor Georg Guggenberger (Leibniz Universität Hannover), Professor Hana Santruckova (University of South Bohemia (USB) in Ceske Budejovice), Professor Christa Schleper (University of Bergen); **APs:** Professor Pertti Martikainen (University of Kuopio), Mr. Sergey Zimov (Russian Academy of Sciences), Dr. Anatoly Prokushkin (Russian Academy of Sciences), Professor Davey Jones (Bangor University), Professor Philippe Ciais (Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement)

SATICE



Project Coordinator: Dr. Pedro Elosegui (Institute for Space Sciences, Spain)

Title: Arctic Ocean Sea-ice and Ocean Circulation Changes Using Satellite Methods

Abstract: SATICE will estimate spatio-temporal variations of ocean dynamic

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topography in the Arctic Ocean, ocean circulation, ocean tides, sea-ice freeboard heights, ice thickness and ice mass balance using in-situ, novel high-precision Global Positioning System (GPS) Observations of sea-ice motions, satellite-based radar and lidar sea-ice altimetry and satellite gravity. It is crucial to monitor these ice and ocean parameters to improve our understanding of the key thermodynamic and dynamic processes that drive the Arctic climate change. These estimates will be used to improve coupled ice-ocean-atmospheric models and Arctic Ocean tide models. The lack of meaningful observational constraints in the Arctic Ocean, which this project will alleviate, currently hampers advancement in model accuracy and development. The combined observational and modeling effort will pave the way in the future for assimilation of satellite-based observations and methods for routine Arctic ice and ocean modeling.

Principal Investigators/Associated Partners: PIs: Professor Rene Forsberg, (Danish National Space Institute), Professor Rüdiger Gerdes (Alfred-Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research), Professor Johnny Johannessen (Nansen Centre for Environmental Research), Professor Peter Wadhams (Université Pierre et Marie Curie-Paris), Dr. Jeremy Wilkinson (Scottish Association for Marine Science); **APs:** Professor Meredith Nettles (Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Columbia University), Dr. Laurence Padman (Earth & Space Research)

CLIMSLIP



Project Coordinator: Dr. Andreas Stohl (Norwegian Institute for Air Research, Norway)

Title: Climate impacts of short-lived pollutants in the Polar Regions

Abstract: The CLIMSLIP vision is to understand the radiative forcing in the Arctic caused by Short-Lived Pollutants (SLPs) accurately enough to reliably guide climate policy. The overall CLIMSLIP aim is to reduce uncertainties of the impact of SLPs, particularly of Black Carbon (BC) aerosols, on polar climate. Particular objectives are to: 1.) Improve the quantitative understanding of the source regions of SLPs in Arctic and Antarctic; 2.) Contrast BC concentrations in the air and in the snow in the Arctic and Antarctic; 3.) Determine the removal of (especially BC) particles from the atmosphere via snowfall and by dry deposition; 4.) Determine the

ozone formation in anthropogenic and biomass burning plumes being transported into the Arctic; 5.) Assess aerosol-induced direct radiative effects on aerosol radiative forcing in Polar Regions; 6.) Document and quantify snow/ice albedo changes as a result of BC deposition in the Arctic; 7.) Estimate the impact of the albedo reduction on the Arctic climate; in particular, study whether BC deposition could explain the warmth in the Arctic in the 1930s and 1940s. To achieve these goals, CLIMSLIP will build on measurements obtained at international monitoring stations, on data gathered during the IPY projects POLARCAT and POLAR-AOD, on satellite remote sensing data, on new CLIMSLIP measurements and on various models.

Principal Investigators/Associated Partners: PIs: Ann-Christine Engvall, John Burkhart, Markus Fiebig, Yvan Orsolini (Norwegian Institute for Air Research), Dr. Alexander Kokhanovsky (Universität Bremen), Dr. Andreas Minikin (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt), Professor Peter Tunved (Stockholm University), Dr. Claudio Tomasi (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Italy); **APs:** Dr. Aki Virkkula (University of Helsinki), Dr. Kathy Law (Université Pierre et Marie Curie), Professor Isabelle Bey, (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zuerich)

HOLOCLIP



Project Coordinator: Dr. Barbara Stenni (University of Trieste, Italy)

Title: Holocene climate variability at high-southern latitudes: an integrated perspective

Abstract: High-latitudes are particularly interesting places to document natural climate variability since: (1) every component of the climate system interacts in these regions in a still poorly-constrained and non-linear way; (2) changes are amplified compared to low latitude environments; (3) Antarctica and its surrounding are characterized by a strong regional variability. Existing geological records, glacial records and model experiments have highlighted differences in the evolution of the climate as a function of the area. In the framework of the PolarCLIMATE programme, HOLOCLIP aims to bring together the ice core, the sediment core and the modelling scientific communities to understand the processes linking different components of the climate system and linking climatic response to external forcing over the Holocene. The areas on which the European research efforts have been concentrated

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over the past decades are suited for integrating existing ice and marine records, in terms of amount and quality of collected materials. Key areas of the Antarctic Ice Sheet and their marine surroundings have been selected: Western Ross Sea, Oates-George V-Adelie Lands including Dome C ice drainage basin, Prydz Bay, Dronning Maud Land and Antarctic Peninsula-Scotia Sea.

Principal Investigators/Associated Partners: Pls: Dr. Xavier Crosta (Université Bordeaux 1), Dr. Hans Oerter (Alfred-Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research), Dr. Carlota Escutia Dotti (University of Granada), Dr. Hans Renssen (VU University Amsterdam), Dr. Hugues Goosse (Université Catholique de Louvain), Dr. Jennifer Pike (Cardiff University)

SvalGlac

Title: Sensitivity of Svalbard glaciers to climate change

This proposal is subject to revaluation and is pending. The decision will be reached in a few months.

Photo by: Frédéric Remouchamps



Professor Carlo Alberto Ricci (Chairman of the European Polar Board) and Professor Ian Halliday (President of the European Science Foundation) at the European Polar Summit in Brussels.

ASSW Young Scientists



The European Polar Board provided financial support to five young scientists to attend March's Arctic Science Summit Week in Bergen, Norway. These scientists have written about their experiences at ASSW 2009.

Michael Fritz



“The Arctic Science Summit Week 2009 in Bergen was a unique conference regarding its structure and its political outcome. Designed as a combination of a political meeting to discuss the future strategy in Arctic science and a science symposium to show recent developments in polar research,

the ASSW was a great opportunity to meet highly experienced researchers, science policy makers from different institutions acting on the agenda and young upcoming polar researchers. The Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) launched a panel to establish the contact between these three parties that gave me valuable insider information for my future way in polar research and broadened my network to excellent scientists. Funding by the European Polar Board (EPB) gave me the possibility to have these experiences.”

Kim Jochum



“The ASSW 2009 brought together Arctic researchers from various research fields and countries which personally helped me to develop a deeper understanding for the complexity of Arctic research in general. I got to know interesting researchers through the APECS panel, as well as various

presentations, discussions during breaks, meetings over the day and the discussion about the IASC structure change. I work in a remote Arctic research field and only a few researchers from this field attend such general polar conferences. Thus, it is particularly important to me to convince the research community of the relevance of including more biology related

ASSW Young Scientists

research in such conferences. Also developing collaborations, for example linking Wildlife to Climate and Sea Ice conditions, is important to accomplish, where such conferences are highly supportive. Overall, I am convinced we can work far more successfully when we manage to enhance interdisciplinary projects in Polar research. I hope that, in general, interdisciplinary exchange and collaborations in Arctic and Polar research will develop further and to a highly environmental friendly level. Such achievements can help to solve growing worldwide problems like economic growth and development with the goal to secure sustainability. I am grateful to the EPB for the support that helped me develop a deeper sense of these future tasks and that I was able to share my passion about research with colleagues.”

Janet Rethemeyer



“The Arctic Science Summit Week 2009 in Bergen was a great opportunity for me to meet and talk to the very important people in Arctic research and get an overview about their research activities. Thanks to the European Polar Board that provided funding for my participation, I had the

chance to learn more about the activities of the most important Arctic science organisations. The scientific sessions provided an excellent and broad overview on the most important Arctic research topics.”

Matt Strzelecki



“I am very pleased to share my thoughts and experiences about the ASSW in Bergen. First of all I would like to thank EPB for its given support and trust. ASSW was an ideal occasion to observe how polar science should cooperate with polar geopolitics

and business. Now I understand that more opened, multidisciplinary and international research teams are crucial to create a panel for discussion not only during scientific sessions but also during meetings with world leaders. I strongly believe that the energy and enthusiasm toward polar science and Polar Regions released in Bergen will last for years and prevent those who treat the Arctic or Antarctic as private property. In the polar world, ice, snow, cold and darkness are able to stop the fittest units, whereas unity may give us a chance to understand ongoing changes in the natural environment and build a new

environment for common polar management. ASSW in Bergen was a perfect place to have such a dream and I'm very proud that I was a part of it. Thank you very much.”

Sebastian Wetterich



“In a scientific regard, my participation was very informative, because I used the opportunity to listen to numerous excellent lectures by leading Arctic scientists. I was impressed by the broad research spectrum represented by the speakers.

Especially, the key notes lectures given by Dr. Michael Bravo (Scott Polar Research Institute, UK) on research history in the Arctic, by Dr. Hajo Eicken (University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA) on sea ice changes and by Professor Dorthe Dahl-Jensen (University of Copenhagen, Denmark) on Arctic climate variability gave me new insight into and knowledge on Arctic research. Listening to the talks in the sessions *Indigenous Cultures* and *Risk to Human Health*, I became interested in social aspects of the Polar Regions which are usually far from my day-to-day work. Concerning my own research that is dedicated to palaeoenvironmental reconstructions in Siberia, the most fascinating talks given were in the sessions *Evolution of Arctic Ecosystems* and *Arctic Climate Variability*. For the latter, I contributed a talk entitled *Late Quaternary environmental history inferred from permafrost exposures on Kurungnakh Island, Lena Delta, NE Siberia, Russia*, that is based on data of my recently finished PhD. I drew attention to my current and future field of research and step in exchange with interested colleagues. For my work on the palaeoclimate permafrost archive, the ASSW was helpful and constructive because distinct questions on my topic were discussed and new research attempts and ideas were developed. I really enjoyed the familiar atmosphere and used the chance to get in contact with leading Arctic scientists. In particular, discussions with Professor Reinhard Pienitz (Centre d'études nordiques, Université Laval, Canada) and Professor Harro A.J. Meijer (University of Groningen, Netherlands) on Quaternary research and stable isotope approaches were highly informative. I would like to thank the EPB for financial support of my participation and I am grateful to the organisers for the chance to become involved in the ASSW community which will likely be helpful for me as an early career researcher.”

Focus on: Nicholas Owens



Professor Nicholas Owens, the British delegate to the European Polar Board and also an Executive Committee member, is charged with the profile of Global Science Programmes and Antarctica, a profile which is, as he describes, “an excellent fit” with his research background and interests.

Being at sea is a great inspiration to Owens. It thus comes as no surprise that he started his career as a research scientist in oceanography at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory. Owens became intrigued by the big cycles of carbon and nitrogen in the Southern Ocean. At this point, he sought out an opportunity to work with the British Antarctic Survey in the mid 1980s to explore these questions and has been captivated with the Antarctic ever since. “Scientifically, it’s a great place, but overall you can’t compare it. It’s spectacular!” he explained.

The Director of the British Antarctic Survey since September 2007, Owens has also served as Professor of Marine Science at the University of Newcastle and the Director of the Plymouth Marine Laboratory. Used to examining “the big picture”, it is his interest in bio-geochemical cycles and his studies of ocean, earth and atmosphere interactions that have prepared him well to serve on the EPB Executive Committee. Owens noted that over the past few years, the European Polar Board has really done terrific work and has accomplished much. He hopes that this momentum continues and that, as a result, the European Polar Board becomes even more visible in the European research community. He sees the European Polar Board as a way to have a real influence on science policy as well as creating a special place for the polar science community.

Owens and his wife have four sons and he considers raising them into wonderful gentlemen to be his greatest accomplishment. In his spare time, he enjoys rallying vintage MG motorcars, fishing, mountaineering and gardening. Living in North-East England, he takes part in a long-time community tradition dating back to its mining days: growing giant leeks!

We welcome Professor Owens to the Executive Committee and wish him an excellent term.

The European Polar Board Executive Committee: 2009-2012



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Upcoming Meetings, Conferences and Events

➤ **23-25 September 2009:** IODP New Ventures in Exploring Scientific Targets (INVEST) Conference • University of Bremen • Bremen, Germany • http://www.marum.de/en/INVEST_Bremen.html •

➤ **1 October 2009:** ERICON Financial Advisory Panel Meeting • ESF-COST Offices • Brussels, Belgium • *This meeting is open to ERICON Financial Advisory Panel members only.*

➤ **8-9 October 2009:** ERICON Technical Steering Committee Meeting • Marine Research Centre Finnish Environment Institute • Helsinki, Finland • *This meeting is open to ERICON Technical Steering Committee members only.*

➤ **14 October 2009:** European Polar Board Executive Committee Meeting • ESF-COST Offices • Brussels, Belgium • *This meeting is open to Executive Committee members only.*

➤ **15 October 2009:** European Polar Board Plenary Meeting • ESF-COST Offices • Brussels, Belgium • *This meeting is open to EPB Delegates only.*

➤ **9 November 2009:** ERICON Stakeholder Council Meeting • ESF-COST Offices • Brussels, Belgium • *This meeting is open to ERICON Stakeholder Council delegates only.*

➤ **30 November – 3 December 2009:** Antarctic Treaty Summit • Smithsonian Institution • Washington DC, USA • <http://www.atsummit50.aq/> •

➤ **4-8 December 2009:** IPY International Early Career Researcher Symposium • Victoria, British Columbia, Canada • <http://www.apecs.is/victoria09/> •

➤ **14-18 December 2009:** AGU Fall Meeting 2009 • San Francisco, California, USA • <http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm09/> •

➤ **24-29 January 2010:** Arctic Frontiers – Living in the High North • Tromsø, Norway • <http://www.arctic-frontiers.com/> •

➤ **15-19 April 2010:** Arctic Science Summit Week 2010 • Nuuk, Greenland • <http://www.assw2010.org/> •

➤ **19 April 2010:** European Polar Board Meeting • Nuuk, Greenland •

➤ **3-14 May 2010:** Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) XXXIII - Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP) XIII • Punta del Este, Uruguay •

➤ **8-12 June 2010:** IPY Oslo Science Conference 2010 • Oslo, Norway • <http://www.ipy-osc.no/> •

➤ **30 July – 11 August 2010:** XXXI SCAR and Open Science Conference • Buenos Aires, Argentina •

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The European Science Foundation (ESF) provides a platform for its Member Organisations to advance European research and explore new directions for research at the European level. Established in 1974 as an independent non-governmental organisation, the ESF currently serves 80 Member Organisations across 30 countries.



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