

August 2007 Activities Report

1 Mission statement

APECS' mission is to raise the profile of polar science by providing a continuum of leadership between early career and senior scientists that is both internationally and interdisciplinarily focused.

2 Goals

APECS aims at:

- providing an online platform for discussion and networking
- redistributing information to early career scientists and engineers through online and offline means
- organizing yearly meetings aiming at increasing network opportunities among early career scientists and capacity building
- represent polar science at meetings relevant to young researchers but not necessarily restricted to polar and/or cryospheric science
- organizing training workshops focused on softskills for early career scientists
- raise the awareness of early career scientists concerning science planning organizations by promoting two-way contacts between the two communities

3 Achievements

3.1 Website

APECS has established a website generously hosted by the Arctic Portal. (<http://arcticportal.org/apecs>). The advantages of hosting our site at the Arctic Portal are longterm support beyond the IPY, dedicated site maintenance, easy connections to other organizations supported by the growing Arctic Portal.

The website features

- A searchable job listing
- A searchable calendar of events
- A searchable member list
- A news section listing recent APECS-related news
- And several other features that will continue to expand

We also have included links to the Education and Outreach projects that national Youth Steering Committees have established. We would like to feature successes of these events and projects – so if you have information to give us, please send it! We want to link all of these very enthusiastic groups together.

3.2 Workshops

3.2.1 Arctic Science Summit Week

APECS has launched a series of workshops which started in March 2007 at the Arctic Science Summit Week in Hanover, New Hampshire, USA. The goal of these workshops is to enhance involvement of early career scientists in the science planning community and networking. This workshop was organized with the support of IASC and helped by the presence of mentors (Pat Webber and Odd Rogne). A summary of this workshop can be found at IASC (www.iasc.se).

3.2.2 SCAR/IASC Open Science Conference Early Career Workshop

The UK Polar Network is working on an early career workshop to be held before the Open Science Conference in St. Petersburg, Russia next July. They are actively trying to raise funds for lots of folks to attend. For more information on this, please contact Helen Freeman ([email](#)) or Liz Thomas (address below).

3.2.3 IMPETUS 2007 – OSL-APECS-PYRN Training workshop

The Otto Schmidt Laboratory for Polar and Marine Research (OSL) at the State Research Center for Arctic and Antarctic Research (AARI) together with the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) and the Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN) will hold a training workshop on modern investigation techniques in the field of permafrost science in November-December 2007. The workshop is intended to provide a learning and meeting ground for young permafrost researchers from Russia and the rest of the world. More than 25 young researchers will be funded to attend the workshop which will feature lab techniques, geophysics, geochemistry, isotopic measurements, sedimentology, gas and energy fluxes measurements, etc.

3.3 Connections with other organisations

APECS has established connections with several organisations:

3.3.1 Youth Steering Committee

APECS was initially started as an entity of the Youth Steering Committee (YSC), an IPY-endorsed activity. Since then, APECS has evolved to become the legacy of the YSC and thus, a strong entity with independent activities and goals. APECS maintains strong ties to the YSC, and will become the overarching organisation concerned with young researchers after the IPY. APECS and the YSC will be strengthening these links with a particular focus on international coordination at the Serla Meeting in Stockholm September 07 (see below).

3.3.2 IPY IPO

APECS has, since the beginning, been in contact with the IPY International Programme Office. APECS was instrumental in the formation of the IPY Tertiary Education Subcommittee of the Education and Outreach Committee. Several early career scientists sit on this committee from various countries. Other members of the committee include representatives from the UArctic, the International Antarctic Institute, Arctic Portal and WAYS. This group aims to 'foster the leadership for the next IPY in 2032'.

3.3.3 IASC / SCAR

APECS has also been in continual contact with IASC and SCAR. IASC and SCAR have asked APECS to provide some input for the organisation of the SCAR/IASC conference to be held in St. Petersburg in July 2008. A summary of the advice provided by APECS members to the Chairs of the Science Organizing Committee for this conference is available upon request. In short, it was agreed that early career scientists will be encouraged to give presentations in all sessions, not just poster presentations, as well as encourage to be co-chairs of sessions. In addition, several early career activities will be planned during the meeting to facilitate networking and interactions with designated senior mentors. The UK Polar Network of young researchers is heading the development of a day workshop for early career scientists prior to the meeting.

3.3.4 CliC

APECS has recently been contacted by CliC (Climate and Cryosphere, a WCRP project) to bring together young researchers involved in cryospheric research. We are looking for people to help develop this connection.

3.3.5 WAYS

APECS is a partner of the World Academy of Young Scientists, which it itself supported by ICSU and UNESCO.

3.3.6 POLE: **P**olar **O**utreach and **L**Earning Community

APECS together with the YSC and the IPY Office and Education and Outreach Committee are working together to create an online home where teachers and scientists can interact and share ideas. This community will be housed under the Arctic Portal to allow easy connections of database and networking between these groups and other Arctic Portal groups.

3.3.7 PYRN

The Permafrost Young Researchers Network was established in 2005 to bring together permafrost scientists and promote permafrost science in the science community. PYRN, with its 350+ members is a strong partner of APECS. It provides a discipline coordinator for permafrost to APECS (Torsten Sachs, Germany) and plans on a series of joint training workshops with APECS. PYRN, is led by Margareta Johansson (Sweden), Oliver Frauenfeld (USA) and Hugues Lantuit (Germany), who is also the co-director of APECS.

3.3.8 NGPR Symposium for early career scientists doing polar research during IPY

APECS has partnered with the New Generation Polar Research (NGPR) Symposium to disseminate materials from this workshop to the broader early career polar science community. We plan to have lectures from this conference available as podcasts on the APECS website, as well as supplemental materials given to participants such as grant writing guides, information on ways to better communicate with the media and advice on education and outreach.

The need for polar research has never been greater, and the upcoming IPY provides a unique opportunity to bring together a broad cross section of the polar research community to blaze a new trail for polar research, one that will include pathways from across the natural and social sciences.

The NGPR Symposium (May 4-11, 2008 in Colorado Springs, CO, USA) Will bring together advanced graduate students and recent Ph.D. graduates who will be conducting independent research during the 2008/09 IPY, current polar experts and veteran polar scientists who were actively engaged in the 1957/58 IGY to provide this new generation with a common sense of history and purpose, increase awareness of work conducted by their peers, share ideas for educational outreach, and forge interdisciplinary collegial relationships with their peers.

Thirty-six early career scholars conducting Arctic or Antarctic research during the IPY will be competitively selected through a rigorous application process.

The week will consist of research presentations by participants and perspectives on the history and future of polar research by IPY veterans and other polar experts. The setting will provide an open forum for discussions that will lead to cross-fertilization of research ideas and techniques for educational outreach. The net result should be expansion of participants' historical, scientific and professional outlook. Scholars from the full range of natural and social sciences are eligible. While the focus is on U.S. research, citizens of all countries are eligible.

Applications are due October 15, 2007 and instructions are posted at <http://www.disccrs.org/ngpr/apply.html>.

For more details contact Susan Weiler (weilercs@whitman.edu) or Sheldon Drobot (drobot@colorado.edu). The NGPR is supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation through grant #ARC-0632324 to Whitman College, C.S. Weiler PI, and #ARC-0632312 to University of Colorado, Sheldon Drobot PI. A supplemental was awarded to this grant to foster ties between the NGPR Symposium and the broader APECS community.

3.3.9 UK Polar Network Report

UK Polar Network (UKPN) is the UK branch of the international polar year youth steering committee (IPY-YSC) and the association of polar early career researchers (APECS). Established in March 2007, we currently have over 100 members ranging from undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, junior lecturers, associate professors, expedition leaders and teachers. The network is run as a series of working groups made up of 1) education and outreach; which aims to enthuse the next generation of polar researchers by going into schools and colleges and holding exhibitions at national science festivals, 2) networking; designed to maintain an active network of polar researchers to enhance collaboration and support researchers career development, 3) funding; working hard to get us money and 4) the website; which is being developed ([www. polarnetwork.org](http://www.polarnetwork.org)) to improve our networking capabilities and support education and outreach.

The first event of the UK Polar Network was held in June 2007 at the British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge, attended by over 100 polar researchers, medical students, programme managers and expedition leaders. The meeting started with a summary of the national and international IPY YSCs and APECS followed by five keynote speakers from physical, biological and the social sciences. The meeting was attended by the executive director of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) who introduced SCAR and science management, focusing on the opportunities available to early career polar researchers. In the afternoon there was an opportunity for researchers to present

their work in a lively poster session with discussions continuing into the small hours at a local restaurant.

The event was a huge success and a very enjoyable launch to the UKPN. Many exciting collaborations and opportunities have arisen since the meeting, including discussions with the Natural Environment Research Council, the Royal Geographic Society and the British Schools Exploration Society. It has also led to funding from SCAR to organize a workshop of early career polar scientists at the SCAR/IASC open science conference to be held in St Petersburg next summer, in collaboration with APECS and the international YSCs. The meeting is aimed at early career scientists from all disciplines and will be structured to include keynote science talks, information on how to get involved with APECS and IPY YSC in your area and panel discussions focusing on career development and opportunities in polar research. We are applying for funding for travel grants and hope to make the workshop an informative and enjoyable international event.

For more information on joining the UK Polar network visit our website www.polarnetwork.org or contact: Dr Liz Thomas, British Antarctic Survey, UKPN Networking coordinator, Cambridge, UK, Liz.Thomas@polarnetwork.org

3.3.9 New Zealand Youth Steering Committee/APECS Report

Aiming at networking young career polar researchers and engaging in educational outreach to undergraduates and high school students, the New Zealand Youth Steering Committee (NZ YSC) is currently running *Polar Contests* for senior high school students. These contests introduce New Zealand's youth to the polar regions and encourage them to develop interdisciplinary teaching resources to be used in schools. The students are mentored by young polar researchers via an online forum at the NZ YSC's website: <http://www.ipyyouthnz.org/>. The winning prize of the Polar Contests is a trip to Antarctica with the IPY-endorsed *Students on Ice* project.

Recently, Gateway Antarctica (University of Canterbury) hosted an *IPY education and outreach forum*, which is meant to mark the first step on the way to an effective coordination of existing Antarctica-related education and outreach projects in New Zealand, close collaboration on future projects and the development of a comprehensive IPY education and outreach strategy and action plan. The outcome of the forum was positive and very promising, and interest, participation and enthusiasm has been expressed by Antarctica New Zealand, various New Zealand universities, the International Antarctic Centre, the Christchurch City Council, and NIWA, just to name a few.

3.4 Funding Requests

3.4.1 New Generation of Polar Researchers Symposium

APECS has developed a strong alliance with the NGPR Symposium to be held in May of 2008. A supplemental grant from the US National Science Foundation was obtained thanks to Sue Weiler and Sheldon Drobot (NGPR Organizers) to develop online resources generated from this workshop hosted on the APECS website.

3.4.2 Alaska Young Researchers Network

APECS put in a workshop proposal to the US NSF with the leadership of Andrew Roberts and Dan Pringle from UAF to host the first APECS workshop in Fairbanks in September. Unfortunately the proposal was not funded, but we did receive several comments and were encouraged to resubmit. NSF made three key points in the review of our proposal: Firstly, they would prefer an early career researchers' workshop to have an established steering committee of senior, international researchers before being assessed for funding. Secondly, there needs to be a strong and existing framework for continued connection between international and United States' delegates to ensure our workshop achieves its goal of stimulating international and interdisciplinary collaboration (which is something we are trying to establish by strengthening APECS). Finally and most importantly, NSF suggested that our proposed workshop might better achieve its aims at the end of IPY and as part of a larger IPY interdisciplinary project. For that reason NSF has encouraged us not to give up on this workshop, but to work on these points and resubmit in the future.

3.4.3 Funding Opportunities List

As we grow our organization, it has become increasingly difficult to generate money for some of these activities. Narelle Baker of the UKPN has been working on several proposals for funding to the SCAR/IASC Open Science Early Career Workshop for St. Petersburg, Russia in July 2008. She is also putting together a list of various funding sources that might be of interest. This will be placed on the APECS website soon.

4 Future plans

4.1 Serla Meeting, Stockholm: International Planning Workshop for IPY Youth and Early Career Scientists September 26-30th, 2007

The IPY International Programme Office (IPO) has recently received corporate sponsorship to seed a meeting of the IPY International Youth Steering Committee (IYSC), including the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS). This meeting will occur in Stockholm at the end of September.

The IPY IYSC is an IPY endorsed activity (#168), which represents young, aspiring, and early career polar researchers and students involved in the International Polar Year (see above). The leadership of this community comes from around the world and needs to meet in order to plan activities over the next year and beyond and strengthen links between the national level committees. This meeting will be the first international IYSC and APECS meeting and will help us develop and prioritise activities, expand networks, ensure a lasting community beyond IPY, and invite and include new partners from more countries. The recent funding received by the IPO will enable the organisation of such a meeting, and fund about 8 key members from four continents. Other IPY partners, such as the Norwegian and UK National IPY Committees, the Arctic Research Consortium of the US (ARCUS), and New Generation of Polar Researchers (NGPR), have agreed to help sponsor additional members from their home countries. Some will also attend themselves as mentors

4.2 Newsletter

APECS hopes to develop a newsletter that will be distributed to its members and will form the basis for a permanent contact between the APECS execs and APECS members. We are looking for people to help with this endeavor.

4.3 Website expansion

The APECS website is based on a CMS (Content Management System), and, as such is easily expandable. Depending on the feedback from APECS members, we plan on developing several aspects on the website based on web 2.0 technology, including a wiki, podcasts, blogs, etc. Comments on the current site and future ideas are encouraged.

4.4 Training workshops

Together with the UArctic and the IPY Tertiary Education Committee, APECS is in the early stages of planning a series of training workshops in the Arctic and hopefully the Southern Hemisphere. These workshops would be a week or two long designed to expose young scientists to various aspects of polar research – to include but not limited to field experience in glaciology, permafrost measurements, biology, atmospheric science, etc – as well as other skills such as working with media, writing grants, developing international collaborations, etc. These workshops are only in the idea stage at this point. We are looking for people to help design and plan these workshops.

4.5 Establish a Senior International Advisory Committee

APECS has been receiving great advice from Odd Rogne, Senior Advisor to the IPY IPO and AMAP, for which we are very grateful. We have begun to realize that input from a variety of sources would be very helpful and assure APECS is a strong and lasting organization. For this reason we have decided to establish an advisory committee. We are looking for suggestions of good people for this role. Some that have been suggested to this point are Lawrence Hacquebord (Netherlands), someone from CliC, Ann Henderson-Sellers (WMO), and Thomas Roswall (ICSU). We are looking for a mentor from Russia in particular.

4.6 Connections with Organizations

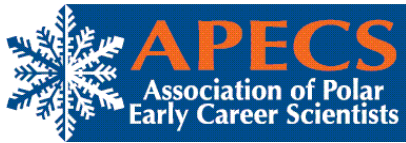
It is our goal to find a way to reach out and connect to other early career organizations and groups with similar interests. The highest priority of these are the National committees formed under the guidelines of the IPY Youth Steering Committee, such as the UK Polar Network and the AK Young Researchers Network. We would also like to form stronger relationships with other polar organizations and are looking for people to take leadership roles in establishing these connections. This will be a key aim of the upcoming Serla Meeting.

4.7 Increasing Funding Support

To accomplish most of our goals in bringing early career scientists together and creating new opportunities, APECS need to acquire financial support. We are looking for motivated people who believe in this mission and are interested in helping with grant writing, financial networking and general fundraising.

5 Upcoming Meetings

- ❄ APECS Meeting – International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Science (ISAES), Santa Barbara, CA – August 28, 2007
- ❄ APECS Executive Board Meeting – Stockholm in late September
- ❄ IMPETUS 2007 – OSL-APECS-PYRN Training workshop – November 30 to December 2, 2007 - Russia



<http://arcticportal.org/apecs>
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- ❖ New Generation of Polar Researchers Symposium – May 2008, Colorado Springs, CO USA
 - ❖ IPY Early Career Scientists Workshop – St. Petersburg, Russia – July 2008