



**XXXI SCAR Delegates Meeting**  
**Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-11 August 2010**

Agenda Item: 10.9  
Person Responsible: R. Ravindra

# **Capacity Building and Education Plan**



## Executive Summary

**Title:** Capacity Building and Education Plan

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**Relevant URLs or references to other reports**

<http://www.scar.org/about/capacitybuilding/>

<http://www.scar.org/about/capacitybuilding/antarcticeducation/>

[http://www.scar.org/publications/reports/27/Report\\_27.pdf](http://www.scar.org/publications/reports/27/Report_27.pdf)

<http://www.scar.org/awards/fellowships/>

**Introduction/ Background:** SCAR is committed to developing scientific capacity in all SCAR Members, assisting students, early career scientists, underrepresented groups, and emerging programs to participate in Antarctic research. SCAR promotes and facilitates the incorporation of Antarctic science into all levels of education.

**Important Issues or Factors:** The CBET committee is now active and working on CBET and related issues. It is proposed a Visiting Professor scheme will be launched in 2011. Various external grants (see below) have been solicited to support CBET activities.

**Recommendations/Actions and Justification:** Continued support of both SCAR and national CBET activities is encouraged by all SCAR members.

**Expected Benefits/Outcomes:** Increased Capacity in SCAR Member countries and early career scientists and students.

**Partners:** Association of Early Career Scientists, International Arctic Science Committee, International Polar Foundation, ICSU, COMNAP and others.

**Budget Implications:**

Fellowships = \$30,000 a year (supplemented with voluntary contributions)

SCAR Visiting Professor scheme = \$4,000 a year

Early careers scientist support and general = \$4,000 a year

CBET Committee funds: \$2,000 a year

SCAR Secondment = \$5,000 a year

SCAR has been successful in obtaining external grants to support CBET activities, for example 30,000 Euros from ICSU "Education and Outreach Lessons from IPY" with APECS, IASC and IPY office; \$30,000 in travel grants from the Tinker Foundation to help Latin American scientists attend the Oslo 2010 IPY Conference and management of the Martha T. Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica.

## Capacity Building, Education and Training

### **Introduction**

SCAR aims to build human and institutional capacity for Antarctic science and society in general by promoting the education of the public and students to increase the awareness of the value of Antarctic science and its importance. SCAR is dedicated to developing the capacity of all of its members to ensure that each has the ability to achieve his or her potential. SCAR has a special interest in assisting students, early career scientists, underrepresented groups in polar science and new or emerging national Antarctic programs. The national Antarctic programs of SCAR Member nations vary greatly in their size and capacity. Some have scientific communities that are large, scientifically advanced and long standing. Others have relatively small and/or new Antarctic science communities that are developing. To enable all in the SCAR family to participate in, contribute to and benefit from SCAR's activities, SCAR works to enhance the research capacity of all of its members. This mission has become more important as SCAR membership has increased in recent years.

SCAR's Capacity Building, Education and Training (CBET) Committee (<http://www.scar.org/communications/committee.html>) is led by a SCAR Vice President and supported by the SCAR Secretariat. The Committee is tasked with initiating, planning, and overseeing the implementation of SCAR's capacity building, education and training strategy. SCAR manages a range of programs in support of its capacity building, education, and training efforts, including the Fellowship Programme (see IP12), the Martha T. Muse Prize for Science and Technology and Policy in Antarctica (see below), the SCAR web site (e.g. <http://www.scar.org/about/capacitybuilding/antarcticeducation/>) and social networking groups and partnerships with the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (see below). The Committee promotes educational activities highlighting the importance and value of Antarctic science. SCAR relies upon its CBET Implementation Plan as a strategy ([http://www.scar.org/publications/reports/27/Report\\_27.pdf](http://www.scar.org/publications/reports/27/Report_27.pdf)). The CBET Committee manages SCAR's awards and recognition activities as part of its responsibilities. These include named lectures, fellowships, certificates of appreciation, and the award of the SCAR Medals. The Committee is also charged with evaluating the performance and mix of SCAR activities in this area and suggesting changes or new directions. The members of the Committee are chosen for their interests in capacity building, education and training. These activities will be a high priority for the SCAR Development Council and the CBET Committee is tasked with identifying sources of external funding for these activities.

SCAR collaborates with other groups and organizations that are pursuing similar goals (see IP14). SCAR supports a range of organization-wide activities under the umbrella capacity building, education and training and will continue to explore other mechanisms to achieve its strategic goals in this area. Subsidiary bodies within SCAR are also required to carry out their own CBET activities. For example, SCADM holds data workshops to train national data managers. Many CBET activities will be done under national banners rather than under SCAR directly. Ensuring coordination and support of these activities is a high priority.

### **SCAR Fellowships**

The SCAR Fellowships are covered in IP 12. For further details see:

<http://www.scar.org/awards/fellowships/>.

Testimonials of past SCAR fellows can be viewed at

<http://www.scar.org/awards/fellowships/testimonials.html>.

### **A SCAR Visiting Professor Scheme**

The SCAR CBET plan states that “efforts be made to (i) raise national scientific capacities and (ii) to promoting the incorporation of Antarctic science in education at all levels.”

Through the fellowship scheme and working with APECS the latter is being well covered. However, progress with the former has been more ad-hoc (e.g. we have been involved with seminars in Malaysia and

the SCAR President and Secretariat have visited various national members). At the last Delegates meeting the point was made that it would be useful to have well respected scientists come to countries with less well developed Antarctic programmes to give talks and interact with the local scientists. This resonates with the CBET strategy: “Encourage development of Distinguished Visiting Researchers programme to bring top scientists to countries with less well-developed Antarctic programmes for short periods to teach or spend sabbaticals.” This initially might involve no more than sending one person to a particular country for 4 or 5 days, the cost of which should not be prohibitive. Obviously the ideal would be to expand this further in parallel with the fellowships to involve more scientists and for longer visits. EXCOM approved \$4k to set up the scheme in 2010, with the idea that external sources of funding will be solicited to expand it. This has not proven to be possible, time-wise and so the plan is to launch it in 2011.

### ***The Association of Early Career Scientists***

SCAR is actively working with the Association of Early Career Polar Researchers (APECS) to engage and promote the careers of the next generation of polar scientists This has proven to be highly beneficial to both organizations. SCAR works closely with APECS to involve early career scientists in all of its activities including, but not limited to, conferences, meetings, symposia, business meetings and scientific subsidiary bodies and programs. <http://apecs.is/>

### ***The Martha T. Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica***

The “Martha T. Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica” is a US\$ 100,000 unrestricted cash prize presented to an individual in the fields of Antarctic science or policy who has demonstrated potential for sustained and significant contributions that will enhance the understanding and/or preservation of Antarctica. The Muse Prize is a prestigious award that recognizes excellence in Antarctic research by honouring someone in the early to mid-stage of their career. The Prize is a legacy of the International Polar Year 2007-2008 sponsored by the Tinker Foundation and administered by SCAR until at least 2013. SCAR also obtains a management fee to manage the Prize. See [www.museprize.org](http://www.museprize.org) for further details.

### ***SCAR Secondment***

Opportunities for a secondment for an individual from a SCAR Member country to work either at the Secretariat or at an institute working on SCAR activities (e.g. Data and Information, SC-ATS) has been supported by the Delegates. For 2010 a secondment with SC-ATS has been proposed (see WP35b).

### ***Grants for CBET activities***

Capacity Building, Education and Training is the area that has most potential for soliciting external grants. Obtaining additional funds for CBET activities is something SCAR will continue to pursue in the future.

### ***ICSU***

SCAR obtained 30,000 Euros from ICSU for the "Education and Outreach Lessons from IPY" projects in partnership with APECS, IASC and the IPY office.

### ***Tinker Foundation IPY grants***

SCAR obtained \$30,000 in travel grants from the Tinker Foundation to help Latin American scientists attend the Oslo 2010 IPY Conference.

### ***SCAR Open Science Conference grants***

SCAR offered a total of \$45,750 to 99 early career researchers for travel to the SCAR Open Science Conference at Buenos Aires. These funds came mainly from the individual SCAR groups (SSGs, SRPs etc.) Individual countries such as Argentina and the US also provided grants for the SCAR OSC.

### ***The Capacity Building, Education and Training (CBET) Committee***

The CBET Committee was reformed in 2009 with a new membership and revised TORs (see below). The current membership consists of representatives of various SCAR nations and external partners (IPF, IASC, APECS etc.) so as to ensure coordination amongst the various groups with an interest in Capacity building with an Antarctic focus. Members of the CBET committee also assist in reviewing applications for various SCAR grants and awards.

The terms of reference for the group are to:

- initiate, plan, and oversee the implementation of SCAR capacity building, education and training, including advising on outreach activities and the allocation of CBET funds;
- work with the SCAR Development Committee (Donor's group) to identify potential sources of funding and develop appropriate proposals;
- promote educational activities highlighting the importance and value of Antarctic science;
- evaluate the performance of the CBET programme and suggest changes as appropriate.

SCAR aims to foster and develop the capacity of all of its Members, especially assisting students, early career scientists, underrepresented groups, and emerging programs to participate in Antarctic research AND promote incorporation of Antarctic science in all levels of education.