



XXXII SCAR Delegates Meeting
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Agenda Item: 9.5
Person Responsible: R Ravindra

Capacity Building, Education and Training: Future Plans

Executive Summary

Title: Capacity Building, Education and Training: Future Plans

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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/awards/fellowships/>

Introduction/ Background: SCAR is committed to developing scientific capacity among all the SCAR member countries, 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 activities: The CBET committee reconstituted from time to time has been actively working on mandated activities. Its main activities are managing SCAR fellowship program, Visiting Professor scheme (if approved for launch in 2012), supporting APECS and assisting the committee on Martha T. Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica.

Recommendations/Actions and Justification: Continued support of both SCAR and CBET activities be encouraged by all SCAR members to achieve the objectives.

Expected Benefits/Outcomes: Increased Capacity in SCAR Member countries, developing Antarctic Programs 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 = \$10,000 for 2012 (supported by a voluntary contribution from India)

Early careers scientist support and general = \$4,000 - \$5,000 a year

SCAR has been successful in obtaining external grants to support CBET activities, e.g. ICSU grants, management of the Martha T. Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica from the Tinker Foundation.

Capacity Building, Education and Training

Introduction

SCAR aims to build human and institutional capacity in the field of Antarctic science by promoting the education and training of students to increase the awareness and quality of Antarctic science. SCAR is dedicated to developing the capacity of all of its members and 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 is 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 IP13), the Martha T. Muse Prize for Science and Technology and Policy in Antarctica (see IP14), 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 IP 16). 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). 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. The CBET Committee is also tasked with identifying sources of external funding for these activities.

SCAR collaborates with other groups and organizations that are pursuing similar goals (see IP16). SCAR supports a range of organization-wide activities under the umbrella of CBET and will continue to explore other mechanism 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 & COMNAP Fellowships (IP13)

The SCAR fellowships strengthen international capacity and cooperation in Antarctic research through promoting active involvement of early career scientists and engineers in Antarctic scientific research. Since 2011, SCAR and COMNAP jointly advertised the Fellowship programme.

The SCAR Fellowships are covered in IP 13. 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 (IP15)

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 visit different Antarctic programmes to 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 developing Antarctic programmes for short periods to teach or spend sabbaticals.” As a result of these discussions the SCAR Visiting Professor Scheme is to be initiated in 2012-13. India has made a one time contribution of USD10,000 for the setting up of this scheme in 2012-13. This initially might involve sending one person to a particular country for 4 or 5 days, the cost of which should not be prohibitive as the local hospitality is expected to be borne by the host country. Obviously the ideal would be to expand this further in parallel with the fellowships to involve more scientists and for longer duration.

The Association of Early Career Scientists (IP16)

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 (IP14)

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 for further details.

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.